

1. Cliché n. phrase dulled in meaning by repetition. High school compositions are often marred by such clichés as “as strong as an ox”.
2. Buttress n. support or prop; source of help. The huge cathedral walls were supported by flying buttresses.
3. Censorious adj. severely critical. Censorious people delight in casting blame.
4. Censure v. blame; criticize. He was censured for his inappropriate behavior.
5. Languish n. lose animation; lose strength. In stories lovelorn damsels used to languish and pine away.
6. Certitude n. certainty. Though there was no certitude of his getting the job, Lou thought he had a good chance of doing so.
7. Candor n. frankness. The candor and the simplicity of his speech impressed all; it was clear he held nothing back.
8. Charlatan n. quack; pretender to knowledge. Because he was unable to substantiate his claim that he had found a cure, his colleagues called him a charlatan.
9. Conjecture n. surmise; guess. I will end all you conjecture, I admit I am guilty as charged.
10. Aloof adj. apart; reserved. Shy by nature, she remained aloof while all the rest conversed.
11. Cajole v. wheedle; coax; deceive by flattery. She knows she can cajole almost anything she wants from her father.
12. Tenacity n. firmness; persistency; adhesiveness. It is extremely difficult to overcome the tenacity of habit such as smoking.
13. Corrugated adj. wrinkled; ridged. She wished she could smooth away the wrinkles from his corrugated brow.
14. Conviction n. strongly held belief. Nothing could shake his conviction that she was innocent.
15. Confound vv. Confuse. No mystery could confound Sherlock Holmes for long.
16. Flagrant adj. conspicuously wicked. We cannot condone such flagrant violations of the rules.
17. Degradation n. humiliation; debasement; degeneration. Some secretaries object to fetching the boss a cup of coffee because they resent the degradation of being made to do such a task.
18. Dehydrate v. remove water from; dry out. Running under a hot sun quickly dehydrates the body.
19. Illusory adj. deceptive; not real. Unfortunately, the costs of running the lemonade stand were so high that Tom's profits proved illusory.
20. Invert v. turn upside down or inside out. When he inverted his body in a handstand, he felt the blood rush to his head.
21. Intrepid adj. fearless. For his intrepid conduct in battle, he was promoted.
22. Impecunious adj. without money. Now that he was wealthy, he gladly contributed to funds to assist the impecunious and the disabled.
23. 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.
24. Elated adj. overjoyed; in high spirits. Grinning from ear to ears, Janet Evans was clearly elated by her Olympic victory.
25. Elegy n. poem or song expressing lamentation. On the death of Edward King, Milton composed the elegy Lycidas.

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

27. Gratuitous adj. given freely; unwarranted. I resent your gratuitous remarks because no one asked for them.

28. Gravity n. seriousness. We could tell we were in serious trouble from the gravity of her expression.

29. Gregarious adj. sociable. She was not gregarious and preferred to be alone most of the time.

30. Enhance v. advance; improve. Your chances for promotion in this department will be enhanced if you take some more courses in evening schools.

31. Enigma n. puzzle. Despite all attempts to decipher the code, it remained an enigma.

32. Diminution n. lessening; reduction in size. The blockaders hoped to achieve victory as soon as the diminution of the enemy's supplies became serious.

33. Detrimental adj. harmful, damaging. Your acceptance of her support will ultimately prove detrimental rather than helpful to your cause.

34. Diligence n. steadiness of effort, persistent hard work. Her employers were greatly impressed by her diligence and offered her a partnership in the firm.

35. Diffuse adj. wordy; rambling; spread out (like gas). If you pay authors by the word, you tempt them to produce diffuse manuscripts rather than brief ones.

36. Digression n. wandering away from the subject. His book was marred by his many digressions.

37. Devious adj. going astray; erratic. Your devious behavior in this matter puzzles me since you are usually direct and straightforward.

38. Devise v. think up; invent; plan. How clever he must be to have devised such a devious plan.

39. 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.

40. Sycophant n. servile flatterer. The king enjoyed the servile compliments and attention of the sycophants in his retinue.

41. Unkempt adj. disheveled; with uncared-for appearance. The beggar was dirty and unkempt.

42. Tentative adj. provisional; experimental. Your tentative plans sound plausible; let me know when the final details are worked out.

43. Replete adj. filled to capacity; abundantly supplied. This book is replete with humorous situations.

44. Spurious adj. false; counterfeit. She tried to pay the check with a spurious ten-dollar bill.

45. Spurn v. reject; scorn. The heroine spurned the villain's advances.

46. Scrupulous adj. conscientious; extremely thorough. I can recommend him for a position of responsibility for I have found him a very scrupulous young man.

47. Scrutinize v. examine closely and critically. Searching for flaws, the sergeant scrutinized every detail of the private's uniform.

48. Satirical adj. mocking. The humor of cartoonist Gary Trudeau often is satirical; through the comments of the Doonesbury characters, Trudeau ridicules political corruption and folly.

49. Saturate v. soak. Their clothes were saturated by the rain.

50. Submissive adj. yielding, timid. The

landlord wanted a submissive wife; instead he got an aggressive one.

51. Subordinate adj. occupying a lower rank; inferior, submissive. The captain treated his subordinates as though they were children rather than commissioned officers.

52. Stagnant adj. motionless; state; dull. The stagnant water was a breeding ground for disease.

53. Sluggish adj. slow; lazy; lethargic; listless. Her siege of illness left her sluggish.

54. Rhetorical adj. pertaining to effective communication; insincere in language. To win his audience, the speaker used every rhetorical trick in the book.

55. Soporific adj. sleep producer. I do not need a sedative when I listen to his soporific speeches.

56. Subtlety n. nicety; cunning; guile; delicacy. The subtlety of his remarks was unnoticed by most of his audience.

57. Taciturn adj. habitually silent; talking little. New Englanders are reputedly taciturn people.

58. Resolution n. determination. Nothing could shake his resolution to succeed despite all difficulties.

59. Resolve n. determination. Nothing could shake his resolve that his children would get the best education money could buy.

60. Rigor n. severity. Many settlers could not stand the rigors of the New England winters.

61. Sage n. person celebrated for wisdom. Many considered the old fakir a sage.

62. Reserve n. self-control; care in expressing oneself. She was outspoken and uninhibited, he was cautious and inclined to reserve.

63. Retraction n. withdrawal. He dropped his libel suit after a newspaper published a retraction of its statement.

64. Reverent adj. respectful. His reverent attitude was appropriate in a house of worship.

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

66. Seclusion n. isolation; solitude. One moment she loved crowds; the next, she sought seclusion.

67. Strident adj. loud and harsh. She scolded him in a strident voice.

68. Robust adj. vigorous; strong. The candidate for the football team had a robust physique.

69. Temper v. restrain; blend; toughen. His hard times in the arm only served to temper his strength.

70. Sedentary adj. requiring sitting. Because he had a sedentary occupation, he decided to visit a gymnasium weekly.

71. Servile adj. of or like a slave; cringing (shrinking in fear). Uriah Heep was a servile individual.

72. Terse adj. concise; abrupt; pithy. I admire his terse style of writing; he comes directly to the point.

73. Uniformity n. sameness; consistency monotony. After a while, the uniformity of TV situation comedies becomes boring.

74. Solidity n. dullness; impassiveness. The Earth Quake shattered his usual solidity; trembling, he crouched on the no longer stable ground.

75. Truncate v. cut the top off. The top of a cone, which has been truncated in a plane parallel to its base, is a circle.

76. Zealot n. fanatic; person who shows excessive zeal. It is good to have a few zealots in our group for their enthusiasm is contagious.

77. Placate v. pacify; conciliate. The teacher

tried to placate the angry mother.

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

79. Adulation n. flattery; admiration. He thrived on the adulation of his henchmen.

80. Meander v. to turn or wind in its course. It is difficult to sail up this stream because of the way it meanders through the country side.

81. Antagonistic adj. hostile; opposed. Despite his lawyers' best effort to stop him, the angry prisoner continued to make antagonistic remarks to the judge.

82. Anomaly n. irregularity. A bird that cannot fly is an anomaly.

83. Antediluvian adj. antiquated; ancient The antediluvian customs had apparently not changed for thousand of years.

84. Calculated adj. deliberately planned; likely. Anand's chess move was extremely calculated.

85. Bolster v. support; prop up. I do not intend to bolster your hopes with false reports of outside assistance; the truth is that we must face the enemy alone.

86. Augment v. increase. How can we hope to augment our forces when our allies are deserting us?

87. Laconic adj. brief to the point. Many of the characters portrayed by Clint Eastwood are laconic types: strong men of few words.

88. Cacophony n. discord. Some people seem to enjoy the cacophony of the orchestra that is tuning up.

89. Induce v. persuade; bring out. They tried to induce labor because the baby was overdue.

90. Optimist n. person who looks at the bright side. The pessimist says the glass is half-empty the optimist says it is half-full.

91. Obstinate adj. stubborn. We tried to persuade him to give up smoking, but he was obstinate and refused to change.

92. Miserly adj. stingy; mean. Transformed by his vision on Christmas Eve, mean old Scrooge ceased being miserly and became a generous, kind old man.

93. Conflagration n. great fire. In the conflagration that followed the 1906 earthquake, much San Francisco was destroyed.

94. Confluence n. flowing together crowd. They built the city at the confluence of two rivers.

95. Complementary adj. serving to complete something. John and Lisa's skills were complementary-he is good at following a routine while she is great at improvising.

96. Compliance n. readiness to yield; conformity in fulfilling requirements. The design for the new school had to be in compliance with the local building code.

97. concede v. admit; yield. Despite all the evidence Monica has assembled, Mark refused to concede that she was right.

98. Compile v. assemble; gather; to accumulate. We planned to compile a list of words most frequently used on SAT I examinations.

99. Complacent adj. self-satisfied. There was a complacent look on his face as he examined his paintings.

100. Corroborate v. confirm. Unless we find a witness to corroborate your evidence, it will not stand up in court.

101. Corrode v. destroy by chemical action. The nibs of fountain pen often become clotted and corroded.

102. Comprehensive adj. thorough; inclusive. This book provides a comprehensive review of verbal and math skills for the SAT.

103. Carping v. finding fault. A carping critic disturbs sensitive people.

104. Consensus n. general agreement. The consensus indicates that we are opposed to entering into this pact.

105. Guile n. deceit; duplicity. She achieved her highly position by guile and treachery.

106. Concise adj. brief and compact. The essay was concise and explicit.

107. Innate adj. inborn. His innate talent for music was soon recognized by his parents.

108. Innocuous adj. harmless. Let him drink it; it is innocuous and will have no effect.

109. Innovation adj. change; introduction of something new. She loved innovations just because they were new.

110. Concur v. agree. Did you concur with the decision of the court or did you find it unfair?

111. Capricious adj. fickle; incalculable. The storm was capricious and changed course constantly.

112. Integrity n. wholeness; purity; uprightness. The beloved breacher was a man of great integrity.

113. Contend v. struggle; compete; assert earnestly. Sociologist Harry Edwards contends that young black athletes have been exploited by some college recruiters.

114. Contract v. compress or shrink; make pledge; catch a disease. Warm metal expands, cold metal contracts.

115. Rescind v. cancel. Because of public resentment, the king had to rescind his order.

116. Objective n. goal; aim. A degree in medicine was her ultimate objective.

117. Accolade n. award of merit. In Hollywood an "Oscar" is the highest accolade.

118. Excerpt n. selected passage (written or musical). The cinematic equivalent of an excerpt from a novel is a clip from a film.

119. Coalesce v. combine; fuse. The brooks coalesce into one large river.

120. Bleak adj. cold; cheerless. The Aleut Islands are bleak military outposts.

121. Blighted adj. suffering from a disease; destroyed. The extent of the blighted areas could be seen only when viewed from the air.

122. Avarice n. greediness for wealth. King Midas's avarice has been famous for centuries.

123. Hypocritical adj. pretending to be virtuous; deceiving. I resent his hypocritical possessing of a friend for I know he is interested only in his own advancement.

124. Hypothetical adj. based on assumptions or hypothesis. Why do we have to consider hypothetical cases when we have actual case histories that we may examine?

125. Autonomous adj. self-governing. This island is a colony; however, in most matters, it is autonomous and receives no orders from the mother country.

126. Inception n. start; beginning. She was involved with the project from its inception.

127. Meager adj. scanty; inadequate. His salary was far too meager for him to afford to buy a new car.

128. Constraint n. compulsion; repression of feelings. There was a feeling of constraint in the room because no one dared to criticize the speaker.

129. Nefarious adj. very wicked. He was

universally feared because of his nefarious deeds.

130. Negate v. cancel out; nullify; deny. A sudden surge of adrenalin can negate the effects of fatigue.

131. Obscure v. darken; make unclear. At times he seemed purposely to obscure his meaning preferring mystery to clarity.

132. Lament v. grieve; express sorrow. Every advocates of the war lamented the loss of so many lives in combat.

133. Marred adj. damaged; disfigured. She had refinish the marred surface of the table.

134. Edify v. instruct; correct morally. Although I purpose was to edify ad not to entertain the audience, many of his listeners were amused a not enlightened.

135. Aversion n. firm dislike. Their mutual aversion was so great that they refused to speak to one another.

136. Avert v. prevent; turn away. She averted her eyes from the dead cat on the highway.

137. Aviary n. enclosure for birds. The aviary at the zoo held nearly 300 birds.

138. Materialism n. preoccupation with physical comforts and things. By its nature, materialism is opposed to idealism for where the materialist emphasizes the needs of the body, the idealist emphasizes the needs of the soul.

139. Linger v. loiter or dawdle; continue or persist. Hoping to see Juliet pass be, Romeo lingered outside the house for hours.

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

141. Asceticism n. doctrine of self-denial. We find asceticism practiced in many monasteries.

142. Atrophy n. wasting away. Polio victims need physiotherapy to prevent the atrophy of affected limbs.

143. Adversary n. opponent; enemy. Batman struggled to save Gotham City from the evil plans of his wicked adversary the Joker.

144. Anarchist n. person who rebels against the established order. Only the total overthrow of all governmental regulations would satisfy the anarchist.

145. Attribute n. essential quality. His outstanding attribute was his kindness.

146. Beguile v. amuse; delude; cheat. He beguiled himself during the long hours playing solitaire.

147. Condone v. overlook; forgive. We cannot condone your recant cooperation with the gamblers.

148. Abridge v. condense or shorten. Because the publishers felt the public wanted a shorter version of War And Peace, they proceeded to abridge the novel.

149. Brevity n. conciseness. Brevity is essential when you send a telegram or cablegram; you are charged for every word.

150. Braggart n. boaster. Modest by nature, she was no braggart, preferring to let her accomplishments speak for themselves.

151. Malicious adj. dictated by hatred or spite. The malicious neighbor spread the gossip.

152. Labyrinth n. maze. Tom and Betty were lost in the labyrinth of secret caves.

153. Trite adj. hackneyed; commonplace. The trite and predictable situations in many televisions programs alienate viewers.

154. Tranquility n. calmness; peace; quietude. He was impressed by the air of tranquility and peace that prevailed in the valley.

155. Verbose adj. wordy. The article is too verbose; we must edit it.



156. savory adj. tasty; pleasing; attractive. Her recipes allowed amateur chefs to create savory delicacies.

157. Sporadic adj. occurring irregularly. Although there are sporadic outbursts of shooting, we may report that the major rebellion has been defeated.

158. Ruthless adj. pitiless. The escaped convict was a dangerous and ruthless murderer.

159. viable adj. capable of maintaining life. The infant, though prematurely born, is viable and has a good chance of surviving.

160. Trifling adj. trivial; unimportant. Why bother going to see the doctor for such a trifling cold?

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

162. scanty adj. meager; insufficient. Thinking his helping of food was scanty, Oliver Twist asked for more.

163. thrive v. prosper; flourish. Despite the impact of the recession on the restaurant trade, Philip's café thrived.

164. Transient adj. fleeting; quickly passing away; staying for a short time. The hotel caters to a transient trade because it is near a busy highway.

165. Relegate v. banish; consign to inferior position. If we relegate these experienced people to positions of unimportance because of their political persuasions, we shall lose the service of valuably trained personnel.

166. Recant v. repudiate; withdraw previous statement. Unless you recant your confession, you will be punished severely.

167. Refute v. disprove. The defense called several respectable witnesses who were able to refute the false testimony of the persecution's only witnesses.

168. Relevant adj. pertinent; referring to the case in hand. She sent be the relevant data through fax.

169. Rebuttal n. refutation; response with contrary evidence. The defence lawyer confidently listened to the prosecutor sum up his case, sure that she could answer his arguments in rebuttal.

170. Repel v. drive away; disgust. The Pakistani troops' heavy gunfire repelled the enemy's attack.

171. Remedial adj. curative; corrective. Because he was a slow reader, he decided to take a course in remedial reading.

172. Rectify adj. correct. I want to rectify my error before it is too late.

173. Recount v. narrate or tell; count over again. A born storyteller, my father loved to recount anecdotes about his early years in New York.

174. Raucous adj. harsh and shrill. His raucous voice irritated me and grated on my ears.

175. Ratify v. approve formally; verify. Before the treaty could go into effect, it had to be ratified by the president.

176. Succinct adj. brief; terse; compact. His remarks are always succinct and pointed.

177. Static adj. unchanging; lacking development.

Nothing had changed at home; things were static there.

178. Rancor n. bitterness; hatred. Let us forget our

rancor and cooperate in this new endeavor.

179. unprecedented adj. novel; unparalleled. Margaret Mitchell's book *Gone with the Wind* was an unprecedented success.

180. Redundant adj. superfluous; excessively wordy;

repetitious. Your composition is redundant; you

can easily reduce its length.

181. Rant v. rave; talk excitedly; scold; make grandiloquent speech. When he heard that I'd totaled the family car, Dad began to rant at me like a complete madman.

182. Predator n. creature that seizes and devours another animal; person who robs and exploits another. The hawk is a predatory bird.

183. Predecessor. Former occupant of a post. hope I can live up to the fine example set by my late predecessor in this office.

184. Profligate adj. dissipated; wasteful; licentious. In this profligate company, she lost all sense of decency.

185. Profound adj. deep; not superficial; completely. Freud's remarkable insights into human behaviour caused his fellow scientists to honour him as a profound thinker.

186. Profusion n. lavish expenditure; overabundant condition. Seldom have I seen food and drink served in such profusion as at the wedding feast.

187. Respite n. delay in punishment; interval of relief; rest. The judge granted the condemned man a respite to enable his attorneys to file an appeal.

188. Resplendent adj. brilliant; lustrous. The toreador wore a resplendent costume.

189. Pragmatic adj. practical; concerned with practical values. This test should provide us with a pragmatic analysis of the value of this course.

190. Reprove v. censure; rebuke. The principals reprovved the students when they became unruly in the auditorium.

191. Repudiate v. disown; disavow. He announced that he would repudiate all debts incurred by his wife.

192. Pitfall n. hidden danger; concealed trap. Her parents warned young Sophie against the many pitfall that lay n wait for her the dangerous big city.

193. Pithy adj. concise; meaty. I enjoy reading his essays because they are always compact and pithy.

194. Proliferation n. rapid growth; spread

multiplication. Times of economic hardship inevitably encourage the proliferation of countless get rich quick schemes.

195. Prolific adj. abundantly fruitful. She was a prolific writer and wrote as many as three books a year.

196. Preclude v. make impossible; eliminate. This contract does not preclude my being employed by others at the same time that I am working for you.

197. Precocious adj. advanced in development. By her rather adult manner of discussing serious topics, the child demonstrated that she was precocious.

198. Philanthropist n. lover of mankind; doer of good. As he grew older, he became famous as philanthropist and benefactor of the needy.

199. Skeptic n. Doubter; person who suspends judgment until he has examined the evidence supporting a point of view. In this matter, I am a skeptic; I want proof.

200. Somber adj. gloomy; depressing. From the doctor's grim expression, I could tell he ha somber news.

201. Meticulous adj. excessively careful. He was meticulous in checking his accounts and never made mistakes.

202. Steadfast adj. loyal. I am sure you will remain steadfast in your support for the cause.

203. Nonchalance n. indifference; lack of interest. Few people could understand how he could listen to the news of his tragedy with such nonchalance; the majority regarded him as callous and unsympathetic.

204. Ostentatious adj. showy; pretentious. The real hero is modest never ostentatious. Ostentation.

205. Lethargic adj. drowsy; dull. The stuffy room made her lethargic.



206. Lurid adj. wild; sensational. The lurid stories he told shocked his listeners.

207. Notorious adj. outstandingly bad; unfavorably known. Captain Kid was a notorious pirate.

208. Novelty n. something new; newness. The computer is no longer a novelty around the office.

209. Ominous adj. threatening. These clouds are ominous; they portend a severe storm.

210. Obliterate v. destroy completely. The tidal wave obliterated several island villages.

211. Oblivion n. forgetfulness. Her works had fallen into a state of oblivion; no one bothered to read them.

212. Laud v. praise; commend. Wasim Akram was lauded for his excellent bowling performance.

213. Lavish adj. wasteful; liberal. The actor's lavish gifts pleased her.

214. Misanthrope. One who hates mankind. We thought the hermit was a misanthrope because he stunned our society.

215. Mollify v. soothe. We tried to mollify the hysterical child by promising her many gifts.

216. Qualified adj. limited; restricted. Unable to give the candidate full support, the mayor only gave him a qualified endorsement.

217. Prudent adj. cautious; careful. A miser hoards money not because he is prudent but because he is greedy.

218. Pessimism n. belief that life is basically bad or evil; gloominess. The good news we have been receiving lately indicates that there is little reason for your pessimism.

219. Profane v. violate; desecrate. Tourists are urged not to profane the sanctity of holy places by wearing improper clothes.

220. Presumptuous adj. arrogant; taking liberties. It seems presumptuous for one so relatively new to the field to challenge the conclusions of its leading experts.

221. Pretentious n. ostentatious; ambitious. I do not feel that our limited resources will permit you to carry out such a pretentious program.

222. Mundane adj. worldly as opposed to spiritual. He was concerned with only mundane matters especially the daily stock market quotations.

223. Munificent adj. very generous. The munificent gift was presented to the bride.

224. Prevalent adj. widespread; general accepted. A radical committed to social change Reed had no patience with the conservative view prevalent in the America of his day.

225. Pariah n. social outcast. I am not a pariah it be shunned and ostracized.

226. Prodigal adj. wasteful; reckless with money. The prodigal son squandered his inheritance.

227. squander v. waste. The prodigal squandered the family estate.

228. ornate adj. excessively decorated; high decorated. Furniture of the Baroque period can be recognized by its ornate carvings.

229. Morose adj. ill humored; sullen. When we first meet Hamlet, we find him morose and depressed.

230. Ponderous adj. weighty; unwieldy. His hunt lacked the light touch; his jokes were always ponderous.

231. Quiescent adj. at rest; dormant. After the geyser erupts, it will remain quiescent for twenty four hours.

232. Mock v. ridicule; imitate, often in derision. unkind to mock anyone; it is stupid to mock anyone significantly bigger than you.

233. Opulence adj. wealth. Visitors from Europe are amazed and impressed by the opulence of this country.

234. Piety n. devoutness; reverence for God. Living her life in prayer and good works, Mother Teresa exemplifies the true spirit of piety.

235. Luxuriant adj. fertile; abundant; ornate. Farming was easy in this luxuriant soil.

236. Partisan adj. One-sided; prejudiced; committed to a party. On certain issues of conscience, she refused to take a partisan stand.

237. Peripheral adj. marginal; outer. We lived, not in central London, but in one of those peripheral suburbs that spring up on the outskirts of a great city.

238. Stupefy v. make numb; stun; amaze. Disapproving of drugs in general, Laura refused to take sleeping pills or any other medicine that may stupefy her.

239. Provoke v. stir to anger; cause retaliation. In order to prevent a sudden outbreak of hostilities, we must not provoke our foe.

240. Orator n. public speaker. Hitler was a highly effective orator.

241. Pervasive adj. pervading; spread throughout. Despite airing them for several hours, she could not rid her clothes of the pervasive odor of mothballs that clung to them.

242. Perpetuate v. make something last; preserve from extinction. Some critics attack the book "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" because they believe it perpetuates a false image of Blacks in the country.

243. Remorse n. guilt; self-reproach. The murderer felt no remorse for his crime.

244. Mercenary adj. interested in money or gain. I am certain that your action was prompted by mercenary motives.

245. Precarious adj. uncertain; risky. I think this stock is a precarious investment and advise against its purchase.

246. Mitigate v. reduce, make less intense or severe. Nothing Jason did could mitigate

Anna's anger.

247. Pacifist n. one opposed to force; antimilitarist. The pacifists urged that we reduce our military budget and recall our troops stationed overseas.

248. Misnomer n. wrong name; incorrect designation. His tyrannical conduct proved to all that his nickname, King Eric the Just, was a misnomer.

249. Paucity n. scarcity. They closed the restaurant because the paucity of customers made it uneconomical to operate.

250. Proximity n. nearness. The deer sensed the hunter's proximity and bounded away.

251. Parody n. humorous imitation; travesty. We enjoyed the clever parodies of popular songs which the chorus sang.

252. Querulous adj. complaining; fretful; whining. His classmates were repelled by his querulous statements.

253. Prattle c. babble; chatter in a childish way. Baby John prattled on and on about the cats and his ball.

254. Parsimony n. stinginess; carefulness in the use of money. Furious because her father wouldn't let her buy out the clothing store, Anne accused him of parsimony.

255. Ambiguous adj. unclear or doubtful in meaning. His ambiguous instructions misled us; we did not know which road to take.

256. 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.

257. Articulate adj. effective; distinct. Her articulate presentation of the advertising campaign impressed her employer's.

258. Artifacts n. product of primitive cultures. Archaeologists debated the significance of the artifacts discovered in the ruins of Asia Minor and came to no conclusion.

259. Debunk v. expose as false, exaggerated, worthless, etc.; ridicule. Reporters debunked the politician's claim of honesty by showing records of bribes taken by him.

260. Recluse n. hermit. The recluse lived in the hut in the forest.

261. Abstemious adj. sparing in eating and drinking; temperate. The drunkards mocked him because of his abstemious habits.

262. Arrogance n. pride; haughtiness. The arrogance of the nobility was resented by the middle class.

263. Iconoclastic adj. attacking cherished traditions. George Bernard Shaw's iconoclastic plays often started more conventional people.

264. Intervene v. come between. She intervened in the argument between her two sons.

265. Ignominy n. deep disgrace; shame or dishonour. Unable to take the ignominy of defeat, Hitler committed suicide.

266. Illicit adj. illegal. The defence attorney claimed that the police had entrapped his client; that is, they had elicited the illicit action of which they now accused him.

267. Hardy adj. sturdy; robust; able to stand difficult weather. The gardener recommended some hardy plants that could withstand the harsh English weather.

268. Whimsical adj. capricious; fanciful; quaint. Peter Pan is a whimsical play.

269. Idiosyncrasy n. peculiarity; eccentricity. One of his personal idiosyncrasies was his habit of rinsing all cutlery given him in a restaurant.

270. Hackneyed adj. commonplace; trite. The English teacher criticized her story because of its hackneyed and unoriginal plot.

271. Insularity n. narrow-mindedness; isolation. The insularity of the islanders manifested itself in the suspicion of anything foreign.

272. Insuperable adj. insurmountable; invincible. In the face of insuperable difficulties they maintained their courage and will to resist.

273. Insipid adj. tasteless; dull. I am bored by your insipid talk.

274. Insolvent adj. bankrupt; lacking money to pay. When rumors that he was insolvent reached his creditors, they began to press him for payment of the money due them.

275. Impudence v. disrespectful; impertinence; insolence. Everyone was shocked at the impudence of the rude young man.

276. Instigate v. urge; start; provoke. I am afraid that this statement will instigate a revolt.

277. Intimidate v. frighten. Your threats cannot intimidate me.

278. Intractable adj. unruly; refractory. The horse was intractable and refused to enter the starting gate.

279. Inherent adj. firmly established by nature or habit. His inherent love of justice compelled him to come to their aid.

280. Exuberance n. inner excitement; joyful enthusiasm. Nothing depressed her for long; her natural exuberance soon reasserted itself.

281. Venerate v. revere. In China, the people venerate their ancestors.

282. Raze v. destroy completely. The owners intend to raze the hotel and erect an office building on the site.

283. Inane adj. senseless; silly. Such comments are inane because they do not help us solve our problems.

284. Debilitate v. weaken; enfeeble.

Overindulgence debilitates character as well as physical stamina.

285. Obdurate adj. stubborn. He was obdurate in his refusal to listen to our complaints.

286. Archaic adj. antiquated. "Methinks", "thou" and "thee" are archaic words which are no longer part of our vocabulary.

287. Dubious adj. doubtful. He has the dubious distinction of being the lowest man in his class.

288. Divergent adj. differing; deviating. The two witnesses presented the jury with remarkably divergent accounts of the same episode.

289. Aesthetic adj. artistic; dealing with or capable of appreciation of the beautiful. Because of his aesthetic nature, he was emotionally disturbed by ugly things.

290. Affable adj. courteous. Although he held a position of responsibility, he was an affable individual and could be reached by anyone with a complaint.

291. Culpable adj. deserving blame. Corrupt politicians who condone the activities of gamblers are equally culpable.

292. Circumlocution n. indirect or roundabout expression. He was afraid to call a spade a spade and resorted to circumlocutions to avoid direct reference to his subject.

293. Derision n. ridicule. They greeted his proposal with derision and refused to consider it seriously.

294. Derivative adj. unoriginal; derived 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.

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

296. Anecdote n. short account of an assuming or interesting event. Rather than make concrete proposals for welfare reform, President Reagan told anecdotes about poor people who became wealthy despite their impoverished backgrounds.

297. Apocryphal adj. not genuine; sham. Her apocryphal tears misled no one.

298. Apprehensive adj. fearful; discerning. His apprehensive glances at the people who were walking in the street revealed his nervousness.

299. Doctrinaire adj. unable to compromise about points of doctrine; dogmatic; unyielding. Weng had hoped that the student led democracy movement might bring about change in China, but the repressive response of the doctrinaire hard liners crushed his dreams of democracy.

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

301. Arable adj. fit for plowing. The land was no longer arable; erosion had removed the valuable topsoil.

302. Arid adj. dry; barren. The cactus has adapted to survive in an arid environment.

303. Depose v. dethrone; remove from office. The army attempted to depose the king and setup a military government.

304. Decorum n. propriety; seemliness. Shocked by the unruly behavior, the teacher criticized the class for its lack of decorum.

305. Advocate v. urge; plead for. The abolitionist advocated freedom for the slaves.

306. Assuage v. ease; lesion (pain). Your messages of cheers should assuage her suffering.

307. Arbitrary adj. fixed or definite; imperious; tyrannical; despotic. An arbitrary action on your part will be resented by the members of the board whom you do not consult.

308. Acknowledge v. recognize; admit. When pressed for an answer, she acknowledged the existence of another motive for crime.

309. Appease v. pacify; soothe. We have discovered that when we try to appease our enemies, we encourage them to make additional demands.

310. Assiduous adj. diligent. He worked assiduously at this task for weeks before he felt satisfied with the results.

311. Authoritarian n. favoring or exercising total control; non-democratic. The people had no control over their own destiny; they were forced to obey the dictates of the authoritarian regime.

312. Aspiration. Noble ambition. Man's aspiration should be as lofty as the stars.

313. Ebullient adj. showing excitement; overflowing with enthusiasm. His ebullient nature could not be repressed; he was always exuberant.

314. Eccentric adj. odd; whimsical; irregular. The comet passed close by the earth in its eccentric orbit.

315. Ephemeral adj. short-lived; fleeting. The may fly is an ephemeral creature.

316. Fitful adj. spasmodic; intermittent. After several fitful attempts, he decided to postpone the start of the project until he felt more energetic.

317. Depravity n. corruption; wickedness. The depravity of the tyrant's behaviour shocked all.

318. Deprecate v. disapprove regretfully. I must deprecate your attitude and hope that you will change your mind.

319. Apathy n. lack of caring; indifference. A firm believer in democratic government, she could never understand the apathy of people who never bothered to vote.

320. Artisan n. manually skilled worker. Artists and artisan alike are necessary to the

development of a culture.

321. Incontrovertible adj. indisputable. We must yield to the incontrovertible evidence which you have presented and free your client.

322. Lofty adj. high. They used to tease him about his lofty ambitions.

323. Frivolity n. lack of seriousness. We were distressed by his frivolity during the recent grave crisis.

324. Hedonism n. belief that pleasure is the sole aim in life. Hedonism and asceticism are opposing philosophies of human behaviour. Hedonist.

325. Heedless adj. disregarding; not noticing. He drove on, heedless of the warnings placed at the side of the road that it was dangerous.

326. Listless adj. lacking in spirit or energy. We had expected him to be full of enthusiasm and were surprised by his listless attitude.

327. Acrid adj. sharp; bitterly pungent. The acrid odour of burnt gunpowder filled the room after the pistol had been fired.

328. Accessible adj. easy approach; obtainable. We asked our guide whether the ruins were accessible on foot.

329. Austere adj. strict; stern. His austere demeanor prevented us from engaging in our usual frivolous activities.

330. Acquiesce v. assent; agree passively. Although she appeared to acquiesce to her employer's suggestions, I could tell she had reservations about the changes he wanted made.

331. Amorphous adj. shapeless. She was frightened by the amorphous mass that had floated in from the sea.

332. 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.

333. Bequeath v. leave to someone by means of will; hand down. In his will, Father bequeathed his watch to Phillip; the bequest meant a great deal to the boy.

334. Benevolent adj. Generous; charitable. His benevolent nature prevented him from refusing any beggar who accosted him.

335. 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.

336. Abstract adj. theoretical; not concrete; nonrepresentational. To him, hunger was an abstract concept; he had never missed a meal.

337. Abstruse adj. obscure; profound; difficult to understand. She read abstruse works in philosophy.

338. Affirmation n. solemn pledged by one who refuses to take an oath. The Constitution of this country provides for oath or affirmation by the office holders.

339. Aggregate adj. sum; total. The aggregate wealth of his country is staggering to the imagination.

340. Adversity n. poverty; misfortune. We must learn to meet adversity gracefully.

341. Ascendancy n. controlling influence. President Marcos failed to control his ascendancy over the Philippines.

342. Acclaim n. applaud; announce with great approval. The NBC sportscaster acclaimed every American victory in the Olympics and decried every American defeat.

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

344. Eloquence n. expressiveness; persuasive speech. The crowds were stirred by Martin Luther King's eloquence.

345. Elucidate v. explain; enlighten. He was called upon to elucidate the disputed points in his article.

346. Elusive adj. evasive; baffling; hard to grasp. His elusive dreams of wealth were costly to those of his friends who supported him financially.

347. Emaciated adj. thin and wasted. His long period of starvation had left him emaciated.

348. Coercion n. use of force. They forced him to obey, but only under great coercion.

349. Curtail v. shorten; reduce. During the coal shortage, we must curtail our use of this vital commodity.

350. Cynical adj. skeptical or distrustful of human motives. Cynical at all times, he was suspicious of all altruistic actions of others.

351. Disputatious adj. argumentative; fond of argument. People avoided discussing contemporary problems with him because of his disputatious behaviour.

352. Embellished v. adorn. His handwriting was embellished with flourishes.

353. Discerning adj. mentally quick and observant; having insight. Because he was considered the most discerning member of the firm, he was assigned the most difficult cases.

354. Opaque adj. dark; not transparent. The opaque window kept the sunlight out of the room.

355. Levity n. lightness. Such levity is improper on this serious occasion.

356. Volatile adj. evaporating rapidly; lighthearted; mercurial. Ethyl Chloride is a very volatile liquid.

357. Provincial adj. pertaining to a province; limited. We have to overcome their provincial attitude and get them to become more cognizant of world problems.



358. Voluble adj. fluent; glib. She was a voluble speaker always ready to talk.

359. Perfunctory adj. superficial; listless; not thorough. He overlooked many weaknesses when he inspected the factory in his perfunctory manner.

360. Tirade n. extended scolding; denunciation. Long before he had finished his tirade, we were sufficiently aware of the seriousness of our misconduct.

361. Resigned adj. unresisting; patiently submissive. Bob Cratchit was too resigned to his downtrodden existence to protest when scrooge belied him.

362. Penury n. extreme poverty. We find much penury and suffering in this slum area.

363. Virtuoso n. highly skilled artist. Heifetz is a violin virtuoso.

364. Virulent adj. extremely poisonous. The virus is highly virulent and has made many of us ill for days.

365. Vilify v. slander. She is a liar and is always trying to vilify my reputation.

366. Vindicate v. clear of charges. I hope to vindicate my client and return him to society as a free man.

367. Trepidation n. fear; trembling agitation. We must face the enemy without trepidation if we are to win this battle.

368. Susceptible adj. impressionable; easily influenced; having little resistance, as to a disease. He was a very susceptible young man, and so this parent worried that he might fall into bad company.

369. Superficial adj. trivial; shallow. Since your report gave only a superficial analysis of the problem, I cannot give you more than a passing grade.

370. Superfluous adj. excessive; overabundant; unnecessary. Please try not to

include so many superfluous details in your report; just give me the bare facts.

371. Surpass v. exceed. Her SAT scores surpassed our expectations.

372. Surreptitious adj. secret. News of their surreptitious meeting gradually leaked out.

373. Undermine v. weaken; sap. The recent corruption scandals have undermined many people, people's faith in the city government.

374. Renounce v. abandon; discontinue; disown; repudiate. Joan of Arc refused to renounce her statements even though she knew she would be burned at the stake as a witch.

375. Restraint n. controlling force. She dreamed of living an independent life, free of all restraints.

376. Reprehensible adj. deserving blame. Your vicious conduct in this situation is reprehensible.

377. Turbulence n. state of violent agitation. We were frightened by the turbulence of the ocean during the storm.

378. Tantamount adj. equal. Your ignoring their pathetic condition is tantamount to murder.

379. Lithe adj. flexible; supple. Her figure was lithe and willowy.

380. Conciliatory adj. reconciling; soothing. She was still angry despite his conciliatory words.

381. Esoteric adj. known only to the chosen few. Those students who had access to his esoteric discussions were impressed by the breadth of his knowledge.

382. Frugality n. thrift. In these difficult days, we must live with frugality or our money will be gone.

383. Fastidious adj. difficult to please; squeamish. The waitresses disliked serving him dinner because of his very fastidious taste.

384. Fallacious adj. misleading. Your reason must be fallacious because it leads to a ridiculous answer.

385. Exonerate v. acquit; exculpate. I am sure this letter naming the actual culprit will exonerate you.

386. Composure n. mental calmness. Even the latest work crisis failed to shake her composure.

387. Credulity n. belief on slight evidence. The witch doctor took advantage of the credulity of the superstitious native.

388. Exploit v. make use of sometimes unjustly. Cesar Chavez fought attempts to exploit migrant farm workers in California.

389. Evanescent adj. fleeting; vanishing. For a brief moment the entire skyline was bathed in an orange-red hue in the evanescent rays of sunset.

390. Gratify v. please. Her parents were gratified by her success.

391. Gullible adj. easily deceived. He preyed upon gullible people, who believed his stories of easy wealth.

392. Immutable adj. unchangeable. Scientists are constantly seeking to discover the immutable laws of nature.

393. Impair v. worsen; diminish in value. This arrest will impair her reputation in the community.

394. Incurable adj. uncorrectable. Because he was an incurable criminal, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

395. Endorse v. approve; support. Everyone waited to see which one of the rival candidates for the city council the mayor would endorse.

396. Exacerbate v. worsen; embitter. This latest arrest will exacerbate the already existing discontent of the people and enrage them.

397. Extricate v. free; disentangle. He found that he could not extricate himself from the trap.

398. Fell adj. cruel; deadly. The newspaper told of the tragic spread of the fell disease.

399. Emend v. correct; correct by a critic. He critic emended the book by selecting passages which he thought most appropriate to the text.

400. Efface v. rub out. The coin had been handled so many times that its date had

been effaced.

401. Incisive adj. cutting; sharp. His incisive remarks made us see the fallacy in our plans.

402. Incite v. arouse to action. The demagogue incited the mob to take action into its own hand.

403. Facilitate v. make less difficult. He tried to facilitate matters at home by getting a part time job.

404. Inclusive adj. tending to include all. This meeting will run from January 10 to February 15 inclusive.

405. Indolence n. laziness. He outgrew his youthful indolence to become a model of industry and alertness on the job.

406. Ingenious adj. clever. He came up with an ingenious use for Styrofoam packing balls.

407. Jocular adj. said or done in jest. Do not take my jocular remarks seriously.

408. Glutton n. someone who eats too much. You can be a gourmet without being a glutton.

409. Fervor n. glowing ardor. Their kiss was full of the fervor of first love.

410. Florid adj. flowery; ruddy. His complexion was even more florid than usual because of his anger.

411. Indefatigable adj. tireless. He was indefatigable in his constant efforts to raise funds for the Red Cross.

412. Explicit adj. definite; open. Your remarks are explicit; no one can misinterpret them.

413. Enmity n. ill will; hatred. At Camp David President Carter labored to bring an end to the enmity that prevented Egypt and Israel from living in peace.

414. Foolhardy adj. rash. Don't be foolhardy. Get the advice of experienced people before undertaking this venture.

415. Haughtiness n. pride; arrogance. I resent his haughtiness because he is no better than we are.

416. Incongruous adj. not fitting; absurd. These remarks do not have any relationship to the problem at hand; they are incongruous and should be stricken from the record.

417. Inconsequential adj. of trifling significance. Your objections are inconsequential and may be disregarded.

418. Garrulous adj. loquacious; wordy. Many members avoided the company of the garrulous old gentleman because his constant chatter on trivial matters bored them.

419. Fathom v. comprehend; investigate. I find his motives impossible to fathom.

420. Homogeneous adj. of the same kind. Educators try to put pupils of similar abilities into classes because they believe that this homogeneous grouping is advisable. Homogeneity.

421. Incidental adj. not essential; minor. The scholarship covered his major expenses at college and some of his incidental expenses as well.

422. Furtive adj. stealthy; sneaky. The boy gave a furtive look at his classmate's test paper.

423. Deference n. courteous regard for another's wish. In deference to his desires, the employer's granted him a holiday defer.

424. Deplore v. regret. Although I deplore the vulgarity of your language, I defend your right to express yourself freely.

425. Denounce v. condemn; criticize. The reform candidate denounced the corrupt city officers for having betrayed the public's trust.

426. Converge v. come together. Marchers converged on Washington for the great Peace March.

427. Duplicity n. double dealing; hypocrisy. People were shocked and dismayed when they learned of his duplicity.

428. Inertia n. state of being inert or indisposed to move. Our inertia in this matter may prove disastrous; we must move to aid our allies immediately.

429. Dogmatic adj. positive; arbitrary. Do not be so dogmatic about that statement; it can be easily refuted.

430. Delineate v. portray. He is a powerful storyteller, but he is weakest when he attempts to delineate character.

431. Cryptic adj. mysterious; secret; hidden. His cryptic remarks could not be interpreted.

432. Disperse v. scatter. The police fired teargas into the crowd to disperse the protesters.

433. Disclose v. reveal. Although competitors offered him bribes, he refused to disclose any information about his company's forthcoming.

434. Discrimination n. ability to see differences; prejudice. They feared he lacked sufficient discrimination to judge complex works of modern art.

435. Usurp v. seize; power of supplant ox. The revolution ended when the victorious rebel leader usurped the throne.

436. Phenomena adj. observable facts; subjects of scientific investigation. We kept careful records of the phenomena we noted in the course of these examinations.

437. Cordial adj. gracious; heartfelt. Our hosts greeted us at the airport with a cordial welcome and a hearty hug.

438. Discordant adj. inharmonious; conflicting. She tried to unite the discordant factions.

439. Discount v. disregard. Be prepared to discount what he has to say about his ex-wife.

440. Dismiss v. put away from consideration; reject. Believing in John's love for her, she dismissed the notion that he might be unfaithful.

441. Disparage v. belittle. Do not disparage anyone's contribution; these little gifts add up the large sums.

442. Heresy n. opinion contrary to popular belief; opinion contrary to accepted religion. He was threatened with excommunication because his remarks were considered to be pure heresy.

443. Disparity n. difference; condition of inequality. The disparity in their ages made no difference at all.

444. Extraneous adj. not essential; external. Do not pad your paper with extraneous matters; stick to essential items only.

445. Disdain v. treat with scorn or contempt. You make enemies of all you disdain.

446. Emulate v. rival; imitate. As long as our political leaders emulate the virtues of the great leaders of this country, we shall flourish.

447. Hamper v. obstruct. The minority party agreed not to hamper the efforts of the leaders to secure a lasting peace.

448. Detached adj. emotionally removed; calm and objective; indifferent. A psychoanalyst must maintain a detached point of view and stay uninvolved with the patients' personal lives.

449. Despondent adj. depressed; gloomy. To the dismay of his parents, he became more and more despondent every day.

450. Disseminate v. scatter (like seeds). The invention of the radio has helped propagandists to disseminate their favourite doctrines very easily.

451. Dissent v. disagree. In the recent Supreme Court decision, Justice Marshal dissented from the majority opinion.

452. Irresolute adj. uncertain how to act; weak. She had no respect for him because he seemed weak-willed and irresolute.

453. Deterrent adj. something that discourages; hindrance. Does the threat of the capital punishment serve as a deterrent to potential killers?

454. Colloquial adj. pertaining to conversational or common speech. Your use of colloquial expressions in a formal essay spoils the effect you hope to achieve.

455. Disinclination n. unwillingness. Some mornings I feel a great disinclination to get out of bed.

456. 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 décor.

457. Implausible adj. unlikely; unbelievable. Though her alibi seemed implausible, it in fact turned out to be true.

458. Implement v. supply what is needed; furnish with tools. I am unwilling to implement this plan until I have assurances that it has the full approval of your officials.

459. Opportunist n. individual who sacrifices

principles for expediency by taking advantage of circumstances. I do not know how he will vote on this question as he is the opportunist.

460. Extol v. praise; glorify. The astronauts were extolled as the pioneers of the Space Age.

461. Fallow adj. plowed but not sowed; uncultivated. Farmers have learned that it is advisable to permit land to lie fallow every few years.

462. Falter v. hesitate. When told to dive off the high board, she did not falter, but proceeded at once.

463. Fanaticism n. excessive zeal. The leader of the group was held responsible even though he could not control the fanaticism of his followers.

464. Methodical adj. systematic. An accountant must be methodical and maintain order among his financial records.

465. Execute v. put into effect; carry out. The choreographer wanted to see how well she could execute a pirouette.

466. Exemplary adj. serving as a model; outstanding. Her exemplary behaviour was praised at Commencement.

467. Exemplify v. show by example; furnish an example. Three-time winner of the Super Bowl, Joel Montana exemplifies the ideal quarter back.

468. Indiscriminate adj. choosing at random; confused. She disapproved of her son's indiscriminate television viewing and decides to restrict him to educational programs.

469. Erroneous adj. mistaken, wrong. I thought my answer was correct, but it was erroneous.

470. Erudite adj. learned; scholarly. His erudite writing was difficult to read because of the many allusions which were unfamiliar to most readers.

471. Eulogy n. praise. All the eulogies of his friends could not remove the sting of the calumny heaped upon him by his enemies.

472. Euphemism n. mild expression in place of an unpleasant one. The expression "he passed away" is a euphemism for "he died".

473. Nurture v. bring up; feed; educate. We must nurture the young so that they will develop into good citizens.

474. Indict v. charge. If the grand jury indicts the suspect, he will go to trial.

475. Indifferent adj. unmoved; lacking concern. Because she felt no desire to marry, she was indifferent to his proposals.

476. Indigenous adj. native. Tobacco is one of the indigenous plants which the early explorers found in this country.

477. Expedient adj. suitable; politic; practical. A pragmatic politician, he was guided by what was expedient rather than by what was ethical.

478. Expedite v. hasten. We hope that you will be able to expedite delivery because of our tight schedule.

479. Lampoon v. ridicule. This article lampoons the pretensions of some movie moguls.

480. Contentious adj. quarrelsome. We heard loud and contentious noises in the next room.

481. Deleterious adj. harmful. Workers in nuclear research must avoid the deleterious effects of radioactive substances.

482. Vacillate v. waver; fluctuate. Uncertain which suitor she ought to marry, the princess vacillated, saying now one, now the other. The big boss likes his people to be decisive: when he asks you for your opinion, whatever you do, don't vacillate. Vacillation,

483. Irreproachable adj. blameless; impeccable. Homer's conduct at the office party was irreproachable; even Marge didn't have anything bad to say about how he behaved.

484. Duration n. Length of time something lasts. Because she wanted the children to make a good impression on the dinner guests, Mother promised them a treat if they'd behave for the duration of the meal.

485. Exhaustive adj. thorough; comprehensive. We have made an exhaustive study of all published SAT tests and are happy to share our research with you.

486. Discrepancy n. lack of consistency; difference. The police noticed some discrepancies in his description of the crime and did not believe him.

487. Equivocal adj. ambiguous; intentionally misleading. Rejecting the candidate's equivocal comments on tax, reform, the reporters pressed him to state clearly where he stood on the issue.

488. Criterion n. standard used in judging. What criterion did you use when you selected this essay as the prizewinner? Criteria

489. 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.

490. Unwarranted adj. unjustified; groundless; undeserved. Your assumption that I would accept your proposal is unwarranted, sir ; I do not want to marry you at all. We could not understand Martin's unwarranted rudeness to his mother's guests.

491. Exhilarating adj. invigorating and refreshing; cheering. Though some of the hikers found tramping through the snow tiring, Jeffrey found the walk on the cold, crisp day exhilarating.

492. Feasible adj. practical. Is it feasible to build a new stadium for the Yankees on New

York's West Side? Without additional funding, the project is clearly unrealistic.

493. Glacial adj. like a glacier: extremely cold. Never a warm person, when offended John could seem positively glacial.

494. Threadbare adj. worn through till the threads show; shabby and poor. The poor adjunct professor hid the threadbare spots on his jacket by sewing leather patches on his sleeves.

495. 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.

496. Vaporize v. turn into vapor (steam, gas, fog, etc). Zap! went Super Mario's atomic ray gun as he vaporized another deadly foe.

497. Reticence n. reserve; uncommunicativeness; inclination to silence. Fearing his competitors might get advance word about his plans from talkative staff members, Hughes preferred reticence from his employees to loquacity.

498. Sustain v. experience; support; nourish. He sustained such a severe injury that the doctors feared he would be unable to work to sustain his growing family.

499. Vigor n. active strength. Although he was over seventy years old, Jack had the vigor of a man in his prime. Vigorous, adj.

500. Ramble v. wander aimlessly (physically or mentally). Listening to the teacher ramble, Judy wondered whether he'd ever get to his point.

501. Antidote n. medicine to counteract a poison or disease. When Marge's child accidentally swallowed some cleaning fluid, the local poison control hotline instructed Marge how to administer the antidote.

502. Antiquated adj. Old-fashioned; obsolete.



Philip had grown so accustomed to editing his papers on word processors that he thought typewriters were too antiquated for him to use.

503. Acquire v. obtain, get. Frederick Douglass was determined to acquire an education despite his master's efforts to prevent his doing so.