

Am Lit H Vocabulary: Group A, Set Eight

- 1) **Succor** (n.) - assistance or support in time of hardship or distress
“In times of distress, I often turn to my parents for succor.”
- 2) **Boondoggle** (n.) - work or activity that is wasteful or pointless but that gives the appearance of having value
“The Republicans called the plan a boondoggle.”
- 3) **Cow** (v.) - to destroy the resolve or courage of someone
“After a powerful show of force, the local population was thoroughly cowed.”
- 4) **Panacea** (n.) - a remedy for all ills or difficulties; a cure all
“This law will certainly serve to improve the lives of farmers, but it’s no panacea.”
- 5) **Dissemble** (v.) - to hide under a false appearance; to put on the appearance of
“She lay down and dissembled sleep.”
“Her plan was to dissemble her intentions so she could plan him a surprise party.”
- 6) **Euphemism** (n.) - the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant
Examples: Garbage man → Sanitation worker
Died → Passed away
Fire → Let go/downsized
- 7) **Invective** (n.) - insulting or abusive language
“He let out a stream of invective on the disobedient children.”
- 8) **Apotheosis** (n.) - the perfect form or example of something; elevation to divine status
“She was both an outstanding athlete and the apotheosis of scholarly achievement.”
- 9) **Fraught** (adj.) - full of or accompanied by something specified (note: in this form, used with the preposition “with”); causing or characterized by emotional distress or tension
“Theirs was a fraught relationship; indeed, they’ve hated each other for years.”
- 10) **Ubiquitous** (adj.) - seemingly present everywhere
“Starbucks cafes are ubiquitous in most American cities.”
- 11) **Paternalism** (n.) - the policy or practice on the part of people in positions of authority of restricting the freedom and responsibilities of those subordinate to them in the subordinates’ supposed best interests
“The doctor’s paternalistic behavior was maddening. He’s deciding what information the patient needs to know.”

12) **Delimit** (v.) - determine the limits or boundaries of something

“Strict guidelines delimit her responsibilities as chief of thoracic surgery.”

13) **Extemporaneous** (adj.) - spoken or done without preparation

“The constituents delighted in the Congressman’s extemporaneous speeches on the value of hard work.”

14) **Inveigh** (v.) - speak or write against something/someone with great hostility

(Usage note: often used with preposition “against.”)

“As a self-described class warrior, he inveighed against luxury, wealth, and privilege.”

15) **Inexorable** (adj.) - not to be persuaded, moved or stopped

“He moved with inexorable determination towards his goals.”