Day 14:

1. untoward

**adjective:** unfavorable; inconvenient

*Ex: Some professors find teaching****untoward****as having to prepare for lectures and conduct office hours prevents them from focusing on their research.*

1. zeitgeist

**noun:** spirit of the times

*Ex: Each decade has its own****zeitgeist****—the 1990’s was a prosperous time in which the promise of the American Dream never seemed more palpable.*

1. anathema

**noun:** a detested person; the source of somebody's hate

*Ex: Hundreds of years ago, Galileo was****anathema****to the church; today the church is****anathema****to some on the left side of the political spectrum.*

1. apogee

**noun:** the highest point

*Ex: The****apogee****of the Viennese style of music, Mozart’s music continues to mesmerize audiences well into the 21st century.*

1. equivocate

**verb:** to speak vaguely, usually with the intention to mislead or deceive

*Ex: After Sharon brought the car home an hour after her curfew, she****equivocated****when her parents pointedly asked her where she had been.*

1. kowtow

**verb:** to bow or act in a subservient manner

*Ex: Paul****kowtowed****to his boss so often the boss herself became nauseated by his sycophancy.*

1. nadir

**noun:** the lowest point

*Ex: For many pop music fans, the rap– and alternative-rock–dominated 90s were the****nadir****of musical expression.*

1. alacrity

**noun:** an eager willingness to do something

*Ex: The first three weeks at his new job, Mark worked with such****alacrity****that upper management knew it would be giving him a promotion.*

1. exegesis

**noun:** critical explanation or analysis, especially of a text

*Ex: The Bible is fertile ground for****exegesis****—over the past five centuries there have been as many interpretations as there are pages in the Old Testament.*

1. prosaic

**adjective:** dull and lacking imagination

*Ex: Unlike the talented artists in his workshop, Paul had no such bent for the visual medium, so when it was time for him to make a stained glass painting, he ended up with a****prosaic****mosaic.*

1. vicissitude

**noun:** change in one’s circumstances, usually for the worse

*Ex: Even great rulers have their****vicissitudes****—massive kingdoms have diminished overnight, and once beloved kings have faced the scorn of angry masses.*

1. choleric

**adjective:** prone to outbursts of temper; easily angered

*Ex: While a brilliant lecturer, Mr. Dawson came across as****choleric****and unapproachable—very rarely did students come to his office hours.*

1. expansive

**adjective:** communicative, and prone to talking in a sociable manner

*Ex: After a few sips of cognac, the octogenarian shed his irascible demeanor and became****expansive****, speaking fondly of the “good old days”.*

This word has other definitions but this is the most important one to study

1. penurious

**adjective:** lacking money; poor

*Ex: Truly****penurious****, Mary had nothing more than a jar full of pennies.*

**adjective:** miserly

*Ex: Warren Buffett, famous multi-billionaire, still drives a cheap sedan, not because he is****penurious****, but because luxury cars are gaudy and impractical.*

1. conciliate

**verb:** to make peace with

*Ex: His opponents believed his gesture to be****conciliatory****, yet as soon as they put down their weapons, he unsheathed a hidden sword.*

1. factious

**adjective:** produced by, or characterized by internal dissension

*Ex: The controversial bill proved****factious****, as dissension even within parties resulted*

1. perfunctory

**adjective:** done routinely and with little interest or care

*Ex: The short film examines modern****perfunctory****cleaning rituals such as washing dishes, doing laundry and tooth-brushing.*

1. attenuate

**verb:** to weaken (in terms of intensity); to taper off/become thinner.

*Ex: Her animosity towards Bob****attenuated****over the years, and she even went so far as to invite him to her party.*

1. indigent

**adjective:** poor; having very little

*Ex: In the so-called Third World, many are****indigent****and only a privileged few have the resources to enjoy material luxuries.*

**noun:** a poor or needy person

*Ex: The****indigents****, huddled under the overpass, tried to start a small bonfire in the hope of staying warm.*

1. apostate

**noun:** a person who has abandoned a religious faith or cause

*Ex: An****apostate****of the Republican Party, Sheldon has yet to become affiliated with any party and dubs himself an independent.*

1. truculent

**adjective:** having a fierce, savage nature

*Ex: Standing in line for six hours, she became progressively****truculent****, yelling at DMV employees and elbowing other people waiting in line.*

1. arrant

**adjective:** complete and wholly (usually modifying a noun with negative connotation)

*Ex: An****arrant****fool, Lawrence surprised nobody when he lost all his money in a pyramid scheme that was every bit as transparent as it was corrupt.*

1. overweening

**adjective:** arrogant; presumptuous

*Ex: Mark was so convinced of his basketball skills that in his****overweening****pride he could not fathom that his name was not on the varsity list; he walked up to the basketball coach and told her she had forgotten to add his name.*

1. expunge

**verb:** to eliminate completely

*Ex: When I turned 18, all of the shoplifting and jaywalking charges were****expunged****from my criminal record.*

1. base

**adjective:** the lowest, without any moral principles

*Ex: She was not so****base****as to begrudge the beggar the unwanted crumbs from her dinner plate.*

1. contentious

**adjective:** likely to argue

*Ex: Since old grandpa Harry became very****contentious****during the summer when only reruns were on T.V., the grandkids learned to hide from him at every opportunity.*

1. pariah

**noun:** an outcast

*Ex: The once eminent scientist, upon being found guilty of faking his data, has become a****pariah****in the research community.*

1. chary

**adjective:** cautious, suspiciously reluctant to do something

*Ex: Having received three speeding tickets in the last two months, Jack was****chary****of driving at all above the speed limit, even on a straight stretch of highway that looked empty for miles ahead.*

1. diatribe

**noun:** a strong verbal attack against a person or institution

*Ex: Steve’s mom launched into a****diatribe****during the PTA meeting, contending that the school was little more than a daycare in which students stare at the wall and teachers stare at the chalkboard.*