# Word Lists

Each level of **VOCABULARY WORKSHOP ACHIEVE** presents 300 vocabulary words organized in 15 Units. Mastery of these words will increase students' comprehension, improve their writing, and enhance their oral communication skills.

**Criteria for Selection:** The selection of words for **VOCABULARY WORKSHOP ACHIEVE** is based on four criteria: currency in and usefulness for present-day American oral or written communication, frequency on recognized high-utility and academic vocabulary lists, applicability to standardized tests, and current grade-placement research.

**General Sources:** The word lists were developed from many sources in traditional, classic, and contemporary literature, including: novels, short stories, essays, newspaper and magazine articles, plays, and films. Spelling and vocabulary lists recognized as valid bases for teaching language skills at the middle and secondary levels were used, as well as current subject-area textbooks, glossaries, and ancillary materials (especially for general, nontechnical terms).

**Dictionary and Reference Sources:** The following are the primary dictionary resources used for word selection (and definitions):

- *Webster's Third International Dictionary of the English Language* (unabridged)

- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (10th, 11th, and online editions)

- *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* (editions 1–4)

- *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language* (unabridged editions)

- *The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary*

**Standard Word-Frequency Sources:** Standard word-frequency studies were conducted to evaluate and revise the word list.

- **Primary**

  Dale-O'Rourke:

  *The Living Word Vocabulary*

  Carroll-Davies-Richman:

  *The American Heritage Word Frequency Book*

  Zeno-Ivens-Millard-Duvvuri:

  *The Educator's Word Frequency Guide*

- **Supplementary**

  Harris-Jacobsen:

  *Basic Reading Vocabularies*

  Thorndike-Lorge:

  *The Teacher's Word Book of 30,000 Words*