

Vocabulary in *Seeing What Other's Don't* - Chapter II

Compiled by AcadeMe for the Homer Project

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preachy	adj.	trying to teach something (such as proper or moral behavior) in a way that is annoying or unwanted <i>We were put off by the speaker's preachy tone.</i>
unnerve	v.	to make (someone) feel afraid or upset and unable to think clearly <i>Seeing the police in there unnerved me.</i>
firefighter	n.	a member of a group that works to put out fires
miscarry	v.	to have a miscarriage :to experience the early and unexpected end of a pregnancy <i>She miscarried at 13 weeks. = She miscarried when she was 13 weeks pregnant.</i>
scam	v.	to deceive and take money from (someone) <i>The company scammed hundreds of people out of their life savings.</i>
devastate	v.	to destroy much or most of (something) :to cause great damage or harm to (something) <i>The flood devastated the town.</i>
luminary	n.	a very famous or successful person :celebrity <i>luminaries of the art world</i>
slouch	v.	to walk, sit, or stand lazily with your head and shoulders bent forward <i>Sit up straight. Please don't slouch.</i>
lief	adj.	dear beloved
fishy	adj.	of or relating to fish <i>a fishy odor/taste</i>
matador	n.	the person who has the major part in a bullfight and who kills the bull
excavate	v.	to uncover (something) by digging away and removing the earth that covers it <i>They excavated an ancient city.</i>
puzzlement	n.	a feeling of being confused because something is difficult to understand <i>The cause of the accident has been a source of puzzlement.</i>
goad	v.	to urge or force (someone) to do something <i>He was goaded (on) by a sense of duty.</i>
troll	v.	to fish with a hook and line that you pull through the water <i>They were trolling the ocean floor.</i>
afflict	v.	to cause pain or suffering to (someone or something) <i>The disease afflicts an estimated two million people every year.</i>
incubate	v.	to sit on eggs so that they will be kept warm and will hatch <i>The female bird incubates the eggs.</i>
crick	v.	to develop a crick in (your neck or back) <i>He cricked his back sleeping on the sofa.</i>
skew	v.	to change (something) so that it is not true or accurate <i>They were accused of skewing the facts to fit their theory.</i>
undiscovered	adj.	not having been found or noticed :not discovered <i>undiscovered territory</i>
snapshot	n.	an informal photograph that is taken quickly

		<i>family snapshots</i>
mantel	n.	the shelf above a fireplace
swirl	v.	to move in circles or to cause (something) to move in circles <i>She swirled the drink (around) in her glass.</i>
tern	n.	a kind of bird that lives near the ocean, is usually black and white, and has long wings and a tail with two points
hindsight	n.	the knowledge and understanding that you have about an event only after it has happened <i>It's easy for us to say that the war was wrong, but we have the advantage/benefit of hindsight.</i>
thorny	adj.	having a lot of thorns <i>thorny bushes</i>
brew	v.	to make (beer, ale, etc.) <i>They brew the beer on the premises.</i>
epitome	n.	a perfect example :an example that represents or expresses something very well usually used in the phrase the epitome of <i>Your response was the epitome of good sense.</i>
stag	n.	an adult male deer
upkeep	n.	the process of keeping something in good condition :the care or maintenance of buildings, equipment, etc. <i>Who is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings?</i>
replicate	v.	to repeat or copy (something) exactly <i>Scientists have failed to replicate [=duplicate] the results of his experiment.</i>
bump	v.	to hit (something, such as part of your body) against an object in a sudden and forceful way <i>I have a bruise from where I bumped my head.</i>
haunt	v.	to visit or live in (a place) <i>Spirits haunted the house.</i>
impasse	n.	a situation in which no progress seems possible <i>Negotiations are at an impasse. = Negotiations have reached/hit an impasse.</i>
clipping	n.	something (such as an article or a picture) that has been cut out of a newspaper or magazine <i>a newspaper/magazine clipping</i>
virulent	adj.	full of hate or anger <i>virulent racists/racism</i>
compile	v.	to create (a CD, book, list, etc.) by gathering things (such as songs or pieces of writing or information) <i>He compiled a book of poems.</i>
mediocre	adj.	not very good <i>The dinner was delicious, but the dessert was mediocre.</i>
fervor	n.	a strong feeling of excitement and enthusiasm <i>The fervor surrounding her campaign continued right through election day.</i>
amine	n.	any of a class of basic organic compounds derived from ammonia by replacement of hydrogen with one or more monovalent hydrocarbon radicals
haphazard	adj.	having no plan, order, or direction <i>We were given a haphazard tour of the city.</i>
uncover	v.	to remove a cover from (something) <i>Uncover the pot.</i>
implant	v.	to put (something) in a specified place

		<i>The police obtained permission to implant [=plant] a recording device in the suspect's home.</i>
scribe	v.	to make (a shape, design, mark, etc.) in something by cutting or scratching with a sharp pointed tool <i>Scribe a line along the board where you will be trimming it.</i>
unambiguous	adj.	clearly expressed or understood :not ambiguous <i>She gave a clear, unambiguous answer.</i>
stressful	adj.	full of or causing stress :making you feel worried or anxious <i>I had a stressful day at work today.</i>
orgasm	n.	the point during sexual activity when sexual pleasure is strongest <i>achieve/experience/reach orgasm</i>
fruitless	adj.	producing no good results :not successful <i>They made a fruitless attempt to find a solution.</i>
novice	n.	a person who has just started learning or doing something <i>He's a novice in cooking.</i>
flaw	n.	a small physical problem (such as a crack) that makes something less valuable :defect <i>There was a flaw in the vase.</i>
shadowy	adj.	full of shade or shadows <i>a shadowy lane</i>
liberate	v.	to free (someone or something) from being controlled by another person, group, etc. <i>Rebels fought to liberate the country.</i>
discontinuous	adj.	not continuous :having interruptions or gaps <i>discontinuous sleep</i>
helix	n.	the shape formed by a line that curves around and along a central line :spiral
transparency	n.	the quality of being transparent: such as <i>the transparency of a piece of glass</i>
culmination	n.	the end or final result of something <i>This study is the culmination of years of research.</i>
diction	n.	the clearness of a person's speech <i>The actor's diction was so poor I could hardly understand what he was saying.</i>
hop	v.	to move by a quick jump or series of jumps <i>He hopped over the hot sand.</i>
cop	v.	to get (something desirable) <i>I managed to cop an invitation.</i>
wooded	adj.	covered with trees <i>a wooded lot</i>
breakthrough	n.	a sudden increase in knowledge, understanding, etc. :an important discovery that happens after trying for a long time to understand or explain something <i>Researchers say they have made/achieved a major breakthrough in cancer treatment.</i>
fraudulent	adj.	done to trick someone for the purpose of getting something valuable <i>Corrupt leaders were chosen in a fraudulent election.</i>
outrage	v.	to make (someone) very angry <i>His comments outraged nearly everyone in the room.</i>
desperation	n.	a strong feeling of sadness, fear, and loss of hope <i>She felt overcome by desperation.</i>
boost	v.	to increase the force, power, or amount of (something) <i>The farm has boosted [=increased] wheat production by 25 percent.</i>

skepticism	n.	an attitude of doubting the truth of something (such as a claim or statement) <i>She regarded the researcher's claims with skepticism.</i>
ominous	adj.	suggesting that something bad is going to happen in the future <i>ominous clouds</i>
protagonist	n.	the main character in a novel, play, movie, etc. <i>She was a leading protagonist in the civil rights movement.</i>
mechanic	n.	a person who repairs machines (such as car engines) and keeps them running properly <i>an automotive mechanic</i>
neuron	n.	a cell that carries messages between the brain and other parts of the body and that is the basic unit of the nervous system :nerve cell
naturalistic	adj.	looking like what appears in nature :not looking artificial or man-made <i>The zoo strives to create naturalistic settings for the animals.</i>
speculate	v.	to think about something and make guesses about it :to form ideas or theories about something usually when there are many things not known about it <i>She could only speculate about/on her friend's motives.</i>
slum	v.	to spend time in places or conditions that are much worse than your usual places or conditions <i>She's never been one to slum around (in cheap hotels).</i>
transcript	n.	a written, printed, or typed copy of words that have been spoken <i>a transcript of a radio program</i>
fuse	v.	to join or become joined because of heat or a chemical reaction <i>During the reaction the atoms fuse (together).</i>
snap	v.	to break quickly with a short, sharp sound <i>The branch snapped and fell to the ground.</i>
fluorescent	adj.	producing light when electricity flows through a tube that is filled with a type of gas <i>a fluorescent light/lamp</i>
inspire	v.	to make (someone) want to do something :to give (someone) an idea about what to do or create <i>He inspired generations of future scientists.</i>
ethic	adj.	involving questions of right and wrong behavior :relating to ethics <i>ethical [=moral] principles/standards</i>
assemble	v.	to collect (things) or gather (people) into one place or group <i>We'll need to assemble a list of songs for the concert.</i>
cod	abbreviation	ash on delivery; collect on delivery used to indicate that payment must be made when something is delivered <i>The merchandise was shipped C.O.D.</i>
evolve	v.	to change or develop slowly often into a better, more complex, or more advanced state :to develop by a process of evolution <i>Some believe that birds evolved from dinosaurs. = Some believe that dinosaurs evolved into birds.</i>
compel	v.	to force (someone) to do something <i>Illness compelled him to stay in bed.</i>
disciple	n.	someone who accepts and helps to spread the teachings of a famous person <i>a disciple of Sigmund Freud</i>
scenario	n.	a description of what could possibly happen <i>A possible scenario would be that we move to the city.</i>
trench	n.	a long, narrow hole that is dug in the ground :ditch <i>a brave soldier who fought in the trenches in World War I</i>
dread	v.	to fear something that will or might happen

		<i>He can't swim and dreads going in the water.</i>
grim	adj.	unpleasant or shocking to see or think about <i>Hikers made a grim discovery when they came across a dead body in the woods.</i>
erroneous	adj.	not correct <i>We received erroneous information.</i>
nail	v.	to attach (something) with a nail <i>Nail the picture to the wall.</i>
scrutiny	n.	the act of carefully examining something especially in a critical way :the act of scrutinizing something <i>the close/careful scrutiny of data</i>
trigger	v.	to cause (something, such as an alarm) to start functioning <i>Smoke triggered the fire alarm.</i>
coincidence	n.	a situation in which events happen at the same time in a way that is not planned or expected <i>It was mere/pure/sheer coincidence that brought them together so far from Chicago.</i>
fare	v.	to do something well or badly <i>How did you fare [=do] on your exam?</i>
fin	n.	a thin flat part that sticks out from the body of a fish and is used in moving or guiding the fish through water <i>a fish with blue scales and spiny fins</i>
fringe	v.	to decorate (something) with a fringe <i>a fringed leather vest</i>