

# 505 MUST-KNOW WORDS FOR TOEFL iBT

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# WEEK 1

Be determined to boost  
your vocabulary! This is  
where success on the test  
starts!

## 1: ABERRANT(ADJECTIVE)

Unusual: unacceptable: atypical: abnormal

Aberrant behavior/trees/weather

## 2: ACCELERATE(VERB)

Speed up: **expedite**: hasten: quicken ≠ **decelerate**

measures to **accelerate** the rate of economic growth

The car **accelerated** smoothly away.

### 3. ACCOUNT FOR(VERB)

Explain: clarify: **rationalize**: **illuminate**: justify

Recent pressure at work may **account for** his behavior.

Can you **account for** your movements on that night?

## 4. ACKNOWLEDGE(VERB)

Accept: admit: **concede**: **confess**: grant: **profess**: **recognize**

The family **acknowledge** the need for change.

He **acknowledges that** when he's tired he gets bad-tempered.

Claire **acknowledged** that she was guilty.

The government must **acknowledge** what is happening and do something about it.

This is a fact that most smokers readily **acknowledge**.

The film festival **is acknowledged** as an event of international importance.

## 5. ADJACENT(ADJECTIVE)

Next: adjoining: neighboring: close

We stayed in **adjacent rooms.**

the building **adjacent to** the library

## 6. AGGRAVATE(VERB)

Worsen: exacerbate: intensify: increase

irritate: bother: nettle: offend

Their money problems **were further aggravated** by a rise in interest rates.

Building the new road will only **aggravate** the situation.

What really **aggravates** me is the way she won't listen.

## 7. AGILE(ADJECTIVE)

Nimble: active: supple: swift: alert: sharp

Dogs are surprisingly agile.

He was physically strong and mentally agile.

With surprising agility, Karl darted across the road.

## 8. ALLUDE(VERB)

Refer: hint: mention: **touch upon: imply**

Rick didn't want to discuss his past, though he **alluded** darkly to 'some bad things that happened.'

The committee made no **allusion** to the former President in its report.

literary/classical/cultural etc. **allusions**

Eliot's poetry is full of biblical **allusions**.

In his poetry we find many **allusions** to the human body.

## 9. ANNIHILATE (VERB)

Destroy: abolish: eradicate: exterminate: **obliterate**

Just one of these bombs could **annihilate** a city the size of New York.

Tyson **annihilated** his opponent in the first round.

# 10. ARDUOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Difficult: exhausting: fatiguing: laborious: onerous: strenuous: tiring:  
tough, challenging, daunting

arduous task/work

arduous journey/voyage

an arduous journey through the mountains

# 11. ARID(ADJECTIVE)

Dry: barren: sterile

Boring: tedious: uninteresting

Water from the Great Lakes is pumped to **arid** regions.

My mind was **arid**, all inspiration gone.

**Arid** years of dictatorship

**Arid** life

## 12. ASSERT(VERB)

**State: insist on: claim: stress**

French cooking, she **asserted**, is the best in the world.

He **asserted that** nuclear power was a safe and non-polluting energy source.

Native Americans **asserting their rights** to ancestral land

Women began to **assert themselves** politically.

National pride began to **assert itself**.

## 13. ASSET(NOUN)

Benefit: advantage: **blessing**: **boon**: resource: capital:  
wealth

a corporation with \$9 billion **in assets**

the value of a **company's assets**

A sense of humor is **a great asset** in this business.

**be an asset to somebody/something**

I think Rachel **would be an asset** to the department.

## 14. ASTOUNDING(ADJECTIVE)

Astonishing: amazing: impressive: sensational:  
**breathtaking: brilliant: staggering: stunning**

The concert was an **astounding** success.

**astoundingly** beautiful scenery

The judge's decision **astounded** everyone.

# 15. ATTAIN(VERB)

Achieve: accomplish: acquire: gain: obtain: reach

More women are **attaining** positions of power.

Share prices **attained** a high of \$3.27.

After a year she had attained her ideal weight.

**attainable:** adjective

This target should be **attainable**.

## 16. ATTRIBUTE(VERB)

Ascribe: assign: refer: trace to

**attribute something to somebody/something phrasal verb**

The fall in the number of deaths from heart disease **is generally attributed to** improvements in diet.

The saying is usually **attributed to** Confucius.

## 17: AUGMENT(VERB)

Increase: raise: enlarge

Any surplus was sold to **augment their income**.

To **augment** the supplies

## 18: AVID(ADJECTIVE)

Enthusiastic: **ardent**: eager: **fanatical**: **keen**:  
passionate: zealous

an **avid** collector of old jazz records

an **avid** reader

# 19: BOAST

Brag

Possess

'I wouldn't be afraid,' she **boasted**.

Amy **boasted that** her son was a genius.

He's **boasting about** how much money he has made.

The company is inclined to **boast of** its success.

The city **boasts** two excellent museums.

The Society **boasts** 3000 members worldwide.

## 20: BOOM(VERB)

Flourish: develop: prosper: thrive

Business was **booming**, and money wasn't a problem.

Tourism on the island has **boomed**.

# 21: BOON(NOUN)

Benefit: advantage: blessing

The bus service is a real boon to people in the village.

## 22: BREAKTHROUGH(NOUN)

Development: advancement: progress: **quantum leap, leap**

Scientists have **made** a major breakthrough in the treatment of cancer.

## 23: BREW(VERB)

Make: develop: start: **foment**

Every beer on the menu **was brewed** locally.

He read the paper while **the tea brewed**.

**freshly brewed** coffee

There's trouble **brewing** in the office.

If a storm **is brewing**, it will happen soon

# 24: BURGEON(VERB)

Develop: flourish: grow: expand

My confidence started to **burgeon** later in life.

the **burgeoning** market for digital cameras

## 25: CARDINAL(ADJECTIVE)

Principal: capital: central: chief: fundamental:  
**leading**: main: primary

Having clean hands is one of the **cardinal**  
**rules** when preparing food.  
an issue of **cardinal importance**

## 26: CELEBRATED(ADJECTIVE)

Renowned:      eminent:      noted:      legendary:  
acclaimed: prominent: distinguished

a **celebrated** actress

a **celebrated** legal case

# 27: CHAOTIC(ADJECTIVE)

Disordered: anarchic: confused: **riotous**

a **chaotic** mixture of images

The filthy and **chaotic** house

**Chaotic** social and economic conditions

## 28: CHRONIC(ADJECTIVE)

Persistent

Chronic arthritis/heart disease

chronic unemployment

There is a chronic shortage of teachers.

He was a chronic alcoholic and unable to hold down a job.

a chronic smoker

The service is chronically underfunded.

## 29: CLING TO(VERB)

Stick: adhere: **clasp**: embrace: **grip**: hug

Passengers clung desperately onto the lifeboats.

His wet shirt **clung to his body**.

The smell of cigarette smoke **clung to her clothes**.

an attempt to **cling to power**

# 30: COLLIDE(VERB)

Crash: clash: conflict

A car and a van **collided** on the motorway.

I ran around the corner, and almost **collided with** Mrs. Laurence.

Two trains **collided head-on** (=when they were moving directly towards each other).

The President **has again collided with** Congress over his budget plans.

Istanbul, where east and west **collide**

## 31: COMPRISE(VERB)

Be composed to: consist of: contain: embrace:  
encompass

The house **comprises** two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room.

The committee **is comprised of** well-known mountaineers.

Women **comprise** a high proportion of part-time workers.

## 32: CONSENSUS(NOUN)

Agreement: **assent**: **unanimity**: concord

a lack of consensus about the aims of the project

There is a consensus among teachers that children should have a broad understanding of the world.

The EU Council of Finance Ministers failed to reach a consensus on the pace of integration.

The general consensus was that technology was a good thing.

## 33: CONGREGATE(VERB)

Assemble: **convene**: gather

Crowds began to congregate to hear the President's speech.

## 34: CONSPICUOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Obvious: **blatant**: clear: evident: **salient**: outstanding: remarkable:  
striking

The notice must be displayed in a **conspicuous** place.

a bird with **conspicuous** white markings

I felt very **conspicuous** in my red coat.

He had represented Italy with **conspicuous success**.

The award is given for notable or **conspicuous achievement** in science.

a group that were **conspicuous** by their absence from the awards ceremony

## 35: CONTENTIOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Argumentative: disputatious

contentious issue/area/subject etc.

Animal welfare did not become a contentious issue until the late 1970s.

# 36: CONTIGUOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Neighboring: adjacent: adjoining

America's 48 **contiguous** states

## 37: CONTRIVE(VERB)

Bring about: manage: create: succeed

Schindler **contrived** to save more than 1,000 Polish Jews from the Nazis.

The lawsuit says oil companies **contrived** the oil shortage in the 1970s. **(to do sth secretly)**

In 1862, a technique was **contrived** to take a series of photographs showing stages of movement. **(make sth skillfully)**

# 38: CONVICTION(NOUN)

Belief: **creed**: opinion: **principle**

**Certitude**: confidence

a woman of strong **political convictions**

The Dotens have a deep conviction that marriage is for life.

The students possess the conviction that they can make a difference to their community.

He was able to say with conviction that he had changed.

'No,' she said, without conviction.

It was a reasonable explanation, but his voice lacked conviction.

It took her so much effort to speak that what she said carried great conviction (=showed she felt sure of what she said).

Applicants are checked for criminal convictions.

This was her third conviction for theft.

# 39: COUNTERPART(NOUN)

Match: complement: equal: mate: equivalent

Belgian officials are discussing this with their French counterparts.

# 40: CRISIS(NOUN)

Critical point: climax: emergency: **plight: predicament**

The country now faces **an economic crisis**.

The Prime Minister was criticized for the way in which he **handled the crisis**.

the current **debt crisis**

a major **political crisis**

I was relieved that we had averted yet another **financial crisis**.

Oil companies were heavily criticized when they made large profits during the **oil crisis of the 1970s**.

The car industry is        now **in crisis**.

an **emotional crisis**

**In times of crisis**, you find out who your real friends are.

He seems to be **going through**    a **crisis**.

Both parties experienced an        **identity crisis** (=feeling of uncertainty about their purpose)        at the end of the '90s

# 41: SATURATE(VERB)

Saturate: soak: drench\*

*to make something very wet [= soak; ≠ dry]:*

Water poured through the hole and saturated the carpet.

Most TV channels are **saturated with** ads.(adjective)

His T-shirt was saturated with sweat.(adjective)

\*Drenched in sth

## 42: ABUNDANT(ADJECTIVE)

Abundant: plentiful: adequate: ample: rich # scarce

Abundant supplies/ opportunities/ work force(adjective)

You can find the material **in abundance** in this region.(noun)

Examples of this reason **abound**. (verb)

# 43: CONSOLIDATE(VERB)

Consolidate: strengthen: fortify: stabilize

Samsung tries to **consolidate** its position in the market through introducing user-friendly smartphones. (verb)

You need to **consolidate** your language learning through regular practice.

Further **consolidations** in political power might follow the coup.(Noun)

## 44: CHAMPION(VERB)

Champion (v.): support: advocate: **back:**  
**espouse**

This idea has been widely **championed** by  
academicians.(Verb)

# 45: ABANDON(VERB)

Abandon: leave: desert

Abandon your family/ city/ country/ house/ attempts to do sth/ the idea of sth

Fearing further attacks, most of the population had **abandoned** the city. (Verb)

There were lots of **abandoned** houses in the district.(Adjective)

Government's **abandonment** of the policy was criticized. (Noun)

# 46: SOPHISTICATED(ADJECTIVE)

Sophisticated: cultivated: refined: urbane

Complex: complicated: intricate

Sophisticated cutting-edge tablets

He is recognized as a highly sophisticated university professor.(adjective)

Tourists have been amazed by the sophistication of this rich cosmopolitan city. (Noun)

# 47: SUCCESSIVE(ADJECTIVE)

Successive: consecutive: in sequence

Successive classes left him absolutely worn-out. (adjective)

Successive governments have tried to deal with this issue. (adjective)

A succession of visitors came to the door. (Noun)

If the prince dies, the succession passes to his son. (Noun)

She won the championship four times in succession. (Noun)

Who will succeed him to the throne? (verb)

# 48: AMBIGUOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Ambiguous: indefinite: dubious: **equivocal**: **enigmatic**: vague:  
**obscure**

The poem is highly **ambiguous** and open to various interpretations. (adjective)

The rules are **ambiguously** worded. (adverb)

There was an element of **ambiguity** in the president's reply.  
(Noun)

## 49: INTRUSIVE(ADJECTIVE)

Intrusive: interfering: **meddlesome**

The paparazzi can be **intrusive** at times. (Adjective)

I resented this **intrusion** into/upon/on my personal affairs.(Noun)

Governments should not **intrude** into/on/upon the private lives of their citizens.(Verb)

## 50: FORMIDABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Formidable: terrifying: intimidating: fearful: dismayed

You have to deal with the **formidable** task of scoring high on TOEFL iBT. (adjective)

A **formidable** challenge in your life was ... (adjective)

The **formidability** of the issue prevented any further progress. (Noun)

# 51: WITHSTAND(VERB)

Withstand: endure: resist: bear: tolerate

This fabric can **withstand** steam and high temperatures.

The bridge is built to **withstand** an earthquake of 8.3 magnitude.

Exercise helps you enormously **withstand** stresses and strains more easily.

## 52: ENHANCE(VERB)

Enhance: boost: improve: heighten: elevate

The publicity has enhanced his reputation. (Verb)

Rich vocabulary will enhance your reading skill.(Verb)

Performance-enhancing drugs are strictly forbidden. (adjective)

Recent improvements in Internet have led to enhanced access to websites. (adjective)

flavor enhancers(noun)

Music is an enhancement to her brilliant performance.(Noun)

## 53: ACCLAIM(VERB)

**Acclaim:** praise: **compliment:** applaud: honor

This movie has been widely **acclaimed** by film critics.  
(Verb)

He published a paper which won great **acclaim** among  
the academicians. (Noun: acclamation)

The book has been widely/ universally/ highly  
**acclaimed** by teachers and pupils. (adjective)

## 54: PROFOUND(ADJECTIVE)

Profound: intense: extreme: acute

a **profound** effect/influence/impact/consequence/question/ thinker/ change(adjective)

Widespread crackdown had a **profound** effect on people's dissatisfaction with the government.  
(adjective)

# 55: PREVAILING(ADJECTIVE)

Prevailing: prevalent: widespread: customary: popular: usual:  
predominant

The **prevailing** economic conditions are not favorable.(adjective)

Justice will **prevail**. (Verb)

Your inner strength will enable you to **prevail over/against** life's obstacles. (verb)

She **prevailed upon her father** to say nothing.(verb)

The **prevalent** beliefs in superstitions really bothered him. (adjective)

## 56: SHORTCOMING(NOUN)

**Shortcoming: imperfection: flaw: weakness:  
defect: fault**

Peter was painfully aware of his own  
**shortcomings.(Noun)**

The report suggested that there were severe  
**shortcomings** in police tactics. (noun)

# 57: ELABORATE(VERB/ ADJECTIVE)

**Elaborate:**

**Adjective:** detailed: precise: thorough: complete

**Verb:** expand: amplify

The city is equipped with a very **elaborate** telecommunications network. (Adjective)

She had an **elaborate** lecture on the topic.(adjective)

McDonald refused to **elaborate** on his reasons for resigning. (Verb)

Would you please **elaborate** on that topic? (Verb)

He will some further **elaboration** on the topic. (Noun)

## 58: SECLUDED(ADJECTIVE)

Secluded: Private: solitary: sheltered: lonely  
secluded garden/spot/beach etc.

He's 80 years old now and lives a very secluded life.

He preferred to stay at home in seclusion.

## 59: BIZARRE(ADJECTIVE)

Bizarre: unusual, strange, odd, extraordinary, exceptional, remarkable: weird

They had worn **bizarre** costumes. (adjective)

It was rather a **bizarre** coincidence. (adjective)

# 60: SUPPRESS(VERB)

**Suppress: oppress: crush: stifle**

The uprising was ruthlessly **suppressed**. (Verb)

Harry could scarcely **suppress** a smile.(Verb)

You should **suppress** your emotions.(Verb)

The virus **suppresses** the body's immune system. (Verb)

There was a shocking **suppression** of the opposition parties. (Noun)

# WEEK 2

Practice DOES make  
perfect! Hang in there!

# 1: CULMINATE(VERB)

End up: conclude: finish

A series of events for teachers and students will  
**culminate in** a Shakespeare festival next year.

Weeks of violence **culminated in** the brutal murder  
of a magistrate.

## 2: CUMBERSOME(ADJECTIVE)

Awkward: **burdensome**: weighty: unmanageable

Doctors are complaining that the system is **cumbersome** and bureaucratic.

**cumbersome** procedures

a large **cumbersome** machine (heavy and difficult to move)

### 3: CUSHION(VERB)

protect

cushion somebody from/against something

Parents today often feel their children should  
be cushioned from the outside world.

## 4: DECIMATE(VERB)

Devastate: destroy: **wreak havoc on**

The population has been **decimated** by disease.

The recession **decimated** the industry.

**Decimation** of rain forests

## 5: DEFICIENT(ADJECTIVE)

Lacking: inadequate: insufficient: scant: scarce:  
defective: inferior: weak

Women who are dieting can become iron  
**deficient**.

Patients were **deficient in** vitamin C.

Our prisons are our most **deficient** social service.

## 6: DEFLECT(VERB)

Turn aside: bend: deviate: diverge

He **deflected** the blow with his forearm.

He attempts to **deflect attention** away from his private life

The committee is seeking to **deflect criticism** by blaming me.

Nothing can **deflect me from reaching my goal.** (to take someone's attention away from something)

## 7: DESICCATED(ADJECTIVE)

Dehydrated: dried: completely dry

desiccated soil

Desiccated leaves/flowers

## 8: DEPLETE(VERB)

Use up: consume: drain: empty: exhaust:  
impoverish

Salmon populations have been severely  
depleted.  
the depletion of the ozone layer

## 9: DETRCTOR (NOUN)

Fault-finder: critic

Even the President's **detractors** admit that the decision was the right one.

Even the President's **detractors** admit that the decision was the right one. (NOUN)

The performance will silence many of his **detractors**.

## 10: DEVIATE(VERB)

Differ: depart: diverge: **stray**

The plane had to **deviate from** its normal flight path.

He did not **deviate from** his plan.

They never **deviated from** their ideology.

## 11: DEVOID OF(ADJECTIVE)

Lacking: **bereft**: deficient: empty

His face was **devoid of** any warmth or humor.

The skies are **devoid of** birdlife.

## 12: DIFFUSE(VERB)

Spread: expand: propagate

The pollutants **diffuse** into the soil.

Their ideas **diffused** quickly across Europe.

an attempt to **diffuse** his anger(to make a bad feeling or situation less strong or serious)

## 13: DILUTE(VERB)

Weaken: reduce: decrease: lessen: **mitigate**

diluted fruit juice

Dilute the paint with a little oil.

an attempt to dilute the proposals (to make a quality, belief etc. weaker or less effective [→ water down])

Any dilution of standards must be resisted.

## 14: ADROIT(ADJECTIVE)

Skillful: adept: deft: **dexterous:** expert:  
proficient

an **adroit** negotiator/politician

# 15: DISGUISE(VERB)

Hide: camouflage: conceal: **shroud**: cover: mask: **veil**

Maybe you could **disguise** yourself **as** a waiter and sneak in there.

He escaped across the border **disguised as** a priest.

There's no way you can **disguise** that southern accent.

Try as he might, Dan couldn't **disguise** his feelings for Katie.

**There's no disguising the fact that** business is bad.

The speech was seen by many as a **thinly disguised** attack on the president.

# 16: DISPOSITION(NOUN)

Character: **temper**: tendency: inclination: **propensity**

People of a **nervous/sociable/sensitive etc.** disposition

The film is not suitable for people of a nervous **disposition**.

have/show a **disposition** to do something

Neither side shows the slightest **disposition** to compromise.

Most children have a **disposition** towards obedience.

## 17: DISSIPATE(VERB)

**Squander**: waste: consume

disappear: vanish

As he thought it over, his anger gradually  
**dissipated**.

Little by little, the smoke was **dissipated** by the  
breeze.

His savings were soon **dissipated**.(wasted)

## 18: EFFACE(VERB)

Obliterate: delete: eradicate: erase

Nothing can **efface** the last picture I have of them from my mind.

With time, the words **are effaced** by the rain.

## 19: ELUSIVE(ADJECTIVE)

Difficult to catch: **shifty**: **slippery**: **tricky**: **fleeting**:  
**intangible**

he managed to get an interview with that **elusive** man.

She enjoys a firm reputation in this country but wider international success has been **elusive**.

For me, the poem has an **elusive** quality. (difficult to describe or understand)

## 20: **EMANATE**(VERB)

Arise: derive: emerge: originate: stem

He **emanates** tranquility/sympathy.

Wonderful smells were **emanating from** the kitchen.

Intelligence and cunning **emanate from** him.

## 21: EMBARK ON(VERB)

Begin: commence: launch: initiate: set out

He **embarked** on a new career as a teacher.

The government has **embarked** on a new program of radical economic reform.

## 22: ENCAPSULATE(VERB)

Sum up: abridge: compress: condense:  
summarize

The words of the song neatly encapsulate the mood of the country at that time.

Her whole philosophy can be encapsulated in this one sentence.

## 23: ENDORSE(VERB)

Approve: advocate: champion: support: promote

The Prime Minister is unlikely to **endorse** this view.

I can **endorse** his opinion wholeheartedly.

celebrity **endorsements**

the official **endorsement** of his candidacy

## 24: ENDOW(VERB)

Provide: award: **bestow**

Her resistance to the Nationalists endowed her with legendary status.

She was endowed with good looks.

## 25: ENGULF(VERB)

Immerse: envelop: inundate: submerge:  
overwhelm

The building was engulfed in flames.

The pain engulfed him.

## | 26: EPHEMERAL(ADJECTIVE)

Brief: fleeting: passing: short-lived: transient

Fashion is by nature **ephemeral**.

Hopes of political unity in the region have proved **ephemeral**.

## 27: EQUILIBRIUM(NOUN)

Stability: balance: symmetry: steadiness

The government is anxious not to upset the economic equilibrium.

She struggled to recover her equilibrium.

## 28: ERRONEOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Incorrect: fallacious: faulty: flawed: invalid

His economic predictions are based on some erroneous assumptions.

They have arrived at some erroneous conclusions.

## 29: ESCALATE(VERB)

Increase: expand: extend: heighten: intensify: mount

Her fear was **escalating** into panic.

The fighting on the border is **escalating**.

We do not want to **escalate** the war.

The costs were **escalating** alarmingly.

policies that **escalate** their own costs

**escalating** crime

the **escalation** of fighting in June

a rapid **escalation** in value

## 30: EUPHORIC(ADJECTIVE)

delighted: Blissful: cheerful: ecstatic: overjoyed

Scientists are **euphoric at** the success of the test.

I had received **euphoric** support from the public.

## 31: EVOKE(VERB)

Recall: arouse: awaken: induce: **stir up**

The photographs evoked strong memories of our holidays in France.

His appearance is bound to evoke sympathy.

Her speech evoked a hostile response.

The poem is an evocation of lost love.(noun)

## 32: EXCEED(VERB)

Surpass: go over the limit of

Working hours must not **exceed** 42 hours a week.

His performance **exceeded** our expectations.

He was fined for **exceeding** the speed limit.

The riot police had **exceeded** their authority.

## 33: SURPLUS (NOUN/ ADJECTIVE)

Excess: remaining: remainder

Any **surplus** can be trimmed away.

a **surplus** of crude oil

a huge budget **surplus** of over £16 billion

Ethiopia has no **surplus** food.

**Surplus** cash can be invested.

## 34: EXERT(VERB)

Use: apply: utilize

Make an effort: endeavor

They **exerted** considerable influence within the school.

Environmental groups are**exerting pressure** on the government to tighten pollution laws.

He has **exerted himself** tirelessly on behalf of the charity. (to work very hard and use a lot of physical or mental energy)

## 35: CAPRICIOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Unpredictable: changeful: erratic: variable:  
mercurial

He was as **capricious** as his mother had been.  
a **capricious** wind (changing quickly and  
suddenly)

## 36: EXTANT(ADJECTIVE)

Surviving: remaining: enduring

Few of the manuscripts are still extant.

## 37: EXTOL(VERB)

Praise: acclaim: commend: exalt: glorify

They kept extolling my managerial skills.

Now experts are extolling the virtues of the humble potato.

## 38: EXTRANEous(ADJECTIVE)

Irrelevant: immaterial: inappropriate

Such details are **extraneous** to the matter in hand.

**extraneous** noises (coming from outside)

## 39: EXUDE(VERB)

release, send out, send forth, emit, emanate

She **exudes** self-confidence.

He **exuded** an air of wealth and power.

## 40: FEASIBLE(ADJECTIVE)

Possible: attainable: likely: viable: workable

a **feasible** solution

economically/technically/politically etc. **feasible**

It was no longer **financially feasible** to keep the community center open.

## 41: INTENSIFY(VERB)

to increase: deepen: escalate: strengthen

In June, the civil war intensified.

His mother's death intensified his loneliness.

China is intensifying efforts to fight crime.

Winds intensified during the afternoon.

**Adjectives: intense- intensive**

## 42: COMMENCE (VERB)

Begin: start: initiate

Work will **commence** on the new building immediately.

Your first evaluation will be six months after you **commence** employment.

The planes **commenced** bombing at midnight.

## 43: LUCRATIVE(ADJECTIVE)

Profitable: advantageous: **fruitful**

Catering is a very **lucrative** business if you succeed in it.

A **lucrative** job/ business

## 44: COINCIDE(VERB)

Coincide: concur

**coincide with**

His entry to the party **coincided with** his marriage.

Noun: coincidence

**by coincidence**

By coincidence, John and I both ended up at Yale.

It was sheer/pure coincidence.

## 45: OBSOLETE(ADJECTIVE)

Antiquated: **archaic**: outdated

**obsolete weapons**

computer hardware that quickly became  
**obsolete**

Will computers render (=make) books **obsolete**?

## 46: PLAGUE(VERB/NOUN)

Bother: annoy: make suffer: **harass**

He was plagued by eye troubles.

Financial problems continued to plague the company.

The kids have been plaguing me with questions.

## 47: ABRUPT(ADJECTIVE)

Sudden: unexpected: quick

There was an abrupt change of plan.

He left the class abruptly.

His abruptness irked her.

Sorry, I didn't mean to be so abrupt.

## 48: SUSCEPTIBLE(ADJECTIVE)

Prone: vulnerable: **suggestible**

Older people are more susceptible to infections.

Young people are more susceptible to advertisements.

She was very susceptible to flattery.

A lot of TV advertising is aimed at susceptible young children.

Hafez's poems are susceptible to different interpretations.

## 49: FRAGILE(ADJECTIVE)

Delicate: easily broken: frail: **flimsy**: weak  
**fragile bones**

Be careful with that vase – it's very **fragile**.

the country's **fragile** economy

Relations between the two countries are in a **fragile** state.

the party's **fragile** unity

## 50: MASSIVE(ADJECTIVE)

Huge: gigantic: enormous: monumental

My phone bill was **massive** last month.

There were **massive** increases in the number of homeless

Club members can get a **massive** discount of £50.

He had a **massive** stroke/heart attack etc.

He suffered a **massive** stroke.

# 51: STIMULATE(VERB)

**Arouse:** provoke: encourage

It was an article on the President's plan to stimulate economic growth

Her interest in art was stimulated by her father.

An inspiring teacher can stimulate students to succeed.

**Stimulus: stimuli (Noun)**

## 52: SURPASS(VERB)

**Outdo: excel**

In 15 years, China will likely **surpass** the U.S. as the world's largest market.

He had **surpassed** all our expectations.

He was determined to **surpass** the achievements of his older brothers.

## 53: RAPPORT(NOUN)

Relationship: tie: bond: sympathy: **affinity**  
rapport with/between

He had an excellent rapport with his patients.  
establish/build up/develop (a) rapport  
He built up a good rapport with the children.

## 54: CAPACIOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Spacious: roomy: commodious: broad  
a **capacious** suitcase/handbag

## 55: UNDERMINE(VERB)

Weaken:

**undermine somebody's  
confidence/authority/position/credibility etc.**

The constant criticism was beginning to **undermine** her confidence

This policy threatens to **undermine** the health-care system.

These attempts might **undermine** the chances of the government's success.

## 56: TENACIOUS(ADJECTIVE)

**Resolute**: determined: iron: **adamant**: immovable: **unyielding**

She is very tenacious and will work hard to achieve the objectives.

He was the most tenacious politician in South Korea.

**Tenacity**: tenaciousness(NOUN)

Talent, diligence and sheer tenacity are all crucial to career success.

## 57: INTERMITTENT(ADJECTIVE)

Occasional: sporadic: periodic

After three hours of **intermittent** rain, the game was finally abandoned.

The weather forecast is for sun, with **intermittent** showers.

The talks went on **intermittently** for three years.

## 58: SCANTY(ADJECTIVE)

Insufficient: inadequate: deficient

There is only **scanty** evidence/data of his involvement.

**scanty** clothing

## 59: INAUGURATE(VERB)

Launch: begin: commence: initiate: introduce

On 8 January 1959 De Gaulle was **inaugurated** as First President of the Republic.

The International Trade Agreement **inaugurated** a period of high economic growth.

In 1960, Brazil **inaugurated** its new capital, Brasilia.

The new president will be **inaugurated** on January 20.

## 60: ILLUMINATE(VERB)

**Elucidate: clarify: shed light on sth...**

These reasons illuminate our understanding of the issue.

Streetlights illuminated the streets.

The report illuminated the difficult issues at the heart of science policy.

To illuminate the subject, you may use graphs and charts.

# WEEK 3 | Vocabulary

## 1: DEPICT(VERB)

**Draw:** **illustrate:** **portray:** **demonstrate:**  
**picture**

The book **depicts** life in pre-revolutionary Russia.

In this new biography, she is **depicted** as a lonely and unhappy woman.

The god is **depicted** as a bird with a human head.

## 2: SPONTANEOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Natural: **impulsive**: unplanned

The crowd gave a **spontaneous** cheer.

My **spontaneous** reaction was to run away.

She laughed **spontaneously**.

The group was greeted by **spontaneous** applause.

The invitation was completely **spontaneous**.

He had the **spontaneity** of a child.

### 3: DISTINGUISH(VERB)

Differentiate: discriminate: determine: categorize: separate  
distinguish somebody/something from

The factor that distinguishes this company from the competition is customer service.

distinguishing feature/mark/characteristic

The main distinguishing feature of this species is the leaf shape.

The light was too dim for me to distinguish anything clearly.

He distinguished himself on several occasions in the civil war.

Ms. Dixon comes from a distinguished Washington family.

## 4: CONTRADICTORY(ADJECTIVE)

Incompatible: inconsistent: contrary: **converse**: paradoxical  
contradictory messages/statements/demands etc.

The public is being fed **contradictory** messages about the economy.

Upon further questioning, the witnesses gave inconsistent and sometimes  
**contradictory** answers.

Dad just can't bear to be **contradicted**.

The article flatly **contradicts** their claims.

There is a **contradiction** between the government's ideas and its actual  
policy.

Your behavior is in **direct contradiction** to the principles you claim to have.

# 5: DECLINE(VERB/NOUN)

**Transitive:** refuse: reject: to turn down:

**Intransitive:** lessen: decrease: diminish: deteriorate

There has been a **decline** in the size of families.

rapid/sharp/steep/dramatic decline

a **rapid decline** in unemployment

Spending on information technology has **declined**.

Car sales have **declined** by a quarter.

Mary **declined** Jay's invitation to dinner.

Her health has been **declining** progressively for several months.

## 6: DEPLETE(VERB)

Consume: empty: drain: lessen: reduce

Salmon populations have been severely depleted.

CFC is just one chemical that depletes the ozone layer.

Over the last few years, rainforests have been steadily depleted.

## 7:ABOLISH(VERB)

**Cancel: end: eliminate: eradicate: revoke**

Slavery was **abolished** in the US in the 19th century.

He served over 27 years in prison for fighting to  
**abolish** white-only rule.

Welfare programs cannot be **abolished** that quickly.

Demonstrations have led to the **abolition** of the rules.

## 8: DISPERSE

Scatter: diffuse: spread

Police used tear gas to **disperse** the crowd.

The clouds **dispersed** as quickly as they had gathered

Once the ambulance had left, the crowd began to **disperse**.

Because of the surrounding mountains, air pollution in Tehran is not **easily dispersed**.

## 9: GERMINATE(VERB)

**Develop:** grow

Most seeds **germinate** best between 85 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

The **idea** of setting up his own company began to germinate in his mind.

## 10: RELIC(NOUN)

**Remnant: memento**

The books and photos are **relics** of Rob's university days

Everything in the house seemed old and untouched, like **relics** of an ancient time.

**Relict species(adjective)**

# 11: VERSATILE(ADJECTIVE)

All-purpose: all-round: resourceful

a very **versatile** performer

a more **versatile** workforce

The potato is an extremely **versatile** vegetable.

Everyone admired his outstanding **versatility** as an all-round entertainer.

## 12: UNDERESTIMATE(VERB)

**Underrate: undervalue: minimize**

We **underestimated** how long it would take to get there.

**underestimate** the importance/extent/effect/power etc. of something

Never **underestimate** the power of the press.

He tends to **overestimate** his own abilities.

# 13: SYNTHESIZE(VERB)

Mix: combine

DDT is a pesticide that was first synthesized in 1874.

Your paper has to synthesize what you read and what you observed.

a synthesis of Eastern and Western philosophical ideas

## 14: EDIBLE(ADJECTIVE)

Eatable: digestible: palatable

These berries are **edible**, but those are poisonous.

Are these mushrooms **edible**?

The meal was barely **edible**.

There are many **edible** fruits growing wild in the coastal forest.

## 15: UNPRECEDENTED(ADJECTIVE)

**Unheard-of, remarkable, singular, extraordinary**

He took the **unprecedented** step of stating that the rumors were false.

Crime has increased on an **unprecedented** scale.

An **unprecedented** boom in tourism brought sudden prosperity to the town.

An **unprecedented** number of cars entered the race.

Such an event is **unprecedented** in recent history.

## 16: RESILIENT(ADJECTIVE)

**Strong: tough: hardy: sturdy: flexible**

Children are often very **resilient**.

The company proved remarkably **resilient** during the recession.

People showed remarkable **resilience** during the war.

## 17: PROLIFERATE(VERB)

Increase: expand: multiply

**It is an INTRANSITIVE verb!**

Fast-food restaurants have proliferated in the area.

The HIV virus is able to proliferate at an astonishing rate.

## 18: FLUCTUATE(VERB)

Vary: **oscillate**: waver: alternate

fluctuate between

Prices were volatile, fluctuating between \$20 and \$40.

fluctuate around

The number of children in the school fluctuates around 100.

Insect populations fluctuate wildly from year to year.

## 19: EXOTIC(ADJECTIVE)

Unusual: foreign: alien

exotic birds

exotic places

## 20: ERADICATE(VERB)

Wipe out: eliminate: root out: **uproot**: exterminate: obliterate

We can eradicate this disease from the world.

There was an attempt to eradicate inflation.

This problem has now been completely eradicated.

He spoke about what is necessary to eradicate AIDS.

The disease has been eradicated from the Western world through the use of vaccines.

## 21: FOSTER(VERB/ADJECTIVE)

Cultivate: encourage: stimulate: raise: nurse: rear:  
take care of

The bishop helped **foster** the sense of a community embracing all classes.

The couple wanted to adopt a black child they had been **fostering**.

It is sometimes difficult to find suitable **foster parents**.

## 22: FOUL(ADJECTIVE)

Dirty: fetid: nauseating: repulsive: stinking: obscene: offensive:  
despicable

He woke up with a foul taste in his mouth.

a pile of foul-smelling garbage

He put down his mug of foul-tasting coffee.

The argument with his mother left Putt in a foul mood.

Refugees in the camps are short of food and at risk from foul water.

Extractor fans remove foul air from the tunnel

She claimed she had been subjected to abuse and foul language.

## 23: FRICTION(NOUN)

Rubbing: resistance: scraping

Hostility: animosity: conflict: discord: resentment

Having my mother living with us causes friction at home.

the usual frictions between parents and their teenage children

His independent attitude was a constant source of friction with his boss.

Putting oil on both surfaces reduces friction.

Check your rope frequently, as friction against the rock can wear it away.

## 24: FRIGID(ADJECTIVE)

Cold: **arctic**: **frosty**: **glacial**

**unapproachable**: **unfeeling**

The guard looked at us with a **frigid** stare.

the **frigid** air

# 25: GEAR(VERB)

Equip: adjust: prepare: adapt: fit

The typical career pattern **was geared to** men whose wives didn't work.

be geared to do something

The course curriculum **is geared to** span three years.

**to gear up for:** to prepare for something

The organization **is gearing up for** a convention in May.

**gear up/be geared up to do something**

Fast food restaurants **are geared up to** serve thousands of people daily.

# 26: GENUINE(ADJECTIVE)

Authentic: actual: real: true

Sincere: candid: earnest: unfeigned

The reforms are motivated by a genuine concern for the disabled.

a genuine fear of invasion

'Did he really?' Her surprise seemed genuine.

We need laws that will protect genuine refugees.

The strap is genuine leather.

She is the most genuine person I've ever met.

Some fake designer clothes are so good that people have no idea they're not buying the genuine article.

The boy seemed genuinely interested.

## 27: GIVE RISE TO(VERB)

Cause: bring about: elicit: induce: incite:  
produce: prompt: promote

His speech **gave rise to** a bitter argument.

The President's absence **has given rise to** speculation about his health.

## 28: GROOM(VERB)

Clean: preen: tidy: spruce up: brush: tend

Tim was being **groomed** for a managerial position.

Clare's been **groomed** to take her father's place when he retires.

Her hair is always **perfectly groomed**.

## 29: GROUNDLESS(ADJECTIVE)

Unjustified:      baseless:      idle:      unfounded:  
unwarranted

Fortunately my suspicions proved groundless.

Mr. Kay's lawyer said the accusations were  
groundless.

## 30: GRUDGING(ADJECTIVE)

Unwilling: **hesitant**: unenthusiastic: reluctant

a **grudging** apology

He **grudgingly** admitted he'd been wrong.

## 31: FORAGE(VERB/NOUN)

Search: explore: hunt: seek

People are being forced to **forage** for food and fuel.

In the summer, the goats **forage** freely (=in any place they want to go).

She **foraged around** in her purse and produced her ticket.

## 32: HALLMARK(NOUN)

Mark: sign: symbol: indication: **telltale sign**

These hotels still offer the sort of service which were the **hallmark** of the grand days of travel.

The explosion had all the **hallmarks** of a terrorist attack.

Their performance did not bear the **hallmark** of European champions.

## 33: HAPHAZARD(ADJECTIVE)

Disorganized: aimless: **slapdash**: indiscriminate

I continued my studies in a rather haphazard way.

Educational provision in the country is haphazard.

Bushes grow haphazardly here and there.

# 34: HARSH(ADJECTIVE)

Rough: severe: ruthless: cruel

the **harsh** Canadian winters

The young girl was suddenly exposed to the **harsh realities** of life

His theory met with **harsh criticism** from colleagues.

'She's an idiot!' 'Aren't you being a bit **harsh**?'

a **harsh**, authoritarian regime

He had **harsh words** (=severe criticism) for the Government.

**harsh voice/laugh/tone** etc.

His voice was **harsh** and menacing.

She stood outside, blinking in the **harsh** sunlight.

My skin is quite sensitive and I find some soaps too **harsh**.

## 35: HASTEN(VERB)

Rush: hurry: race: speed: make haste

Their departure **was hastened** by an abnormally cold winter.

I **hastened** to assure her that there was no danger.

## 36: HAUL(VERB)

(VERB)Drag: draw: heave: pull

She **hauled** her backpack onto her back.

The steam locomotive **hauled** the train

I **hauled** the door shut behind me.

Patrick **hauled himself** painfully up the stairs.

He is confident that the club can **haul** themselves further up the league.

Police handcuffed him and **hauled** him off to jail.

## 37:HAVOC(NOUN)

Disorder: chaos: confusion: disruption

A strike will **cause havoc** for commuters.

These policies would **wreak havoc on** the country's economy

Rain has continued to **play havoc with** sporting events.

## 38: HAZARD(NOUN)

Danger: jeopardy: peril: pitfall: risk: threat

Polluted water sources are a hazard to wildlife.

That pile of rubbish is a fire hazard  
 (=something that is likely to cause a fire).

the economic hazards of running a small farm

## 39: HERITAGE(NOUN)

Inheritance: **bequest**: endowment: **legacy**: tradition

the importance of preserving the national heritage  
beautiful old buildings which are part of our heritage  
cultural/architectural/literary etc. heritage  
the cultural heritage of Italy

## 40: HITHERTO(ADVERB)

Previously: so far: until now

a species of fish **hitherto unknown** in the West

## 41:HOST OF(NOUN)

Multitude: array: horde: myriad: swarm: throng

A host of show-business celebrities have pledged their support.

## 42: IDIOSYNCRASY(NOUN)

Peculiarity: characteristic: eccentricity: oddity

my uncle's idiosyncrasies

one of the many idiosyncrasies of English  
spelling

## 43: IGNITE(VERB)

**Catch fire:** burn: burst into flames: flare up: inflame:  
**take fire**

**Set fire to:** kindle

The petrol tank suddenly **ignited**.

The candle **ignited** the plastic.

These events **ignited the war** in Europe.

## 44:IMPERMEABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Sealed: impassable: impenetrable: resistant:  
unaffected: invulnerable

No paint is impermeable to water vapor.

## 45: IMPETUS(NOUN)

Incentive: **impulse**: **push**: motivation: stimulus: force:  
energy: power

The report may provide further **impetus** for reform.

The discovery **gave** fresh **impetus** to the research.

## 46: IMPLEMENT(VERB/NOUN)

(VERB) **Carry out:** bring about: complete: execute: fulfill

(NOUN) tool: apparatus: **appliance:** device: gadget:  
**utensil**

We have decided to **implement** the committee's recommendations in full.

the **implementation** of the peace plan

## 47: INADVERTENTLY(ADVERB)

Unintentionally: accidentally: **by mistake**: involuntarily:  
mistakenly

Viruses can be spread **inadvertently** by email users.

Robinson's name was **inadvertently** omitted from the list.

**inadvertent exposure** to chemicals(adjective)

## 48: AUSPICIOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Favorable:      bright:      encouraging:      hopeful:  
promising

auspicious start/beginning

Saccani's excellent recording is an auspicious start to what promises to be a distinguished musical career.

## 49: INCENTIVE(NOUN)

Encouragement: inducement: **lure**: motivation: stimulus

create/provide/give somebody an incentive

Awards provide an incentive for young people to improve their skills.

Farmers lack any incentive to manage their land organically.

economic/financial/tax etc. incentives

a recycling drive backed with financial incentives

## 50: INCEPTION(NOUN)

Beginning: birth: commencement: dawn:  
initiation: origin: start

a CD collection covering the band from its  
**inception** in 1994

## 51: INCLEMENT(ADJECTIVE)

Stormy: foul: harsh: **intemperate**: rough: severe

Walkers should be prepared for **inclement weather**.

## 52: INCORPORATE(VERB)

Include: absorb: assimilate: blend: integrate: merge

We've incorporated many environmentally-friendly features into the design of the building.

Our original proposals were not incorporated in the new legislation.

the incorporation of the college into the university

## 53: INGENUITY(NOUN)

Originality: cleverness: inventiveness: flair:  
genius: sharpness: shrewdness

Considerable **ingenuity** must be employed in writing software.

## 54: INDIGENOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Native: local: domestic

indigenous to

Blueberries are indigenous to America.

Many indigenous cultures existed in Siberia.

## 55: INERT(ADJECTIVE)

Inactive: dead: dormant: immobile: static: still:  
unresponsive

inert gases: not producing a chemical reaction when combined with other substances

He lay, **inert**, in his bed.

The government was **inert** and inefficient.

## 56: INHERENT(ADJECTIVE)

Innate: essential: inborn: inbuilt: **ingrained**: intrinsic:  
natural

I'm afraid the problems you mention are **inherent** in  
the system.

Every business has its own **inherent risks**.

Firefighting is an **inherently** dangerous occupation.

## 57: INHIBIT(VERB)

**Restrain:** **check:** **constrain:** **frustrate:** **discourage:** **hinder:**  
**impede:** **obstruct**

An unhappy family life may **inhibit** children's learning.

**inhibit somebody from doing something**

Recording the meeting may **inhibit** people from expressing their real views.

## 58: INHOSPITABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Unwelcoming: unfriendly: **unreceptive**: unsociable:

Barren: hostile: **desolate**

an **inhospitable** climate

He trekked across some of the most **inhospitable** terrain in the world.

an **inhospitable** person does not welcome visitors in a friendly way

**inhospitable** to

Some governments are **inhospitable to** aid workers.

## 59: INORDINATE(ADJECTIVE)

Excessive:

extravagant:

immoderate:

unreasonable: unwarranted

Testing is taking up an inordinate amount of teachers' time.

She's inordinately fond of her parrot.(excessively)

## 60: **INSTIGATE**(VERB)

Provoke: bring about: initiate: prompt: influence:  
trigger: set off: incite

Charles **instigated** a program of reforms.

He accused union leaders of **instigating** the disturbances.

# WEEK 4 | Vocabulary

# 1: FEASIBLE(ADJECTIVE)

*Possible, workable, achievable, viable*

a **feasible** solution

economically/technically/politically etc. **feasible**

It was no longer **financially feasible** to keep the community center open.

## 2: DISCERN(VERB)

Perceive, notice, behold, determine  
discern what/where/why etc.

Officials were keen to discern how much public support there was.

We could just discern a town in the distance.

The discernible stars

### 3: PROPONENT(NOUN)

Supporter, advocate# opponent

proponent of

Steinem has always been a strong proponent of women's rights.

leading/main/major proponent

Dr. George is one of the leading proponents of this view.

## 4: VOLATILE(ADJECTIVE)

Unsteady, variable, inconstant, changeable

an **increasingly volatile** political situation

The highly **volatile** stock and bond markets

A **volatile** person(temperamental: mercurial)

## 5: DETRIMENTAL(ADJECTIVE)

Unfavorable, damaging, destructive, **deleterious**,  
adverse

**detrimental to**

Smoking is **detrimental to** your health.

the **detrimental** effect of pollution on the environment

## 6: DEBRIS(NOUN)

Fragments, remains, **rubble**, wreckage

She was hit by flying debris from the blast.

plant/garden/industrial etc. debris

Clean the ventilation ducts to remove dust and insect debris.

The beach was littered with debris.

# 7: CONTAGIOUS

Communicable, infectious

Chicken pox is a **highly contagious disease**.

The patient is still **highly contagious**.

her **contagious** enthusiasm

Laughing/ yawning is **contagious**.

## 8: DEVASTATE(VERB)

Devastate: destroy: demolish: wreck

Rob was **devastated by the news of her death.**

The city center **was devastated by the bomb.**

She was left **feeling totally devastated.**

**devastating effect/impact**

Acid rain has a **devastating effect on the forest.**

**devastating results/consequences**

The oil spill had **devastating consequences for wildlife.**

It will be a **devastating blow** for the town if the factory closes.

# 9: IMPLAUSIBLE(ADJECTIVE)

Impossible, inconceivable, impractical

implausible theory/idea/explanation etc.

Margaret found his excuse somewhat **implausible**.

It's not **entirely implausible** that a galaxy could be identical to our own.

Jill says she can earn \$50,000 from the job, but this is an **implausible figure**.

# 10: COMPELLING(ADJECTIVE)

Fascinating, forcing, convincing, **irrefutable**

compelling reason/argument/case etc.

Lucy had no compelling reason to go into town.

The court was presented with compelling evidence that she'd murdered her husband.

His life makes a compelling story.

compelling need/desire/urge (to do something)

He felt a compelling need to tell someone about his idea.

## 11: ASSORTMENT(NOUN)

**Medley, mixture, array, variety**

On the floor was an **assortment** of boxes and packages.

The soldier received a parcel containing an **assortment** of shirts, biscuits, and canned food.

**Assorted colors**

## 12: LETHAL(ADJECTIVE)

Deadly, fatal, dangerous, devastating, murderous, destructive

a **lethal dose** of heroin

A **lethal weapon**

death by    **lethal injection**

These chemicals are **lethal to** fish.

Higher taxes and higher inflation were **a lethal combination**.

# 13: GENUINE(ADJECTIVE)

authentic, original, real # fake, sham, forge, counterfeit , feign(verb)

genuine interest/concern/desire etc.

The reforms are motivated by a genuine concern for the disabled.

a genuine fear of invasion

'Did he really?' Her surprise seemed genuine.

We need laws that will protect genuine refugees. (real)

The strap is genuine leather.

She is the most genuine person I've ever met. (honest)

# 14: MONOPOLIZE(VERB)

Dominate, take the control of, take over

The company has **monopolized** the soft drinks market.

He **monopolized** the conversation all evening.

Virtually all her time and energy is now **monopolized** by the children.

The **state monopoly** of television

**monopoly on/in**

For years Bell Telephone had **a monopoly on** telephone services in the US.

Teachers do not have **a monopoly on** educational debate.

# 15: CAMOUFLAGE(NOUN)

Mask, disguise, veil

Soldiers learn camouflage techniques.

The men were dressed in camouflage and carrying automatic weapons.

camouflage trousers

The whiteness of the arctic fox acts as camouflage, hiding it from its enemies.

# 16: SURRENDER(VERB)

Give up, abandon, submit

The terrorists were given ten minutes **to surrender**.

**surrender to somebody**

Thousands of illegal immigrants in Japan have **surrendered to police**.

He immediately **surrendered himself to the authorities**.

They were given two hours to **surrender their weapons**.

Kate was most reluctant to **surrender her independence**.

Marchers who had cameras were forced to **surrender their film**.

Sarah **surrendered to temptation** and took out a cigarette.

# 17: DEPRIVE(VERB)

**Remove**

A lot of these children have been **deprived of** a normal home life.

**Deprived children** tend to do less well at school.

**deprived areas/neighborhoods etc.** (=where a lot of deprived people live)

our **deprived inner cities**

**Sleep deprivation** can result in mental disorders.

**social/economic/emotional etc. deprivation**

**Low birth weight** is related to **economic deprivation**.

## 18: PERISH(VERB)

**Die, vanish, rot, decay**

Hundreds **perished** when the ship went down.

Five children **perished** before firefighters could put out the blaze.

# 19: COLLIDE(VERB)

Conflict, crash, hit, clash

A car and a van **collided** on the motorway.

I ran around the corner, and almost **collided with** Mrs. Laurence.

Two trains **collided head-on** (=when they were moving directly towards each other).

The President has again **collided with** Congress over his budget plans.  
(disagree)

Istanbul, where east and west **collide**

**Colliding** viewpoints(opposite)

The school bus was involved in a **collision** with a truck.

## 20: INTACT(ADJECTIVE)

Undamaged: complete: entire: unbroken:  
unharmed

Only the medieval tower had remained intact.  
His reputation survived intact.

## 21: INTEGRAL(ADJECTIVE)

Essential: basic: fundamental: indispensable:  
intrinsic

Vegetables are an integral part of our diet.

Statistics are integral to medical research.

## 22: INTERMINGLE(VERB)

Mix: blend: combine: **fuse**: **interweave**: merge

The pain and the anger were **intermingled**.

## 23: INTRICATE(ADJECTIVE)

Complicated: complex: elaborate: involved:  
tangled

intricate patterns

intricately woven fabric

## 24: INTRIGUE(VERB)

Interest: attract: fascinate: **rivet**

Other people's houses always **intrigued** her.

## 25: **INVALUABLE**(ADJECTIVE)

Precious: priceless: valuable

Your advice has been **invaluable** to us.

This help was **invaluable** in focusing my ideas.

The internet is an **invaluable** source of information.

## 26: INVARIABLY(ADVERB)

Always: consistently: habitually: regularly:  
perpetually

It **invariably** rains when I go there.

The security guards were **invariably** ex-servicemen.

## 27: INVIOLABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Unchangeable: fixed: immutable: unalterable

Everyone has an **inviolable** right to protection by a fair legal system.

## 28: **INVOKE**(VERB)

**Call upon:** appeal to: **beg:** implore

**Apply:** initiate: use

The UN threatened to **invoke** economic sanctions if the talks were broken off.

a painting that **invokes** images of the Rocky Mountains

During his speech, he **invoked** the memory of Harry Truman.

St. Genevieve is often **invoked** against plagues.

## 29: JETTISON(VERB)

Abandon: discard: eject: expel: unload

The scheme was jettisoned when the government found it too costly.

## 30: RECONCILE(VERB)

Resolve: adjust: compose: reunite: accept

The possibility remains that the two theories may be reconciled.

Bevan tried to reconcile British socialism with a wider international vision.

Jonah and his youngest son were, on the surface at least, reconciled.

He tried to reconcile his father to the idea of the wedding.

Henry had more or less reconciled himself to Don's death.

## 31: LAX(ADJECTIVE)

Careless: **casual**: lenient: **negligent**: slapdash:  
**remiss**

The company has been **lax** in carrying out its duties.

**lax security**

## 32: LIKEN(VERB)

Compare: **equate**: relate

Critics have **likened** the new theater to a supermarket.

She's been **likened** to a young Elizabeth Taylor.

## 33: LINGER(VERB)

Stay: hang around: loiter: remain

Delay: idle

taste that **lingers** in your mouth

Unfortunately the tax will **linger** on until April.

They **lingered** over coffee and missed the last bus.

I spent a week at Kandersteg and could happily have **lingered** on.

Mike let his eyes **linger** on her face.

There's no need to **linger** over this stage of the interview.

He surprised all the doctors by **lingering** on for several weeks.

## 34: MOBILIZE(VERB)

Prepare: **call up**: organize

an attempt to **mobilize** popular opinion

a campaign to **mobilize** support for the strike

They failed to **mobilize** their resources effectively.

The physiotherapist **mobilizes** the patient's shoulder.

the **mobilization** of public opinion

## 35: MALLEABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Workable: manageable: adaptable: **pliable:**  
**tractable**

malleable steel

a malleable child

# 36: MANIFEST(ADJECTIVE/VERB)

(adjective)Obvious: apparent: **blatant**: clear: conspicuous: evident:  
noticeable

(verb)display: demonstrate: exhibit: express: reveal

The shareholders have manifested their intention to sell the shares.

A dog's protective instincts are manifested in increased alertness.

His illness began to manifest itself at around this time.

Their devotion to God is made manifest in ritual prayer.

## 37: MARVELOUS(ADJECTIVE)

**Splendid:** excellent: wonderful: impressive

We had a **marvelous** time.

I can't stand him, but my wife thinks he's  
**marvelous**.

## 38: INGENIOUS (ADJECTIVE)

Creative: bright: brilliant: inventive: original:  
shrewd

Many fish have **ingenious** ways of protecting their eggs from predators.

an **ingenious** device

## 39:METICULOUS(ADJECTIVE)

**Thorough**: exact: particular: precise

He kept **meticulous** accounts.

Their planning and preparation were **meticulous**.

He cleaned the tools with **meticulous** care.

The book describes his journey in **meticulous** detail.

He was **meticulous** in his use of words.

He has always been so **meticulous** about his appearance.

The attack was **meticulously** planned and executed.

## 40: MERGE(VERB)

Combine: amalgamate: blend: converge: fuse: mingle: unite

The bank announced that it was to merge with another of the high street banks.

The company plans to merge its subsidiaries in the US.

proposals to merge the three existing health authorities into one

The villages have grown and merged together over the years.

She avoided reporters at the airport by merging into the crowds.

Memories seemed to merge with reality.

## 41: SEGREGATE (VERB)

Set apart: discriminate: isolate

Blacks were segregated from whites in schools.

The coffee room had been segregated into smoking and non-smoking areas.

## 42: TANDEM (NOUN)

In tandem: Together

The two companies often work **in tandem**.

**in tandem with**

The group operated **in tandem with** local  
**criminals.**

## 43: MINUSCULE(ADJECTIVE)

Tiny: **diminutive**: infinitesimal: minute:  
**miniature**

a **minuscule** amount of food

Her office is **minuscule**.

## 44: MOCK(VERB)

Laugh at: ridicule: scorn: scoff: sneer: tease

Opposition MPs **mocked** the government's decision.

It's easy for you to **mock**, but we put a lot of work into this play.

Violent attacks like this **mock** the peace process.

## 45: MOMENTOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Significant: critical: crucial: **fateful**: pivotal: vital:  
**weighty**

A **momentous** decision

**Momentous** events are taking place in the US.

His colleagues all recognized that this was a  
**momentous** occasion.

one of the most **momentous** days in British sport

## 46: MONUMENTAL(ADJECTIVE)

Important: awesome: enormous: epoch-making: historic:  
memorable: immense: colossal: great: massive

a monumental contribution to the field of medicine

Charles Darwin's monumental study, 'The Origin of Species'

Banks and building societies were yesterday accused of monumental incompetence.

a monumental task

There was a monumental traffic jam on the freeway.

## 47: MUNDANE(ADJECTIVE)

Ordinary: **banal**: commonplace: routine

**Earthly**: **mortal**: secular: temporal: **worldly**

Initially, the work was pretty **mundane**.

The **mundane** task of setting the table can be fun on holidays.

## 48: NOCTURNAL(ADJECTIVE)

Nightly: night-time

Hamsters are **nocturnal** creatures.

Rebecca paid a **nocturnal** visit to the flat.

## | 49: NOTWITHSTANDING(PREPOSITION/ADVERB)

Despite: in spite of

Notwithstanding differences, there are clear similarities in all of the world's religions.

Fame and fortune notwithstanding, Donna never forgot her hometown.

# 50: OBJECTIVE(NOUN)

Purpose: aim: ambition: end: intension: target

He vowed to achieve certain **objectives** before the end of his presidency.

The degree program has two main **objectives**.

Managers should set specific performance **objectives** for their teams.

The **main objective** was to improve children's knowledge of geography.

A clear **objective** was set and adhered to.

One of your first business **objectives** should be to get your own office.

## 51: OBSCURE(ADJECTIVE)

Vague: ambiguous: confusing: mysterious:  
blurred

an **obscure** poet

The details of his life remain **obscure**.

**obscure** legal phrases

For some **obscure** reason, the group is very popular.

## 52: OBSESSION(NOUN)

Preoccupation: fixation: infatuation

Gambling became an obsession, and he eventually lost everything.  
an unhealthy obsession with being thin

The current obsession with exam results is actually harming  
children's education.

The game pachinko became a national obsession.

He has an enthusiasm for art, to the point of obsession in my  
opinion.

She looked after him with a devotion bordering on obsession.

## 53: LEGITIMATE(ADJECTIVE)

Reasonable: proper

Acceptable: legal

That's a perfectly legitimate question.

Most scientists believe it is legitimate to use animals in medical research.

Their business operations are perfectly legitimate.

a legitimately elected government

He complained quite legitimately about his treatment.

Opponents have questioned the legitimacy of the ruling.

## 54: OPAQUE(ADJECTIVE)

Cloudy: dim: **hazy**: impenetrable: muddy

a shower with an **opaque** glass door

an **opaque** style of writing

## 55: ORNAMENTATION(NOUN)

Decoration: adornment: **elaboration:**  
**embellishment**

a bronze plate with gold **ornamentation**

## 56: OSTENTATIOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Pretentious: conspicuous: flashy: loud:  
obtrusive

She carried her car keys on an **ostentatious** gold key ring.

an **ostentatious** display of wealth

He was vain and **ostentatious**.

## 57: OUTBREAK(NOUN)

Eruption: burst: epidemic: outburst: **rash**

a cholera **outbreak**

**outbreaks** of fighting

the **outbreak** of World War II

## 58: OVERLOOK(VERB)

Forget: disregard: miss: neglect: ignore:

Have the view of

It is easy to **overlook** a small detail like that.

Nobody could **overlook** the fact that box office sales were down.

She found him entertaining enough to **overlook** his faults.

Our room **overlooks** the ocean.

## 59: OVERWHELMING(ADJECTIVE)

Devastating: **breathtaking**: crushing: **irresistible**: shattering: stunning  
an **overwhelming** sense of guilt

She felt an **overwhelming** desire to hit him.

She found the city quite **overwhelming** when she first arrived.

There is **overwhelming** evidence that smoking damages your health.

An **overwhelming** majority of the members were against the idea.

The proposal has been given **overwhelming** support.

The British Air Force succeeded despite **overwhelming** odds against them.

Congress voted overwhelmingly in favor of the bill.

## 60: PACIFY(VERB)

Calm: **appease**: **assuage**: **mollify**: **soothe**

You're right,' Rita said, in order to **pacify** him.

Economic reforms are needed to **pacify** and modernize the country.

# WEEK 5

VOCABULARY

# 1:FLAW(NOUN)

Weakness, defect, fault, **imperfection**

a flaw in the software

serious/major/basic/minor etc. flaw

Beautiful scenery does not make up for the **flaws** of this film.

There is a fundamental flaw in Walton's argument.

**fatal flaw**

Jealousy is Othello's major flaw.

the President's character flaws

The research behind this report is seriously flawed.

## 2:INCONGRUOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Inappropriate, improper, incompatible, unsuitable

The new theater looks utterly incongruous in its setting.

He was dressed in a three-piece suit with an incongruous tie shaped like a fish.

It seemed incongruous having a dance-band at the funeral.

### 3:PRECEDE(VERB)

**Antedate**, predate, go before

a type of cloud that precedes rain

Lunch will be preceded by a short speech from the chairman.

The guard preceded them down the corridor.

preceding days/weeks/months/years

preceding chapter/paragraph/page etc.

## 4:EQUILIBRIUM(NOUN)

**Balance, stability, steadiness, symmetry**

The government is anxious not to upset the economic equilibrium.

She struggled to recover her equilibrium.

The operation of the free market maintains an equilibrium between supply, demand and price.

The shock of Freddie's death had upset her equilibrium.

## 5:ASSESS(VERB)

Judge, **appraise**, evaluate, estimate

a report to assess the impact of advertising on children

The technique is being tried in classrooms to assess what effects it may have.

Many of the adults were assessed as having learning difficulties.

The value of the business was assessed at £1.25 million.

What's Michael's assessment of the situation?

## 6:CLIMAX(NOUN)

Culmination, peak, summit, top, pinnacle, zenith

the climax of his career

a thrilling climax to the game

The festival reaches its climax with the traditional boat-burning ceremony.

## 7:INDIGENOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Native, local, domestic

indigenous to

Blueberries are indigenous to America.

the many indigenous cultures which existed in  
Siberia

## 8:DORMANT(ADJECTIVE)

Inactive, asleep, **latent**, **inoperative**

The seeds remain dormant until the spring.

a huge dormant volcano

A dormant neighborhood

## 9:EPOCH(NOUN)

Era, age, date, period, time

the Victorian epoch

The king's death marked the end of an epoch.

the beginning of a new epoch

the epoch-making social changes of the 1960s

# 10:TRIUMPH(NOUN/VERB)

**Joy, elation, success, accomplishment, feat**

Winning the championship is a great personal triumph.

a tremendous diplomatic triumph for France

the triumph over hardship

a shout of triumph

The gallery is a triumph of design.

In the end, good shall triumph over evil.(verb)

## 11:MAINSTAY(NOUN)

Backbone, crucial part

Agriculture is still the mainstay of the country's economy.

She was the mainstay of the team.

Tourism has long been the economic mainstay of Kashmir.

## 12:MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE (ADJECTIVE)

Separate/ different, two things which are mutually exclusive can not both exist or be true at the same time

Both questions have to receive affirmative answers, and they are not to a large extent these mutually exclusive.

two approaches have been mutually exclusive, not to say antagonistic.

## 13:REPUDIATE(VERB)

Reject, disclaim, contradict, refute

He repudiated all offers of friendship.

The book repudiates the racist stereotypes about black women.

# 14:CONSENSUS(NOUN)

Agreement, **consent**, **unanimity**

consensus on/about

a lack of consensus about the aims of the project

There is a consensus among teachers that children should have a broad understanding of the world.

The EU Council of Finance Ministers failed to reach a consensus on the pace of integration.

the current consensus of opinion

The consensus was that technology was a good thing.

## 15:INTERPLAY(NOUN)

Association, bond, connection, rapport

There's a lot of wonderful interplay between the writer and his characters.

the interplay of ideas

# 16:METICULOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Thorough, exact, precise

He kept meticulous accounts.

Their planning and preparation were meticulous.

He cleaned the tools with meticulous care.

The book describes his journey in meticulous detail.

He was meticulous in his use of words.

He has always been so meticulous about his appearance.

The attack was meticulously planned and executed.

# 17:RUDIMENTARY(ADJECTIVE)

Basic, elementary, fundamental, initial, primitive, undeveloped

Gradually, I acquired a rudimentary knowledge of music.

my rudimentary German

The classroom equipment is pretty rudimentary.

## 18:DEFICIENT(ADJECTIVE)

Inadequate, insufficient, scarce, faulty, flawed

Women who are dieting can become iron deficient.

patients who were deficient in vitamin C

Our prisons are our most deficient social service.

## 19:PRISTINE(ADJECTIVE)

New, pure, untouched, uncorrupted

a pristine white shirt(fresh)

The car has been restored to pristine condition.

pristine African rainforest

Pristine snow

## 20:PROHIBIT(VERB)

Forbid, ban, prevent, hinder, hamper, impede

Smoking is strictly prohibited inside the factory.

They are prohibited from revealing details about the candidates.

a prohibition on/against Sunday trading

The cost of land in Tokyo is prohibitive.

prohibitive regulations

Moving house would be prohibitively expensive.

## 21: INEXPLICABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Unaccountable:

baffling:

enigmatic:

insoluble: strange

**inexplicable** behavior

For some **inexplicable** reason, he felt depressed

## 22: PERCEP~~T~~**I**BLE(ADJECTIVE)

Visible: apparent: appreciable: clear:  
discernible: tangible

a small but perceptible change

The sound was barely perceptible.

the light dimmed perceptibly

## 23: PERIL(NOUN)

Danger: hazard: menace: risk: jeopardy

They put their own lives **in peril** to rescue their friends.

**great/grave/serious peril**

The economy is now **in grave peril**.

a voyage that was **fraught with peril** (=full of danger)

the perils **posed** by mountaineering

**peril of**

the **perils of the sea**

Politicians ignore this issue **at their peril**.

## 24: PERTINENT(ADJECTIVE)

Relevant: applicable: apt: **germane**: proper

He asked me a lot of very pertinent questions.

The last point is particularly pertinent to today's discussion.

## 25: PERVASIVE(ADJECTIVE)

Widespread: common: extensive: general:  
**omnipresent:** prevalent: **ubiquitous:**  
universal

the **pervasive** influence of television  
the **all-pervasive** mood of apathy

## 26: PHENOMENAL(ADJECTIVE)

Extraordinary: exceptional: marvelous: **miraculous**: fantastic

the **phenomenal success** of computer games in recent years

**phenomenal growth/rise/increase**

California had experienced a **phenomenal growth** in population.

He has learned a **phenomenal amount** in the last two years.

The results have been **phenomenal**.

The group have been **phenomenally successful** in Europe.

## 27: PINPOINT(VERB)

**Identify: define: distinguish: locate**

It's difficult to **pinpoint** the cause of the accident.

They need to **pinpoint exactly what** skills are necessary.

Rescue teams have now **pinpointed** the location of the ship.

## 28: PLEDGE(VERB/NOUN)

Promise: assurance: **vow**: guarantee: **bail**

Moore **pledged** \$100,000 to the orchestra at the fund-raising dinner.

**pledge to do something**

The new governor **pledged to** reduce crime.

Herrera **pledged that** his company will give aid to schools.

**pledge (your) support/loyalty/solidarity etc.**

He **pledged** his cooperation.

Trade unions **pledged themselves to** resist the government plans.

Employees were **pledged to** secrecy.

## 29: POSTULATE(VERB)

Presuppose: assume: posit: propose: take  
for granted

Such hypotheses have been postulated by  
highly reputable geologists.

## 30: POTENT(ADJECTIVE)

Powerful: authoritative: dominant: dynamic: strong: vigorous

potent drugs

a potent symbol of oppression

Advertising is a potent force in showing smoking as a socially acceptable habit.

A good company pension scheme remains a potent weapon for attracting staff.

The treaty requires them to get rid of their most potent weapons.

## 31: PRECARIOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Dangerous: hazardous: insecure: **perilous**: risky:  
tricky: unreliable

Her health remained **precarious**, despite the treatment.

the company's **precarious** financial position

a **precarious** mountain trail

a cup of tea balanced **precariously** on her knee

## 32: HYPOCRISY(NOUN)

Insincerity:      deceitfulness:      deception:      duplicity:  
pretense

There's one rule for her and another rule for everyone else and it's sheer hypocrisy.

Why can't politicians just be honest with themselves and stop all this hypocrisy?

## 33: PRECIPITATE(VERB)

Quicken: accelerate: advance: bring on: expedite: hasten

Throw: launch

The riot was precipitated when four black men were arrested.

precipitate somebody into something phrasal verb: to force someone or something into a particular state or condition:

The drug treatment precipitated him into a depression.

## 34: PRECLUDE(VERB)

Prevent: check: exclude: inhibit: prohibit  
rules that preclude experimentation in  
teaching methods

**preclude somebody from doing something**

Age alone will not preclude him from standing  
as a candidate.

## 35: ENERVATE(VERB)

Fatigue: tire: exhaust: wear out

The hot sun **enervated** her to the point of collapse.

David felt too **enervated** to resist.

## 36: CORDIAL(ADJECTIVE)

Warm: affordable: agreeable: genial: hearty:  
sociable

The talks were conducted in a cordial atmosphere.

The atmosphere was cordial and relaxed.

a cordial dislike for each other(=strongly felt)

## 37: PREPONDERANCE(NOUN)

Predominance: dominance: greater part: mass:  
prevalence: **supremacy**

There is a **preponderance of** female students in  
the music department.

a **preponderance of** the evidence points to the  
guilt of the defendant

## 38: PRESUMABLY(ADVERB)

Apparently: **in all likelihood**: seemingly

It's raining, which **presumably** means that your football match will be cancelled.

## 39: PROBE(NOUN/VERB)

Examine: explore: investigate: scrutinize:  
search: **poke**

I don't want to probe too deeply into your personal affairs.

Police probed claims that he had sold drugs.

Jules probed the mud gingerly with a stick.

## 40: PROCURE(VERB)

Obtain: acquire: find: purchase

He was accused of procuring weapons for terrorists.

## 41: PROLIFIC(ADJECTIVE)

**Productive:** abundant: **copious**

a **prolific** pear tree.

a **prolific** writer.

a **prolific** year for tomatoes.

## 42: PROMPT(VERB/ADJECTIVE)

(verb) cause: **elicit**: give rise to: provoke

(adjective) **immediate**: instant: quick: rapid: swift

What **prompted** you to buy that suit?

The decision **prompted** an outcry among prominent US campaigners.

'I can't decide.' said Beatrice. 'Decide what?' **prompted** Marlon.

A message will appear which will **prompt** you for certain information.

## 43: PROPAGATE(VERB)

Spread: broadcast: promote: **promulgate**

The group launched a website to **propagate** its ideas.

## 44: PROPEL(VERB)

Drive: force: impel: launch: send: thrust

a boat propelled by a small motor

One of our students was unable to propel her wheelchair up the ramp.

She used the sticks to propel herself along.

He took her arm and propelled her towards the door.

The film propelled her to stardom.

Company directors were propelled into action.

## 45: PROWESS(NOUN)

Skill: accomplishment: aptitude: genius:  
expertise

Bravery: courage: daring: valor

his physical prowess  
military prowess

## 46: RAVAGE(VERB)

Destroy: demolish: devastate: ruin

The country was ravaged by civil war

His health was gradually ravaged by drink and drugs.

## 47: COURTEOUS(VERB)

Polite: **affable**: **gracious**: civil: **gallant**: well-mannered  
urbane: well-mannered

The staff are always **courteous** and helpful.

a **courteous** reply

## 48: REMEDY(NOUN/VERB)

Cure: medicine: treatment

Rectify: correct: fix

The problems in our schools do not have a simple remedy.

The program is one remedy for discrimination.

cold/cough remedy

a remedy for colds

herbal/natural remedy

a natural remedy that helps insomnia

a home remedy (=one that you make at home) for sore throats

The herb is used as a folk remedy (=a traditional medicine, rather than one a doctor gives you) for a baby's teething pains.

She felt as if her marital problems were beyond remedy.

## 49: RENDER(VERB)

Make: Provide: supply

Depict: represent: play: portray

He was **rendered** almost speechless by the news.

The blow to his head was strong enough to **render** him unconscious.

It is an obligation to **render assistance** to those in need  
**render a decision/opinion/judgment etc.**

It is unlikely that the court will **render an opinion** before November 5.

## 50: REPERCUSSION(NOUN)

Consequence: result: side effect

The collapse of the company had **repercussions** for the whole industry.

There were serious **repercussions on** his career.

repercussion of

the **repercussions of the crisis**

political/social/economic etc. **repercussions**

## 51: REPLENISH(VERB)

Refill: provide: reload: replace: restore

More vaccines are needed to replenish our stocks.

## 52: RETROSPECT(NOUN)

**Hindsight:** review

**In retrospect,** I wonder if we should have done more.

## 53: RIGID(ADJECTIVE)

Strict: exact: fixed: inflexible: rigorous: unbending: stiff:  
unyielding

rigid and authoritarian methods of education

rigid adherence to old-fashioned ideas

rigid plastic

I heard a noise and woke up rigid with terror.(=frightened)

## 54: RIGOROUS(ADJECTIVE)

Strict: demanding: hard: harsh: severe: tough

a **rigorous** analysis of defense needs  
the **rigorous** standards required by the college  
**rigorous** army training

# 55: ROAM(VERB)

Wander: **prowl**: **ramble**: **range**: **travel**

The dogs are allowed to **roam** around.

Chickens and geese **roam** freely in the back yard.

You shouldn't let your children **roam** the streets.

**roam the countryside/desert/forests etc.**

Wild sheep **roam** the hills.

Her eyes **roamed** the room.

His eyes **roamed over** the bookshelves.

## 56: ROBUST(ADJECTIVE)

Strong: fit: hardy: powerful: sturdy: tough: vigorous

a **robust** man of six feet four

The formerly **robust** economy has begun to weaken.

a **robust** metal cabinet

a typically **robust** performance by the Prime Minister

## 57: DISDAIN(VERB/NOUN)

**Contempt:** arrogance: scorn

**Deride:** look down on: sneer at

She watched me **with disdain**.

a look **of complete disdain**

**disdain for**

his **disdain for capitalism**

Childcare was seen as women's work, and men **disdained it**

## 58: SACRED(ADJECTIVE)

Holy: blessed: revered: religious: ecclesiastical: inviolable:  
protected

a sacred vow

the miraculous powers of sacred relics

Certain animals were considered sacred.

The land is sacred to these tribesmen.

Human life is sacred.

Few things were sacred to Henry, but local history was one of them.

He had no respect for everything I held sacred.

## 59: ESCHEW(VERB)

Hate: **refrain from**

I had **eschewed** politics in favor of a life practicing law.

## 60: SCORN(VERB/NOUN)

**Despise**: deride: scoff at: **disparage**

He **felt scorn** for his working-class parents.

Rachel looked at me **with scorn**.

Labor **poured scorn** on the Tory claim to be the party of law and order.(=criticize strongly)

Many women **scorn** the use of make-up.

He **scorned** the government's record in dealing with crime.

# WEEK 6

# 1: SUSTAINABLE(ADJECTIVE)

enduring, proceeding

The government should do more to promote sustainable agriculture.

the sustainable use of rainforest resources

environmentally sustainable development

The party is promising low inflation and sustainable economic growth.

She found it difficult to sustain the children's interest.

He was incapable of sustaining close relationships with others.

the policies necessary to sustain economic growth

a period of sustained economic development

## 2: **RELAY**(VERB)

**send: spread: broadcast: transmit**

He quickly **relayed** this news to the other members of staff.

The broadcasts were **relayed** by satellite.

The speaker opened the session by **relaying** some messages to the conference.

### 3: COLONY(NOUN)

**possession: territory**

Algeria was formerly a French colony.

a dead tree that has been colonized by ants

The colonists struggled through their first winter.

## 4: HAMPER(VERB)

hinder: impede: restrict: obstruct

She tried to run, but was hampered by her heavy suitcase.

An attempt to rescue the men has been hampered by bad weather.

Storms at sea impeded(synonym) our progress.

## 5: COMPROMISE:(NOUN/VERB):

agreement: concession

Compromise is an inevitable part of marriage.

a compromise between government and opposition

If moderates fail to reach a compromise, the extremists will dominate the agenda.

Be prepared to make compromises.

a happy compromise between the needs of family and work

His work-mates demanded that he never compromise with the bosses.

Critics accused the mayor of compromising too easily.

## 6: TRIM(VERB/NOUN)

cut: reduce: neat: groom: **crop: prune**

Pete was **trimming** the lawn around the roses.

I have my hair **trimmed** every six weeks.

We need to **trim** costs by £500m.

The bill would **trim** the number of immigrants to the US.

The company **trimmed** £46,000 from its advertising budget.

I play tennis to keep **trim**. (SLIM)

My beard needs a **trim**.

## 7: PERPLEX(VERB)

puzzle: baffle: mystify: bewilder

The question of how the murderer had gained entry to the house **perplexed** the police for several weeks.

The student looked at him, **perplexed**.

**Perplexed** investors tried to work out what the deal meant.

a **perplexing** problem

## 8: RITUAL(NOUN)

rite: ceremony: custom: habit: procedure

the importance of religion and ritual in our lives

The lady of the house performs the sacred ritual of lighting two candles.

The daily ritual of mealtimes

He went through the ritual of lighting his cigar.

Animals have highly ritualized courtship displays.

## 9: CONDENSE(VERB)

**abridge: abbreviate: compress: shorten: concentrate**

The gaseous metal is cooled and **condenses** into liquid zinc.

This whole chapter could be **condensed** into a few paragraphs.

The air becomes fog and **condenses**.

The water produced would be **condensed** and stored for recycling.

## 10: ENCOMPASS(VERB):

encircle: envelop: include: comprise: incorporate

The study **encompasses** the social, political, and economic aspects of the situation.

The houses **encompassed** about 100 square meters.

It was a fruitful discussion which **encompassed** several different viewpoints.

## 11: SURMISE(NOUN/ VERB):

guess: presume: suppose: speculate: suppose

When he came in, he didn't look up, so she surmised that he was in a bad mood.

Charles was glad to have his **surmise** confirmed.

And the first victims were not black, as you might **surmise**, but white men.

I could only **surmise** that she and Lila had met before.

## 12: PREPOSTEROUS(ADJECTIVE)

ridiculous: absurd: crazy: incredible: insane: **ludicrous:**  
**outrageous**

The whole idea sounds absolutely **preposterous!**

a **preposterous excuse**

It's a **preposterous claim** that the government is trying to poison its citizens.

It is **preposterous** that Bruce did not know that we were there.

## 13: STRAIGHTFORWARD(ADJECTIVE)

Frank: honest: candid: genuine: sincere: **forthright**

Simple: elementary

Installing the program is relatively **straightforward**.

This area of law is far from **straightforward**  
 (=complicated).

**straightforward matter/task/process etc.**

For someone who can't read, shopping is by no means a **straightforward** matter.

Jack is tough, but always **straightforward** and fair.

## 14: STARTLE

Surprise: shock: **frighten: scare**

Sorry, I didn't mean to startle you.

I was **startled** to see Amanda.

a **startled** expression

## 15: CONSTITUTE(VERB):

establish: found: set up: form

The rise in crime **constitutes** a threat to society.

We must redefine what **constitutes** a family.

The Federation was **constituted** in 1949.

According to Marx, "money **constitutes** true power."

Alaska is the largest of the fifty states that **constitute** the USA.

## 16: VOGUE(NOUN)

fashion: craze: custom: trend: style

Short skirts are very much in **vogue** just now.

Sun-tanning first came into **vogue** in the mid-1930s.

In the 1870s, after all, when plumpness was in **vogue**, physicians had encouraged people to gain weight.

## 17: OBLITERATE(VERB)

destroy: annihilate: eradicate: **expunge**: root out: wipe out

Hiroshima was nearly **obliterated** by the atomic bomb.

Nothing could **obliterate** the memory of those tragic events.

Then the fog came down, **obliterating** everything.(covering)

Entire sections of the city were **obliterated** by the repeated bombing.

## 18: ADEPT(ADJECTIVE):

skillful: able: adroit: **proficient**: expert

Melissa quickly became **adept** at predicting his moods.

Silas proved **adept** in the art of avoiding potholes in the road.

I'm afraid she's also an **adept** liar.

McCrea was equally **adept** in comedy and drama.

## 19: SCRUTINIZE

Examine: explore: investigate: probe: study

He **scrutinized** the document.

She **scrutinized** his face.

## 20: SEDENTARY

Inactive: desk-bound: sitting

health problems caused by our sedentary  
lifestyles

a sedentary people living north of the  
Danube

# 21: SENSATIONAL

Dramatic: amazing: astounding: exciting: excellent:  
impressive: mind-blowing: **superb**

a **sensational** discovery

The show was a **sensational** success.

a **sensational** 6–0 victory

**sensational** newspaper stories

**sensational** headlines

She looked **sensational**.

## 22: SERENE

Calm: composed: peaceful: tranquil:  
untroubled

The child's face was serene and  
beautiful.

a serene mountain lake

## 23: SETBACK

Defeat: disappointment: misfortune

The December elections were a major **setback** for the party.

The team's hopes of playing in Europe suffered a **setback** last night.

## 24: SHATTER

**Smash:** break: burst: crack: destroy: demolish: ruin

The plate hit the floor, and **shattered** into tiny bits.

The explosion **shattered** the building.

Their hopes and dreams were **shattered** by war.

A few weeks in a tiny damp room soon **shattered** his illusions about university life.

## 25: SHIVER

Tremble: quake: quiver: shake

Jake stood shivering in the cold air.

shiver with cold/fear/delight etc.

She shivered with fear and anger

## 26: SKEPTICAL

Doubtful: uncertain: unconvinced: **wavering**: undecided

I'm extremely skeptical about what I read in the press.

Environmental groups are skeptical of the government's claims.

highly/deeply skeptical

He is highly skeptical of the reforms.

'You can trust me,' he said. Jane looked skeptical.

## 27: SPAN

(Noun) extent: amount: distance: length: reach: stretch

(Verb) extend across: **bridge**: cover

Over a **span** of ten years, the company has made great progress.

It'll be difficult to hire that many new staff in such a short **time span**.

**attention/concentration span**

Most 2-year-olds have a very short **attention span**.

Captivity vastly reduces **the life span** of whales.

a career which **spanned** nearly 60 years

The Mongol Empire **spanned** much of Central Asia.

## 28: SPARSE

Scattered: **meagre**: scanty: scarce

his **sparse** brown hair

rural areas with **sparse** population

A **sparsely populated** area

## 29: SPAWN

Lay eggs

Cause: make

The fish **spawn** among fine-leaved plants.

New technology has **spawned** new business opportunities.

## 30: SPORADIC

Intermittent: irregular: occasional: scattered

There has been **sporadic** violence downtown.

The fighting continued **sporadically** for several days.

# 31: STAGGERING

Astounding: amazing: astonishing: bewildering:  
brilliant: impressive: sensational

The cost was a staggering \$10 million.

The financial impact on the town was  
staggering.

a staggeringly beautiful landscape

## 32: STAPLE

Principal: basic: chief: fundamental: key: main: predominant

Oil is Nigeria's **staple** export.

a **staple** ingredient of comedy

**staple** diet

They live on a **staple diet of** rice and vegetables.

television's **staple diet of** soap operas and quiz shows

Marty's **staple excuses** (used all the time)

## 33: STAUNCH

Loyal: faithful: firm: **sound: true**

a **staunch** conservative

**staunch** supporter/ally/advocate

one of Bush's **stauncest** supporters

## 34: STEALTHY

**Secret: furtive: surreptitious: secretive:  
sneaking**

**stealthy** footsteps

the **stealthy approach** of the soldiers

## 35: STEM FROM

Originate in: arise from: derive from

His headaches **stemmed from** vision problems.

## 36: STRIDE

Step: move: action

The government has made great strides in reducing poverty.

He strode toward her.

## 37: STRINGENT

Strict: inflexible: rigid: rigorous: tough: tight

stringent anti-noise regulations

# 38: STUNNING

Wonderful: beautiful: dazzling: lovely: marvelous:  
spectacular: striking

You look absolutely **stunning** in that dress.

a **stunning** view

**stunning** news

a **stunningly** beautiful woman

## 39: STURDY

Robust: athletic: hardy: muscular: well-built: durable

That chair doesn't look very **sturdy**.

**sturdy** comfortable shoes

a **sturdy** young man

**sturdy** legs

They kept up a **sturdy** opposition to the plan.

# 40: SUBSIDIARY

Lesser: auxiliary: subordinate: supplementary

a subsidiary hypothesis

subsidiary to

All other issues are subsidiary to this one.

## 41: SUMPTUOUS

Luxurious:    gorgeous:    grand:    lavish:  
**opulent:** splendid: superb

a **sumptuous** feast

a **sumptuous** palace

## 42: SUPERSEDE

Replace: displace: supplant

The older models of car have now been superseded.

## 43: SUSTAIN

Maintain: continue: prolong: protect: keep up: withstand

he found it difficult to **sustain** the children's interest.

He was incapable of **sustaining** close relationships with women.

the policies necessary to **sustain** economic growth

Two of the fire-fighters **sustained** serious injuries.

Some nearby buildings **sustained** minor damage.

The company has **sustained** heavy financial losses this year.

They gave me barely enough food to **sustain** me.

The thought of seeing her again was all that **sustained** me.

He leant against her so heavily that she could barely **sustain** his weight.

## 44: SWELL

Expand: **bulge**: enlarge: increase

Her ankle was already starting to **swell**.

The window frame was **swollen** shut.

The crowd **swelled to** around 10,000.

The river was **swollen with** melted snow.

Large numbers of refugees have **swollen** the ranks of the unemployed.

His heart **swelled with pride** as he watched his daughter collect her prize.

## 45: TAME

Domesticated: **amenable**: broken  
disciplined: **submissive**: **compliant**:  
**obedient**: unresisting

The fish are so **tame** you have to push them away.

## 46: TANTALIZE

Torment: frustrate: taunt: tease: torture

Such ambitious questions have long tantalized  
the world's best thinkers.

the tantalizing smell of fried bacon

## 47: TAPER

Lessen: decrease: die away: fade: rescue: subside:  
wane

His wide chest tapers to a small waist.

—tapering      adjective:

long tapering fingers

Profits may be tapering off in the near future. (to decrease gradually)

## 48: TEEMING

Full: abundant: alive: swarming

the teeming streets of the city

She walked home through the teeming rain.

The island was teeming with tourists.

## 49: TENET

Rule: criterion: dogma: fundamental: maxim: percept:  
moral: conscience: scruples

central/basic/fundamental etc. tenet

one of the basic tenets of democracy

the main tenet of his philosophy

## 50: TENUOUS

Slight: doubtful: dubious: **flimsy: insubstantial:** shaky:  
weak

For now, the band's travel plans are **tenuous**.

**tenuous link/connection** etc.

The United Peace Alliance had only a **tenuous connection** with the organized Labor movement.

The link between her family and the King's is rather **tenuous**.

# 51: THRESHOLD

Entrance: doorstep: **brink:** start: beginning: opening: **verge:**  
dawn: inception

She opened the door and stepped across the **threshold**.

Eighty percent of the vote was the **threshold** for approval of the plan.

The creature is on the **threshold** of extinction.

## 52: THRILL

Excite: arouse: **electrify**: move: stimulate: **stir**

Winning first place must have been quite **a thrill**.

the **thrill of** (doing) something (=the excitement you get from something)

the **thrill of** travelling at high speeds

Even though I've been acting for years, I still **get a thrill out of** going on stage.

It gave Pat **a thrill** to finally see the group perform live.

**a thrill of excitement/anticipation/fear etc.**

She felt a **thrill of pride** as her son stepped forward.

**do something for the thrill of it** (=do something for excitement and not for any serious reason)

His music continues **to thrill** audiences.

In the 1960s, the public **thrilled to the idea** of space exploration. (to feel excited and happy about something)

## 53: TOIL

Hard work: **application**: effort: **sweat**

to work very hard for a long period of time

I've been **toiling** away at this essay all weekend.

**toil up/through/along etc.**

They **toiled slowly up** the hill. (to move slowly and with great effort)

a life of **toil**(hard unpleasant work)

## 54: TOXIC

Poisonous: deadly: harmful: **pernicious**: lethal: **noxious**

fumes from a **toxic** waste dump

**toxic chemicals/substances/fumes/gases**

Toxic chemicals were spilled into the river.

A **highly toxic** pesticide

The metal has a relatively **low toxicity** to humans.

## 55: TRANSITORY

Short-lived: brief: ephemeral: fleeting: short:  
temporary: **transient**

the transitory nature of political success

Most teenage romances are **transitory**.

## 56: TRAUMA

Suffering: **agony**: **anguish**: **ordeal**: **pain**: **torture**

traumas such as death or divorce

the **trauma of** being a young refugee

The **emotional trauma** of rape

the hospital's **trauma unit**

His son's death was the most **traumatic** event in Stan's life.

## 57: TURBULENT

Agitated: furious: rough: **choppy: foaming**

the **turbulent times** of the French Revolution

He has had a **turbulent political career**.

the dark **turbulent waters** of the river

A period of **political turbulence** followed the civil war.

## 58: UBIQUITOUS

Everywhere: ever-present: omnipresent:  
pervasive: universal

Coffee shops are **ubiquitous** these days.  
a French film, starring the **ubiquitous** Gérard Depardieu

## 59: UNANIMITY

Agreement: accord: assent: concord: consensus:  
harmony: like-mindedness

All decisions would need **unanimity**.

It was decided by a **unanimous** vote that the school  
should close.

The decision to appoint Matt was almost **unanimous**.

The banks were **unanimous** in welcoming the news.

# 60: UNDERLYING

Fundamental: basic: elementary: intrinsic: primary

the underlying causes of her depression

There is an underlying assumption that younger workers are easier to train.

the one basic principle that underlies all of the party's policies

# WEEK 7 | Vocabulary

# 1: SKEPTICAL(ADJECTIVE)

unsure: hesitant: dubious: undecided: wavering

skeptical about/of (ADJECTIVE)

I'm extremely skeptical about what I read in the press.

Environmental groups are skeptical of the government's claims.

highly/deeply skeptical

He is highly skeptical of the reforms.

'You can trust me,' he said. Jane looked skeptical.

SKEPTIC(NOUN)

Skeptics argued that the rise in prices was temporary.

## 2: ACCORD(VERB)

fit: agree: conform: harmonize

You will not be accorded any special treatment.(VERB)

accord something to something/somebody

Every school accords high priority to the quality of teaching.

The punishments accorded with the current code of discipline.

These results are in accord with earlier research.(NOUN)

It is important to the success of any firm that its partners should be in complete accord.

### 3: TRIGGER(VERB)

set off: activate: cause: generate: produce: start

The assassination triggered off a wave of rioting.

Certain forms of mental illness can be triggered by food allergies.

trigger a memory (=make you suddenly remember something)

His action triggered a massive response from the government.

The burglars fled after triggering the alarm.

The incident could trigger a civil war.

## 4: EXHAUSTIVE(ADJECTIVE)

thorough:      complete:      comprehensive:  
extensive

An exhaustive investigation into better methods of financing young entrants is continuing.(ADJECTIVE)

The list is by no means exhaustive.

## 5: CONQUEST(NOUN)

defeat: triumph: takeover: occupation: invasion

the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire(Noun)

He boasts about his many conquests.

the conquest of space

military conquests

The Normans conquered England in 1066.

Egypt was conquered by the Persian king Kambyses.

She was determined to conquer her fear of flying.

In the last few years, the company has succeeded in conquering the European market.

## 6: BULKY(ADJECTIVE)

large: massive: substantial: weighty

a **bulky** parcel(ADJECTIVE)

Andrew is a **bulky** man.

The men were carrying **bulky** packages under their arms.

The **bulk** of consumers are based in towns.(NOUN)

The dough will rise until it is double **in bulk**.

We can **bulk** out the report with lots of diagrams.(VERB)

## 7: SUPPLEMENT(NOUN/VERB)

add: augment: extend

vitamins and other dietary supplements

The payments are a supplement to his usual salary.

Kia supplements her regular salary by tutoring in the evenings.

Tracy gives her children vitamin pills to supplement their diet.

## 8: INSULATE(VERB)

protect: shield

Pipes may need **insulating** against the cold.

an **insulated** attic

The royal family tried to **insulate** him from the prying eyes of the media.

I went to close the curtains and found the windows sealed with silver **insulating** tape.

Good **insulation** can save you money on heating bills.

## 9: RECUR(VERB)

happen again: **revert**

There is a danger that the disease may **recur.**(Verb)

Love is a **recurring** theme in the book.

**recurring dream/nightmare**

**recurrent** minor illnesses(adjective)

Political revolution is a **recurrent** theme in his books.

# 10: STARVATION(NOUN)

famine: hunger

people dying of starvation(NOUN)

starvation diet/ starvation wages

30 million people die of starvation each year.

Thousands of people will starve if food doesn't reach the city.(VERB)

pictures of starving children

They'll either die from the cold or starve to death.

You must be starving!

The schools are starved of funding.

The poor kid's just starved for attention.

# 11: ANOMALY(NOUN)

abnormality: eccentricity: exception: inconsistency

In those days, a woman professor was still an anomaly.(NOUN)

various anomalies in the tax system

But on one such mission they came across a startling anomaly.

a highly anomalous situation(adjective)

anomalous results

## 12: DISINTEGRATE(VERB)

break apart: separate: shatter

The plane just **disintegrated** in mid-air.(verb)

a society **disintegrating** under economic pressures

As the news spread of the general's death, the army  
**disintegrated**.

the **disintegration** of the Soviet empire into separate  
republics(NOUN)

## 13: SURGE(VERB/NOUN)

rush: flood: rise: swell

The taxi **surged** forward.(verb)

The crowd **surged** through the gates.

She could feel anger **surging** inside her.

A wave **surged** up towards them.

Oil prices **surged**.

a **surge** of excitement/ a **surge** in food costs/ a **surge** of reporters' interest in his finance/ a **surge** of refugees into the country

## 14: HUMILIATE(VERB)

**embarrass: crush: degrade: shame**

Her boss **humiliated** her in front of all her colleagues.(verb)

I've never felt so **humiliated** in all my life.(adjective)

a **humiliating** defeat(adjective)

Why do you always have to **humiliate** me in front of your friends?(verb)

# 15: INTERMEDIARY(NOUN)

**middleman, agent, mediator**

Jackson acted as an **intermediary** between the two parties.(noun)

Switzerland's foreign minister served as an **intermediary** between the two countries.

The King responded to the questions through an **intermediary**.

an **intermediary** role in the talks(adjective)

# 16: THAW(VERB)

**melt: defrost: soften: warm**

The lake **thawed** in March. (verb)

It **thawed** overnight.

**Thaw** frozen meat in its packet and then cook as soon as possible.

After a few glasses of wine Robert began to **thaw** a little.

He held his hands in front of the fire to **thaw** them out.

The **thaw** begins in March.(noun)

## 17: LONGEVITY(NOUN)

long life

the greater **longevity** of women compared with men(noun)

The worms have a **longevity** of about two years.

The ancient Chinese claimed that garlic promoted **longevity**.

the **longevity** of an athlete's career

## 18: DECEPTION(NOUN)

**fraud**: trickery: **deceit**: lie: **deceit**

He was convicted of obtaining money by **deception**.(noun)

Ann quickly saw through his lies and **deceptions**.

He had been **deceived** by a young man claiming to be the son of a millionaire.(verb)

He tried to **deceive** the public into thinking the war could still be won.

Gwen's students may look angelic, but **appearances can be deceptive**. (adjective)

**misleading** and **deceptive** adverts

## 19: HEADWAY(NOUN)

progress: advancement

Foreign firms have made little **headway** in the U.S. market. (noun)

Stormy weather stopped the ship from making **headway**.

I note that you've made some **headway** towards solving things on the technical front.

## 20: CANNY(ADJECTIVE)

shrewd: astute: judicious: prudent: wise: clever

Pete Chambers is a **canny** fellow. Not one to miss an opportunity. (ADJECTIVE)

Robinson has benefited from some **canny** marketing.

She's far too **canny** to keep her money in this country. She's got it safely hidden away in Switzerland, I expect.

## 21: MAXIM(NOUN)

rule: saying: adage: rule

According to this principle, we interpret language on the assumption that its sender is obeying four maxims.(NOUN)

Anderson's respect appears undiminished, however, and is further indicated in his upholding of the modesty maxim.

But the Freudian maxim holds true: Laughter is just an expression of fear.

## 22: BENEFICIARY(NOUN)

receiver: inheritor: recipient

The rich were the main **beneficiaries** of the tax cuts.  
(NOUN)

He was the chief **beneficiary** of his father's will.

Single mothers will be the chief **beneficiaries** of this new policy.

!!! Compare BENEFICIAL(adjective)

## 23: FORTUITOUS(ADJECTIVE)

accidental: haphazard

The meeting with Jack was  
**fortuitous**.(adjective)

A **fortuitous** fire destroyed all evidence of his wrongdoing.

## 24: SARCASM(NOUN)

irony: **satire**

'Good of you to arrive on time,' George said, with heavy sarcasm (=very clear sarcasm). (Noun)

There was just a **hint/trace/edge/touch of sarcasm** in her voice.

Was she being **sarcastic?**(adjective)

**sarcastic remark/comment/question**

He can't help making **sarcastic comments**.

**sarcastic manner/smile/laugh etc.**

'I thought so,' she said with a **sarcastic smile**.

## 25: IRONY(NOUN)

### Sarcasm

Life is full of little **ironies**. (noun)

The tragic **irony** is that the drug was supposed to save lives.

It's **ironic** that her husband smoked for thirty years, and yet she's the one who died of lung cancer.(adjective)

In an **ironic** twist, the most trustworthy character in the film turned out to be the thief.

## 26: RETREAT(NOUN/VERB)

**withdraw: back away: depart: leave**

The rebels **retreated** to the mountains. (verb)

He saw her and **retreated**, too shy to speak to her.

After the noise of the city he was glad to **retreat** to his hotel room.

The rebel forces are in full **retreat** (=retreating very fast).(noun)

## 27: ROT(VERB)

decay: deteriorate: spoil: corrupt

Candy will **rot** your teeth. (verb)

The trees were cut and left to **rot**.

All the woodwork was **rotting away**.

the smell of **rot** (noun)

## 28: ELIGIBLE(ADJECTIVE)

**qualified: acceptable: appropriate: worthy: proper**

Students on a part-time course are not **eligible** for a loan. (adjective)

Over 500,000 18-year-olds will become **eligible** to vote this year.

Stephen was regarded as an **eligible** bachelor.

## 29: FAR-FETCHED(ADJECTIVE)

unconvincing: fantastic: unbelievable

At the time, his ideas were considered far-fetched. (adjective)

All this may sound a bit far-fetched, but companies are already developing 'intelligent' homes.

## 30: DISTORT(VERB)

**misrepresent**: **falsify**: **deform**: **misshape**: **contort**

Tall buildings can **distort** radio signals.(verb)

His account was badly **distorted** by the press.

an expensive subsidy which **distorts** the market

Journalists were accused of sensationalizing the story  
and **distorting** the facts.

His face was **distorted** in anger. (adjective)

a gross **distortion** of the facts(noun)

## 31: SAVVY(ADJECTIVE/NOUN)

intelligent: canny: cunning: sagacious:  
shrewd

He's obviously got a lot of political **savvy**.  
(noun)

Lisa had become a **savvy** young  
woman.(adjective)

Both companies are founded upon **savvy**  
business ideas.

## 32: LEGEND(NOUN)

tale: myth

the legend of St George and the dragon(noun)

ancient Greek legends

Legend has it that prisoners were brought here to be executed.

tennis/footballing/music etc. legend

tales of adventure(noun)

a book of old Japanese folk tales (=traditional stories)

a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen

Contrary to popular myth, the majority of accidents are not caused by speeding or drunkenness.

the myth of male superiority(wrong belief)

## 33: REPRECUSSION(NOUN)

side effects: consequence: result

The collapse of the company had repercussions for the whole industry. (noun)

There were serious repercussions on his career.

the repercussions of the crisis

political/social/economic etc. repercussions

## 34: ERUDITE(ADJECTIVE)

learned:  
educated

cultivated:

cultured:

He was never dull, always erudite and well informed. (adjective)

"The Cunning Man" is an intricate and erudite work.

## 35: MINUTE(ADJECTIVE)

small: tiny: minuscule: detailed

You only need a minute amount.

Her handwriting is minute.

a minute examination of the rock(thorough: detailed)

He explained the plan in minute detail.

She studied the letter minutely.

## 36: SOAR(VERB)

rise: mount: escalate

Her temperature **soared**.(verb)

The price of gas has **soared** in recent weeks.(verb)

**soaring** unemployment(adjective)

She watched the dove **soar** above the chestnut trees.  
(verb)

Here the cliffs **soar** a hundred feet above the sea.

a **soaring** skyscraper

## 37: INCEPTION(NOUN)

**beginning: commencement: dawn: initiation**

Not long after their **inception**, the welfare programs were under attack.

Within a few years of its **inception**, the charity was involved in aid projects all around the world.

## 38: TARDY(ADJECTIVE)

Late: belated

Do please forgive this tardy reply.

He's been tardy three times this semester.

people who are tardy in paying their bills

He was never tardy or absent the whole semester.

## 39: SUPREMACY(NOUN)

domination: mastery: predominance

Japan's retains its unchallenged supremacy in the field of electronics.

The party re-established its political supremacy.

## 40: INCITE(VERB)

provoke: stimulate: stir: encourage

They were charged with inciting racial hatred.(verb)

a person who incites others to commit an offence

There was no evidence that he had incited members of the group to violence.

British law forbids incitement to murder. (noun)

## 41: DIVERGENT(ADJECTIVE)

**different: unlike**

The two species **diverged** millions of years ago.(VERB)

Global growth rates are **diverging** markedly.

Here his views **diverged** from hers.

**divergence** between the US and Europe(NOUN)

**divergent** views(ADJECTIVE)

## 42: ADHERE(VERB)

stick: **fasten**: glue

the eggs of these fish **adhere to** plant leaves.(verb)

We **adhere to** the principles of equal rights and freedom of expression for all.

I have **adhered strictly to** the rules.

**Adherence to democratic principles**(noun)

The anti-globalization movement is attracting new **adherents to** its principles. (noun)

## 43: PLIABLE(ADJECTIVE)

**flexible: bendy: adaptable**

a shoe made of soft, **pliable** leather(adjective)

Senior officials would have preferred a more  
**pliable** government.

The clay should be moistened regularly to keep  
it soft and **pliable**.

## 44: ALLIANCE(NOUN)

union: affiliation: coalition: partnership

Britain's military alliance with her NATO partners(noun)

the possibility of a political alliance between the two parties

The companies have formed an alliance to market the product.

independent organizations and alliances

Relief workers in alliance with local charities are trying to help the victims.

a meeting of the European allies(noun)

Some of the northern cities allied themselves with the emperor.(verb)

## 45: AFFLUENT(ADJECTIVE)

rich: **well-off**: wealthy: prosperous

an **affluent** neighborhood

As people become more **affluent**, so their standard and style of living improves.

The postwar era was one of new **affluence** for the working-class.

## 46: RUPTURE(VERB)

**break: burst: crack: tear: split**

The eleventh century saw the formal **rupture** between East and West.(NOUN)

The **rupture with his father** was absolute.

The pipe will **rupture** at its weakest point.(VERB)

His liver was **ruptured** when a brick wall collapsed on him.

The noise **ruptured** the tranquility of the afternoon.

## 47: DESOLATE(ADJECTIVE)

uninhabited: wild: miserable: depressed

We looked out over a desolate landscape of bare trees and stony fields.(ADJECTIVE)

someone who is desolate feels very sad and lonely

a desolate landscape

David was desolated by his wife's death.(VERB)

## 48: DISCRETE(ADJECTIVE)

**separate: detached: disconnected: apart**

The change happens in a series of **discrete** steps.(ADJECTIVE)

The developing insect passes through several **discrete** stages.

Each simply provides a **discrete** service.

## 49: PENCHANT(NOUN)

inclination: propensity: leaning: fondness

He had a penchant for playing jokes on others.(noun)

She is a stylish woman with a penchant for dark glasses.

## 50: UNDERRATE(VERB)

Underestimate: **belittle**: undervalue

It's perhaps the most **underrated film** of the last decade

## 51: UNDERSCORE(VERB)

Emphasize: accentuate: highlight: stress

These failures **underscore** the difficulty of what we're attempting to do.

The President's visit **underscores** the administration's commitment to free trade.

## 52: UNLEASH(VERB)

Release: free: let loose: vent

The failure of the talks could unleash more fighting.

## 53: ZENITH(NOUN)

Height: **acme**: apex: climax: crest: peak:  
pinnacle: **summit**

reach its zenith/be at its zenith

The Roman Empire reached its **zenith** around the year 100.

(antonym) **nadir**

By 1932, the depression had **reached its nadir**.

## 54: ACUTE(ADJECTIVE)

Serious: critical: grave: **excruciating**: fierce: severe:  
**Perceptive**: astute: clever

The housing shortage is more acute than first thought.

acute pain/ embarrassment/ anxiety/ arthritis

Young children have a particularly acute sense of smell.(strong)

Simon's vague manner concealed an acute mind. (clever)  
an acute analysis of Middle Eastern politics(clever)

## 55: YEARN(VERB)

Long: **crave**: desire: **covet**

Hannah **yearned** for a child.

**yearn to be/do something**

Phil had **yearned to be** a pilot from an early age.

a **yearning** for travel

**yearning to do something**

He had a deep **yearning to return** to his home town.

## 56: VIABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Workable: applicable: feasible: usable:  
practicable

viable alternative/proposition/option etc.

The committee came forward with one viable  
solution.

economically/commercially/financially viable

Will a hotel here be financially viable?

## 57: VICINITY(NOUN)

Neighborhood: area: proximity

The stolen car was found in the vicinity of the station.

There used to be a mill in the vicinity.

All meteorites are of the same age, somewhere in the vicinity of 4.5 billion years old.

## 58: WARRANT(NOUN/VERB)

(Noun) authorization, authority: permission: permit: **sanction**

(Verb) demand, deserve: **necessitate**

The magistrate issued a **warrant** for his arrest.

This tiny crowd does not **warrant** such a large police presence.

**warrant attention/consideration etc.**

Another area **that warrants attention** is that of funding for universities.

## 59: IMPROVISE(VERB)

**Extemporize:** speak off the cuff: ad lib:  
**concoct**

I forgot to bring my notes, so I had to **improvise**.

I just started playing, and the other guys started **improvising** around me.  
an **improvised** sketch

# 60: YIELD(NOUN/VERB)

Produce: bear: generate

Surrender: give in: relinquish: succumb: resign

Our research has only recently begun to yield important results.

Each of these oilfields could yield billions of barrels of oil.

These investments should yield a reasonable return.

high-yielding crops

The military has promised to yield power.(surrender: relinquish)

The hijackers refuse to yield to demands to release the passengers.

Finally she yielded to temptation and helped herself to a large slice of cake.

# WEEK 8 | Vocabulary

# 1. ADDRESS(VERB)

address a problem/question/issue etc.(deal with)

Our products address the needs of real users.

address yourself to something

Marlowe now addressed himself to the task of searching the room.

to speak to someone directly :

She turned to address the man on her left.

if you address remarks, complaints etc. to someone, you say or write them directly to that person :

You will have to address your comments to our Head Office.

to make a formal speech to a large group of people

address a meeting/conference etc.

He addressed an audience of 10,000 supporters.

to use a particular title or name when speaking or writing to someone

address somebody as something

The president should be addressed as 'Mr. President'.

## 2. ADHESIVE(NOUN-ADJECTIVE)

a substance such as glue that you use to stick two things together :

waterproof adhesive(noun)

adhesive tape(adjective)

### 3. AKIN TO(ADJECTIVE)

**very similar to something :**

Something akin to panic overwhelmed him.

## 4. APTITUDE(NOUN)

Tendency: inclination: propensity

Gift: ability: capability: faculty: intelligence:  
proficiency: talent

He has a natural aptitude for teaching.

## 5. ARDENT(ADJECTIVE)

Passionate: enthusiastic: avid: eager: keen: zealous

an **ardent** supporter of free trade

an **ardent** lover

# 6. ASSIMILATE(VERB)

Learn: absorb: recognize

Adjust: adapt: blend in

1 [ transitive ] to completely understand and begin to use new ideas, information etc.

It will take time to assimilate all these facts.

2 [ intransitive and transitive ] if people assimilate, or are assimilated into a country or group, they become part of that group and are accepted by the people in that group

assimilate into

Refugees find it difficult to become assimilated into the community.

# 7. ASSOCIATE(VERB)

Connect: ally: combine: mix

1 [ transitive ] to make a connection in your mind between one thing or person and another  
associate somebody/something with something

I don't associate him with energetic sports.

2 be associated (with somebody/something)

a) to be related to a particular subject, activity etc. :

problems associated with cancer treatment

b) ( also : associate yourself with somebody/something ) to show that you support someone or something :

He did not associate himself with the pro-democracy movement.

3 associate with somebody to spend time with someone, especially someone that other people disapprove of :

I don't like these layouts you're associating with.

## 8. ATTEST TO(VERB)

Testify

1 [ intransitive and transitive ] to show or prove that something is true

attest to

Luxurious furnishings **attested to** the wealth of the owner.

2 [ transitive ] to officially state that you believe something is true, especially in a court of law SYN testify

## 9. BAFFLE(VERB)

Puzzle: bewilder: **confound**: confuse

if something baffles you, you cannot understand or explain it at all :  
The question **baffled** me completely.

— baffled adjective :

We were all utterly **baffled**.

— baffling adjective :

a **baffling** mystery

— **bafflement** noun [ uncountable ]

## 10. BAR(VERB)

Hinder: prevent

Exclude

1 to officially prevent someone from entering a place or from doing something  
**bar** somebody from (doing) something

They seized his passport and **barred** him from leaving the country.

2 to prevent people from going somewhere by placing something in their way :  
She ran back, but Francis **barred** her way .

A locked gate **barred** my entrance to the wood.

# 11. CEASE(VERB)

Stop: discontinue: halt: **refrain**

**cease to do something**

He **ceased** to be a member of the association.

The things people will do for charity never **cease** to amaze me (= I am always surprised by them) .

**cease doing something**

the decision to **cease** using CFCs in packaging

The rain **ceased** and the sky cleared.

**cease trading/production/operations etc.** (= stop operating a business )

The company **ceased** production at their Norwich plant last year.

**cease fire!** (= used to order soldiers to stop shooting )

# 12. CHARACTERISTIC(ADJECTIVE)

Typical: distinctive: distinguishing: identifying

the highly characteristic (= very typical ) flint walls of the local houses

the qualities that were characteristic of the Nixon administration

# 13. CLUSTER(NOUN)

Group: collection: batch

a **cluster** of low farm buildings

a **cluster** of red berries

a diamond **cluster** ring

A **cluster** of children stood around the ice cream van.

## 14. COALESCE(VERB)

Blend: amalgamate: combine: fuse: merge

coalesce into/with

Gradually the different groups of people coalesced into one dominant racial group.

## 15. COLLATE(VERB)

Gather: assemble

A computer system is used to **collate** information from across Britain.

# 16. COMPILE(VERB)

Put together: accumulate: **amass**: **garner**: organize

The document was **compiled** by the Department of Health

**compile something from/for something**

The report was **compiled from a survey of 5,000 households.**

# 17. CONDUCIVE TO(ADJECTIVE)

Favorable to

be conducive to something

if a situation is conducive to something such as work, rest etc. it provides conditions that make it easy for you to work etc.

an environment conducive to learning

# 18. CONFORM(VERB)

Comply: adapt: match

Accord: correspond: harmonize

1 to behave in the way that most other people in your group or society behave → conformist :

the pressure on schoolchildren to conform

conform to/with

people who do not conform to traditional standards of behavior

2 to obey a law, rule etc.

conform to/with

Students can be expelled for refusing to conform to school rules.

All new buildings must conform with the regional development plan.

products which conform to international safety standards

3 conform to a pattern/model/ideal etc. to be similar to what people expect or think is usual :

Joseph does not conform to the stereotype of a policeman.

# 19. CONGESTED(ADJECTIVE)

Overcrowded: teeming: **clogged**: jammed: packed

full of traffic :

congested airspace

London's roads are heavily **congested** (= very congested) .

**traffic congestion** (noun)

# 20. CONSTRAIN(VERB)

Force: **coerce**: restrict: confine: restrain

**constrain** somebody from doing something

Financial factors should not **constrain** doctors from prescribing the best treatment for patients.

Poor soil has **constrained** the level of crop production.

Women's employment opportunities are often severely **constrained** by family commitments.

# 21. CONTINUAL(ADJECTIVE)

Constant, frequent, incessant, interminable: recurrent

five weeks of continual rain

the Japanese business philosophy of continual improvement

She has endured house arrest and continual harassment by the police.

— continually adverb :

We are continually reassessing the situation.

## 22. CONTINUOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Prolonged: nonstop: unceasing: uninterrupted

continuous economic growth

a continuous flow of information

continuous assessment

## 23. CONVENTIONAL(ADJECTIVE)

Traditional: customary: regular: usual

Internet connections through conventional phone lines are fairly slow.

Bake for 20 minutes in a conventional oven; 8 in a microwave.

a strong believer in conventional morals

He is conventional in his approach to life.

## 24. CRITICAL(ADJECTIVE)

Essential: crucial: vital: pivotal: decisive

These talks are critical to the future of the peace process.

It is absolutely critical for us to know the truth.

Foreign trade is of critical importance to the economy.

a critical time or situation is serious and worrying because things might suddenly become much worse :

The fighting has stopped, but the situation is still critical.

changes that took place during the critical period at the end of the war

# 25.CULMINATION(NOUN)

End: acme: climax: peak: pinnacle: zenith: **finale**

This little book represented the **culmination** of 15 years' work.

## 26. DECIPHER(VERB)

Figure out: decode: interpret: make out: solve

She studied the envelope, trying to **decipher** the handwriting.

# 27. DECISIVE(ADJECTIVE)

Determining: essential: crucial: vital: pivotal: critical

decisive factor/effect/influence etc.

Women can play a **decisive** role in the debate over cloning.

decisive action/steps

We will take **decisive** steps towards political union with Europe.

someone who is **decisive** is good at making decisions quickly and with confidence OPP indecisive :  
a **decisive** leader

a talent for quick **decisive** action

definite and clear in a way that leaves no doubt OPP indecisive

decisive victory/result/defeat etc.

The answer was a **decisive** no.

Yet again, we have failed to act **decisively**.

military **decisiveness**

the speed and **decisiveness** of his victory

## 28. DEPOSIT(VERB)

Put: drop: lay: locate: place

The female **deposits** her eggs directly into the water.

As the river slows down, it **deposits** a layer of soil.

You are advised to **deposit** your valuables in the hotel safe.

## 29. DERIVE(VERB)

Obtain

Medically, we will **derive** great benefit from this technique.

**derive** pleasure/enjoyment etc.

Many students **derived** enormous satisfaction from the course.

This word is **derived** from Latin.

## 30. DISCARD(VERB)

Abandon: get rid of: dispose of

Discard any old cleaning materials.

discarded paper

# DISCONTENT(NOUN)

Dissatisfaction: displeasure

Discontent with the current government is strong.

discontent at/over

There is widespread discontent at the quality of education.

Perhaps she sensed my growing discontent .

# 31. EMBRACE(VERB)

Adopt: accept

We hope these regions will **embrace** democratic reforms.

Most West European countries have **embraced** the concept of high-speed rail networks with enthusiasm.

## 32. EMERGE(VERB)

Newly develop: appear: arise: spring up

The sun emerged from behind the clouds.

Eventually the truth emerged .

Later it emerged that the judge had employed an illegal immigrant.

She emerged from the divorce a stronger person.

Local government has recently emerged as a major issue.

## 33. EXQUISITE(ADJECTIVE)

Perfect: beautiful: attractive: charming: delicate

the most **exquisite** craftsmanship

She has **exquisite** taste in art.

## 34. FLEE(VERB)

Run away: escape: depart

His attackers turned and fled.

Masaari spent six months in prison before fleeing the country .

flee to/from/into

Many German artists fled to America at the beginning of World War II.

## 35. FLEETING(ADJECTIVE)

brief: ephemeral: short-lived: temporary: transient: transitory

a **fleeting** smile

For one **fleeting** moment , Paula allowed herself to forget her troubles.

I caught a **fleeting** glimpse of them as they drove past.

Carol was paying a **fleeting** visit to Paris.

## 36. GROSS(ADJECTIVE)

Overall: aggregate: entire: whole

a **gross** profit of \$5 million

**gross** income/salary/pay etc.

a family with **gross** earnings of just £75 per week

# 37. HOLLOW(ADJECTIVE)

Empty: vacant: void

1 empty inside having an empty space inside :

a hollow tree

2 hollow eyes/cheeks etc. eyes etc. where the skin sinks inwards :

He was short and thin, with hollow eyes.

3 sound a hollow sound is low and clear like the sound made when you hit something empty :

There was a hollow thump as the cars collided.

4 no value words, events, or people that are hollow have no real worth or value :

They won, but it was a hollow victory .

5 hollow laugh/voice etc. a hollow laugh or voice makes a weak sound and is without emotion

— hollowly adverb :

Sam laughed hollowly.

## 38. IMPEDE(VERB)

Restrict: hinder: block: hamper: obstruct

Storms at sea **impeded** our progress .

## 39. INDISCRIMINATE(ADJECTIVE)

Random: **careless**

an **indiscriminate** action is done without thinking about what harm it might cause

**indiscriminate** attacks/killing/violence/bombing etc.

terrorists responsible for **indiscriminate** killing

the **indiscriminate** use of chemical fertilizers

— **indiscriminately** adverb :

Soldiers fired **indiscriminately** into the crowd.

# 40. INDISPENSABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Essential: imperative: necessary: vital

This book is **indispensable** to anyone interested in space exploration.

**indispensable** for/in (doing) something

Meat is not **indispensable** for maintaining a healthy diet.

Mobile phones have become an **indispensable** part of our lives.

## 41. INDUCE(VERB)

Cause: bring about: engender

Nothing would induce me to vote for him again.

Patients with eating disorders may use drugs to induce vomiting.

drug-induced/stress-induced etc.

a drug-induced coma

## 42. INEXPLICABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Mysterious: baffling: insoluble: mystifying

**inexplicable** behavior

For some **inexplicable** reason, he felt depressed.

# 43. INITIATIVE(NOUN)

Action: drive

1 decisions [ uncountable ] the ability to make decisions and take action without waiting for someone to tell you what to do :

I wish my son would show more initiative .

Don't keep asking me for advice. Use your initiative .

Lt. Carlos was not obeying orders. He acted on his own initiative (= he was not told what to do) .

2 plan [ countable ] an important new plan or process to achieve a particular aim or to solve a particular problem :

a government initiative to help exporters

an education initiative

a new initiative for peace in the Middle East

3 control the initiative if you have or take the initiative, you are in a position to control a situation and decide what to do next :

Why don't you take the initiative and ask him out?

Politicians need to seize the initiative from the terrorists.

The government must not lose the initiative in the fight against terrorism.

# 44. JUSTIFIABLE(ADJECTIVE)

Rightful: reasonable: acceptable

justifiable anger

economically/commercially justifiable

Are these experiments morally justifiable?

## 45. MAGNITUDE(NOUN)

Extent: greatness: amount: mass: quantity

They didn't seem to appreciate the **magnitude** of the problem.

of such/this/similar etc. **magnitude**

We did not think the cuts would be of this **magnitude**.

an increase of this order of **magnitude** (= size )

# 46. MOMENTUM(NOUN)

Impetus: drive: force: push: thrust

1 the ability to keep increasing, developing, or being more successful  
gain/gather momentum

The campaign for reform should start to gather **momentum** in the new year.

incentives to maintain the **momentum** of European integration

Governments often lose **momentum** in their second term of office.

the **momentum** of increasing immigration

the **momentum** towards economic union

2 the force that makes a moving object keep moving

gain/gather momentum (= move faster)

The wheel was allowed to roll down the slope, gathering **momentum** as it went.

Pratt, without losing any **momentum** at all, passed them both and won the race.

## 47. MOTIVE(NOUN)

Reason: ground: incentive: stimulus: inspiration

What do you suppose the killer's **motive** was?

The police believe the **motive for** this murder was jealousy.

The **motives behind** the decision remain obscure.

The violence was clearly prompted by political **motives**.

It's not the kind of thing he'd do unless he had an **ulterior motive** (= a reason he kept hidden) .

— **motiveless** adjective :

an apparently **motiveless** killing

## 48. MOUNT(VERB)

Grow: intensify: multiply: escalate: swell

Tension here is **mounting**, as we await the final result.

Casualties on both sides of the battle have continued to **mount**.

## 49. OBSTRUCTION(NOUN)

Barrier: obstacle: difficulty: impediment

Police can remove a vehicle that is causing an **obstruction** .

an unlawful **obstruction** of the highway

the **obstruction** of vital legislation

He was found guilty of **obstruction** of justice .

# 50. ORNAMENT(VERB)

Decorate: adorn: **embellish**: beautify

a silver goblet **ornamented** with pearls

**richly/exquisitely/lavishly etc.** **ornamented**

a table **richly ornamented** with carvings

## 51. PAINSTAKING(ADJECTIVE)

Thorough: careful: meticulous

The work had been done with **painstaking** attention to detail.

Chris described in **painstaking** detail what had happened.

— **painstakingly** adverb :

The old painting was **painstakingly** restored.

## 52. PERMEATE(VERB)

Fill: penetrate: spread through: saturate

The smell of diesel oil **permeated** the air.

Rain **permeates** through the ground to add to ground water levels.

Racism continues to **permeate** our society.

An emotional intensity **permeates** every one of O'Connor's songs.

## 53. PREOCCUPATION(NOUN)

**Concern:** obsession: fixation

the current **preoccupation** with sex and scandal

The management's **preoccupation** with costs and profits resulted in a drop in quality and customer service.

**main/chief/central etc. preoccupation**

Their main **preoccupation** was how to feed their families.

## 54. PREREQUISITE(NOUN)

Requirement: must: necessity

prerequisite for/of/to

A reasonable proficiency in English is a **prerequisite** for the course.

## 55. PRESUME(VERB)

Suppose: assume: guess: surmise: think

‘Are his parents still alive?’ ‘I presume so.’

I presume we’ll be there by six o’clock.

From the way he talked, I presumed him to be your boss.

The temple is presumed to date from the first century BC.

## 56. PROFUSE(ADJECTIVE)

Plentiful: abundant: ample: prolific

He made **profuse** apologies .

**Profuse** sweating is one of the symptoms of heat exhaustion.

The wound was bleeding **profusely**.

## 57. QUEST(VERB)

Search: adventure: crusade: enterprise: mission: journey

his long quest for truth

the quest for human happiness

World leaders are now united in their quest for peace.

They journeyed to the distant Molucca islands in quest of spices.

## 58. REINFORCE(VERB)

Strengthen: fortify: toughen: supplement

The film **reinforces** the idea that women should be pretty and dumb.

## 59. REPULSE(VERB)

Drive back: **repel**: **ward off**: refuse

The very thought of his cold clammy hands **repulsed** me.

Government troops **repulsed** an attack by rebel forces.

## 60. REVERE(VERB)

Honor: look up to: respect: venerate: worship

He is revered as a national hero.

# WEEK 9 | Vocabulary

# 1. RULE OUT(VERB)

Exclude: dismiss: preclude: reject

The police have ruled out suicide.

She has refused to rule out the possibility of singing again.

## 2. SABOTAGE(VERB)

Intentionally damage: destroy: **vandalize**: wreck

Every single plane had been **sabotaged**.

Demonstrators have **sabotaged** the conference.

### 3. SCRUTINY(NOUN)

Examination: analysis: exploration: inspection: **perusal**: search: investigation

Careful **scrutiny** of the company's accounts revealed a whole series of errors.

Their activities have come under police **scrutiny**.

## 4. SCULPT(VERB)

Shape

An artist **sculpted** a full-size replica of her head.

## 5. SENTIMENTAL(ADJECTIVE)

Emotional: romantic: touching

She said a **sentimental** goodbye.

People can be very **sentimental about** animals.

He wasn't the sort of person who kept things for **sentimental** reasons.

a **sentimental** journey to the place of his birth

The rings that were stolen were of great **sentimental** value  
(=important because of your feelings or memories relating to them) .

# 6. SHRINKAGE(NOUN)

Reduction: decrease

Pollution led to a **shrinkage** of grasslands.

## 7. SIGNIFY(VERB)

Indicate: connote: denote: imply: mean: suggest

Some tribes use special facial markings to **signify** status.

The image of the lion **signified** power and strength.

The symbol used **signifies** that the frequency is measured in kHz.

Hamilton waved his hand to **signify** that he didn't mind what they decided.

He turned away from her slightly to **signify** his indifference.

# 8. SKEPTICISM(NOUN)

Doubt: suspicion: uncertainty mistrust

The report has inevitably been greeted with skepticism.

## 9. INTERIM(ADJECTIVE)

Temporary: makeshift

He received an interim payment of £10,000.

An interim government was established.

During the interim period, air quality has deteriorated. (=interim period the period of time between two events)

# 10. SPECTACULAR(ADJECTIVE)

Remarkable: impressive: **dazzling**: sensational: **magnificent**: splendid:  
striking: stunning

a mountainous area with **spectacular** scenery

a **spectacular** success

The news caused a **spectacular** fall in the stock market.

# 11. SPECULATE(VERB)

Guess: suppose: conjecture

Jones refused to **speculate** about what might happen.

speculate that

Some analysts **speculated** that jobs will be lost.

## 12. SPURT(NOUN)

Sudden increase: burst: rush: surge

a sudden **spurt** of flame

In a sudden **spurt** of anger, Ellen slammed the door shut.

growth **spurt** (= when a child suddenly grows quickly )

# 13. STAMINA(NOUN)

Endurance: strength: energy: force: power: resilience

You need **stamina** to be a long-distance runner.

Elaine has the **stamina** and the determination to succeed.

## 14. STANCE(NOUN)

Posture

Attitude, stand, viewpoint

What is your **stance** on environmental issues?

a strong **stance** against abortion

take/adopt a **stance**

The President has adopted a **tough stance** on terrorism.

a fighting **stance** (=a position in which you stand, especially when playing a sport)

# 15. STRENUOUS(ADJECTIVE)

Demanding: arduous: hard: tough

a **strenuous** climb

The doctor advised Ken to avoid **strenuous** exercise.

Sherry's been making a **strenuous** effort to lose weight. (= active and determined)

— strenuously adverb :

Barrett **strenuously** denied rumors that he would resign.

# 16. SUBTLE(ADJECTIVE)

Unobvious: slight

1 not easy to notice or understand unless you pay careful attention OPP obvious :

The pictures are similar, but there are subtle differences between them.

The warning signs of the disease are so subtle that they are often ignored.

a subtle form of racism

The flavor of the dried berries is more subtle.

2 behaving in a skillful and clever way, especially using indirect methods or language to hide what you are trying to do :

I think we need a more subtle approach.

a subtle plan

She wasn't very subtle about it. She just said she didn't love him any more.

3 very clever in noticing and understanding things → sensitive :

a subtle mind

# 17. SUFFICE(VERB)

Be enough/ adequate/ sufficient

A light lunch will suffice.

A few brief observations will suffice for present purposes.

A few more statistics will suffice to show the trends of the time.

suffice (it) to say (that) used to say that the statement that follows is enough to explain what you mean, even though you could say more :

Suffice it to say that they're having marital problems.

# 18. SUSPICION(NOUN)

Doubt: distrust: skepticism

I can't say for definite who did it, but I certainly have my **suspicions** .

Police **suspicions** were confirmed when the stolen property was found in his flat.

I wondered how I could leave early without arousing anyone's **suspicions** .

**on suspicion of (doing) something**

She was arrested **on suspicion** of murder.

**under suspicion**

He felt he was still **under suspicion**.

Mitchell later came **under suspicion** of assaulting two young girls.

**above/beyond suspicion**

She felt that she ought to be **above suspicion** (= so honest that no one could think that she had done anything wrong ) .

# 19. SWIFT(ADJECTIVE)

Quick: fast: hurried: prompt: rapid: speedy

My letter received a **swift** reply.

She shot a **swift** glance at Paul.

**swift** to do something

They were **swift** to deny the accusations.

She wiped her tears away in one **swift** movement.

## 20. THEREBY(ADVERB)

Consequently: thus

He became a citizen in 1978, **thereby** gaining the right to vote.

# 21. TYPIFY(VERB)

Characterize: symbolize: epitomize: exemplify

the features which typify a Scottish Highland landscape

non-violent protest, typified by Gandhi

the long complicated sentences that typify legal documents

## 22. VACATE(VERB)

Empty: leave: evacuate

He will vacate the position on June 19.

Guests must vacate their rooms by 11:00.

## 23. VIGOROUS(ADJECTIVE)

Energetic: active: dynamic: forceful: lively: strong

Your dog needs at least 20 minutes of **vigorous** exercise every day.

Environmentalists have begun a **vigorous** campaign to oppose nuclear dumping in the area.

a **vigorous** debate

**Vigorous** efforts are being made to find a solution to the problem.

The measures provoked **vigorous** opposition in right-wing circles.

a **vigorous** young man

## 24. VIRTUALLY(ADVERB)

Almost completely: practically

Virtually all the children come to school by bus.

He was virtually unknown before running for office.

## 25. WROUGHT(VERB)

Created

Events in Paris **wrought** a change in British opinion towards France and Germany.