



Fresno County Middle School Spell-Off

Study Word List
Grades 7-8

Middle/High School Study Word List (Grades 7-9)

cuisine - kwih-ZEEN OR kwee-ZEEN

style of cooking; also: the food cooked

On the day before Thanksgiving, everyone in class brought in a dish from the traditional **cuisine** of their family.

recalcitrant - rih-KAL-suh-trunt

not complying; obstinate; rebellious

Parents often bemoan the **recalcitrant** behavior of their teenagers.

vengeance - ven-jans

revenge

The family sought **vengeance** for the loss.

baleful - BAIL-ful

foreboding evil; ominous

What are you doing here? I heard someone hiss, and I whirled around to see Sandra giving me a **baleful** glare.

mayhap - MAY-hap OR may-HAP

perhaps

We are just wondering and looking and **mayhap** seeing what we never perceived before.

Fahrenheit - FAIR uhn hite

a temperature scale

Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees **Fahrenheit**.

narcissus - nar-SISS-us

daffodil; especially: one whose flowers have a short tube and grow separately on a stalk

All the **narcissus** plants that Becca had ever seen had yellow flowers.

reticulate - rih-TIH-kyuh-lut or rih-TIH-kyuh-layt
resembling a net

The 300-year-old china vase was intact but covered with a **reticulate** pattern of tiny cracks.

deciduous - di SIG e wes

shedding leaves annually

The fall colors on the **deciduous** trees are beautiful.

liminal - LIH-muh-nul

barely perceptible

In the background of the painting, a **liminal** figure stands in the murky half-light.

narrate - nar-rate

to tell in writing or speech

The teacher began to **narrate** the story.

cashier - ka-'shir

an officer in a bank or company responsible for receipts and disbursements

The **cashier** collected the receipts and recorded them for the bank.

Middle/High School Study Word List (Grades 7-9)

memorial - muh-MOR-ee-ul

-serving to preserve the memory of a person or an event

In honor of the event, our family watched the parade and then went to a **memorial** service on the town commons.

surrogate - 'ser-uh-'gut OR 'ser-uh-'gAt

a deputy or substitute

Some women are **surrogate** mothers for couples that cannot have children of their own.

superintendent - super-in-ten-dent

person in charge; supervisor, custodian

The **superintendent** was found to be honest and trustworthy.

approbation - ap-ruh-BAY-shun

commendation, praise

Lawmakers enjoyed the **approbation** of voters when they rolled back personal property taxes and engineered the demise of the vehicle tax.

reprehensible - rep-re-hen-si-b'l

deserving to be reprehended

Assassination is a **reprehensible** crime.

reminisce - rem uh NIS

to think or talk about things from the past

At school I can **reminisce** about the good time I had at the spelling competition.

nyctalopia - nik-tuh-LOH-pee-uh

night blindness

George's **nyctalopia** gives him a tendency to walk into furniture unless he turns on all the lights.

alfresco - al-FRESS-koh

taking place or located in the open air: outdoors

For her parents' anniversary, Candace arranged a special **alfresco** dinner at the park where they first met.

slogan - SLOH-gun

a word or phrase used by a party, a group, or a business to attract attention

As part of her summer job, Meredith came up with a catchy advertising **slogan** to boost sales of the company's pickles.

Australia - aws TRAYL yuh

a continent (country) southeast of Asia

Someday I hope to visit **Australia** and see koala bears and kangaroos in the wild.

cachinnate - KAK-uh-nayt

to laugh loudly or immoderately

The young man began to **cachinnate** loudly during the speech, attracting the anger and attention of several members of the audience seated near him.

prying - prI-ing

improperly curious or inquisitive

Someone was **prying** into her personal affairs.

facsimile - fak SIM uh lee

an exact copy, especially one transmitted electronically

I am sending you a **facsimile** of this report.

belie - bih-LYE

to give a false idea of

The peeling paint on the outside of the house may **belie** the beautiful condition of the interior, which is graced with sweeping staircases and ornate fireplaces.

orotund - OR-uh-tund OR AHR-uh-tund

marked by fullness, strength, and clarity of sound: sonorous

Josh cleared his throat dramatically, then did a dead-on impression of the professor's **orotund**, patronizing speech.

longueur - long-GUR

a dull and tedious passage or section (as of a book)

Despite its occasional **longueurs** and digressions, the novel is essentially well-developed and insightful.

abdominal - ab-däm-n'l

lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, or for the abdomen

The **abdominal** bandage seemed too tight.

swivet - SWIH-vut

a state of extreme agitation

The residents of Cedar Hills are in a **swivet** over the state's proposal to extend the highway through their town.

schizophrenia - skit-sa-'frE-nE-uh

a mental disorder marked by personality disintegration

It was necessary to institutionalize the patient due to severe **schizophrenia**.

adroit - uh-DROYT

having or showing great skill or cleverness

The soccer coach was delighted that the player still had **adroit** footwork and passing skills even after taking a year off.

refuge - re-fyüj OR e-fyüzh

a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat

The deer sought a **refuge** from the hunters.

perturb - per-TERB

to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly

The loudspeaker may **perturb** the musician in the adjoining rooms.

impress - im-'pres

to leave pressure on so as to leave a mark

We will **impress** the leaf on the paper to make a design.

coalesce - kO-uh-les

to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body

The splint would help the broken bones to continue to **coalesce**.

inspire - in-SPY-er OR in-SPYRE

to have an animating effect upon; influence or impel

The concert did **inspire** him to be a musician.

novelty - NAH-vul-tee

something new or unusual

At a dinner party held for George Washington in June 1789, Mrs. Alexander Hamilton served a **novelty** for dessert—ice cream!

nefarious - nih-FAIR-ee-us

flagrantly wicked or impious: evil

“Aye, matey, have you been up to **nefarious** doings like stealing treasure and making men walk the plank?”

crepuscular - krih-PUSS-kyuh-ler

relating to, or resembling twilight: dim

In the **crepuscular** light of the shuttered room, it took several seconds for Manuel to make out the identity of the dim figure sitting at the table.

interpolate - in-TER-puh-layt

to insert between other things or parts

As kids talked about being homesick at the evening campfire meeting, one of the counselors **interpolated** a story about when she got homesick as a kid at camp.

war story - WOR-STOR-ee

a story of a memorable personal experience typically involving an element of danger, hardship, or adventure

“I have quite a **war story** to tell about this!” said Marvin, proudly displaying the Moroccan rug he had acquired in a hidden backstreet in Marrakech.

physiognomy - “fi-zE-’ä(g)-nuh-mE

facial features or expression thought to reveal qualities of mind or character

Marcie studied her grandfather’s **physiognomy** in an attempt to see whether he was telling her a true story or pulling her leg.

glossy - glä-sE

having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish

The **glossy** cat was sleeping in the window.

implacable - im-PLAK-uh-bul OR im-PLAY-kuh-bul

not capable of being appeased, significantly changed, or mitigated

My dog and my cat are such **implacable** enemies that I’m often forced to restrict them to separate parts of the house.

laudable - LAW-duh-bul

worthy of praise: commendable

Becoming a doctor is a **laudable** goal, but Kelly doesn’t seem to realize how much work and stress it will take to accomplish it.

remnant - REM-nant

what is left over; remainder; residue

The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a **remnant**.

rejuvenate - re jüve NATE

to make seem fresh or new again

A long vacation will **rejuvenate** him.

proffer - PRAH-fer

to present for acceptance: tender, offer

Impulses of sympathy came naturally to her, and it was instinctive to **proffer** her help to Mrs. Fisher.

fusty - FUSS-tee

full of dust and stale odors: musty

Doug spent the week helping his grandmother clean out the **fusty** attic of her old house.

download - DOWN-lohd

to transfer (data) from a usually large computer to the memory of another device

I waited a moment for the Science Lab page on the Word Central site to **download** so I could send my friend a coded message.

enamel - ih-NAM-ul

a glassy substance used to coat the surface of metal or pottery

The museum has a large collection of objects decorated with **enamel** including jewelry, teapots, cups, and vases.

facetious - fa-'sE-shus OR fuh-SEE-shuss

joking, especially at an inappropriate time

I did not mean to hurt you with my **facetious** remarks.

tenet - TEH-nut OR TEE-nut

a principle, belief, or doctrine generally held to be true

Aspiring writers are often advised to follow one great literary **tenet**: write what you know.

unprecedented - un-pre-s'-den-t'd

unheard-of; novel

The president took **unprecedented** steps toward peace.

cousin - KUH-zun

a child of one's uncle or aunt; a relative descended from a common ancestor

Mike and his **cousin** spend a week each summer camping with their families at the lake.

sentence - SENT-n(t)s

a decision or judgment, as of a court; esp. the determination by a court of the punishment

The **sentence** was in the defendant's favor.

inveterate - in-VEH-tuh-rut OR in-VEH-trut

firmly established by long persistence

It started with an occasional cigarette in college, but by her late twenties, Lilly was an **inveterate** smoker.

fungible - FUN-juh-bul

interchangeable

The setting is Ireland in the 1950s, but, a cynical reader might reflect, this sort of fiction is so common that the characters will be completely **fungible**.

salient - SAY-lee-unt

attracting notice especially because of excellence: outstanding

I only want to hear the **salient** points of your speech, said Philippe, "because I'm in a hurry and don't have time to listen to the whole thing now."

conundrum - kuh-NUN-drum

an intricate and difficult problem

Technology presents us with a challenging **conundrum**, as it has the potential to be destructive as well as beneficial.

juggle - JUH-gul

to work things so as to accomplish something desired

Samantha found that she could **juggle** playing on the soccer teams and taking guitar lessons, by planning her time wisely.

camouflage - KAM uh flahj

the disguise applied to military equipment

The uniforms are now tan to **camouflage** them in the desert.

license - LEYE suhn(t)s

formal or legal permission to do something specified

In California, you are eligible to apply for a driver's **license** when you are sixteen.

googol - GOO-gawl

a very large number that is expressed in numerals as one followed by one hundred zeroes

Jay entered the radio station's contest, even though he figured the odds of winning were about a **googol** to one.

battalion - ba-'tal-yun

a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; and large group joined in some activity

He had command of a **battalion** during World War II.

ingratiate - in-GRAY-shee-ayt

to gain favor or favorable acceptance for by deliberate effort—usually used with “with”

Political candidates have to **ingratiate** themselves with voters of all ages and economic backgrounds if they hope to win elections.

restaurateur - 'res-te-ra-'tur

the operator or proprietor of a restaurant

Fred began his career in the food-service industry as a humble busboy, but today he's a successful **restaurateur** who owns and operates several popular eating establishments.

verbiage - VER-bee-ij

a profusion of words usually of little or obscure content

One of the tasks of an editor is to remove **verbiage** and render a piece concise and coherent.

caterpillar - KAT-er-pih-ler

the long wormlike larva of a butterfly or moth; also: any of various similar insect larvae

As we watched the **caterpillar** crawl across the leaf, we wondered what kind of butterfly it would turn into someday.

anent - uh-NENT

about, concerning

In our nation, and at all levels of government, all decisions made **anent** the welfare of the populace are political decisions.

mall or maul or moll - MAWL

a group of stores arranged about an often covered way for pedestrians

As soon as Jeremy had saved enough money, he made a beeline for the electronics store at the **mall** and bought himself a CD player.

shepherd - SHEP urd

a person who tends a flock of sheep

The **shepherd** led the flock along the path.

grill or grille - GRIL

a cooking utensil of parallel bars on which food is broiled

Tommy's favorite part of any cookout is toasting marshmallows over the **grill**.

hoodwink - HOOD-wink

deceive by false appearance: dupe

The biologists **hoodwinked** the Sandhill Cranes...into sitting on whooper [whooping crane] eggs.

prodigy - PRAH-duh-jee

an unusually talented child

Musical audiences are fascinated by the **prodigy**, that rare and remarkable youngster who possesses technical mastery to rival that of the best adult performers.

milliner - MIH-luh-ner

a person who designs, makes, trims, or sells women's hats

In early summer, almost every **milliner** in England is working on fancy, often outrageous, hats to be worn at the Ascot horse races.

destroy - di STROY

to tear down

The demolition crew will **destroy** the whole building.

questionnaire - kwes chuh NAIR

a form comprising a series of questions, especially for a survey

Please complete this short **questionnaire** before leaving.

peril - PEH-ril

the state of being in danger of injury, loss, or destruction

You were never in such **peril** of your life as you have been within these few moments.

executive - ig-ZEH-kyuh-tiv

of or relating to the enforcement of laws and the conduct of affairs

The **executive** power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.

hypocorism - hI-'pä-ki-"ri-zum

a pet name

The **hypocorism** for the Loch Ness Monster is "Nessie."

dentition - den-TIH-shun

the number, kind, and arrangement of teeth (as of a person or animal)

Archaeologists use the **dentition** of an extinct animal to figure out things such as how healthy the animal was and the kind of food it ate.

neglect - nih-GLEKT

to give little attention or respect to

We must not **neglect** our homework.

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munchkin - MUNCH-kin

a person who is notably small and often endearing

Timmy is such a sweet little **munchkin** and everyone loves to tickle him and tell him what a darling baby he is.

delicacy - de-li-k'-sE

pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty of graceful slowness

Caviar is considered a **delicacy** by many.

narcissistic - nar sis SIS tik

possessed by self-love

The **narcissistic** attitudes of the "Me Generation" are appalling.

forerunner - FOR-ruh-ner

one going or sent before to give notice of the approach of others; harbinger

The invention of the microscope in the seventeenth century was the **forerunner** of a new age in science and medicine.

abide - uh-BYDE

to endure without yielding; withstand; to bear patiently; tolerate

John simply could not **abide** the full heat of summer, so he bought an air conditioner.

ponderous - PAHN-duh-russ OR PAHN-druss

oppressively or unpleasantly dull; lifeless

Drama critic Charles Spencer once remarked of a rather **ponderous** play that the writing "has all the lightness of the suet pudding they used to serve at my prep school."

proselytize - PRAH-suh-luh-tyze OR PRAH-sluh-tyze
to recruit or convert especially to a new faith, institution, or cause

Francesca is very strict about her own vegetarianism, but she never tries to **proselytize** meat eaters.

harbor - här-ber

a place of refuge, safety, retreat; a protected inlet, branch of the sea, etc., used as shelter and anchorage for ships

Ships lay in the broad sunny **harbor** at the foot of the street.

abusage - uh-BYOO-sij OR uh-BYOO-zij

improper or incorrect use of language

Never one to tolerate **abusage**, Noreen was notorious for correcting the grammar of her friends, colleagues, and family members.

gravitate - GRAV-uh-tayt

to move toward something

The best athletes naturally **gravitate** toward the schools with the most athletic scholarships.

massive - MAS-iv

large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude

The new bank was **massive**.

yahoo - YAY-hoo OR YAH-hoo

a boorish, crass, or stupid person

The local teenagers' reputation as a bunch of **yahoos** was belied by their courteous treatment of the stranded motorists.

circadian - ser-KAY-dee-un

being, having, characterized by, or occurring in approximately 24-hour periods or cycles (as of biological activity or function)

“Set regular times for going to bed and waking up to promote predictable **circadian** rhythms.”

vapid - VAP-id OR VAY-pid

lacking liveliness, tang, briskness, or force: flat, dull

The network touted the new show as “a sidesplittingly funny look at modern life,” but most critics agreed that it was just another **vapid** sitcom.

hastilude - HASS-tuh-lood

a medieval joust: spear play

The royal **hastiludes** were events of great pomp and splendor.

pharmaceutical - “fär-ma-’sü-ti’kul

a medicinal material or product

The **pharmaceutical** company introduced a new drug to ease pain.

attribute - A-truh-byoot

a quality belonging to a particular person or thing

Rick’s ability to make people laugh is his best **attribute**.

complaisant or complacent - kuhm-PLAY-sunt
OR kuhm-PLAY-zunt

marked by an inclination to please or oblige or by courteous agreeability

Complaisant, efficient, unruffled, Ruth was sorely missed at Joe’s Luncheonette when she retires after 23 years.

inexorable - ih-NEKS-ruh-bul OR

ih-NEK-suh-ruh-bul

not to be persuaded or moved by entreaty: relentless

His art is about time—its inevitable course and its **inexorable** weight upon us.

revolt - rih-VOHLT

to feel or cause to feel disgust or shock

Miguel was so **revolted** by the trash strewn all over the beach that he arranged a clean-up party with his friends.

kerfuffle - ker-FUH-ful

chiefly British: disturbance, fuss

The school board’s proposal to drop Shakespeare from the curriculum caused such a **kerfuffle** that the plan was soon scrapped.

synchronicity - sing-kruh-NIH-suh-tee OR

sin-kruh-NIH-suh-tee

the quality or fact of being simultaneous

Pizza! answered the twins in **synchronicity** when I asked them what they wanted for dinner.

surreptitious - sur-up-TIH-shuss

done, made, or acquired in secret

The look on Tasha’s face when she arrived at her surprise party made all the **surreptitious** planning worthwhile.

stupendous - stoo-PEN-duss OR styoo-PEN-duss

amazing especially because of great size or height

In view of his fear of water, Ron’s rescue of the drowning child was a **stupendous** act of courage.

intermittent - in tur MIT uhnt
starting, stopping and starting again

The weather forecast is for **intermittent** showers.

epigram - EH-puh-gram
a terse, sage, or witty saying

Ever the master of insightful **epigram**, Oscar Wilde once observed: "In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it."

debunk - dee-BUNK
to expose the falseness in

For one of our class projects, we researched how to **debunk** the untrue stories that sometimes start on the Internet.

acceptation - ak-sep-TAY-shun
acceptance

Certain phrases are not meant to be interpreted according to the literal **acceptation** of the words.

perspicuous - per-spiK-U-us
plain to the understanding especially because of clarity and precision of presentation

The explanation Adri gave her teacher of why she was late for school was amazingly **perspicuous** for a five-year-old.

modicum - MAH-dih-kum or MOE-dih-kum
a small amount

If Ed had even a **modicum** of common sense, he would think things through before rushing into them.

pukka - PUH-kuh
genuine, authentic, also: first-class

Ellingsworth stood framed in the door of his club, the picture of a **pukka** gentleman, immaculately groomed, upper lip appropriately stiff, perfectly genteel.

parlous - 'pär-lus
full of danger or risk: hazardous

Having survived a half-century in this **parlous** era, I happen to know a bit about risk.

tome - TOHM
book; especially: a large or scholarly book

Alice is always carrying around that **tome** on medieval philosophy, but I've never seen her read it.

rife - RYFE
copiously supplied: abounding

Nature is **rife** with cheats. Think of the bumblebee who sucks nectar and darts away without pollinating the flower.

bodacious - bO-'dA-shus
remarkable, noteworthy

This fantastic plastic-bodied sports roadster, with its **bodacious** body design ... [is] on its way to production this November.

mindful - MIND ful
having in mind; aware heedful, or careful
The children were **mindful** of the danger of playing in the street.

chapel - CHAP-ul

a religious service or assembly at a school or college
The school required all of its students to attend **chapel** daily.

dreadful - dred-ful

inspiring dread; terrible or awesome
The volcano eruption was **dreadful**.

addressee - a-dre-sE OR u-dre-sE

person to whom mail, etc., is addressed
His name is that of the **addressee** on the envelope.

console - kun-SOHL

to comfort in times of grief, distress, or suffering
We went to Marcia's house to **console** her after she fell and broke her leg.

crimson - 'krim-zón

deep red color
The sky, at sunset became beautifully **crimson**.

honcho - HAHN-cho

boss; big shot; also: hotshot
Just because you're the oldest, you don't have to act like the head **honcho** all the time, grumbled Terry's younger brother.

burgle - BUR-gul

to break into and steal from
The thief **burgled** the house while its owners were away on vacation.

rodomontade - rah-duh-mun-TAYD OR

rah-duh-mun-TAHD
vain boasting or bluster: rant
In Charles Dickens' "Hard Times", the arrogant Mr. Bounderby is given to frequent flights of **rodomontade** about what a hard-working, self-made man he is.

bougainvillea - boo gan VEE(l) ya

evergreen vine with vibrant colored flowers
The walls of the hotel terrace in Mexico were covered with gorgeous **bougainvillea** vines.

flimflam - FLIM-flam

to subject to deception, fraud, or deceptive nonsense
Legend has it that the residents of Hamelin tried to **flimflam** the Pied Piper out of his payment for piping the rats out of their town.

caption - KAP shun

a heading or title, as of a newspaper article
The **caption** at the top of the story attracted my attention.

importunate - im-POR-chuh-nit OR

im-POR-tyoo-nit
troublesomely urgent: overly persistent in request or demand

I am ashamed to trouble you—a man should surely manage so as not to give trouble; and yet I believe you will not consider me **importunate**.

harbinger - HAHR-bin-jer

one that announces or shows what is coming: forerunner

Taylor saw the dark clouds forming over the hills and knew they were **harbingers** of severe thunderstorms to come.

levity - LEH-vuh-tee

a lack of seriousness often at an improper time: frivolity

The teacher yelled at us for too much **levity** backstage while we were rehearsing for the play.

ecology - i-kä-la-jE (NOT E-cology)

a branch of science concerned with the relationships between living things and their environment

Our science class took a field trip to a marsh at a local nature preserve to learn more about the **ecology** of a wetland.

skirmish - SKIR-mish

a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle

The **skirmish** was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed.

arcadia - ahr-KAY-dee-uh

a region or scene of simple pleasure and quiet

In his youth, Rob complained that his little hometown was boring, but in his adulthood, he would speak of it as an **arcadia** to which he longed to return.

somnolent - SAHM-nuh-lunt

showing signs of not being fully awake; of a kind likely to induce sleep

I am no whit **somnolent**; I always hear best with my eyes shut.

sushi - SOO-shee

cold rice shaped in small cakes and topped or wrapped with pieces of raw fish

Although I wasn't sure I was going to like it before I tried it, **sushi** is now one of my favorite things to eat.

etiolate - EE-tee-uh-layt

to deprive of natural vigor: make feeble

Her voice is basically pure and lovely, and as it rises, she doesn't **etiolate** the tone by turning off her vibrato.

ecstatic - ek STAT ik

overwhelming joy or delight

The team was **ecstatic** over their unexpected win.

musketeer - muss-kuh-TEER

a good friend: buddy

My best friend and I are almost always together, and we are often greeted with, "Here come the two **musketeers**!"

orchidaceous - or-kuh-DAY-shuss

showy, ostentatious

There's no clutter; no outlandish designer flatware or china; no **orchidaceous**, wordy wine lists—and, blessedly, no chef treating the dining room as if it were his personal salon.

obverse - AHB-verss OR ahb-VERSS

a counterpart having the opposite orientation or force

Mr. Wright makes me uncomfortable because he clearly doesn't like me, but with his daughter it's the **obverse**—I get all flustered because she's so nice.

forsooth - for-'süth

in truth; indeed

A human, **forsooth!** the drama teacher cried when Mary claimed she couldn't act the part of a lion because she's a human.

anathematize - uh-NATH-uh-muh-tyze

to denounce as accursed

As one of the first great career women in American history, [Clare Boothe] Luce found herself alternately patronized by those who saw her only as a woman and **anathematized** by those who saw only her

receipt - rih-SEET

a writing acknowledging the receiving of goods or money

Most retail stores require you to save your **receipt** in order to get a full refund.

asperse - uh-SPERSS

to attack with evil reports or false or injurious charges

The politician chose to **asperse** his opponent rather than deal with the issues.

plenitude - PLEH-nuh-tood or PLEH-nuh-tyood (oo as in "food")

a great sufficiency; abundance

These cafeterias were an immediate success, for they offered a **plenitude** of family fare.

quixotic - kwik-SAH-tik

impractical especially in the foolish pursuit of ideals

The newly elected mayor is convinced that he is not being **quixotic** when he promises a voice in government for everyone.

solon - SOH-lun OR SOH-lahn

a member of a legislative body

What you saw in the Senate chamber was, well, senators: the entire array of a hundred **solons** sitting like oversized schoolchildren at their undersized little school desks.

lantern - lan-tern

transparent case for holding a light and protecting it from wind and weather

The light from the **lantern** helped us find our way along the rocky path.

zillionaire - zil-yuh-NAIR OR ZIL-yuh-nair

an immeasurably wealthy person

At the Hotel Bristol in Paris, laundry is done impeccably. Myths abound of **zillionaire** eccentrics who fly their linen across oceans so that it will be starched and pressed to their satisfaction.

taxicab - TAK-see-KAB

an automobile that carries passengers for a fare usually based on the distance traveled

The **taxicab** pulled up in front of the theater in just enough time for Ethan and his parents to find their seats before the play began.

portion - POR shun

share; part of

They were willing to share a **portion** of the proceeds from the dance.

linguistics - ling-gwis-tiks

science of language; study of the structure of languages

Linguistics is usually divided into descriptive, historical, comparative and geographical.

miasma - mye-AZ-muh OR mee-AZ-muh

*an influence or atmosphere that tends to deplete or corrupt;
also: an atmosphere that obscures: fog*

Hallie couldn't wait to escape the **miasma** of petty rivalry that had enveloped the band and stifled her musicianship.

counsel or council - KOWN-sul

advice given

Madu valued Ms. Bender's advice, so he sought her **counsel** when he couldn't decide which courses to take next semester.

commensurate - kuh-MEN-suh-rut OR

kuh-MEN-shuh-rut

*corresponding in size, extent, amount, or degree:
proportionate*

In order for the distribution of doctors to be **commensurate** with population density in the U.S., a lot of M.D.'s would have to relocate inland from the East and West

venture - VEN-cher

an undertaking involving chance, risk, or danger

In 1928, Amelia Earhart succeeded in her daring **venture** to become the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

formaldehyde - for-'mal-da-'hId OR fur-'mal-da-'hId

a colorless, odorless gas, used in solution as an antiseptic or preservative

The undertaker used **formaldehyde** to preserve the corpse.

eponymous - ih-PAH-nuh-muss OR

eh-PAH-nuh-muss

being or having a name that is based on or derived from the name of one associated with it

There are a large number of **eponymous** diseases, including Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

ambush - AM-bush

an arrangement of persons in hiding to make a surprise attack

The sheriff did not suspect **ambush**.

conurbation - kah-ner-BAY-shun

an aggregation or continuous network of urban communities

Los Angeles—the nation's second-largest city—comprises the urban core of a sprawling metropolitan **conurbation**.

expatiate - ek-SPAY-shee-ayt

to speak or write at length or in detail

Don't even get Mark started on his favorite subject, lepidopterology, unless you want to listen to him **expatiate** on moths for the entire evening.

harvest - här-vest

time of year when matured fruit, grain, vegetables, etc., are reaped; season's yield; gathering of a crop

We usually **harvest** our pumpkins and squash for Halloween.

grammar - GRAM uhr

the use of language according to proper rules

Your essay will be graded on content, **grammar**, punctuation and spelling.

sophistry - 'sä-fa-streE

subtly deceptive reasoning or argumentation

Sally argued that "technically" she hadn't told a lie, but her **sophistry** failed to win her mother over.

dichotomy - deye KOT uh mee

division into two (contrasting) halves, pairs or set

Reconciling the **dichotomy** between public and private interests is a difficult job.

virtuoso - ver-choo-OH-so OR ver-choo-OH-zoh

a person who has great skill at some endeavor

Agatha Christie fans love her Belgian sleuth, Hercule Poirot, a **virtuoso** whose “little gray cells” never fail to unravel the most difficult murder cases.

pooh-bah - POO-bah

a person in high position or of great influence

The town’s citizens didn’t want their lives controlled by some **pooh-bah**, so quite a number of them became candidates for public office.

mewl - MYOOL

to cry weakly; whimper

The tiny kitten **mewled** for some ice cream, and Jack couldn’t resist giving her a taste.

tocsin - ‘tāk-sen

a warning signal

A coalition of parents was sounding the **tocsin** for the school music program— if voters didn’t approve a tax increase, the program was sure to be axed.

dolorous - DOH-luh-russ OR DAH-luh-russ

causing, marked by, or expressing misery or grief

After listening to Charlene’s **dolorous** hard-luck tale, Jonathan was moved to lend her money for hospital bills, rent, and groceries.

silhouette - sill-uh-WET

an outline of an object, filled in with a solid color

When I walked by, I could see my neighbor’s **silhouette** on the window shade.

hierophant - HYE-ruh-fant OR hye-EH-ruh-funt

a person who explains; commentator; advocate

Before the finished work can be judged and labeled by the **hierophants**, the author must first satisfy a publisher that his book is worth publishing.

dosage - dO-sij

the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine

He forgot to take his **dosage** of cough medicine.

devolve - dih-VAHLV OR dee-VAHLV

to degenerate through a gradual change or evolution

Tennis . . . has **devolved** from a quiet, gentlemanly contest to a raucous spectacle. . . .

destiny - DESS-tuh-nee

the future that awaits a person or thing; fortune

Louisa always felt it was her **destiny** to become a doctor.

aerobatics - air-uh-BAT-iks (singular or plural)

spectacular flying feats and maneuvers

Six U.S. Air Force pilots put on an amazing display of **aerobatics** at the air show.

cerulean - suh-ROO-lee-un

resembling the blue of the sky

The first time Nancy saw Walker, she was captivated by his **cerulean** eyes and mysterious smile.

innocuous - i-nok'-U-es

not likely to give offense or to arouse strong feelings or hostility: inoffensive, insipid

Sally was surprised when her seemingly **innocuous** remark enraged her classmates.

sounding board - SOWNd-ing-BORD

a person or group on whom one tries out an idea or opinion as a means of evaluating it

Gabriel is my **sounding board** when I have a new story idea, and after I tell it to him, I know if it's good even without his saying anything.

kapellmeister - kuh-PEL-mye-ster OR

kah-PEL-mye-ster

the director of a choir or orchestra

Joanne and Michael spent several days interviewing applicants for the job of **Kapellmeister** for their new choir.

tchotchke - CHAHCH-kuh

knickknack, trinket

Upon returning home from his trip to Maine, Jerry ceremoniously placed his new ceramic lobster next to the other **tchotchke** on his mantelpiece.

pupil - PYOO-pul

the usually round opening in the iris that contracts and expands in order to regulate the amount of light entering the eye

When we first entered the cave, it seemed pitch dark, but we could see better after our **pupils** adjusted to the dim light.

contrite - kun-TRYTE

very sorry for a wrong that one has done

Parker laughed the sight of his basset hound Lucille, who for the umpteenth time had a chewed shoe in her mouth and a **contrite** expression on her face.

absurd - AB-surd

so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous

It was **absurd** to say the baby could reach the counter.

buoy - BOO-ee

to keep from sinking: keep afloat

The **buoy** in the bay had a blinking light on it.

bureaucracy - byooh RAWK ruh see

a body of (hired) government officials

The federal government is criticized for the size of its **bureaucracy**.

broadside - BRAWD-side

with the side forward or toward a given point, or directly from the side

The car was struck **broadside** as it entered the intersection.

decent - 'dE-sent

proper and fitting; not immodest; conforming to approved social standards

Father provided for a **decent**, comfortable standard of loving.

stratagem - STRAT-uh-jum OR STRAT-uh-jem
cleverly contrived trick or scheme for gaining an end
Putting ten-year-old Jake in charge of dog walking in the morning proved a successful **stratagem** for keeping him out of his sister's hair while she got ready for school.

discord - DIS-kord
lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones
The sense of **discord** in the committee made us nervous.

skeptic or sceptic - skep-tik
person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters
He was such a **skeptic** that he was known as "Doubting Thomas."

apiary - AY-pea-air-ee
a place where bees are kept; especially: a collection of beehives
The low drone grew louder as we approached the **apiary** where thousands of bees buzzed as they attended their business.

invective - in-VEK-tive
insulting or abusive language; vituperation
Joe honked his car's horn and hurled a stream of **invective** at the driver who was recklessly weaving in and out of traffic.

famine - fa-men
any acute shortage
The people were suffering from the **famine**.

recuse - ri-'kyüz
to remove (oneself) from participation to avoid a conflict of interest
The judge chose to **recuse** himself because he was the brother-in-law of the defendant.

cryptic - KRIP-tik
having or seeming to have a hidden or ambiguous meaning; mysterious
In some old letters to her mother, my great aunt made many **cryptic** references to "that unfortunate day," but no one in my family seems to know what she meant.

cliché - kleE-'shA
a phrase or expression used so often that it becomes stale; also: the idea expressed by it
Everyone groaned at the **cliché** when Jenny said, "It's not the heat, it's the humidity."

fealty - FEEL-tee
intense fidelity
The **fealty** of country music fans to their favorite stars is as strong as old-time religion.

gregarious - grih-GAIR-ee-uss
tending to live associate or congregate with others of the same kind, sociable
Baboons are **gregarious** animals, seldom found in isolation.

Valhalla - val-HAL-uh OR vahl-HAHL-uh
the great hall in Norse mythology where the souls of heroes slain in battle are received
The great war god Odin, with flowing beard and only one eye, presided over the meals in **Valhalla**.

invidious - in-VIH-dee-uss

of a kind to cause harm or resentment

Ageism is a form of prejudice that can be just as **invidious** as discrimination based on race or gender, wrote Ian in a letter to the editor.

dude - DOOD

man, guy

After Dylan gave up his longtime ponytail for a buzz cut, Zack blurted out, Whoa, **dude**, what happened to your head?!

Albuquerque - 'al-ba-'kur-kE

the largest city in New Mexico

Albuquerque is the site of an annual hot air balloon festival.

spook - SPOOK ("OO" as in "boot")

ghost, specter

Legend has it that **spooks** drift among the cobwebs after midnight on Halloween.

intrepid - in-TREH-pid

feeling no fear: bold

Rory thought he was **intrepid** as he climbed the roof to retrieve the ball, but then he looked down.

hickory - HIH-kuh-ree

the usually tough pale wood of a hickory

The end table that Valerie had chosen was made of **hickory**, but her mother felt that the darker ebony piece would go better with their sofa.

dudgeon - DUH-jun

a fit or state of indignation

The assistant cook stormed out of the kitchen in high **dudgeon** after being lambasted—unjustifiably, in his opinion, by the head chef.

nudnik - NOOD-nik

a person who is a bore or nuisance

Apparently that little **nudnik** has nothing better to do than lecture me on the finer points of e-mail etiquette.

supererogation - soo-per-eh-ruh-GAY-shun

the act of performing more than is required by duty, obligation, or need

I have already stated my opinion and thoroughly explained my reasoning, so it would be an act of **supererogation** to provide further details.

autonomous - aw-TAH-nuh-muss

having the power or right of self-government: self-governing

On September 30, 1966, the African nation of Botswana gained its independence from Great Britain and became an **autonomous** republic.

monitor - MAH-nuh-ter

to watch, observe, or check for a special purpose

Meteorologists will **monitor** the progress of the hurricane, tracking its speed, direction, and strength.

telltale - TEL-tail

indicating or giving evidence of something

The changing leaves, pumpkins on porches, and cool, crisp air are **telltale** signs of autumn.

condominium - kahn-duh-MIH-nee-um

an individually owned unit in a structure (as an apartment building) with many units

When she was no longer able to take care of her 200-year-old farmhouse, Griffin's aunt moved into a newly built **condominium**.

foursquare - FOR-SKWAIR

marked by boldness and conviction: forthright

Even in architecture the subtle sage of Monticello [Thomas Jefferson] did not agree with the solid **foursquare** principles of General Washington.

gratuitous - gruh-TOO-uh-tuss OR

gruh-TYOO-uh-tuss

given or received without charge or payment; free

I reject offers of so-called **gratuitous** merchandise, as some kind of later payment is often expected.

callow - KAL-oh

lacking adult experience: immature

Renfield smiled as he watched a flock of **callow** schoolboys nervously following their new coach toward the playing field to start their rookie training camp.

implement - IM pluh muhnt

to carry out; put into effect

This will require your signature to **implement** all the provisions of the contract.

believe - be-lev'

to have faith or confidence

I **believe** this will be an interesting contest.

travel - TRAV-ul

to journey from place to place or to a distant place

Becky and her family will **travel** cross-country from Maine to Montana and back visiting relatives.

delectation - dee-leck-TAY-shun OR

dih-leck-TAY-shun

delight, enjoyment

To summarize the plot in a 'novel of suspense' is usually to deny the pleasures hidden for the reader's **delectation** and surprise, so I won't go into detail.

obtuse - ahh-TOOSS OR ub-TOOSS

not quick or keen of understanding or feeling

The child was so stubborn in his refusal to understand that I began to suspect he was being deliberately **obtuse**.

prestigious - preh-STIH-juss OR preh-STEE-juss

having or imparting prestige or distinction

The **prestigious** writer had a great following.

scuba - SKOO-buh

equipment used for breathing while swimming under water

Camp Water Adventure has instructors who teach swimming, snorkeling, **scuba**, and water-skiing.

bildungsroman - BIL-doongs-roh-mahn

a novel about the moral and psychological growth of the main character

This evocative **bildungsroman** chronicles the summer adventures of three teenagers on the cusp of manhood in 1950s Brooklyn.

tribute - tri-byüt

something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude

Their success was a **tribute** to his leadership.

buffalo wing - BUH-fuh-loh-WING

a deep-fried chicken wing coated with a spicy sauce and usually served with a blue cheese dressing

After the big game, the coaches treated the entire team to pizza and **buffalo wings** at their favorite restaurant.

hackneyed - HAK-need

lacking in freshness or originality

Frank's early attempts at poetry were filled with singsong rhymes and **hackneyed** expressions.

arriviste - air-ih-VEEST

one that is a new and uncertain arrival (as in social position or artistic endeavor)

Playing in his first French Open, Ferrero, a 20-year-old Spanish **arriviste**, reached the semifinals, all the while betraying no sense of awe.

mulct - MULKT

to defraud especially of money: swindle

George was finally barred from the securities industry when it was discovered he'd been **mulcting** investors for years.

fashion - fa-shun

to make in a certain way; give a certain form to; shape; mold

The potter will **fashion** the clay to resemble a lion.

interstice - in-TER-stuss

a space that intervenes between things; especially: one between closely spaced things; a gap or break in something generally continuous

He pulled his straw hat over his face, and peered through the **interstices** of plaiting at the white brightness, vaguely reflecting.

boycott - BOY-kaht

to join with others in refusing to deal with a person, organization, to express disapproval

Many of the school's top students **boycotted** the library until "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and several other controversial books were returned to the shelves.

benevolent - buh-NEH-vuh-lunt

doing or inclined to do good; kindly; charitable

He was known as a **benevolent** despot.

wisdom - WIZ dem

learning knowledge; good judgment; wise discourse or teaching

We cut our **wisdom** teeth at about age 15.

snivel - SNIH-vul

to speak or act in a whining, sniffing, tearful, or weakly emotional manner

I heard Mom tell my sister, stop **sniveling**; you're free to go out as soon as your homework is done!

cinnamon - SIN uh muhn

a highly aromatic spice

We are serving **cinnamon** rolls for breakfast.

gratitude - GRA-tih-tood

the state of being grateful: thankfulness

Darcy showed her **gratitude** for the birthday gift by sending a thank-you note to her grandmother.

lampoon - lam-POON

to make the subject of a lampoon: ridicule

A local cartoonist will **lampoon** the mayor, portraying him as a slow, drawling bumpkin.

parasol - PAIR-uh-sawl

a light umbrella for protection against the sun

For her town's bicentennial celebration, Marla wore a dress with a wide hoopskirt and carried a lace-trimmed **parasol**.

depress - dE-PRESS

to press down; push or pull down; lower

If you **depress** this button, water comes out.

officious - uh-FIH-shuss

volunteering one's services where they are neither asked nor needed: meddlesome

He had no real wish to call in Scotland Yard. He had an idea that a Yard man might make himself an **officious** nuisance.

diminution - dih-muh-NOO-shun OR
dih-muh-NYOO-shun

the act, process, or an instance of diminishing: decrease

At age 101, Hannah's physical stamina is somewhat curtailed, but there's been no **diminution** of her mental powers.

beholden - bih-HOAL-dun

being under obligation for a favor or gift: indebted

Tom understood that Mrs. Milton disliked being **beholden** to anyone, so he usually let her give him a buck or two when he mowed her lawn or shoveled her driveway.

possibility - päs-e-BIL-et-ee

quality or condition of being done, known or acquired

There is a **possibility** that our next trip will be to Disneyland.

raillery - RAY-luh-ree

good-natured ridicule: banter

Anticipating the **raillery** he'd be subjected to at his 50th birthday party, Dan got the jump on everyone by signing his invitations "The Old Geezer."

oboe - OH-boh

a double-reed woodwind instrument having a conical tube, a brilliant penetrating tone, and a usual range from B flat below middle C upward for over 2 1/2 octaves

Since he loved its beautiful tone, Jose decided to play the **oboe** for band class this year.

enclave - EN-klayv

a distinct territorial, cultural, or social unit enclosed within or as if within foreign territory

Dolpo, like Mustang, lies high on the remote Nepalese-Tibetan border, a hidden **enclave** of traditional Tibetan culture.

penury - PEN-yuh-ree

a cramping and oppressive lack of resources (as money); especially: severe poverty

As a young man Granddad endured great **penury**, and though he later became a successful shop owner, he never forgot the hardships of his youth.

pun - PUN

the humorous use of a word in such a way as to suggest different meanings or of words having the same sound but different meanings

The clever **pun** that Glen had included in his campaign speech produced a chuckle from the audience.

portentous - por-TEN-tuss

self-consciously solemn or important; pompous

Mercer was known for a serious, even **portentous**, approach, but one night he regaled Peggy with amusing tales about the absurdities of his own life.

depressant - di PRES uhnt

a drug that reduces bodily functional activity

The doctor administered a **depressant** to calm the manic patient's behavior.

colleague - KOL eeg

a fellow worker

I would like to introduce my **colleague** who designed this project.

lightning or lightening - LIT-ni[ng]

a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth

The **lightning** flashed in the sky.

snorkel - snor-k'l

to move or swim under water using a snorkel

We plan to **snorkel** when we are in Hawaii.

laconic - luh-KAH-nik

using few words; terse

Her father, was very **laconic** in his expressions of pleasure.

reticent - REH-tuh-sunt

inclined to be silent or uncommunicative in speech; reserved

Andrew, usually so **reticent** at our family get-togethers, came out of his shell at the last one with his new fiancée at his side.

banish - BAN-ish

to force to leave a country

The king may **banish** the nobleman from the kingdom as punishment for his crime.

sibling - SIH-bling

one of two or more individuals having the same parents or sometimes only; one parent in common

Jenna has one older **sibling**, her sister Rachel, and one younger sibling, her brother Aaron.

Brigadoon (usually capitalized) - "bri-ga-'dün
a place that is idyllic, unaffected by time, or remote from reality

Out here in this little **Brigadoon** of a town, where the worst offense seems to be the occasional violation of the local leash law, crime seems remote and abstract.

devoid - du-'void

completely without; empty or destitute

Crippled badly from the accident, he was **devoid** of any way to resume his former occupation.

Middle/High School Study Word List (Grades 7-9)

obsequious - eb-see-kwee-es

meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant

General Smith's **obsequious** staff is good for nothing but fawning and groveling on command.

bankrupt - BANGK rupt

a person legally declared unable to pay debts

The store's owner was **bankrupt** and had to go out of business.

fluid - flü-id

that which can flow; not solid; able to move and change shape without separating when under pressure

Water is an important **fluid** for survival.

chauvinist - SHOH-vuh-nist

a person who regards or treats members of the opposite sex as inferior

I don't want to look like a **chauvinist**, so I hold the door open for men and women alike.

visceral - VIH-suh-rul OR VISS-rul

not intellectual; instinctive

The news story about the abandoned animals elicited such a **visceral** reaction in Nicole that within minutes she was on the phone offering to adopt one of the dogs.

imprimatur - im-pruh-MAH-toor OR

im-PRIH-muh-toor

official approval or sanction

Several doctors on the faculty were reprimanded for using students as subjects for medical experiments without the university's **imprimatur**.

embarrass - im BAIR uhs

to cause to feel self-conscious, ill at ease

The students did not want to **embarrass** themselves in front of their friends.

curtain - kur-tin

window drapery

The window **curtain** matched the bedspread in the room.

egghead - EG-hed

a person engaged in or given to learning and thinking

Because I liked to read, everyone assumed I was an **egghead** who didn't like sports until I joined the soccer team.

hedgehop - HEJ-hahp

to fly an airplane so low that it is necessary to climb to avoid obstacles (as trees)

When I flew my old crop duster I loved to **hedgehop**, and I'd deliberately zoom down extra close to wave at the farmhands.

think tank - THINK-tank

an organization formed to think up new solutions especially for social and scientific problems

Rita's mom works for a **think tank** that studies how to encourage recycling in communities.

kangaroo court - kang-guh-ROO-KORT

a court characterized by irresponsible, unauthorized, or irregular status or procedures

The press decried the tribunal as nothing more than a **kangaroo court**, meting out savage and arbitrary justice.

chauffeur - SHOH-fer

driver of a private automobile for someone else

The **chauffeur** drove her to school each day.

guillotine - GHIIH-luh-teen

the instrument of capital punishment in France which beheads the victim

As they marched the prisoner to the **guillotine**, the crowds begged for mercy.

petulant - PEH-chuh-lunt

insolent or rude in speech or behavior

What is it all about? Cried Dorian in his **petulant** way, flinging himself down on the sofa.

pell-mell - pel-MEL

in great haste

When it started raining, my brother and I ran **pell-mell** toward the house, dropping our stuff behind us as we raced to get under cover.

revenge - ri-venj

to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc.

The leaders plotted **revenge** for the bombing.

bumptious - BUMP-shuss

presumptuously, obtusely, and often noisily self-assertive: obtrusive

At the table and about the house generally he was **bumptious**, loud with fatuous misinformation, and assumed a domineering tone. . . .

lackadaisical - "la-ka-'dA-zi-kul

lacking life, spirit, or zest

The **lackadaisical** students are not likely to get good grades.

disabuse - diss-uh-BYOOZ

to free from error, fallacy, or misconception

Do the results of this poll—that 40% of Americans read at least ten books a year—**disabuse** you of the notion that the American public no longer reads?

fractious - FRACK-shuss

tending to be troublesome: unruly

The uprising of the **fractious** crew in the 1932 novel "Mutiny on the Bounty" is based on an actual mutiny in 1789 against the tyrannical Captain William Bligh of the H.M.S. "Bounty".

permeable - PER-mee-uh-bul

having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through

The skin is a semi-**permeable** membrane.

kook - KOOK ("oo" as in "boot")

a person who acts in a strange or insane way: nut

We told James to quit talking to the trees while we were waiting for the bus—he looked like a **kook**.

tare or tear - TAIR

a deduction from the gross weight of a substance and its container made in allowance for the weight of the container

Before charging us for the blueberries we'd picked, the attendant at Annie's Fields deducted the **tare** from the weight of the filled buckets.

Middle/High School Study Word List (Grades 7-9)

absorb - ub-SORB OR ub-ZORB

to suck up or drink in

The paper towel will **absorb** the spilled milk.

turkey - 'ter-kE

a large American bird that is related to the domestic chicken

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because of the pumpkin pie and mounds of **turkey**.

jeopardize - JEH-per-dize

to expose to danger or risk

Susan refused to **jeopardize** her children by doing anything the least bit risky with them by her side.

resuscitate - ri SUHS uh tate

to revive from apparent death or from unconsciousness

The paramedic's attempts to **resuscitate** the crash victim were unsuccessful.

hoopla - HOO-plah

great commotion and excitement: fuss, ballyhoo

What's all the **hoopla** about? Grandpa hollered as all the grandchildren clambered into the living room with his birthday surprise.

pigment - pig-ment

coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc.

Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun.

totem - TOH-tum

something that serves as an emblem or revered symbol

The **totem** pole had many animals carved into it.

philanthropy - fuh-LAN-thruh-pee

a charitable act or gift; also: an organization that distributes or is supported by donated funds

Krystal is able to attend college because of a scholarship established through the **philanthropy** of her community.

abyssal - uh-BISS-ul

impossible to comprehend; unfathomable; of or relating to the bottom waters of the ocean depths

Some folks like great heights, others the solid ground, and still others the **abyssal** depths of the seas.

phenomenal - fi NAHM un uhl

extraordinary, remarkable

It was **phenomenal** how fast the flu virus spread.

lament - le-MENT

an outward expression of sorrow

A long **lament** was heard in the garden.

delicatessen - deh-lih-kuh-TEH-sun

a shop where sandwich items, meats and cheeses are sold

Let us stop by the **delicatessen** to pick up things for our picnic.

physicist - FIZ uh sist

a specialist in the science that deals with inanimate matter and motion

The visiting **physicist** lectured on quantum mechanics.

tabby - TAB-ee

a domestic cat with a gray or brown coat striped and spotted with black

Even though they already had three cats, Alex brought home the stray **tabby** he found.

feign - FAYN

to represent by a false appearance of: fake

Anya **feign** ignorance when Dudley asks where everyone is going, but she knows they are sneaking off to set up a surprise birthday party for him.

gaunt - GAWNT

being thin and bony (as from hunger or suffering)

It was not very long, indeed, before his coat hung with a discouraged sag from his **gaunt** shoulders and his hair and beard were rumpled as if he had been out in a gale.

vagabond - VAG-uh-bahnd

moving from place to place without a fixed home

The book's hero is a **vagabond** handyman who does good deeds for people in the towns he visits.

rankle - RANK-ul

to cause anger, irritation, or deep bitterness in

The unflattering posthumous biography may **rankle** the legendary performer's die-hard fans.

lalapalooza - lah-luh-puh-LOO-zuh

something superior or unusual: an outstanding example

The multimillionaire lives in a **lalapalooza** of a mansion that makes the stately homes of his neighbors look like mere shacks in comparison.

kaleidoscope - kuh LEYED uh skope

a changing pattern or scene

The sun through the fall trees presented a **kaleidoscope** of color.

proliferate - pruh-LIH-fuh-rayt

to grow or increase in number rapidly

As the town became a popular tourist attraction, downtown restaurants **proliferated**.

omphalos - AHM-fuh-lahss

a central point: hub, focal point

Florence and Paris have had their turns, and London has a new claim to it, but many will tell you that New York City is still the **omphalos** of art.

myopic - mye-OH-pik OR mye-AH-pik

lacking in foresight or discernment: limited in outlook

Concerned that many of her students had a **myopic** view of world politics, Dr. Roberts often had them read articles and editorials from foreign newspapers.

ubiquitous - yoo-BIH-kwuh-tuss

present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent

I knew it was in my mind, but it seemed that everywhere I looked I saw his **ubiquitous** face.

stringent - STRIN-junt

strict in setting or following rules

In explaining how Sherlock Holmes at first forbid him to write about their adventures, Dr. Watson noted, “he bound me in the most **stringent** terms to say no further word of himself, his methods, or his successes....”

terrace - ter-és

a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment

Flowerpots lined the **terrace** outside the apartment.

repudiate - rih-PYOO-dee-ayt

to refuse to have anything to do with

At the end of Shakespeare’s play “Henry IV, Part 2”, the new king chooses to **repudiate** the friends whose company he enjoyed when he was a prince.

comprehensive - kamp-rih-HEN-siv

including much or all: full

Maya impressed everyone with her **comprehensive** knowledge of basketball rules, players, and teams.

winsome - WIN-sum

generally pleasing and engaging often because of a childlike charm and innocence

Andrew’s **winsome** personality endeared him to teachers and classmates alike.

frugal - FROO-gul

careful in spending or using resources

Jared’s uncle, who always orders the least expensive item on the menu, considers himself **frugal**, but others regard him as stingy.

hypochondriac - heyeh puh KAHN dree ak

a person who suffers from imaginary physical ailments

Knowing the patient was a **hypochondriac**; the doctor prescribed a placebo.

heterodox - HEH-tuh-ruh-dahks OR HEH-truh-dahks
contrary to or different from an acknowledged standard, a traditional form, or an established religion: unorthodox, unconventional

In the 16th century, Nicolaus Copernicus presented the then- **heterodox** theory that the sun, not the earth, was the center of our solar system.

qualm - KWAHM OR KWAHLM

a feeling of uneasiness about a point especially of conscience or propriety

This is the third time I’ve caught Lindsey cheating, said Judy, so I have no **qualms** about turning her in.

pelagic - puh-LAJ-ik

of, relating to, living, or occurring in the open sea: oceanic

Pelagic birds, seldom seen on land, soar offshore for the eager birder.

almond - ah-mond

the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry, peach like fruit of a tree

Modesto is known as an **almond-growing** region.

aerie - AIR-ee OR EER-ee

an elevated often secluded dwelling, structure, or position

Joe lives in a sleek, 20th-floor **aerie** with a spectacular view of the city.

Middle/High School Study Word List (Grades 7-9)

ostrich - äs-trich OR OS-trij

a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East

The white **ostrich** feather adorned her new hat.

plagiarize - PLAY juh rise

to steal and pass off as one's own the works of another

Students who **plagiarize** articles generally get caught.

visionary - 'vi-zha-"ner-E

having or marked by foresight and imagination

The **visionary** described a utopia that could never exist.

deasil - DEE-zul OR DEE-zil

clockwise

“ ‘Twas a lovely show, with all the wee children carrying their little flowers and marching **deasil** ‘round in a circle,” my Scottish uncle declared after watching our daughter’s school pageant.

dormant - DOR ment

sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive

Some plants and animals are **dormant** during the cold weather.

factitious - fak-TIH-shuss

produced by special effort; sham

Much to his friends’ amusement, Al returned from his semester abroad speaking with a **factitious** British accent and peppering his speech with words such as “dodgy” and “bloke.”

herbivorous - hur BIV uhr uhs

feeding on plants

Deer and sheep are **herbivorous** animals.

procession - pro-'se-sh'n

orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way

The elephants moved in **procession**—trunk to tail.

toothsome - TOOTH-sum

of palatable flavor and pleasing texture: delicious

The restaurant offers a wide variety of **toothsome** desserts, my favorite being a positively scrumptious chocolate torte topped with raspberry coulis.

recur - ri KUR

to happen or occur again

An eclipse of the sun will not **recur** for another ten years.

catastrophe - kuh TAS truh fee

the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure

The Northridge Earthquake was a **catastrophe**.

correct - ke-REKT

to change from wrong to right; to point out or mark the errors of

Schoolteachers often take papers home to **correct**.

Antarctica - ant ARK ti kuh

the continent surrounding the South Pole

The cold climate of **Antarctica** is the perfect habitat for penguins.

benedict OR Benedict - BEH-nuh-dikt

a newly married man who has long been a bachelor

Tabloid reporters never tired of asking the celebrity **benedict** what he thought of married life.

ballot - BAL-ut

a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting

The class president was elected by a written **ballot**.

grubstake - GRUB-stayk

to provide with material assistance (as a loan) for launching an enterprise or for a person in difficult circumstances

The museum offered to **grubstake** the fossil-hunting expedition on the condition that it would receive a share of what was found.

reconnaissance - ri KAHN uh suhn(t)s

preliminary survey of an area to gain information

Many missions of **reconnaissance** were flown over the enemy's territory.

rheumatism - ROOH muh tiz uhm

any of various conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles or joints

A person's **rheumatism** is generally worse in cold weather.

dubious - DOO-bee-uss

questionable

Rick's claim that the plastic drum was an authentic 200-year-old Indian artifact was pretty **dubious**.

engender - in-JEN-der OR en-JEN-der

to cause to exist or to develop

The new company dress code may **engender** a great deal of resentment among younger employees, many of whom did not own a single suit.

description - di-SCRIP-shen

the art, process or technique of picturing in words; sort or variety

Her **description** of the cathedral made us feel as if we had been there.

ambition - am-BIH-shun

desire to achieve a particular goal: aspiration

Ben loves to play the piano, and his greatest **ambition** is to become good enough to be invited to play at Carnegie Hall.

grisly - GRIZ-lee

horrible, gruesome

When they reached the haunted house there was something so weird and **grisly** about the dead silence that they were afraid to enter.

masquerade - mas kuh RADE

a party at which people wear masks and costumes

What are you going to wear for the **masquerade** ball?

repose - rih-POHZ

to lay at rest

After hearing that she had been accepted to Harvard, Kory could not **repose** for one minute and was up the whole night.

plural or pleural - plur-al

of or including more than one; involving or being one of

The **plural** of this noun is formed according to the principle listed.

espresso - eh-SPREH-soh

coffee brewed by forcing steam through finely ground darkly roasted coffee beans

Joan couldn't begin her day without at least one cup of **espresso** to wake her up.

homogenize - hO-'mä-ja-"nIz OR ha-'mä-ja-"nIz

make more uniform by breaking down and blending

Before they began to **homogenize** milk, our quarts left by the milkman used to freeze, and the cream would be pushed out of the bottle.

pennant - pen-ant

a long, tapering flag

Which team do you think will win the **pennant** this year?

vaccine - vak-seen

a substance injected into the body to prevent disease by causing immunity

The polio **vaccine** was a tremendous advance in medicine.

nausea - NAW-zee-uh

a disturbed condition of the stomach in which one feels like vomiting

All I get from riding the roller coaster is a bad case of **nausea**, and an upset stomach is no thrill.

scaffold - SKA-fOld

temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material

They worked from the **scaffold** easily.

opponent - a-pO-nent

person against one; adversary

The candidate's **opponent** waged a clean campaign.

emphasis - EM-fuh-siss

special note made of or importance given to something

The camp counselors put special **emphasis** on safety in all the camp's activities.

anagram - AN-uh-gram

a word or phrase made out of another by changing the order of the letters

Jesse was pleased to see that his **anagram** of "Michael Jordan" seemed to describe the star's basketball style: "hold, race in, jam."

testimonial - tess-tuh-MOH-nee-ul

a statement testifying to benefits received

The website features a **testimonial** describing how the all-purpose, no-scrub household cleaner can change the lives of overworked career people.

amphibious - am FIB ee uhs

capable of operating on land or water

D-day was marked by an **amphibious** assault.

proficient - pruh-FIH-shunt

very good at doing something especially through practice

Laura knew it would take a lot of practice to be a **proficient** musician, but she enjoyed her flute lessons and could already play some short songs.

miscellaneous - mis uh LAY nee uhs

consisting of many things of different sorts

Most people have a junk drawer for all the **miscellaneous** things they cannot easily categorize.

humble - hum-bl

low in condition, rank, or position; lowly; unpretentious

The **humble** home was neat and tidy.

fictitious - fik-TISH-es

imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended

Some novelists use a **fictitious** name under which they write.

eclipse - i-'klips

the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it

We studied the lunar **eclipse** in class.

pessimistic - PEH-suh-mis-tik

having or showing a tendency to expect the worst possible outcome; gloomy

We were excited to be going to the lake, but Josh, who was being **pessimistic**, said he was certain it was going to rain.

distress - di-'stres

to cause sorrow or misery; pain, suffering

Arthritic pain causes **distress** in her stiff knee when she walks.

unalienable - un-AIL-yuh-nuh-bul

impossible to take away or give up

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable** Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

dauntless - DAWNT-luss OR DAHNT-luss

fearless, undaunted

Following a cruel defeat by the French, the **dauntless** young George Washington wrote, I luckily escap'd with't a wound tho' I had four Bullets through my Coat and two Horses shot under me.

prestige - preh-STEEZH OR preh-STEEJ

importance in the eyes of other people

The **prestige** of the school newspaper grew as the staff worked hard to present interesting and well-written stories.

mileage - mI-lij

aggregate distance in miles or total number of miles traveled; recorded, etc.

The salesman bought a new car each year because he had such high **mileage** on his current one.

vague - VAYG

not clearly expressed

When Sean started the drawing, he had only a **vague** idea of how the finished picture would look.

imperceptible - im-per-sep-ti'bl

not plain or distinct to the eye of mind; not easily seen

The scar on her face had healed so well it was almost **imperceptible**.

perpetuity - pe(r) pe tüed ee

the state or quality of being perpetual

Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments.

bastion - BASS-chun

some place or something that gives protection against attack

With four older brothers, Kate's room was the only **bastion** of peace and quiet in the entire house for her.

Aesopian - ee-SOH-pee-un OR ee-SAH-pee-un

conveying an innocent meaning to an outsider but a hidden meaning to a member of a conspiracy or underground movement

With some courageous exceptions, 'official' writers had to be content with the minor, **Aesopian** art of sneaking clever allusions past the censor.

brusque - BRUSK

so short and frank in manner or speech as to be impolite

Curtis felt that his answer to Don's question had been **brusque**, and he later apologized to him.

expatriate - eks-PAY-tree-ayt OR eks-PAY-tree-ut

one who lives in a foreign country; specifically: one who has renounced his native country

American **expatriates** in Prague like to gather at the Globe, an English-language bookstore and cafe.

rendezvous - RAHN day voooh

a planned meeting; a place for a planned meeting

We will **rendezvous** at the Park and Ride, then go on together to the party.

corrupt - COR-rupt

spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound

The **corrupt** official accepted a bribe.

stubborn - stub-ern

person who refuses to comply; resisting unreasonably; obstinate

Donkeys are said to be **stubborn** like some people I know.

stellar - STEH-ler

outstanding

Margie's clothing company is a **stellar** example of a business that successfully marries civic responsibility and the bottom line.

eschew - es-CHOO

to avoid habitually especially on moral or practical grounds: shun

Kelly vowed to **eschew** her favorite fast food joint until it agreed to use biodegradable packaging.

omnibus - AHM-nih-bus

containing or including many items

The state legislature approved an **omnibus** amendment that included an array of measures encompassing everything from education to workplace safety.

galaxy - GAL-uk-see

one of billions of systems of stars, gas, and dust that make up the universe

Tyrone visited the local university's telescope, where he was able to view stars in a **galaxy** located millions of miles from earth.

addendum - a-den-dum

thing added or to be added

The name of the second speaker is an **addendum** to the program.

gadfly - GAD-flye

a person who stimulates or annoys especially by persistent criticism

Robert, the self-appointed **gadfly** of the city paper, would write a scathing letter to the editor whenever he felt the news coverage had been inadequate or inaccurate.

journey - JER-nee

travel from one place to another

It was a long, tedious **journey** by car from my home in New Jersey to my cousin's house in northern Maine.

dunce - DUNSS

a mentally dull person

The teacher beamed at hearing that all his students aced the exam and exclaimed, "There are certainly no **dunces** in my class!"

Colonel Blimp - KER-nul-BLIMP

a pompous person with out-of-date or ultraconservative views

In his later years he made himself into a **Colonel Blimp** quivering with prejudices and jowls, eyes usually bulging with rage over some fresh indignity.

fastidious - fass-TIH-dee-uss

not easy to please; very critical or discriminating

With **fastidious** attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again.

piano - pee-AN-oh

a musical instrument operated from a keyboard

Now that Alex has mastered several classical pieces on the **piano**, he is trying to compose some music of his own.

transient - TRAN-shee-unt

not lasting or staying long

The actress passed by before I could see her, but I got a **transient** whiff of her perfume.

spumescent - spyoo-MEH-sunt

frothy, foamy

Beat egg whites until foamy, the directions said, and Frank beat them until they were splendidly **spumescent**.

proceed - pruh SEED

to go on or forward, especially after an interruption

We will now **proceed** with the spelling competition.

cardinal - KAHR-duh-nul

any of several American finches of which the male is bright red with a black face and a pointed bunch of feathers on its head

Our new binoculars made it much easier to watch the **cardinal** build a nest in our pine trees.

xylography - zye-LAH-gruh-fee

the art of making engravings on wood especially for printing

Since the Great Storm of 1987 unexpectedly unleashed so much material for woodcutters and print-makers, interest in **xylography** has burgeoned.

offense - OFF-ense

the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry; umbrage

His friend took **offense** from the joke.

filibuster - FIH-luh-buss-ter

to engage in the use of delaying tactics (as long speeches) to put off or prevent action especially in a legislative assembly

A group of senators threatened to **filibuster** for the entire remaining week of the legislative term to prevent the bill's passage.

swelter - SWEL-ter

to suffer, sweat, or be faint from heat

I like my Halloween costume a lot, but I know I am going to **swelter** inside that giant dinosaur getup.

misconstrued - miss-kun-STROO

to understand or explain wrongly; misinterpret

The politician insisted that his comments had been **misconstrued** by the media.

zoomorphic - zO-a-'mor-fik

of, relating to, or being the representation of a deity in the form or with the attributes of an animal

Ancient Egyptians worshipped many **zoomorphic** gods and goddesses including Anubis the jackal, Bastet the cat, and Buto the cobra.

incorporate - in-KOR-puh-rayt

to unite or form into a single whole: blend

In designing the new playground, the school board plans to **incorporate** suggestions from students and parents.

proliferation - pru-lif-urA-shun

growing by multiplying new parts

The **proliferation** of the buds on the rosebud was truly amazing.

solicitous - suh-LIH-suh-tuss

worried, concerned

Norma was touched to learn that everyone in her mother's office had made **solicitous** inquiries about her broken arm.

marplot - MAHR-plaht

one who frustrates or ruins a plan or undertaking by meddling

What is the use of my taking the vows and settling everything as it should be, if that **marplot** Hans comes and upsets it all?

whelm - HWELM OR WELM

overwhelm

Marya was a bit **whelmed** by the new and unfamiliar task.

Middle/High School Study Word List (Grades 7-9)

ought or ought - AWT OR AHT

anything

It was too early for **ought** but a few dogs to notice us as we noticed birds.

kindling - kin(d)-li(ng)

bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted materials for starting a fire

The campers gathered **kindling** for the fire.

occlude - uh-KLOOD

obstruct

Heavy drapes pulled across the windows **occluded** the view of the garden outside.

torpor - TOR-per

mental or spiritual sluggishness: apathy, lethargy

On the first crisp, autumn weekend, I finally shook off the **torpor** that had set in with the seemingly endless dog days of summer.

equate - ih-KWAYT

to make or treat as equal or equivalent

In math class, our teacher taught us a formula to **equate** degrees Fahrenheit with degrees Celsius.

bowdlerize - BOHD-luh-ryze OR BOWD-luh-ryze

to modify by abridging, simplifying, or distorting in style or content

Joshua's staff writers felt he was an unnecessarily heavy-handed editor and complained that he **bowdlerized** their articles almost beyond recognition.

wooden - WOO-dun (WOO as in "wood")

lacking ease or flexibility: awkwardly stiff

The plotline is silly and simplistic, the characters are stereotypical and flat, and the dialogue is strained and **wooden**, wrote the critic.

volcano - vahl-KAY-noh

a vent in the earth's crust from which melted or hot rock and steam come out

On our trip to Hawaii, we saw an active **volcano** shooting fountains of lava.

ethnic - 'eth-nik

designating any or of any of the basic groups or divisions of mankind

His **ethnic** background was Italian.

kiln - KILN

an oven or furnace for hardening, burning, or drying something

After we decorated our clay pots with glaze, we fired them in the **kiln**.

against - uh GENST

in opposition to

The Student Council voted **against** school uniforms.

cosmeticize - kahz-MEH-tuh-size

to make (something unpleasant or ugly) superficially attractive

When the novel became a movie, the director chose not to soften or **cosmeticize** the gritty realism of the story.

jejune - ji-'jün

devoid of significance or interest: dull

I read several favorable reviews of this play, said Joan during intermission, but so far I'm finding it rather **jejune**.

vociferous - voe SIF e res

characterized by clamor or vehement outcry

The **vociferous** protest of Liberals could not stop the passage of Proposition 13.

czar - Zahr

or tsar also tzar: the ruler of Russia until the 1917 revolution

The last **czar** of Russia, Nicholas II, ruled from 1894 until the Russian Revolution of 1917.

schadenfreude - SHAH-dun-froy-duh

enjoyment obtained from the troubles of others

Bathed in summer sun (a temporary glitch, no doubt), you can't help feeling a touch of **schadenfreude** when reading weather reports from Vostok, Antarctica—temperature today -54C.

panoply - PAN-uh-plee

a full suit of armor

Our teacher showed us pictures from her tour of a Scottish castle, which houses displays of huge broadswords, bright heraldic banners, and splendid **panoplies**.

metamorphosis - meh-tuh-MOR-fuh-siss

change of form, shape, structure, or substance

As part of her science class, Karen was able to witness the **metamorphosis** of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

maneuver - muh NOOH vuhr

a clever often evasive move or action

We had to **maneuver** our way through the downtown traffic.

tamale - tuh-MAH-lee

cornmeal dough rolled with ground meat or beans, wrapped usually in corn husks, and steamed

For Jesse's birthday we had his favorite meal—chili and fresh **tamales**.

listless - list-less

having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc.; spiritless; languid

The **listless** dog lay on the floor by the fire.

capriciousness - ka-pri-sh's-ness

a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior

Her **capriciousness** was evident as soon as she appeared at dinner.

misspell - mis SPEL

to spell incorrectly

During the spelling competition, we were not allowed to **misspell** a single word.

superannuated - soo-per-AN-yuh-wayt-id

incapacitated or disqualified for active duty by advanced age

The young newspaper reporters, having learned their trade in the age of computers, consider the typewriter to be a **superannuated** contraption.

cessation - se-SA-shen

ceasing or stopping, either forever or for a period of time

Shutting the heavy door caused a **cessation** of all the noise.

ally - uh-LYE

to form a connection between: unite; especially: to join in an alliance

Dad and I agreed to **ally** against Mom so that, for once, we could defeat her at Chinese checkers.

pleonasm - PLEE-uh-naz-um

an instance or example of pleonasm

I hate it when people use the **pleonasm** ‘true fact,’ said Geoff, adding, A fact by its very nature is true, so what’s the point of the extra word?

accusatorial - Ac-cu-’sa-to-’ri-’al

in the manner of an accuser; blamer

Her friend spoke in an **accusatorial** tone thinking she was to blame.

elastic - ih-LASS-tik

capable of indefinite expansion

Shannon was assured that all of her gymnastics outfits would be **elastic** enough to allow her free movement during her floor exercise routine.

emollient - e-mol-i-ent

something that has a softening or soothing effect

An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream’s **emollient** powers.

constitutional - CON-sti-tu-shn’l

of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential

Everyone in the United States has **constitutional** rights.

plethora - PLEH-thuh-ruh

an excessive quantity or fullness; also: profusion

There is such a **plethora** of interesting restaurants in San Francisco, said Martin, that I never know which one to choose.

Sisyphean - sih-suh-FEE-un

of, relating to, or suggestive of the labors of Sisyphus; specifically: requiring continual and often ineffective effort

No one works at the Happy Burger for very long, so it’s a **Sisyphean** task for the manager just to keep the place adequately staffed.

welkin - WELL-kun

the vault of the sky: firmament

The pink sky at sunset brought to mind a quote from Shakespeare’s “King John”:
“The sun of heaven, methought, was loath to set, But stay’d and made the western **welkin** blush.”

surveillance - sur VAY luhn(t)s

close watch

The police kept a constant **surveillance** at the suspect’s house.

defenestration - dee-feh-nuh-STRAY-shun

a throwing of a person or thing out of a window

Johnson felt much better after the **defenestration** of his homework.

quirk - KWERK

an odd personal habit: idiosyncrasy

Gilda thought her new roommate Jan had some pretty strange **quirks**, but she realized that Jan probably thought the same of her.

translucent - tranz LOOH suhnt

capable of allowing some light to show through, but not transparent

We purchased a new **translucent** window for our bathroom.

futile - 'fyü-tul OR 'fyü-"tll

having no result or effect: useless

All of our attempts to knock the boomerang out of the tree were **futile**; it was really stuck.

etymology - et" u-MOL-u-jE

the study of words, their origin and development

Often knowing the **etymology** of a word will help you spell it correctly.

imperialism - im PIR-ee-e-liz-em

the policy and practice of seeking to dominate the economic or political affairs of underdeveloped areas or weaker countries

A policy of **imperialism** hinders the growth of underdeveloped countries.

perennial - puh REN ee uhl

lasting or active throughout the whole year

To cut down on my yard work I planted mostly **perennial** shrubs.

central - SEN truhl

in, at, or near the center

Let us get back to the **central** issue we are here to discuss.

remunerated - rih-MYOO-nuh-rayt

to pay an equivalent to for a service, loss, or expense: recompense

Although she was not **remunerated** for her services, Tina learned a lot by volunteering at the library.

demarche - day-MAHRSH OR dih-MAHRSH

a petition or protest presented through diplomatic channels

In a March 10 **demarche** delivered by the U.S. ambassador to South Africa, for example, U.S. officials said that a contrary vote by that country would undermine mutual interests.

occidental - ahk-suh-DEN-tul

relating to, or located in the west: western

Although California is the most **occidental** of the 48 continental United States, its coast was one of the first places to be visited by Europeans.

coeval - koh-EE-vul

of the same age or duration

The newly discovered dinosaur is thought to be **coeval** with the Tyrannosaurus rex, and the two predators probably competed for the same food.

erroneous - i-'rO-nE-us OR e-'rO-nE-us (not LONG E)

mistaken; wrong

The police report for the accident was **erroneous**.

beeper - BEE-per

a small electronic device used to summon the person carrying it

Ranju's mom is a doctor, so whenever her **beeper** goes off, she knows she has to respond quickly.

veritable - VAIR-uh-tuh-bul

being in fact the thing named and not false, unreal, or imaginary

Todd is a **veritable** wellspring of information on local history and folklore.

prognosticate - prahg-NAHSS-tuh-kayt

to foretell from signs and symptoms: predict

They clip newspaper reviews, compare notes on performances, discuss mistakes made, and **prognosticate** the outcome.

existence - ig ZIS tun(t)s

the state or fact of being

They were debating the **existence** of life on Mars.

arrogance - AR-e-gen(t)s

self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty

His **arrogance** was difficult to put up with.

fiasco - fee-YASS-koh

a complete failure

Last minute problems behind the scenes and in the orchestra made the first few minutes of the play a messy, unwatchable **fiasco**.

ophthalmologist - äp-thel-mäl-e-gest

a physician specializing in diseases of the eye

The **ophthalmologist** had to dilate the patient's eyes.

mend - MEND

to put into good shape or working order

The seamstress often had requests to **mend** torn football uniforms.

quiddity - KWIH-duh-tee

whatever makes something the type that it is: essence

Inge Morath's special gift as a photographer is her ability to present to the viewer the essence of the personality of her subjects—their **quiddity**.

destitute - DESS-tuh-toot or DESS-tuh-tyoot ("oo" as in "shoot,"

not "foot")

lacking possessions and resources; especially: suffering extreme poverty

We prayed for the poor and **destitute** in other cities, where the struggle for life is hard.

spectrum - spek-trem

a continuous range or entire extent

The newspaper reported a wide **spectrum** of opinions.

tenacious - te-NAE-shes OR tuh-NAY-shuss

persistent, stubborn

He had **tenacious** courage as he faced the endless pile of papers on his desk.

therapeutic - ther-e-pyüt-ik

-serving to cure or heal; curative

The **therapeutic** treatment hastened his recovery.

Indianapolis - in di uh NAP uh lis

the capital of Indiana

The **Indianapolis** Children's Museum features fun and fascinating hands-on exhibits.