

Long-Range Strategy

There is only one effective long-range strategy for vocabulary building: READ. Read widely and well. Sample different subjects—astrophysics, sociobiology, Arthurian romances, art history—and different styles. Extensive reading is the one sure way to make your vocabulary grow.

As you read, however, take some time to acquaint yourself specifically with the sorts of words you must know to do well on the GRE. To get an idea of the level of vocabulary you must master, look over the High-Frequency Word List on the following pages.

TIPS TO HELP YOU COPE

For those of you who wish to work your way through the word list and feel the need for a plan, we recommend that you follow the procedure described below in order to use the list most profitably:

1. Divide the list into groups of 30 words.
2. Allot a definite time each day for the study of a group.
3. Devote at least one hour to each group.
4. First go through the group looking at the short, simple-looking words (6 letters at most). Mark those you don't know. In studying, pay particular attention to them.
5. Go through the group again looking at the longer words. Pay particular attention to words with more than one meaning and familiar-looking words that have unusual definitions that come as a surprise to you. Study these secondary definitions.
6. List unusual words on index cards that you can shuffle and review from time to time. (Study no more than 5 cards at a time.)
7. Use the illustrative sentences as models and make up new sentences of your own.
8. In making up new sentences, use familiar examples and be concrete: the junior high school band tuning up sounds *discordant*; Ebenezer Scrooge, before he reforms, is *parsimonious*.

For each word, the following is provided:

1. The word (printed in heavy type).
2. Its part of speech (abbreviated).
3. A brief definition.
4. A sentence illustrating the word's use.
5. Whenever appropriate, related words are provided, together with their parts of speech.

The word list is arranged in strict alphabetical order.

THE GRE HIGH-FREQUENCY WORD LIST

abate **v.** subside or moderate. Rather than leaving immediately, they waited for the storm to *abate*.

aberrant **adj.** abnormal or deviant. Given the *aberrant* nature of the data, we came to doubt the validity of the entire experiment.

abeyance **n.** suspended action. The deal was held in *abeyance* until her arrival.

abscond **v.** depart secretly and hide. The teller who *absconded* with the bonds went uncaptured until someone recognized him from his photograph on *America's Most Wanted*.

abstemious **adj.** sparing in eating and drinking; temperate. Concerned whether her vegetarian son's *abstemious* diet provided him with sufficient protein, the worried mother pressed food on him.

admonish **v.** warn; reprove. He *admonished* his listeners to change their wicked ways. admonition, **n.**

adulterate **v.** make impure by adding inferior or tainted substances. It is a crime to *adulterate* foods without informing the buyer; when consumers learned that Beechnut had *adulterated* its apple juice by mixing the juice with water, they protested vigorously. adulteration, **n.**

aesthetic **adj.** artistic; dealing with or capable of appreciating the beautiful. The beauty of Tiffany's stained glass appealed to Alice's *aesthetic* sense. aesthete, **n.**

aggregate **v.** gather; accumulate. Before the Wall Street scandals, dealers in so-called junk bonds managed to *aggregate* great wealth in short periods of time. also **adj.** aggregation, **n.**

alacrity **n.** cheerful promptness; eagerness. Phil and Dave were raring to get off to the mountains; they packed up their ski gear and climbed into the van with *alacrity*.

alleviate v. relieve. This should *alleviate* the pain; if it does not, we shall have to use stronger drugs.

amalgamate v. combine; unite in one body. The unions will attempt to *amalgamate* their groups into one national body.

ambiguous ADJ. unclear or doubtful in meaning. His *ambiguous* instruction misled us; we did not know which road to take. ambiguity, N.

ambivalence N. the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes. Torn between loving her parents one minute and hating them the next, she was confused by the *ambivalence* of her feelings. ambivalent, ADJ.

ameliorate v. improve. Many social workers have attempted to *ameliorate* the conditions of people living in the slums.

anachronism N. something or someone misplaced in time. Shakespeare's reference to clocks in *Julius Caesar* is an *anachronism*; no clocks existed in Caesar's time. anachronistic, ADJ.

analogous ADJ. comparable. She called our attention to the things that had been done in an *analogous* situation and recommended that we do the same.

anarchy N. absence of governing body; state of disorder. The assassination of the leaders led to a period of *anarchy*.

anomalous ADJ. abnormal; irregular. She was placed in the *anomalous* position of seeming to approve procedures that she despised.

antipathy N. aversion; dislike. Tom's extreme *antipathy* for disputes keeps him from getting into arguments with his temperamental wife. Noise in any form is *antipathetic* to him. Among his other *antipathies* are honking cars, boom boxes, and heavy metal rock.

apathy N. lack of caring; indifference. A firm believer in democratic government, she could not understand the *apathy* of people who never bothered to vote. apathetic, ADJ.

appease v. pacify or soothe; relieve. Tom and Jody tried to *appease* the crying baby by offering him one toy after another. However, he would not calm down until they *appeased* his hunger by giving him a bottle. appeasement, N.

apprise v. inform. When she was *apprised* of the dangerous weather conditions, she decided to postpone her trip.

approbation N. approval. Wanting her parents' regard, she looked for some sign of their *approbation*.

appropriate v. acquire; take possession of for one's own use. The ranch owners *appropriated* the lands that had originally been set aside for the Indian's use.

arduous ADJ. hard; strenuous. Her *arduous* efforts had sapped her energy.

artless ADJ. without guile; open and honest. Red Riding Hood's *artless* comment, "Grandma, what big eyes you have!" indicates the child's innocent surprise at her "grandmother's" changed appearance.

ascetic ADJ. practicing self-denial; austere. The wealthy, self-indulgent young man felt oddly drawn to the strict, *ascetic* life led by members of some monastic orders. also N. asceticism, N.

assiduous ADJ. diligent. It took Rembrandt weeks of *assiduous* labor before he was satisfied with his portrait of his son.

assuage v. ease or lessen (pain); satisfy (hunger); soothe (anger). Jilted by Jane, Dick tried to *assuage* his heartache by indulging in ice cream. One gallon later, he had *assuaged* his appetite but not his grief. assuagement, N.

attenuate v. make thin; weaken. By withdrawing their forces, the generals hoped to *attenuate* the enemy lines.

audacious ADJ. daring; bold. Audiences cheered as Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia made their *audacious*, death-defying leap to freedom and escaped Darth Vader's troops. audacity, N.

austere ADJ. forbiddingly stern; severely simple and unornamented. The headmaster's *austere* demeanor tended to scare off the more timid students, who never visited his study willingly. The room reflected the man, *austere* and bare, like a monk's cell, with no touches of luxury to moderate its *austerity*.

autonomous ADJ. self-governing. Although the University of California at Berkeley is just one part of the state university system, in many ways Cal Berkeley is *autonomous*, for it runs several programs that are not subject to outside control. autonomy, N.

aver v. state confidently. I wish to *aver* that I am certain of success.

banal ADJ. hackneyed; commonplace; trite; lacking originality. The hack writer's worn-out clichés made his comic sketch seem *banal*. He even resorted to the *banality* of having someone slip on a banana peel!

believe v. contradict; give a false impression. His coarse, hard-bitten exterior *belied* his innate sensitivity.

beneficent ADJ. kindly; doing good. The overgenerous philanthropist had to curb his *beneficent* impulses before he gave away all his money and left himself with nothing.

bolster v. support; reinforce. The debaters amassed file boxes full of evidence to *bolster* their arguments.

bombastic ADJ. pompous; using inflated language. Puffed up with conceit, the orator spoke in such a *bombastic* manner that we longed to deflate him. bombast, N.

boorish ADJ. rude; insensitive. Though Mr. Potts constantly interrupted his wife, she ignored his *boorish* behavior, for she had lost hope of teaching him courtesy.

burgeon v. grow forth; send out buds. In the spring, the plants that *burgeon* are a promise of the beauty that is to come.

burnish v. make shiny by rubbing; polish. The maid *burnished* the brass fixtures until they reflected the lamplight.

buttress v. support; prop up. Just as architects *buttress* the walls of cathedrals with flying *buttresses*, debaters *buttress* their arguments with facts. also N.

cacophonous ADJ. discordant; inharmonious. Do the students in the orchestra enjoy the *cacophonous* sounds they make when they're tuning up? I don't know how they can stand the racket. *cacophony*, N.

capricious ADJ. unpredictable; fickle. The storm was *capricious*; it changed course constantly. Jill was *capricious*, too; she changed boyfriends almost as often as she changed clothes.

castigation N. punishment; severe criticism. Sensitive even to mild criticism, Virginia Woolf could not bear the *castigation* that she found in certain reviews. *castigate*, v.

catalyst N. agent that brings about a chemical change while it remains unaffected and unchanged. Many chemical reactions cannot take place without the presence of a *catalyst*.

caustic ADJ. burning; sarcastically biting. The critic's *caustic* remarks angered the hapless actors who were the subjects of his sarcasm.

chicanery N. trickery; deception. Those sneaky lawyers misrepresented what occurred, made up all sorts of implausible alternative scenarios to confuse the jurors, and in general depended on *chicanery* to win the case.

coagulate v. thicken; congeal; clot. Even after you remove the pudding from the burner, it will continue to *coagulate* as it stands. *coagulant*, N.

coda N. concluding section of a musical or literary composition. The piece concluded with a distinctive *coda* that strikingly brought together various motifs.

cogent ADJ. convincing. It was inevitable that David chose to go to Harvard; he had several *cogent* reasons for doing so, including a full-tuition scholarship. Katya argued her case with such *cogency* that the jury had to decide in favor of her client.

commensurate ADJ. equal in extent. Your reward will be *commensurate* with your effort; what you earn will depend on how hard you work.

compendium N. brief, comprehensive summary. This text can serve as a *compendium* of the tremendous amount of new material being developed in this field.

complaisant ADJ. trying to please; obliging. Accustomed to VIP treatment, the star expected the hotel manager to be *complaisant*, if not totally obsequious. Imagine her shock when she was greeted curtly and then ignored.

compliant ADJ. yielding; conforming to requirements. Because Joel usually gave in and went along with whatever his friends desired, his mother worried that he might be too *compliant*.

conciliatory ADJ. reconciling; soothing. She was still angry despite his *conciliatory* words. *conciliate*, v.

condone v. overlook; forgive; give tacit approval; excuse. Unlike Widow Douglas, who *condoned* Huck's minor offenses, Miss Watson did nothing but scold.

confound v. confuse; puzzle. No mystery could *confound* Sherlock Holmes for long.

connoisseur N. person competent to act as a judge of art, etc.; a lover of an art. She had developed into a *connoisseur* of fine china.

contention N. claim; thesis. It is our *contention* that, if you follow our tactics, you will boost your score on the GRE. *contend*, v.

contentious ADJ. quarrelsome. Disagreeing violently with the referees' ruling, the coach became so *contentious* that the referees threw him out of the game.

contrite ADJ. penitent. Her *contrite* tears did not influence the judge when he imposed sentence. *contrition*, N.

conundrum N. riddle; difficult problem. During the long car ride, she invented *conundrums* to entertain the children.

converge v. approach; tend to meet; come together. African-American men from all over the United States *converged* on Washington to take part in the historic Million Man March. *convergence*, N.

convoluted ADJ. coiled around; involved; intricate. His argument was so *convoluted* that few of us could follow it intelligently.

craven ADJ. cowardly. Lillian's *craven* refusal to join the protest was criticized by her comrades, who had expected her to be brave enough to stand up for her beliefs.

daunt v. intimidate; frighten. "Boast all you like of your prowess. Mere words cannot *daunt* me," the hero answered the villain.

decorum N. propriety; orderliness and good taste in manners. Even the best-mannered students have trouble behaving with *decorum* on the last day of school. *decorous*, ADJ.

default N. failure to act. When the visiting team failed to show up for the big game, they lost the game by *default*. When Jack failed to make the payments on his Jaguar, the dealership took back the car because he had *defaulted* on his debt.

deference N. courteous regard for another's wish. In *deference* to the minister's request, please do not take photographs during the wedding service.

delineate v. portray; depict; sketch. Using only a few descriptive phrases, Austen *delineates* the character of Mr. Collins so well that we can predict his every move. *delineation*, N.

denigrate v. belittle or defame; blacken. All attempts to *denigrate* the character of our late President have failed; the people still love him and cherish his memory.

deride v. ridicule; make fun of. The critics *derided* his pretentious dialogue and refused to consider his play seriously. *derision*, N.

derivative ADJ. unoriginal; obtained from another source. Although her early poetry was clearly *derivative* in nature, the critics thought she had promise and eventually would find her own voice.

desiccate v. dry up. A tour of this smokehouse will give you an idea of how the pioneers used to *desiccate* food in order to preserve it.

desultory ADJ. aimless; haphazard; digressing at random. In prison Malcolm X set himself the task of reading straight through the dictionary; to him, reading was purposeful, not *desultory*.

deterrant N. something that discourages; hindrance. Does the threat of capital punishment serve as a *deterrant* to potential killers? also ADJ.

diatribe N. bitter scolding; invective. During the lengthy *diatribe* delivered by his opponent he remained calm and self-controlled.

dichotomy N. split; branching into two parts (especially contradictory ones). Willie didn't know how to resolve the *dichotomy* between his ambition to go to college and his childhood longing to run away and join the circus. Then he heard about Ringling Brothers Circus College, and he knew he'd found his school.

diffidence N. shyness. You must overcome your *diffidence* if you intend to become a salesperson.

diffuse ADJ. wordy; rambling; spread out (like a gas). If you pay authors by the word, you tempt them to produce *diffuse* manuscripts rather than brief ones. also v. *diffusion*, N.

digression N. wandering away from the subject. Nobody minded when Professor Renoir's lectures wandered away from their official theme; his *digressions* were always more fascinating than the topic of the day. *digress*, v.

dirge N. lament with music. The funeral *dirge* stirred us to tears.

disabuse v. correct a false impression; undeceive. I will attempt to *disabuse* you of your impression of my client's guilt; I know he is innocent.

discerning ADJ. mentally quick and observant; having insight. Though no genius, the star was sufficiently *discerning* to tell her true friends from the countless phonies who flattered her.

discordant ADJ. not harmonious; conflicting. Nothing is quite so *discordant* as the sound of a junior high school orchestra tuning up.

discredit v. defame; destroy confidence in; disbelieve. The campaign was highly negative in tone; each candidate tried to *discredit* the other.

discrepancy N. lack of consistency; difference. The police noticed some *discrepancies* in his description of the crime and did not believe him.

discrete ADJ. separate; unconnected. The universe is composed of *discrete* bodies.

disingenuous ADJ. lacking genuine candor; insincere. Now that we know the mayor and his wife are engaged in a bitter divorce fight, we find their earlier remarks regretting their lack of time together remarkably *disingenuous*.

disinterested ADJ. unprejudiced. Given the judge's political ambitions and the lawyers' financial interest in the case, the only *disinterested* person in the courtroom may have been the court reporter.

disjointed ADJ. disconnected. His remarks were so *disjointed* that we could not follow his reasoning.

dismiss v. eliminate from consideration; reject. Believing in John's love for her, she *dismissed* the notion that he might be unfaithful. (secondary meaning)

disparage v. belittle. A doting mother, Emma was more likely to praise her son's crude attempts at art than to *disparage* them.

disparate ADJ. basically different; unrelated. Unfortunately, Tony and Tina have *disparate* notions of marriage: Tony sees it as a carefree extended love affair, while Tina sees it as a solemn commitment to build a family and a home.

dissemble v. disguise; pretend. Even though John tried to *dissemble* his motive for taking modern dance, we all knew he was there not to dance but to meet girls.

disseminate v. distribute; spread; scatter (like seeds). By their use of the Internet, propagandists have been able to *disseminate* their pet doctrines to new audiences around the globe.

dissolution N. breaking of a union; decay; termination. Which caused King Lear more suffering: the *dissolution* of his kingdom into warring factions, or the *dissolution* of his aged, failing body? *dissolve*, v.

dissonance N. discord; opposite of harmony. Composer Charles Ives often used *dissonance*—clashing or unresolved chords—for special effects in his musical works. dissonant, ADJ.

distend v. expand; swell out. I can tell when he is under stress by the way the veins *distend* on his forehead.

distill v. purify; refine; concentrate. A moonshiner *distills* mash into whiskey; an epigrammatist *distills* thoughts into quips.

diverge v. vary; go in different directions from the same point. The spokes of the wheel *diverge* from the hub.

divest v. strip; deprive. He was *divested* of his power to act and could no longer govern. divestiture, N.

document v. provide written evidence. She kept all the receipts from her business trip in order to *document* her expenses for the firm. also N.

dogmatic ADJ. opinionated; arbitrary; doctrinal. We tried to discourage Doug from being so *dogmatic*, but never could convince him that his opinions might be wrong.

dormant ADJ. sleeping; lethargic; latent. At fifty her long-*dormant* ambition to write flared up once more; within a year she had completed the first of her great historical novels. dormancy, N.

dupe N. someone easily fooled. While the gullible Watson often was made a *dupe* by unscrupulous parties, Sherlock Holmes was far more difficult to fool.

ebullient ADJ. showing excitement; overflowing with enthusiasm. Amy's *ebullient* nature could not be repressed; she was always bubbling over with excitement. ebullience, N.

eclectic ADJ. selective; composed of elements drawn from disparate sources. His style of interior decoration was *eclectic*: bits and pieces of furnishings from widely divergent periods, strikingly juxtaposed to create a unique decor. eclecticism, N.

efficacy N. power to produce desired effect. The *efficacy* of this drug depends on the regularity of the dosage. efficacious, ADJ.

effrontery N. insolent boldness; temerity. The classic example of unmitigated *effrontery* or "chutzpah" is the man who killed his parents and then asked the judge for mercy because he was an orphan.

elegy N. poem or song expressing lamentation. On the death of Edward King, Milton composed the *elegy* "Lycidas." elegiacal, ADJ.

elicit v. draw out by discussion. The detectives tried to *elicit* where he had hidden his loot.

embellish v. adorn; ornament; enhance, as a story. The costume designer *embellished* the leading lady's ball gown with yards and yards of ribbon and lace.

empirical ADJ. based on experience. He distrusted hunches and intuitive flashes; he placed his reliance entirely on *empirical* data.

emulate v. imitate; rival. In a brief essay, describe a person you admire, someone whose virtues you would like to *emulate*.

endemic ADJ. prevailing among a specific group of people or in a specific area or country. This disease is *endemic* in this part of the world; more than 80 percent of the population are at one time or another affected by it.

enervate v. weaken. She was slow to recover from her illness; even a short walk to the window *enervated* her. enervation, N.

engender v. cause; produce. To receive praise for real accomplishments *engenders* self-confidence in a child.

enhance v. increase; improve. You can *enhance* your chances of being admitted to the college of your choice by learning to write well; an excellent essay can *enhance* any application.

ephemeral ADJ. short-lived; fleeting. The mayfly is an *ephemeral* creature: its adult life lasts little more than a day.

equanimity N. calmness of temperament; composure. Even the inevitable strains of caring for an ailing mother did not disturb Bea's *equanimity*.

equivocate v. intentionally mislead; attempt to conceal the truth. Rejecting the candidate's attempts to *equivocate* about his views on abortion, the reporters pressed him to state clearly where he stood on the issue. equivocal, ADJ.

erudite ADJ. learned; scholarly. Though his fellow students thought him *erudite*, Paul knew he would have to spend many years in serious study before he could consider himself a scholar. erudition, N.

esoteric ADJ. hard to understand; known only to the chosen few. *New Yorker* short stories often include *esoteric* allusions to obscure people and events; the implication is, if you are in the in-crowd, you'll get the reference; if you come from Cleveland, you won't. esoterica, N.

eulogy N. expression of praise, often on the occasion of someone's death. Instead of delivering a spoken *eulogy* at Genny's memorial service, Jeff sang a song he had written in her honor. eulogize, v.

euphemism N. mild expression in place of an unpleasant one. The expression "he passed away" is a *euphemism* for "he died."

exacerbate v. worsen; embitter. The latest bombing *exacerbated* England's already existing bitterness against the IRA, causing the Prime Minister to break off the peace talks abruptly. exacerbation, N.

exculpate v. clear from blame. She was *exculpated* of the crime when the real criminal confessed.

exigency N. urgent state; demand or requirement. Given the *exigency* of the current near-riot conditions, the mayor felt it necessary to call for federal help. Packing enough food and fuel to last the week, the hiker felt well prepared to face the *exigencies* of wilderness life. *exigent*. ADJ.

extrapolation N. projection; conjecture. Based on their *extrapolation* from the results of the primaries on Super Tuesday, the networks predicted that George Bush would be the Republican candidate for the presidency. *extrapolate*, v.

facetious ADJ. joking (often inappropriately); humorous. I'm serious about this project; I don't need any *facetious*, smart-alecky cracks about do-good little rich girls.

facilitate v. help bring about; make less difficult. Rest and proper nourishment should *facilitate* the patient's recovery.

fallacious ADJ. false; misleading. Paradoxically, *fallacious* reasoning does not always yield erroneous results; even though your logic may be faulty, the answer you get may be correct. *fallacy*, N.

fatuous ADJ. foolish; inane. She is far too intelligent to utter such *fatuous* remarks.

fawning ADJ. courting favor by cringing and flattering. She was constantly surrounded by a group of *fawning* admirers who hoped to win her favor. *fawn*, v.

felicitous ADJ. apt; suitably expressed; well chosen. Famous for his *felicitous* remarks, he was called upon to serve as master-of-ceremonies at many a banquet.

fervor N. glowing ardor; intensity of feeling. At the protest rally, the students cheered the strikers and booed the dean with equal *fervor*.

flag v. droop; grow feeble. When the opposing hockey team scored its third goal only minutes into the first period, the home team's spirits *flagged*. *flagging*, ADJ.

fledgling ADJ. inexperienced. While it is necessary to provide these *fledgling* poets with an opportunity to present their work, it is not essential that we admire everything they write. also N.

flout v. reject; mock. The headstrong youth *flouted* all authority; he refused to be curbed.

foment v. stir up; instigate. Cher's archenemy Heather spread some nasty rumors that *fomented* trouble in the club. Do you think Cher's foe meant to *foment* such discord?

forestall v. prevent by taking action in advance. By setting up a prenuptial agreement, the prospective bride and groom hoped to *forestall* any potential arguments about money in the event of a divorce.

frugality N. thrift; economy. In these economically difficult days businesses must practice *frugality* or risk bankruptcy. *frugal*, ADJ.

futile ADJ. useless; hopeless; ineffectual. It is *futile* for me to try to get any work done around here while the telephone is ringing every 30 seconds. *futility*, N.

gainsay v. deny. She was too honest to *gainsay* the truth of the report.

garrulous ADJ. loquacious; wordy; talkative. My Uncle Henry can out-talk any other three people I know. He is the most *garrulous* person in Cayuga County. *garrulity*, N.

goad v. urge on. She was *goaded* by her friends until she yielded to their wishes. also N.

gouge v. overcharge. During the World Series, ticket scalpers tried to *gouge* the public, asking astronomical prices even for bleacher seats.

grandiloquent ADJ. pompous; bombastic; using high-sounding language. The politician could never speak simply; she was always *grandiloquent*.

gregarious ADJ. sociable. Typically, party-throwers are *gregarious*; hermits are not.

guileless ADJ. without deceit. He is naive, simple, and *guileless*; he cannot be guilty of fraud.

gullible ADJ. easily deceived. *Gullible* people have only themselves to blame if they fall for con artists repeatedly. As the saying goes, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

harangue N. long, passionate, and vehement speech. In her lengthy *harangue*, the principal berated the offenders. also v.

homogeneous ADJ. of the same kind. Because the student body at Elite Prep was so *homogeneous*, Sara and James decided to send their daughter to a school that offered greater cultural diversity. *homogeneity*, N.

hyperbole N. exaggeration; overstatement. As far as I'm concerned, Apple's claims about the new computer are pure *hyperbole*; no machine is that good! *hyperbolic*, ADJ.

iconoclastic ADJ. attacking cherished traditions. Deeply *iconoclastic*, Jean Genet deliberately set out to shock conventional theatergoers with his radical plays. *iconoclasm*, N.

idolatry N. worship of idols; excessive admiration. Little Johnny's adoration of his babysitter verged on *idolatry*; in his eyes, Lydia could do no wrong.

immutable ADJ. unchangeable. All things change over time; nothing is *immutable*.

impair v. injure; hurt. Drinking alcohol can *impair* your ability to drive safely; if you're going to drink, don't drive.

impassive ADJ. without feeling; imperturbable; stoical. Refusing to let the enemy see how deeply shaken he was by his capture, the prisoner kept his face *impassive*.

impede v. hinder; block. The special prosecutor determined that the Attorney General, though inept, had not intentionally set out to *impede* the progress of the investigation.

impermeable ADJ. impervious; not permitting passage through its substance. This new material is *impermeable* to liquids; it will be an excellent fabric for raincoats.

imperturbable ADJ. calm; placid. Wellington remained *imperturbable* and in full command of the situation in spite of the hysteria and panic all around him. *imperturbability*, N.

impervious ADJ. impenetrable; incapable of being damaged or distressed. The carpet salesman told Simone that his most expensive brand of floor covering was warranted to be *impervious* to ordinary wear and tear. Having read so many negative reviews of his acting, the movie star had learned to ignore them, and was now *impervious* to criticism.

implacable ADJ. incapable of being pacified. Madame Defarge was the *implacable* enemy of the Evremonde family.

implicit ADJ. understood but not stated. Jack never told Jill he adored her; he believed his love was *implicit* in his deeds.

implode v. burst inward. If you break a vacuum tube, the glass tube *implodes*. *implosion*, N.

inadvertently ADV. unintentionally; by oversight; carelessly. Judy's great fear was that she might *inadvertently* omit a question on the exam and mismark her whole answer sheet.

inchoate ADJ. recently begun; rudimentary; elementary. Before the Creation, the world was an *inchoate* mass.

incongruity N. lack of harmony; absurdity. The *incongruity* of his wearing sneakers with formal attire amused the observers. *incongruous*, ADJ.

inconsequential ADJ. insignificant; unimportant. Brushing off Ali's apologies for having broken the wine glass, Tamara said, "Don't worry about it; it's *inconsequential*."

incorporate v. introduce something into a larger whole; combine; unite. Breaking with precedent, President Truman ordered the military to *incorporate* blacks into every branch of the armed services. also ADJ.

indeterminate ADJ. uncertain; not clearly fixed; indefinite. That interest rates shall rise appears certain; when they will do so, however, remains *indeterminate*.

indigence N. poverty. Neither the economists nor the political scientists have found a way to wipe out the inequities of wealth and eliminate *indigence* from our society.

indolent ADJ. lazy. Couch potatoes lead an *indolent* life lying back in their Lazyboy recliners watching TV. *indolence*, N.

inert ADJ. inactive; lacking power to move. "Get up, you *lazybones*," Tina cried to Tony, who lay in bed *inert*. *inertia*, N.

ingenuous ADJ. naive and trusting; young; unsophisticated. The woodsman did not realize how *ingenuous* Little Red Riding Hood was until he heard that she had gone off for a walk in the woods with the Big Bad Wolf. *ingenuie*, N.

inherent ADJ. firmly established by nature or habit. Katya's *inherent* love of justice caused her to champion anyone she considered to be treated unfairly by society.

innocuous ADJ. harmless. An occasional glass of wine with dinner is relatively *innocuous* and should have no ill effect on most people.

insensible ADJ. unconscious; unresponsive. Sherry and I are very different; at times when I would be covered with embarrassment, she seems *insensible* to shame.

insinuate v. hint; imply; creep in. When you said I looked robust, did you mean to *insinuate* that I'm getting fat?

insipid ADJ. lacking in flavor; dull. Flat prose and flat ginger ale are equally *insipid*; both lack sparkle.

insularity N. narrow-mindedness; isolation. The *insularity* of the islanders manifested itself in their suspicion of anything foreign. *insular*, ADJ.

intractable ADJ. unruly; stubborn; unyielding. Charlie Brown's friend Pigpen was *intractable*; he absolutely refused to take a bath.

intransigence N. refusal of any compromise; stubbornness. The negotiating team had not expected such *intransigence* from the striking workers, who rejected any hint of a compromise. *intransigent*, ADJ.

inundate v. overwhelm; flood; submerge. This semester I am *inundated* with work; you should see the piles of paperwork flooding my desk. Until the great dam was built, the waters of the Nile used to *inundate* the river valley every year.

inured ADJ. accustomed; hardened. Although she became *inured* to the Alaskan cold, she could not grow accustomed to the lack of sunlight.

invective N. abuse. He had expected criticism but not the *invective* that greeted his proposal.

irascible ADJ. irritable; easily angered. Miss Minchin's *irascible* temper intimidated the younger schoolgirls, who feared she'd burst into a rage at any moment.

irresolute ADJ. uncertain how to act; weak. Once you have made your decision, don't waver; a leader should never appear *irresolute*.

itinerary N. plan of a trip. Disliking sudden changes in plans when she traveled abroad, Ethel refused to make any alterations in her *itinerary*.

laconic ADJ. brief and to the point. Many of the characters portrayed by Clint Eastwood are *laconic* types: strong men of few words.

lassitude N. languor; weariness. After a massage and a long soak in the hot tub, I surrendered to my growing *lassitude* and lay down for a nap.

latent ADJ. potential but undeveloped; dormant; hidden. Polaroid pictures are popular at parties because you can see the *latent* photographic image gradually appear before your eyes. latency, N.

laud v. praise. The NFL *lauded* Boomer Esiason's efforts to raise money to combat cystic fibrosis. also N. laudable, laudatory, ADJ.

lethargic ADJ. drowsy; dull. The stuffy room made her *lethargic*: she felt as if she was about to nod off. lethargy, N.

levee N. earthen or stone embankment to prevent flooding. As the river rose and threatened to overflow the *levee*, emergency workers rushed to reinforce the walls with sandbags.

levity N. lack of seriousness or steadiness; frivolity. Stop giggling and wriggling around in the pew; such *levity* is improper in church.

log N. record of a voyage or flight; record of day-to-day activities. "Flogged two seamen today for insubordination," wrote Captain Bligh in the *Bounty's log*. To see how much work I've accomplished recently, just take a look at the number of new files listed on my computer *log*. also v.

loquacious ADJ. talkative. Though our daughter barely says a word to us these days, put a phone in her hand and see how *loquacious* she can be; our phone bills are out of sight! loquacity, N.

lucid ADJ. easily understood; clear; intelligible. Lexy makes an excellent teacher; her explanations of technical points are *lucid* enough for a child to grasp. lucidity, N.

luminous ADJ. shining; issuing light. The sun is a *luminous* body.

magnanimity N. generosity. Noted for his *magnanimity*, philanthropist Eugene Lang donated millions to charity. magnanimous, ADJ.

malingerer N. one who feigns illness to escape duty. The captain ordered the sergeant to punish all *malingerer*s and force them to work. malingering, v.

malleable ADJ. capable of being shaped by pounding; impressionable. Gold is a *malleable* metal, easily shaped into bracelets and rings. Fagin hoped Oliver was a *malleable* lad, easily shaped into a thief.

maverick N. rebel; nonconformist. To the masculine literary establishment, George Sand with her insistence on wearing trousers and smoking cigars was clearly a *maverick* who fought her proper womanly role.

mendacious ADJ. lying; habitually dishonest. Distrusting Huck from the start, Miss Watson assumed he was *mendacious* and refused to believe a word he said. mendacity, N.

metamorphosis N. change of form. The *metamorphosis* of caterpillar to butterfly is typical of many such changes in animal life. metamorphose, v.

meticulous ADJ. excessively careful; painstaking; scrupulous. Martha Stewart was a *meticulous* housekeeper, fussing about each and every detail that went into making up her perfect home.

misanthrope N. one who hates mankind. In *Gulliver's Travels*, Swift portrays human beings as vile, degraded beasts; for this reason, various critics consider him a *misanthrope*. misanthropic, ADJ.

mitigate v. appease; moderate. Nothing Jason did could *mitigate* Medea's anger; she refused to forgive him for betraying her.

mollify v. soothe. The airline customer service representative tried to *mollify* the angry passenger by offering her a seat in first class.

morose ADJ. ill-humored; sullen; melancholy. Forced to take early retirement, Bill acted *morose* for months; then, all of a sudden, he shook off his gloom and was his usual cheerful self.

mundane ADJ. worldly as opposed to spiritual; everyday. Uninterested in philosophical or spiritual discussions, Tom talked only of *mundane* matters such as the daily weather forecast or the latest basketball results.

negate v. cancel out; nullify; deny. A sudden surge of adrenalin can *negate* the effects of fatigue; there's nothing like a good shock to wake you up. negation, N.

neophyte N. recent convert; beginner. This mountain slope contains slides that will challenge experts as well as *neophytes*.

obdurate ADJ. stubborn. He was *obdurate* in his refusal to listen to our complaints.

obsequious ADJ. slavishly attentive; servile; sycophantic. Helen valued people who behaved as if they respected themselves; nothing irritated her more than an excessively *obsequious* waiter or a fawning salesclerk.

obviate v. make unnecessary; prevent problems. If you can house-sit for me for the next two weeks, that will *obviate* my need to find someone to feed the cats while I am gone.

occlude v. shut; close. A blood clot partially *occluded* a coronary artery, obstructing the flow of arterial blood. *occlusion*, n.

officious ADJ. meddlesome; excessively pushy in offering one's services. After her long flight, Jill just wanted to nap, but the *officious* bellboy was intent on showing her all the special features of the deluxe suite.

onerous ADJ. burdensome. She asked for an assistant because her work load was too *onerous*.

opprobrium N. infamy; vilification. He refused to defend himself against the slander and *opprobrium* hurled against him by the newspapers; he preferred to rely on his record.

oscillate v. vibrate pendulumlike; waver. It is interesting to note how public opinion *oscillates* between the extremes of optimism and pessimism.

ostentatious ADJ. showy; pretentious; trying to attract attention. Trump's latest casino in Atlantic City is the most *ostentatious* gambling palace in the East; it easily out-glitters its competitors. *ostentation*, n.

paragon N. model of perfection. Her fellow students disliked Lavinia because Miss Minchin always pointed her out as a *paragon* of virtue.

partisan ADJ. one-sided; prejudiced; committed to a party. Rather than joining forces to solve our nation's problems, the Democrats and Republicans spend their time on *partisan* struggles. also n.

pathological ADJ. related to the study of disease; diseased or markedly abnormal. Jerome's *pathological* fear of germs led him to wash his hands a hundred times a day. *pathology*, n.

paucity N. scarcity. They closed the restaurant because the *paucity* of customers made it uneconomical to operate.

pedantic ADJ. showing off learning; bookish. Leavening her decisions with humorous, down-to-earth anecdotes, Judge Judy was not at all the *pedantic* legal scholar. *pedantry*, n.

penchant N. strong inclination; liking. Dave has a *penchant* for taking risks; one semester he went steady with three girls, two of whom were stars on the school karate team.

penury N. severe poverty; stinginess. When his pension fund failed, George feared he would end his days in *penury*. He became such a penny-pincher that he turned into a closefisted, *penurious* miser.

perennial N. something long-lasting. These plants are hardy *perennials* and will bloom for many years. also ADJ.

perfidious ADJ. treacherous; disloyal. When Caesar realized that Brutus had betrayed him, he reproached his *perfidious* friend. *perfidy*, n.

perfunctory ADJ. superficial; not thorough; lacking interest, care, or enthusiasm. The auditor's *perfunctory* inspection of the books overlooked many errors.

permeable ADJ. penetrable; porous; allowing liquids or gas to pass through. If your jogging clothes weren't made out of *permeable* fabric, you'd drown in your own sweat (figuratively speaking). *permeate*, v.

pervasive ADJ. spread throughout. Despite airing them for several hours, she could not rid her clothes of the *pervasive* odor of mothballs that clung to them. *pervade*, v.

phlegmatic ADJ. calm; not easily disturbed. The nurse was a cheerful but *phlegmatic* person, unexcited in the face of sudden emergencies.

piety N. devoutness; reverence for God. Living her life in prayer and good works, Mother Teresa exemplified the true spirit of *piety*. *pious*, ADJ.

placate v. pacify; conciliate. The store manager tried to *placate* the angry customer, offering to replace the damaged merchandise or to give back her money.

plasticity N. ability to be molded. When clay dries out, it loses its *plasticity* and becomes less malleable.

platitude N. trite remark; commonplace statement. In giving advice to his son, old Polonius expressed himself only in *platitudes*; every word out of his mouth was a truism.

plethora N. excess; overabundance. She offered a *plethora* of excuses for her shortcomings.

plummet v. fall sharply. Stock prices *plummeted* as Wall Street reacted to the rise in interest rates.

porous ADJ. full of pores; like a sieve. Dancers like to wear *porous* clothing because it allows the ready passage of water and air.

pragmatic ADJ. practical (as opposed to idealistic); concerned with the practical worth or impact of something. This coming trip to France should provide me with a *pragmatic* test of the value of my conversational French class.

preamble N. introductory statement. In the *Preamble* to the Constitution, the purpose of the document is set forth.

precarious ADJ. uncertain; risky. Saying the stock was currently overpriced and would be a *precarious* investment, the broker advised her client against purchasing it.

precipitate ADJ. rash; premature; hasty; sudden. Though I was angry enough to resign on the spot, I had enough sense to keep myself from quitting a job in such a *precipitate* fashion.

precursor N. forerunner. Though Gray and Burns share many traits with the Romantic poets who followed them, most critics consider them *precursors* of the Romantic Movement, not true Romantics.

presumptuous ADJ. overconfident; impertinently bold; taking liberties. Matilda thought it *presumptuous* of the young man to address her without first being introduced. Perhaps manners were freer here in the New World. presumption, N.

prevaricate v. lie. Some people believe that to *prevaricate* in a good cause is justifiable and regard such misleading *prevarications* as “white lies.”

pristine ADJ. characteristic of earlier times; primitive, unspoiled. This area has been preserved in all its *pristine* wildness.

probity N. uprightness; incorruptibility. Everyone took his *probity* for granted; his defalcations, therefore, shocked us all.

problematic ADJ. doubtful; unsettled; questionable; perplexing. Given the way building costs have exceeded estimates for the job, whether the arena will ever be completed is *problematic*.

prodigal ADJ. wasteful; reckless with money. Don’t be so *prodigal* spending my money; when you’ve earned some money, you can waste as much of it as you want! also N.

profound ADJ. deep; not superficial; complete. Freud’s remarkable insights into human behavior caused his fellow scientists to honor him as a *profound* thinker. profundity, N.

prohibitive ADJ. tending to prevent the purchase or use of something; inclined to prevent or forbid. Susie wanted to buy a new Volvo but had to settle for a used Dodge because the new car’s price was *prohibitive*. prohibition, N.

proliferate v. grow rapidly; spread; multiply. Times of economic hardship inevitably encourage countless get-rich-quick schemes to *proliferate*. proliferation, N.

propensity N. natural inclination. Convinced of his own talent, Sol has an unfortunate *propensity* to belittle the talents of others.

propitiate v. appease. The natives offered sacrifices to *propitiate* the angry gods.

propriety N. fitness; correct conduct. Miss Manners counsels her readers so that they may behave with *propriety* in any social situation and not embarrass themselves.

proscribe v. ostracize; banish; outlaw. Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus *proscribed* all those who had conspired against Julius Caesar.

pungent ADJ. stinging; sharp in taste or smell; caustic. The *pungent* odor of ripe Limburger cheese appealed to Simone but made Stanley gag. pungency, N.

qualified ADJ. limited; restricted. Unable to give the candidate full support, the mayor gave him only a *qualified* endorsement. (secondary meaning)

quibble N. minor objection or complaint. Aside from a few hundred teensy-weensy *quibbles* about the set, the script, the actors, the director, the costumes, the lighting, and the props, the hypercritical critic loved the play. also v.

quiescent ADJ. at rest; dormant; temporarily inactive. After the devastating eruption, fear of Mount Etna was great; people did not return to cultivate its rich hillside lands until the volcano had been *quiescent* for a full two years. quiescence, N.

rarefied ADJ. made less dense [of a gas]. The mountain climbers had difficulty breathing in the *rarefied* atmosphere. rarefy, v. rarefaction, N.

recalcitrant ADJ. obstinately stubborn; determined to resist authority; unruly. Which animal do you think is more *recalcitrant*, a pig or a mule?

recant v. disclaim or disavow; retract a previous statement; openly confess error. Hoping to make Joan of Arc *recant* her sworn testimony, her English captors tried to convince her that her visions had been sent to her by the Devil.

recluse N. hermit; loner. Disappointed in love, Miss Emily became a *recluse*; she shut herself away in her empty mansion and refused to see another living soul. reclusive, ADJ.

recondite ADJ. difficult to understand; profound; secret. While Holmes happily explored arcane subjects such as paleography and ancient Near Eastern languages, Watson claimed they were far too *recondite* for a simple chap like him.

refractory ADJ. stubborn; unmanageable. The *refractory* horse was eliminated from the race when he refused to obey the jockey.

refute v. disprove. The defense called several respectable witnesses who were able to *refute* the false testimony of the prosecution’s only witness. refutation, N.

relegate v. banish to an inferior position; delegate; assign. After Ralph dropped his second tray of drinks that week, the manager swiftly *relegated* him to a minor post cleaning up behind the bar.

reproach v. express disapproval or disappointment. He never could do anything wrong without imagining how the look on his mother’s face would *reproach* him afterwards. also N. reproachful, ADJ.

reprobate N. scoundrel; person lacking moral principles. In Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the Duke and the Dauphin are a pair of drunken *reprobates*, con men ready to swindle a poor widow out of her last dollar.

repudiate v. disown; disavow. On separating from Tony, Tina announced that she would *repudiate* all debts incurred by her soon-to-be ex-husband.

rescind v. cancel. Because of the public outcry against the new taxes, the senator proposed a bill to *rescind* the unpopular financial measure.

resolution N. determination. Nothing could shake his *resolution* to succeed despite all difficulties. resolute, ADJ.

resolve N. determination; firmness of purpose. How dare you question my *resolve* to take up sky-diving! Of course I haven't changed my mind! also v.

reticent ADJ. reserved; uncommunicative; inclined to silence. Fearing his competitors might get advance word about his plans from talkative staff members, Hughes preferred *reticent* employees to loquacious ones. reticence, N.

reverent ADJ. respectful; worshipful. Though I bow my head in church and recite the prayers, sometimes I don't feel properly *reverent*. revere, v. reverence, N.

sage N. person celebrated for wisdom. Hearing tales of a mysterious Master of All Knowledge who lived in the hills of Tibet, Sandy was possessed with a burning desire to consult the legendary *sage*. also ADJ.

salubrious ADJ. healthful. Many people with hay fever move to more *salubrious* sections of the country during the months of August and September.

sanction v. approve; ratify. Nothing will convince me to *sanction* the engagement of my daughter to such a worthless young man.

satiate v. satisfy fully. Having stuffed themselves until they were *satiated*, the guests were so full they were ready for a nap.

saturate v. soak thoroughly. Thorough watering is the key to lawn care; you must *saturate* your new lawn well to encourage its growth.

savor v. enjoy; have a distinctive flavor, smell, or quality. Relishing his triumph, Costner especially *savored* the chagrin of the critics who had predicted his failure.

secrete v. hide away or cache; produce and release a substance into an organism. The pack rat *secretes* odds and ends in its nest; the pancreas *secretes* insulin in the islets of Langerhans.

shard N. fragment, generally of pottery. The archaeologist assigned several students the task of reassembling earthenware vessels from the *shards* he had brought back from the expedition.

skeptic N. doubter; person who suspends judgment until having examined the evidence supporting a point of view. I am a *skeptic* about the new health plan; I want some proof that it can work. skeptical, ADJ. skepticism, N.

solicitous ADJ. worried, concerned. The employer was very *solicitous* about the health of her employees as replacements were difficult to get. solicitude, N.

soporific ADJ. sleep-causing; marked by sleepiness. Professor Pringle's lectures were so *soporific* that even he fell asleep in class. also N.

specious ADJ. seemingly reasonable but incorrect; misleading (often intentionally). To claim that, because houses and birds both have wings, both can fly is extremely *specious* reasoning.

spectrum N. colored band produced when a beam of light passes through a prism. The visible portion of the *spectrum* includes red at one end and violet at the other.

sporadic ADJ. occurring irregularly. Although you can still hear *sporadic* outbursts of laughter and singing outside, the big Halloween parade has passed; the party's over till next year.

stigma N. token of disgrace; brand. I do not attach any *stigma* to the fact that you were accused of this crime; the fact that you were acquitted clears you completely. stigmatize, N.

stint v. be thrifty; set limits. "Spare no expense," the bride's father said, refusing to *stint* on the wedding arrangements.

stipulate v. make express conditions, specify. Before agreeing to reduce American military forces in Europe, the president *stipulated* that NATO teams be allowed to inspect Soviet bases.

stolid ADJ. dull; impassive. The earthquake shattered Stuart's usual *stolid* demeanor; trembling, he crouched on the no longer stable ground. stolidity, N.

striated ADJ. marked with parallel bands; grooved. The glacier left many *striated* rocks. striate, v.

strut N. pompous walk. His *strut* as he marched about the parade ground revealed him for what he was: a pompous buffoon. also v.

strut N. supporting bar. The engineer calculated that the *strut* supporting the rafter needed to be reinforced. (secondary meaning)

subpoena N. writ of summoning a witness to appear. The prosecutor's office was ready to serve a *subpoena* on the reluctant witness. also v.

subside v. settle down; descend; grow quiet. The doctor assured us that the fever would eventually *subside*.

substantiate v. establish by evidence; verify; support. These endorsements from satisfied customers *substantiate* our claim that Barron's *New GRE* is the best GRE-prep book on the market.

supersede v. cause to be set aside; replace; make obsolete. Bulk mailing postal regulation 326D *supersedes* bulk mailing postal regulation 326C. If, in bundling your bulk mailing, you follow regulation 326C, your bulk mailing will be returned. *supersession*, n.

supposition n. hypothesis; surmise. I based my decision to confide in him on the *supposition* that he would be discreet. *suppose*, v.

tacit adj. understood; not put into words. We have a *tacit* agreement based on only a handshake.

tangential adj. peripheral; only slightly connected; digressing. Despite Clark's attempts to distract her with *tangential* remarks, Lois kept on coming back to her main question: why couldn't he come out to dinner with Superman and her?

tenuous adj. thin; rare; slim. The allegiance of our allies is held by rather *tenuous* ties; let us hope they will remain loyal.

tirade n. extended scolding; denunciation; harangue. Every time the boss holds a meeting, he goes into a lengthy *tirade*, scolding us for everything from tardiness to padding our expenses.

torpor n. lethargy; sluggishness; dormancy. Throughout the winter, nothing aroused the bear from his *torpor*; he would not emerge from hibernation until spring. *torpid*, adj.

tortuous adj. winding; full of curves. Because this road is so *tortuous*, it is unwise to go faster than twenty miles an hour on it.

tractable adj. docile; easily managed. Although Susan seemed a *tractable* young woman, she had a stubborn streak of independence that occasionally led her to defy the powers-that-be when she felt they were in the wrong. *tractability*, n.

transgression n. violation of a law; sin. Forgive us our *transgressions*; we know not what we do. *transgress*, v.

truculence n. aggressiveness; ferocity. Tynan's reviews were noted for their caustic attacks and general tone of *truculence*. *truculent*, adj.

vacillate v. waver; fluctuate. Uncertain which suitor she ought to marry, the princess *vacillated*, saying now one, now the other. *vacillation*, n.

venerate v. revere. In Tibet today, the common people still *venerate* their traditional spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

veracious adj. truthful. Did you believe that Kato Kaelin was *veracious* when he testified about what he heard the night Nicole Brown Simpson was slain? Some people question his *veracity*.

verbose adj. wordy. We had to make some major cuts in Senator Foghorn's speech because it was far too *verbose*. *verbosity*, n.

viable adj. practical or workable; capable of maintaining life. That idea won't work. Let me see whether I can come up with a *viable* alternative. *viability*, n.

viscous adj. sticky, gluey. Melted tar is a *viscous* substance. *viscosity*, n.

vituperative adj. abusive; scolding. He became more *vituperative* as he realized that we were not going to grant him his wish.

volatile adj. changeable; explosive; evaporating rapidly. The political climate today is extremely *volatile*; no one can predict what the electorate will do next. Maria Callas's temper was extremely *volatile*; the only thing you could predict was that she would blow up. Acetone is an extremely *volatile* liquid; it evaporates instantly. *volatility*, n.

warranted adj. justified; authorized. Before the judge issues the injunction, you must convince her this action is *warranted*.

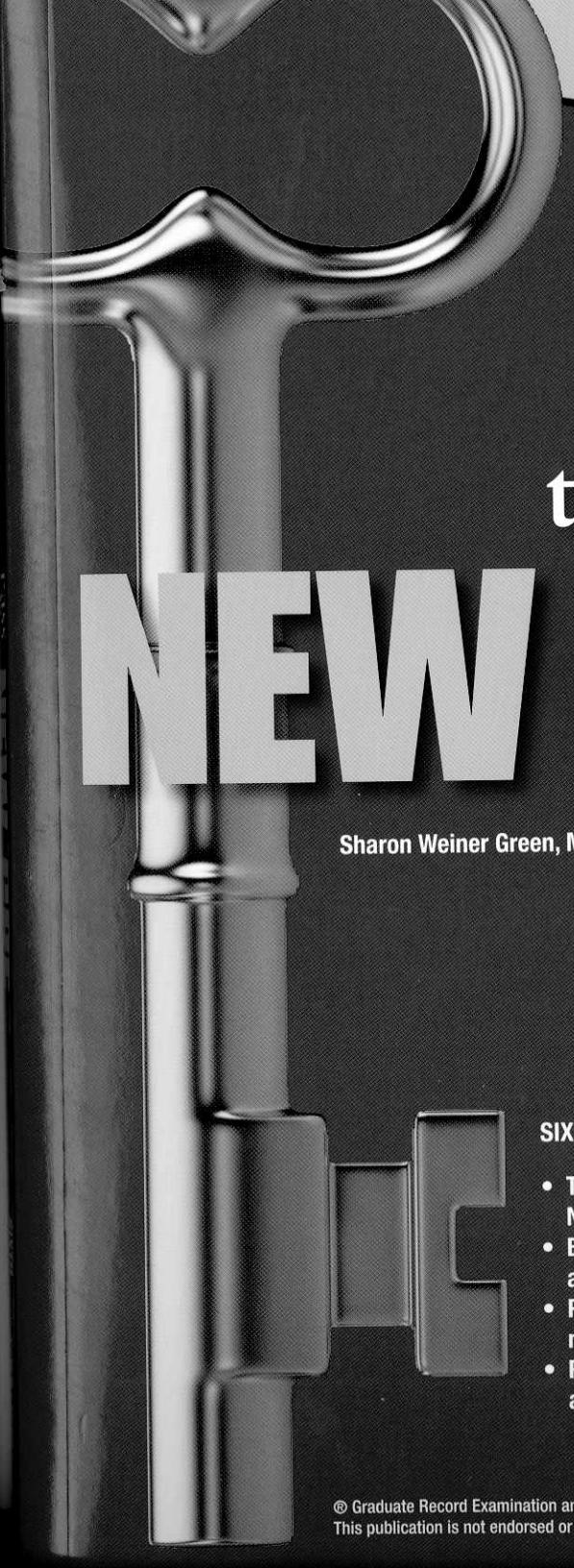
wary adj. very cautious. The spies grew *wary* as they approached the sentry.

welter n. turmoil; bewildering jumble. The existing *welter* of overlapping federal and state programs cries out for immediate reform.

whimsical n. capricious; fanciful. In *Mrs. Doubtfire*, the hero is a playful, *whimsical* man who takes a notion to dress up as a woman so that he can look after his children, who are in the custody of his ex-wife. *whimsy*, n.

zealot n. fanatic; person who shows excessive zeal. Though Glenn was devout, he was no *zealot*; he never tried to force his religious beliefs on his friends.

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