Chapter One

1. approbation- (n.) the expression of approval or favorable opinion, praise; official approval

“My broad hint that I had paid for the lessons myself brought smiles of approbation from all the judges at the piano recital.”

1. assuage- (v.) to make easier or milder, relieve; to quiet, calm; to put an end to, appease, satisfy, quench

“Her eyes told me that more than a few well-chosen words would be needed to assuage her hurt feelings.”

1. coalition- (n.) a combination, union, or merger for some specific purpose

“The various community organizations formed a coalition to lobby against parking laws.”

1. decadence- decline, decay, or deterioration; a condition or period of decline or decay, excessive self indulgence

“Some viewed her love of chocolate as decadence because she ate two candy bars a day.”

1. elicit- (v.) to draw forth, to bring out from some source (such as another person)

“My attempt to elicit information over the phone was met with a barrage of irrelevant recordings.”

1. expostulate- (v.) to attempt to dissuade someone from some course or decision by earnest reasoning

“Shakespeare’s Hamlet finds it useless to expostulate with his mother for siding with his stepfather.”

1. hackneyed- (adj.) used so often as to lack freshness or originality

“The Great Gatsby tells a universal story without being marred by hackneyed prose.”

1. hiatus- (n.) a gap, opening, break (in the sense of having an element missing)

“I was awakened not by a sudden sound but by a hiatus in the din of traffic.”

1. innuendo- (n.) a hint, indirect suggestion, or reference (often in a derogatory sense)

“Those lacking the facts or afraid of reprisals often tarnish an enemy’s reputation by use of innuendo.”

1. intercede- (v.) to plead on behalf of someone else; to serve as a third party go-between in a disagreement

“She will intercede in the dispute between the two children, and soon they will be playing happily again.”

1. jaded- (adj.) wearied, worn-out, dulled (in the sense of being satiated by excessive indulgence)

“The wilted handclasp and the fast-melting smile mark the jaded refugee from too many parties.”

1. lurid- (adj.) causing shock, horror, or revulsion; sensational; pale or sallow in color; terrible or passionate in intensity or lack of restraint
2. meritorious- (adj.) worthy, deserving recognition and praise

“Many years of meritorious service could not dissuade him from feeling that he had not chosen work that he liked.”

1. petulant- (adj.) peevish, annoyed by trifles, easily irritated and upset

“An overworked parent may be unlikely to indulge the complaints of a petulant child.”

1. prerogative- (n.) a special right or privilege; a special quality showing excellence

“She seemed to feel that a snooze at her desk was not an annoying habit but the prerogative of a veteran employee.”

1. provincial- (adj.) pertaining to an outlying area; local; narrow in mind or outlook, countrified in the sense of being limited and backward; of a simple, plaine design that originated in the countryside; (n.) a person with a narrow point of view; a person from an outlying area; a soldier from a province or colony

“The banjo, once thought to be a provincial product of the Southern hills, actually came here from Africa.”

“At first, a provincial may do well in the city using charm alone, but charm, like novelty, wears thin.”

1. simulate- (v.) to make a pretense of, imitate; to show the outer signs of

“Some skilled actors can simulate emotions they might never have felt in life.”

1. transcend- (v.) to rise above or beyond, exceed

“A great work of art may be said to transcend time, and it is remembered for decades, or even centuries.”

1. umbrage- (n.) shade cast by trees; foliage giving shade; an overshadowing influence or power; offense, resentment; a vague suspicion.

“She hesitated to offer her opinion, fearing that they would take umbrage at her criticism.”

1. unctuous- (adj.) excessively smooth or smug; trying too hard to give an impression of earnestness, sincerity, or piety; fatty, oily; pliable

“Her constant inquiring about the health of my family at first seemed friendly, later merely unctuous.”

Chapter Two

1. ameliorate- (v.) to improve, make better, correct a flaw or shortcoming

“A hot mean can ameliorate the discomforts of even the coldest day.”

1. aplomb- (n.) poise, assurance, great self-confidence; perpendicularity

“Considering the family’s tense mood, you handled the situation with aplomb.”

1. bombastic- (adj.) pompous or overblown in language; full of high-sounding words intended to conceal a lack of ideas

“He delivered a bombastic speech that did not even address our problems.”

1. callow- (adj.) without experience; immature, not fully developed; lacking sophistication and poise; without feathers

“They entered the army as callow recruits and left as seasoned veterans.”

1. drivel- (n.) saliva or mucus flowing from the mouth or nose; foolish, aimless talk or thinking; nonsense; (v.) to let saliva flow from the mouth; to utter nonsense or childish twaddle; to waste or fritter away foolishly

“To me, my dream made perfect sense, but when I told it to my friend, it sounded like drivel.”

“Knowing that his time was nearly up, we kept silent and let him drivel on.”

1. epitome- (n.) a summary, condensed account; an instance that represents a larger reality

“Admitting when you have been fairly defeated is the epitome of sportsmanship.”

1. exhort- (v.) to urge strongly, advise earnestly

“With dramatic gestures, our fans vigorously exhort the team to play harder.”

1. ex officio- (adj., adv.) by virtue of holding to a certain office

“The President is the ex officio commander-in-chief of the armed forces in times of war.”

1. infringe- (v.) to violate, trespass, go beyond recognized bounds

“If you continue to infringe on my responsibilities, will you also take the blame for any mistakes?

1. ingratiate- (v.) to make oneself agreeable and thus gain favor or acceptance by others (sometimes used in a critical or derogatory sense)

“It is not a good idea to ingratiate oneself by paying cloying compliments.”

1. interloper- (n.) one who moves in where he or she is not wanted or has no right to be, an intruder

“The crows was so eager to see the band perform that they resented the opening singer as an interloper.”

1. intrinsic- (adj.) belonging to someone or something by its very nature, essential, inherent; originating in a bodily organ or part

“It had been my father’s favorite book when he was my age, but for me it held little intrinsic interest.”

1. inveigh- (v.) to make a violent attack in words, express strong disapproval

“You should not inveigh against the plan with quite so much vigor until you have read it.”

1. lassitude- (n.) weariness of body or mind, lack of energy

“On some days I am overcome by lassitude at the thought of so many more years of schooling.”

1. millennium (pl, millennia) - (n.) a period of one thousand years; a period of great joy

“In 1999 an argument raged over whether 2000 or 2001 would mark the beginning of the new millennium.”

1. occult- (adj.) secret, hidden from view; not detectable by ordinary means; mysterious, magical, uncanny; (v.) to hide, cover up; eclipse; (n.) matters involving the supernatural

“Astronomers did not notice the small moon, which was often occult by the planet around which it orbited.”

1. permeate- (v.) to spread through, penetrate, soak through

“The rain permeated all my clothing and reduced the map in my pocket to a pulpy mass.”

1. precipitate- (v.) to fall as moisture; to bring about suddenly; to hurl down from a great height; to give distinct form to; (adj.) characterized by excessive haste; (n.) moisture; the product of an action or process

“Scholars often disagree over which event or events precipitate a historic moment.”

“I admit that my outburst was precipitate.”

“Too many eggs in this particular pudding will leave a messy precipitate in the baking pan.”

1. stringent- (adj.) strict, severe; rigorously or urgently binding or compelling; sharp or bitter to the taste

“Some argue that more stringent laws against speeding will make our streets safer.”

1. surmise- (v.) to think or believe without certain supporting evidence; to conjecture or guess; (n.) likely idea that lacks definite proof

“I cannot be sure, but I surmise that she would not accept my apology even if I made it on my knees.”

“The police has no proof, nothing to go on but a suspicion, a mere surmise.”

Chapter Three

1. abominate- (v) to have an intense dislike or hatred for

“I abominate cruelty yet do not always notice when I have said something inadvertently cruel.”

1. acculturation- (n.) the modification of the social patterns, traits, or structures of one group or society by contact with those of another; the resultant blend

“Every immigrant group newly arrived in another country goes through a slow process of acculturation.”

1. ascribe- (v.) to assign or refer to (as a cause or source), attribute

“You may ascribe these holes to gophers or elves, but I blame the dog from next door.”

1. circuitous- (adj.) roundabout, not direct

“I followed a circuitous path through the woods, not because I feared pursuit, but because but because I was lost.”

1. commiserate- (v.) to sympathize with, have pity or sorrow for, share a feeling of distress

“The family commiserated with her after the loss of her old and faithful dog.”

1. enjoin- (v.) to direct or order; to prescribe a course of action in an authoritative way; to prohibit

“I enjoin them to stop spending so much money or to face the consequences.”

1. expedite- (v.) to make easy, cause to progress faster

“The pleasant background music did not expedite my work but instead distracted me.”

1. expiate- (v.) to make amends, make up for; to avert

“The seemed more than willing to expiate their guilt by whatever means necessary.”

1. ferment- (n.) a state of great excitement, agitation, or turbulence; (v.) to be in or work into such a state; to produce alcohol by chemical reaction

“Caught in the ferment of revolution, the young men enlisted with the local militias.”

“If left for a time, cider will eventually ferment.”

1. inadvertent- (adj.) resulting from or marked by lack of attention; unintentional, accidental

“The poor fellow was stronger than he realized, and the damage he did was inadvertent.”

1. nominal- (adj.) existing in name only, not real; too small to be considered or taken seriously

“The new health clinic for lower-income residents charges only nominal fees.”

1. noncommittal- (adj.) not decisive or definite; unwilling to take a clear position

“We questioned her quietly, carefully, and at length, but her answers remained noncommittal.”

1. peculate- (v.) to steal something that has been given into one’s trust; to take improperly for one’s own use

“Investigators discovered that the clerk came up with a scheme to peculate from the company.”

1. proclivity- (n.) a natural or habitual inclination or tendency (especially of human character or behavior)

“Curious, patient, and fond of long walks outdoors, she soon displayed a proclivity for nature study.”

1. sangfroid- (n.) composure or coolness, especially in trying circumstances

“Even when they forget their lines, experienced actors usually perform with sangfroid.”

1. seditious- (adj.) resistant to lawful authority; having the purpose of overthrowing an established government

“Dictators usually begin their reigns by searching out and silencing seditious opinion.”

1. tenuous- (adj.) thin, slender, not dense; lacking clarity or sharpness; of slight importance; lacking a sound basis, poorly supported

“My grasp of trigonometry was tenuous until I attended the remedial study sessions.”

1. vitriolic- (adj.) bitter, sarcastic; highly caustic or biting (like a strong acid)

“Though hurt by his vitriolic language, I had to admit that some of his points were valid.”

1. wheedle- (v.) to use coaxing or flattery to gain some desired end

“The spy used charm and flattery in order to wheedle the information from the diplomat.”

Chapter Four

1. affable- (adj.) courteous and pleasant, sociable, easy to speak to

“We spent a pleasant afternoon with our affable neighbors.”

1. aggrandize- (v.) to increase in greatness, power, or wealth; to build up or intensify; to make appear greater

“John D. Rockefeller worked to aggrandize his empire by purchasing oil wells, refineries, and pipelines.”

1. amorphous- (adj.) shapeless, without definite form; of no particular type or character; without organization, unity, or cohesion

“The amorphous body of the amoeba was fascination to watch under the microscope.”

1. archetype- (n.) an original model on which something was patterned or replicated; the ideal example of a particular type of person

“Sherlock Holmes was an archetype of a clever detective who always solves the case.”

1. aura- (n.) that which surrounds )as an atmosphere); a distinctive air or personal quality

“What people thought was her aura of mystery was actually a mask for her shyness.”

1. contraband- (n.) illegal traffic, smuggled goods; (adj.) illegal, prohibited

“Three jeweled combs from the 17th century were among the contraband seized by the police.”

1. erudite- (adj.) scholarly, learned, bookish, pedantic

“For my paper, I would like to find an erudite history of the subject written in a clear and unbiased manner.”

1. gossamer- (adj.) thin, light, delicate, insubstantial; (n.) a very thin, light cloth

“Ghosts are often depicted in literature as wearing gossamer clothing that makes them seem all the more ethereal.”

1. inscrutable- (adj.) incapable of being understood; impossible to see through physically

“I could not tell by her inscrutable smile whether she was pleased or only amused by me.”

1. insular- (adj.) relating to, characteristic of, or situated on an island; narrow or isolated in outlook or experience

“You seem too sophisticated to hold such insular opinions.”

1. irrevocable- (adj.) incapable of being changed or called back

“We end to think court verdicts as irrevocable, but they are often overturned by higher courts.”

12. propensity- (n.) a natural inclination or predilection towards

“Queen Elizabeth showed a strong propensity for putting off decisions in the hopes that they would resolve themselves.”

1. querulous- (adj.) peevish, complaining, fretful

“Some flight attendants dread a querulous airline passenger more than they do the rough weather.”

1. remonstrate- (v.) to argue with someone against something, protest against

“Slowly, carefully, keeping his voice down, he argues with the caller as one might remonstrate a child.”

1. repudiate- (v.) to disown, reject, or deny the validity of

“He was forced to repudiate a statement he had made before he’d had all the information.”

1. resilient- (adj.) able to return to an original shape or form; able to recover quickly

“The development of lightweight, resilient plastics revolutionized the design of many durable goods.”

1. reverberate- (v.) to re-echo, resound; to reflect or be reflected repeatedly

“From the construction site, the noise of bulldozers and dump trucks reverberated across the valley.”

1. scurrilous- (adj.) coarsely abusive, vulgar or low (especially in language), foul-mouthed

“Days passed and unrest grew, and soon the rebels began a scurrilous attack on their absent leader.”

1. sedulous- (adj.) persistent, showing industry and determination

“No one could say that he was lazy, for he was a careful, sedulous copier of other people’s work.”

1. sleazy- (adj.) thin or flimsy in texture; cheap; shoddy or inferior in quality or character; ethically low, mean, or disreputable

“My grandmother made her clothes at home in order to avoid the sleazy goods sold in the general store.”

Chapter Five

1. amnesty- (n.) a general pardon for an offense against a government; in general, any act of forgiveness or absolution

“Many political prisoners were freed under the amnesty granted by the new regime.”

1. autonomy- (n.) self-government, political control

“After the colonies gained autonomy from England, many Americans still clung to English traditions.”

1. axiomatic- (adj.) self-evident, expressing a universally accepted principle

“One should not accept the idea that the camera never lies as an axiomatic truth.”

1. blazon- (v.) to adorn or embellish; to display conspicuously; to publish or proclaim widely

“They will blazon the results of the election across the internet and every television set in the land.”

1. caveat- (n.) a warning or caution to prevent misunderstanding or discourage behavior

“The well-known Latin phrase ‘caveat emptor’ means, ‘let the buyer beware.’”

1. equitable- (adj.) fair, just, embodying principles of justice

“He did more work, so a sixty-forty split of the profits seemed an equitable arrangement.”

1. extricate- (v.) to free from entanglements or difficulties; to remove with effort

“The ring must have slid off my finger as I was trying to extricate the fish from the net.”

1. filch- (v.) to steal, especially in a sneaky way and in petty amounts

“If you filch pennies from the cash drawer, you will be tempted to steal larger amounts one day.”

1. flout- (v.) to mock, treat with contempt

“She chose to ignore my advice, not because she wanted to flout my beliefs, but because she had strong opinions of her own.”

1. fractious- (adj.) tending to be troublesome; unruly, quarrelsome, contrary; unpredictable

“It seems as if even the smoothest-running organizations contain one or two fractious elements.”

1. precept- (n.) a rule of conduct or action

“Many philosophies follow the precept that it is important to treat others as you would like to be treated.”

1. salutary- (adj.) beneficial, helpful; healthful, wholesome

“The cute new puppy had a salutary effect on her health.”

1. scathing- (adj.) bitterly sever, withering; causing great harm

“Sometimes a reasoned discussion does more to change people’s minds than a scathing attack.”

1. scourge- (v.) to whip, punish severely; (n.) a cause of affliction or suffering; a source of severe punishment or criticism

“Jonathan Swift used wit to scourge the British government for its cruel treatment of Ireland.”

“Competing teams consider my daughter the scourge of the soccer field.”

1. sepulchral- (adj.) funereal, typical of the tomb; extremely gloomy or dismal

“In a severe and sepulchral tone of voice, my sister announced that we were out of cookies.”

1. soporific-(adj.) tending to cause sleep, relating to sleepiness or lethargy; (n.) something that induces sleep

“He claimed that the musical was soporific, and that he had slept through the entire second act.”

“Shakespeare’s Juliet drinks a soporific so as to appear to be dead- a trick she is soon to regret.”

1. straitlaced- (adj.) extremely strict in regard to moral standards and conduct; prudish, puritanical

“Travelers may find people overseas straitlaced in some ways but surprisingly free in others.”

1. transient- (adj.) lasting only a short time, fleeting; (n.) one who stays only a short time

“His bad mood was transient, and by the time he’d finished his breakfast, he was smiling.”

“Many farm hands lived the lives of transients during the Great Depression.”

1. unwieldy- (adj.) not easily carried, handled, or managed because of size and complexity

“We loaded the truck with the chairs and the coffee table, but the grand piano was too unwieldy.”

1. vapid- (adj.) dull, uninteresting, tiresome; lacking in sharpness, flavor, liveliness, or force

“While critics called the movie vapid, I thought the performers were very compelling.”

Chapter Six

1. anomalous- (adj.) abnormal, irregular, departing from the usual

“Feeling protective of my friend but knowing of his difficulties placed me in an anomalous position.”

1. aspersion- (n.) a damaging or derogatory statement; the act of slandering or defaming

“Think twice before casting aspersion on his honesty, for he might be telling the truth.”

1. bizarre- (adj.) extremely strange, unusual, atypical

“Years from now I will look at this picture and wonder what sort of bizarre costume I was wearing.”

1. brusque- (adj.) abrupt, blunt, with no formalities

“His request for a large loan for an indefinite length of time was met with a brusque refusal.”

1. cajole- (v.) to coax, persuade through flattery or artifice; to deceive with soothing thoughts or fake promises

“With a smile, a joke, and a second helping of pie, she would cajole him into doing what she wanted.”

1. castigate- (v.) to punish severely; to criticize severely

“After he castigated the unruly children, they settled down to study quietly.”

1. contrive- (v.) to plan with ingenuity; to bring about through a plan

“She can contrive wonderful excuses; but when she tried to offer them, her uneasiness gives her away.”

1. demagogue- (n.) a leader who exploits popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power.

“Often a show of angry concern conceals the self-serving tactics of a demagogue.”

1. disabuse- (v.) to free from deception or error, set right in ideas or thinking

“He thinks that all women adore him, but my sister will probably disabuse him of that idea.”

1. ennui- (n) weariness and dissatisfaction from lack of occupation or interest, boredom

“Some people seem to confuse sophistication with ennui.”

1. fetter- (n) a chain or shackle placed on the feet (often in plural); anything that confines or restrains; (v.) to chain or shackle; to render helpless or impotent

“The old phrase ‘chain gang’ refers to a group of prisoners forced to work, each one joined to the next linked by fetter.”

“It is said that good inventors do not fetter themselves with conventional thinking.”

1. heinous- (adj.) very wicked, offensive, hateful

“A town so peaceful, quiet, and law-abiding was bound to be horrified by so heinous a crime.”

1. immutable- (adj.) not subject to change, constant

“Scientists labored to discover a set of immutable laws of the universe.”

1. insurgent- (n.) one who rebels or rises against authority; (adj.) rising in revolt, refusing to accept authority; surging or rushing in or on

“George Washington and his contemporaries were insurgent against Britain.”

“The army was confident that they could crush the insurgent forces.”

1. megalomania- (n.) a delusion marked by a feeling of power, wealth, talent, etc., far in excess of reality

“Sudden fame and admiration can make people feel unworthy— or it can bring on feelings of megalomania.”

1. sinecure- (n.) a position requiring little or no work; an easy job

“The office of Vice President of the United States was once considered little more than a sinecure.”

1. surreptitious- (adj.) stealthy, secret, intended to escape observation; made or accomplished by fraud

“The movie heroine blushed when she noticed the surreptitious glances of her admirer.”

1. transgress- (v.) to go beyond a limit or boundary; to sin, violate a law

“The penitent citizens promised never again to transgress the laws of the land.”

1. transmute- (v.) to change from one nature, substance, or form to another

“To transmute distrust into cooperation along that war-torn border will take more than talk and treaties.”

1. vicarious- (adj.) performed, suffered, or otherwise experienced by one person in place of another

“In search of vicarious excitement, we watched movies of action and adventure.”

Chapter Seven

1. austere- (adj.) severe or stern in manner; without adornment or luxury, simple, plain; harsh pr sour in flavor

“The austere clothing and conduct of the Puritans expressed their humility.”

1. beneficent- (adj.) performing acts of kindness or charity; conferring benefits, doing good

“From then I learned that purely beneficent acts can require as much hard work as a nine-to-five job.

1. cadaverous- (adj.) pale, gaunt, resembling a corpse

“The rescued captives were weak from hunger and cadaverous in appearance.”

1. concoct- (v.) to prepare by combining ingredients, make up (as a dish); to devise, invent, fabricate

“He concocted a savory stew with fresh herbs and vegetables from the garden.”

1. crass- (adj.) coarse, unfeeling; stupid

“We feel that the positions of our representative show a crass indifference to our problems.”

6. debase- (v.) to lower in character, quality, or value; to degrade, adulterate; to cause to deteriorate

“Every time a new rule is introduced in a popular sport, there are fans who say it will debase the game.”

1. desecrate- (v.) to commit sacrilege upon, treat irreverently; to contaminate, pollute

“The search continues for the vandals who desecrated the cemetery.”

1. disconcert- (v.) to confuse; to disturb the composure of

“The had hoped to disconcert him with an unexpected question, but he was well prepared.”

9. grandiose- (adj.) grand in an impressive or stately way; marked by pompous affectation or grandeur, absurdly exaggerated

“In how many stories, I wonder, does an ambitious villain become the victim of grandiose plans?”

1. inconsequential- (adj.) trifling, unimportant

“Feel free to ignore the inconsequential details, provided that you know exactly which ones they are.”

1. infraction- (n.) a breaking of a law or obligation

“His uncle paid a fine for his infraction of the local recycling regulations.”

1. mitigate- (v.) to make milder of softer, to moderate in force or intensity

“I had hoped to mitigate her anger by offering an apology.”

1. pillage- (v.) to rob of goods by open force (as in war), plunder; (n.) the act of looting; booty

“The commanding officer warned his troops not to pillage the conquered city.”

“In Europe during the Dark Ages, pillage and murder became facts of life.”

1. prate- (v.) to talk a great deal in a foolish or aimless fashion

“He would prate endlessly about the past but say nothing useful about our present dilemma.”

1. punctilious- (adj.) very careful and exact, attentive to fine points of etiquette

“The clerk was so punctilious in obeying court rules that I had to remind him why I was there.”

1. redoubtable- (adj.) inspiring fear or awe; illustrious, eminent

“As a ruler he was redoubtable, but, like all such rulers, he was not much loved.”

1. reprove- (v.) to find fault with, scold, rebuke

“She reproved her staff for having followed others blindly.”

1. restitution- (n.) the act of restoring someone or something to the rightful owner or to a former state or position; making good on a loss or damage

“They made restitution for the damage to the car but never fully regained friendship of the owner.”

1. stalwart- (adj.) strong and sturdy; brave; resolute; (n.) a brave, strong person; a strong supporter; one who takes an uncompromising position

“She became as stalwart on the basketball court as she was quick at mathematical puzzles.”

“The enemy had broken through our first line but was repulsed by the stalwart defending the gates.”

1. vulnerable- (adj.) open to attack; capable of being wounded or damaged; unprotected

“Those brave enough to have opposed the dictator’s rise now found themselves in a vulnerable position.”

Chapter Eight

1. acrimonious- (adj.) stinging, bitter in temper or tone

“She whirled to face me when I spoke, and her answer startled me by its acrimonious intensity.”

1. bovine- (adj.) resembling a cow or ox; sluggish, unresponsive

“After I told him what had happened, he sat there with a bovine expression and said nothing.”

1. consternation- (n.) dismay, confusion

“His father looked at the mess with consternation, hardly knowing what to say first.”

1. corpulent- (adj.) fat; having a large, bulky body

“Though she had grown corpulent with the years, the opera singer’s voice and her way with a song were the same.”

1. disavow- (v.) to deny responsibility for or connection with

“The suspect stubbornly continued to disavow any part in the kidnapping plot.”

1. dispassionate- (adj.) impartial; calm, free from emotion

“Being a neighbor but not quite a family friend, he was called in to give a dispassionate view of our plan.”

1. dissension- (n.) disagreement, sharp difference of opinion

“The political party was torn by dissension and finally split into two wings.”

1. dissipate- (v.) to cause to disappear; to scatter, dispel; to spend foolishly, squander; to be extravagant in pursuit of pleasure

“As a chairman he is fair and open, but he dissipates his energies on trivial things.”

1. expurgate- (v.) to remove objectionable passages or words from a written text; to cleanse, purify

“According to the unwritten law of journalism, the editor alone has the right to expurgate the article.”

1. gauntlet- (n.) an armored or protective glove; a challenge; two lines of men armed with weapons with which to beat a person forced to run between them; an ordeal

“In the Middle Ages, a knight threw down his gauntlet as a challenge, and another knight picked it up only if he accepted.”

1. hypothetical- (adj.) based on an assumption or guess; used as a provisional or tentative idea to guide or direct investigation

“Science is not based on hypothetical assumptions, but on proven facts.”

1. ignoble- (adj.) mean, low, base

“Most people will agree that a noble purpose does not justify ignoble means.”

1. impugn- (v.) to call into question; to attack as false

“You can impugn the senator’s facts, but you cannot accuse her of concealing her intentions.”

1. intemperate- (adj.) immoderate, lacking in self-control; inclement

“Experience taught her to control her intemperate outbursts of anger.”

1. odium- (n.) hatred, contempt; disgrace or infamy resulting from hateful conduct

“Those eager to heap odium on the fallen tyrant learned that he had escaped in the night.”

16. perfidy- (n.) faithlessness, treachery

“Rulers in Shakespeare’s plays often find themselves armed against enemies but not against the perfidy of their friends.”

1. relegate- (v.) to place in a lower position; to assign, refer, turn over; to banish

“Even if they relegate him to a mere clerical job, he is determined to make his presence felt.”

1. squeamish- (adj.) inclined to nausea; easily shocked or upset; excessively fastidious or refined

“If I am called squeamish for disliking the horror movie, what do we call those who say that they liked it?”

1. subservient- (adj.) subordinate in capacity or role; submissively obedient; serving to promote some end

“The officers were taught to be respectful of but not blindly subservient to their superior’s wishes.”

1. susceptible- (adj.) open to; easily influenced; lacking in resistance

“The trouble with being susceptible to flattery is that you can never be sure that the flattery is sincere.”

Chapter Nine

1. abate- (v.) to make less in amount, degree, etc.; to subside, become less; to nullify; to deduct, omit

“We stood on the dock on that moonless night, waiting for the storm to abate.”

1. adulation- (n.) praise or flattery that is excessive

“Athletes have little choice but to enjoy the sometimes puzzling adulation of their fans.”

1. anathema- (n.) an object of intense dislike; a curse or strong denunciation (often used adjectivally without the article)

“The author’s views on bringing up children are anathema to my dad but a delight to my mother.”

1. astute- (adj.) shrewd, crafty, showing practical wisdom

“The astute management of money is a valuable skill but may not by itself make a good executive.”

1. avarice- (n.) a greedy desire, particularly for wealth

“Her career exhibited both the miser’s ever-growing avarice and the miser’s diminishing charm.”

1. culpable- (adj.) deserving blame, worthy of condemnation

“It was the inspectors’ culpable neglect of duty that left such old buses in service.”

1. dilatory- (adj.) tending to delay or procrastinate; not prompt; intended to delay or postpone

“She hired an assistant because, on her own, she was always dilatory in paying her bills.”

1. egregious- (adj.) conspicuous, standing out from the mass (used particularly in an unfavorable sense)

“Whoever allowed that man on a stage is guilty of an egregious blunder.”

1. equivocate- (v.) to speak or act in a way that allows for more than one interpretation; to be deliberately vague or ambiguous

“I won’t soon give my vote to a candidate who shows such a marked tendency to equivocate.”

1. evanescent- (adj.) vanishing, soon passing away; light and airy

“Looking back, I see that the magic of that summer was evanescent.”

1. irresolute- (adj.) unable to make up one’s mind, hesitating

“In Hamlet, the prince is irresolute about whether to obey his father’s ghost or to go on as if nothing has happened.”

1. nebulous- (adj.) cloudlike, resembling a cloud; cloudy in color, not transparent; vague, confused, indistinct

“By the time everyone had expressed an opinion, the original idea had become somewhat nebulous.”

1. novice- (n.) one who is just a beginner at some activity requiring skill and experience (also used adjectivally)

“You must be patient and realize that all is mistakes are typical of a novice in this line of work.”

1. penury- (n.) extreme poverty; barrenness, insufficiency

“We never seem to tire of stories of people who go from penury to sudden wealth.”

1. pretentious- (adj.) done for show, striving to make a big impression; claiming merit or position unjustifiably; ambitious

“Talking about one’s wealth is thought to be pretentious and in poor taste.”

1. recapitulate- (v.) to review as a series of facts; to sum up

“Don’t bother to recapitulate the plot of the book; instead, tell me if you liked it.”

1. resuscitate- (v.) to revive, bring back to consciousness or existence

“We need someone who can resuscitate our neighborhoods community spirit.”

1. slovenly- (adj.) untidy, dirty, careless

“Her room was in a slovenly state, and it took her an entire Saturday to clean it.”

1. supposition- (n.) something that is assumed or taken for granted without conclusive evidence

“Guided by a supposition that turned out to be false, they made some disastrous decisions.”

1. torpid- (adj.) inactive, sluggish, dull

“We all felt torpid after that long, dull lecture.”

Chapter Ten

1. accrue- (v.) to grow or accumulate over time; to happen a a natural result

“We allowed the internet to accrue on the account until it turned into a small fortune.”

1. annotation- (n.) a critical or explanatory note or comment, especially for a literary work

“Laurence Sterne’s novel Tristram Shandy has almost as many annotations as lines of text.”

1. bedlam- (n.) a state or scene of uproar and confusion

“Is this the same band that caused mob scenes and virtual bedlam on its first tour?”

1. covert- (adj.) hidden, disguised, purposefully kept secret; sheltered, secluded; (n.) a sheltered place, a hiding place
2. debonair- (adj.) pleasant, courteous, lighthearted; smooth and polished in manner and appearance

“Quite a few debonair young men asked my cousin to dance.”

1. dun- (v.) to demand insistently, especially in payment of a debt; (n.) a creditor; (adj.) dark, dull, drab, dingy

“Many of Charles Dickens’s characters are dun by creditors because of their large debts.”

1. efficacious- (adj.) effective, producing results

“Not the most charming of senators, he nevertheless wielded the most efficacious knowledge of statecraft.”

1. equanimity- (n.) calmness, composure, refusal to panic

“Injustice always sent him into a rage, but he could endure misfortune with equanimity.”

1. fortuitous- (adj.) accidental, occurring by a happy chance

“Due to a fortuitous drop in oil prices, the shipping company showed healthy profits for the year.”

1. gist- (n.) the essential part, main point or essence

“Would the talented fellow who keeps the back row in stitches please repeat the gist of what I said.”

1. gratuitous- (adj.) freely given; not called for by circumstances, unwarranted

“Though she had hoped to leave the lecture early, several members of the audience asked gratuitous questions, delaying her by an hour.”

1. imperious- (adj.) overbearing, arrogant; seeking to dominate; pressing, compelling

“The Wizard of Oz’s imperious manner masked the reality that he was a fussy little man behind a curtain.”

1. invective- (n.) a strong denunciation or condemnation; abusive language, (adj.) abusive, vituperative

“He let loose his usual hail of invective, a furious shower that left the air a bit clearer.”

“As invective speeches go, this one displayed originality, vigor, and, here and there, some wit.”

1. motley- (adj.) showing great variety; composed of different elements or many colors; (n.) a jester’s costume; a jester

“Tall and short, thick and thin, old and young we share them family name but are a motley bunch indeed.”

“To ‘put on motley’ is to say what only a king’s jester would dare to say.”

1. munificent- (adj.) extremely generous, lavish

“Nothing the volunteers said could save the program until our anonymous friend donated a munificent sum.”

1. procrastinate- (v.) to delay, put off until later

“We all want to procrastinate when a task is no fun, but some people make delaying a way of life.”

1. provocative- (adj.) tending to produce a strong feeling or response; arousing desire or appetite; irritating, annoying

“The ideas presented in the film were so provocative that I thought about them for days.”

1. recondite- (adj.) exceeding ordinary knowledge and understanding

“The theories of relativity can see, recondite even for people who are well versed in the sciences.”

1. reprobate- (n.) a depraved, vicious, or unprincipled person, scoundrel; (adj.) corrupt or unprincipled; (v.) to disapprove of, condemn

“Reprobates are usually more charming, funny, or thrilling in fiction than they are in life.”

1. sedentary- (adj.) characterized by or calling for continued sitting; remaining in one place

“She exchanged her sedentary job for a position as a swimming instructor.”

Chapter Eleven

1. abstemious- (adj.) moderate, sparing (as in eating and drinking); characterized by abstinence and self-discipline

“She came from a long line of quiet, thrifty, and abstemious farming folk.”

1. censurable- (adj.) deserving of blame or correction

“Because he was unaware of what he had done, we decided that his behavior was not censurable.”

1. contingent- (adj.) likely but not certain to happen, possible; dependent on uncertain events or conditions; happening by chance; (n.) a representative group forming part of a larger body

“Contingent on our parents’ approval, we plan to take a trip through Alaska next summer.”

“The meeting was delayed due to the late arrival of the California contingent.”

1. corroborate- (v.) to confirm, make more certain, bolster, substantiate, verify

“He could tell the court where I was and for how long, but he needed a witness to corroborate his statements.”

1. denizen- (n.) an inhabitant, resident; one who frequents a place

“A lover of marine life, she knew the names of all the scaly denizen of our lake.”

1. discursive- (adj.) passing aimlessly from one place or subject to another, rambling, roving, nomadic

“Within the discursive account of his life, there was a fairly complete history of the whole village.”

1. disseminate- (v.) to scatter or spread widely

“I decided that it was a bad idea to use my position in order to disseminate my personal views.”

1. dowdy- (adj.) poorly dressed, shabby; lacking smartness and good taste

“The actor wore dowdy clothing and sunglasses so that no one would recognize him.”

1. florid- (adj.) highly colored, reddish; excessively ornate, showy

“The florid style of architecture in the old part of town was a welcome change from the grim, newer blocks we had seen.”

1. foist- (v.) to impose by fraud; to pass off as worthy or genuine; to bring about by stealth, dishonesty, or coercion

“During the nineteenth century the unscrupulous Jay Gould foisted thousands of worthless railroad shares on an unsuspecting public.”

1. gauche- (adj.) awkward, lacking in social graces, tactless, clumsy

“Though he was sincere when he thanked his guest for having stayed an extra week, his comment was considered gauche.”

1. heresy- (n.) an opinion different from accepted belief; the denial of an idea that is generally held sacred

“Saving money to accumulate interest seems to be a form of heresy in these days of constant credit.”

1. inculcate- (v.) to impress on the mind by repetition, teach persistently and earnestly

“It is important to inculcate a healthy respect for authority into army recruits.”

1. palpable- (adj.) capable of being touched or felt; easily seen, heard, or recognized

“The energy and excitement in the stands was almost palpable during the football game.”

1. perceptive- (adj.) having sympathetic insight or understanding, capable of keen appreciation

“His perceptive eye took in the roomful of noisy children and settled on the one child who was ill at ease.”

1. pernicious- (adj.) extremely harmful; deadly, fatal

“Night air was once thought to have a pernicious effect on infants who were in poor health.”

1. salient- (adj.) leaping, jumping, or springing forth; prominent, standing out, conspicuous; (n.) a projection or bulge, a land from that projects upward or outward

“I think the most salient feature of the new plan is its similarity to the old plan.”

“Our forces occupied a salient that was extremely vulnerable to attack.”

1. satiate- (v.) to satisfy completely; to fill to excess; (adj.) full, satisfied

“Nothing will satiate my hunger.”

“The satiate brown bear had a good sleep after raiding the honey-laden beehives.”

1. sear- (v.) to make or become dry and withered; to char or scorch the surface of; to harden or make unfeeling; to parch, singe

“We wanted to serve grilled vegetables, but I seared them, and they tasted like leather.”

1. specious- (adj.) deceptive, apparently good or valid but lacking real merit

“Though her résumé looked very impressive, her claims of vast experience in the field were specious.”

Chapter Twelve

1. absolve- (v.) to clear from blame, responsibility, or guilt

“The assumed that their alibi would absolve them of suspicion.”

1. caricature- (n.) a representation, such as a drawing, that exaggerates a subject’s characteristic features; (v.) to present someone or something in a deliberately distorted way

“What began as a hasty newspaper caricature soon turned up on coffee mugs, T-shirts, and sweatshirts.”

“The satirical television program caricatured the movie star and made him seem clumsier than he really was.”

1. clangor- (n.) a loud ringing sound; (v.) to make a loud ringing noise

“For more than a century, American grade schools summoned children with the clangor of a bell.”

1. contiguous- (adj.) side by side, touching; near; adjacent in time

“Trouble arose over who should control the weeds and bushes that rioted in the lot.”

1. cupidity- (n.) an eager desire for something; greed

“You say that these catalogue prices show the quality of the goods, but I say they show the seller’s cupidity.”

1. deleterious- (adj.) harmful, injurious

“Wishing can give zest and purpose to anyone’s life, but wishful thinking can have a deleterious effect.”

1. enhance- (v.) to raise to a higher degree; to increase the value or desirability of

“She sanded and varnished the old table in order to enhance its appearance and value.”

1. enthrall- (v.) to captivate, charm, hold spellbound; to enslave; to imprison

“All the critics were enthralled by the performance and wrote rave reviews.”

1. extenuate- (v.) to lessen the seriousness or magnitude of an offense by making partial excuses

“The jurors believed that the young man’s crime had been committed under extenuate circumstances.”

1. implicit- (adj.) implied or understood though unexpressed; without doubts or reservations, unquestioning; potentially contained in

“She never said so, but it was implicit that she did not like conversations before her morning coffee.”

1. incisive- (adj.) sharp, keen, penetrating (with a suggestion of decisiveness and effectiveness)

“I am truly thankful for your incisive remarks about my report.”

12. inimical- (adj.) tending to cause harm or obstruct developments; being oppositional or adverse

“Several inimical groups have tried to create chaos and undermine democratic principles.”

1. ostentatious- (adj.) marked by conspicuous or pretentious display, showy

“The restaurant’s interior was so ostentatious that the meager meal, when it came, seemed and afterthought.”

1. paragon- (n.) a model of excellence or perfection

“I may not be a paragon of scholarship, but I do try my best.”

1. politic- (adj.) prudent, shrewdly conceived and developed; artful, expedient

“In your angry state I think it would be politic to say nothing, at least until you have calmed down.”

1. prosaic- (adj.) dull, lacking in distinction and originality; matter-of-fact, straightforward; characteristic of prose, not poetic

“I remember his singing voice as being on key and clear but also prosaic.”

1. redundant- (adj.) extra, excess, more than is needed; wordy, repetitive; profuse, lush

“Some redundant expressions, such as ‘hollow tubing,’ are acceptable in the English language.”

1. sanctimonious- (adj.) making a show of virtue or righteousness; hypocritically moralistic or pious, self-righteous, canting, holier-than-thou

“Cautionary tales that take on a sanctimonious tone often achieve the opposite of the desired result.”

1. scintillating- (adj., part.) sparkling, twinkling, exceptionally brilliant (applied to mental or personal qualities)

“She was known for her scintillating conversation.”

1. winsome- (adj.) charming, attractive, pleasing (often suggesting a childlike charm and innocence)

“When my little brother wanted something badly, he became as winsome as a puppy.”

Chapter Thirteen

1. abet- (v.) to encourage, assist, aid, support (especially in something wrong or unworthy)

“To allow a man in his condition to get behind the wheel of a car is to abet a potential crime.”

1. aver- (v.) to affirm, declare confidently

“I will aver your fitness to do the work to any prospective employer who inquires.”

1. blatant- (adj.) noisy in a coarse, offensive way; obvious or conspicuous especially in an unfavorable sense

“Your comments showed a blatant disregard for my feelings.”

1. broach- (v.) to bring up or begin to talk about (a subject); to announce, introduce; to break the surface of the water; to turn sideways to the wind and waves; to pierce ( a keg or cask) in order to draw off liquid; (n.) a spit for roasting; a tool for tapping casks

“She opted not to broach the subject of the moldy smell in the bedroom for fear of insulting her hosts.”

1. buttress- (v.) to support, prop up, strengthen; (n.) a supporting structure

“He has read so widely that he can produce facts to buttress any argument he advances.”

“I had to add buttress on either side of my rickety shed to keep it from collapsing.”

1. carousal- (n.) noisy revelry or merrymaking (often with a suggestion of heavy drinking)

“Vikings are notorious for having enjoyed a carousal after each of their battles.”

1. collate- (v.) to compare critically in order to note differences, similarities, etc.; to arrange in order for some specific purpose

“We decided to collate the recipes according to how complicated they are.”

1. connoisseur- (n.) an expert; one who is well qualified to pass critical judgements, especially in one of the fine arts

“She was a connoisseur of both music and film.”

1. disconsolate- (adj.) deeply unhappy or dejected, without hope, beyond consolation

“Macbeth hardly seems disconsolate when his wife dies; instead, he bluntly says he has no time to grieve.”

1. encumber- (v.) to weigh down or burden (with difficulties, cares, debt, etc.); to fill up, block up, hinder

“I feared that joining another club would encumber me with too many obligations.”

1. foment- (v.) to promote trouble or rebellion; to apply warm liquids to, warm

“Toward the end of the film, the peasant leader attempts to foment a storming of the scientist’s castle.”

1. grisly- (adj.) frightful, horrible, ghastly

“Katherine Anne Porter’s Pale Horse, Pale Rider reveals the grisly effects of the influenza virus during the epidemic that followed World War I.”

1. herculean- (adj.) (capital H) relating to Hercules; (lowercase h) characterized by great strength; very hard to do in the sense of requiring unusual strength

“We saw that getting the huge desk up the stairs would require a herculean effort.”

1. impassive- (adj.) showing no feeling or emotion; inanimate; motionless

“Since nervous laughter is the sign of an inexperienced actor, I tried to adopt an impassive expression on stage.”

1. inauspicious- (adj.) unfavorable, unlucky, suggesting bad luck for the future

“Our road trip got off to an inauspicious start when we ran out of gas within five miles of home.”

1. incontrovertible- (adj.) unquestionable, beyond dispute

“The document was remarkable for its tact yet also incontrovertible in its facts.”

1. nonplussed- (adj., part.) puzzled, not knowing what to do, at a loss

“She thought she was preparing for all contingencies, but she was nonplussed by the turn of events.”

18. opportune- (adj.) suitable or convenient for a particular purpose; occurring at an appropriate time

“If you intend to give that dog a bath, you had better pick an opportune moment, and then pounce!”

1. prolific- (adj.) abundantly productive; abundant, profuse

“Haydn was a more prolific composer than Mozart, in part because he lived much longer.”

1. rejoinder- (n.) a reply to a reply, especially from the defendant in a legal suit

“When he explained where he had been and what he had done, her rejoinder was sharp and critical.”

Chapter Fourteen

1. amenable- (adj.) willing to follow advice or authority, tractable, submissive; responsive; liable to be held responsible

“The will be amenable to your instructions as long as what you say makes sense.”

1. berate- (v.) to scold sharply

“He removed the dog from obedience school when he discovered that the instructors had berated it too harshly.”

1. carnage- (n.) large-scale slaughter or loss of life

“Until television began to broadcast footage of war, the carnage of battle was rarely made real to far-off civilian populations.”

1. credulous- (adj.) too ready to believe, easily deceived

“Though he was no dolt, his credulous nature and desire to believe the best of people made him quite easy to deceive.”

1. criterion (pl., criteria) (n.)- a rule, test; a standard for judgement or evaluation

“She was disturbed to discover that the criteria for the award was based on style, not substance.”

1. deplete- (v.) to use up as a result of spending or consumption; to diminish greatly

“Dwelling on all that could go wrong with your project will deplete your energy and courage.”

1. expatiate- (v.) to expand on, write or talk at length or in detail, to move about freely

“We would like you to expatiate on the interesting matters you only touched upon earlier today.”

1. extraneous- (adj.) coming from the outside, foreign; present but not essential, irrelevant

“One handy way to dodge a difficult question is to earnestly begin talking about something extraneous.”

1. inception- (n.) the beginning, start, earliest stage of some process, institution, etc.

“He has worked here steadily since the firm’s inception, and knows every facet of the job.”

10. infirmity- (n.) a weakness or ailment (physical, mental, moral, etc.)

“Was his ‘deafness’ an ailment of old age or a lack or interest in the conversation?”

1. jejune- (adj.) lacking in nutritive value; lacking in interest or substance; immature, juvenile

“My favorite teacher turned history from a jejune study of the distant past into a relevant topic of discussion.”

1. obdurate- (adj.) stubborn, unyielding

“Vincent Van Gogh was obdurate in painting whatever he wished, even when no one would buy his work.”

1. potpourri- (n.) a collection of diverse or miscellaneous items; a general mixture; petals mixed with spices for scent

“The furniture was a potpourri of hand-me-downs from my father’s parents and my stepmother’s aunt.”

1. precocious- (adj.) showing unusually early development (especially in talents and mental capacity)

“She showed a precocious talent for science.”

1. sadistic- (adj.) delighting in cruelty, excessively cruel

“The Geneva Convention of 1949 outlawed torture and sadistic treatment of prisoners of war.”

1. sententious- (adj.) self-righteous, characterized by moralizing; given to use of maxims or adages; saying much in a few words; pithy

“The sententious advice, though wise, was too general to help their particular situation.”

1. supplicate- (v.) to beg earnestly and humbly

“He chose to supplicate for mercy not on his own account, but so that his wife would not suffer.”

1. surfeit- (n.) an excess or overindulgence, as in eating or drinking, causing disgust; (v.) to feed or supply with anything to excess

“A surfeit of food, drink, and clowning puts Shakespeare’s Falstaff in disgrace with the King.”

1. tortuous- (adj.) winding, twisted, crooked; highly involved, complex; devious

“The camera had to be portable in order to follow the athletes up the narrow and tortuous path to the summit.”

1. turgid- (adj.) swollen, bloated, filled to excess; overdecorating or excessive language

“The heavy rains turned the fields swampy and the river turgid.”

Chapter Fifteen

1. adamant- (adj.) firm in purpose or opinion, unyielding, obdurate, implacable, inflexible; (n.) an extremely hard substance

“The government was adamant in the refusal to negotiate with terrorists.”

1. brouhaha- (n.) a confused hodgepodge of sounds, hubbub; an uproar or commotion that goes far beyond what is justified

“After the brouhaha had finally subsided, we asked the group to give us a written list of all their complaints.”

1. bulwark- (n.) a strong defense or protection, a solid wall-like structure for defense; (v.) to provide such defense or protection

“The only evidence of a once thriving civilization is this bulwark against the ocean tides.”

“The singer’s staff had to bulwark him against fans who wanted to get near him.”

1. choleric- (adj.) easily made angry, bad- tempered

“His choleric temperament and erratic behavior made him an ineffective ruler.”

1. cloy- (v.) to spoil or destroy an appetite by too much indulgence, especially in sweet or rich things; to glut, satiate, surfeit

“A steady diet of TV began to cloy, and I was glad to begin a book.”

1. curtail- (v.) to cut short, bring to a halt, or end sooner than expected, to reduce

“It is time yet again to curtail the flow of unsolicited nonsense that somehow reaches me as email.”

1. deference- (n.) courteous yielding to the wishes and ideas of another person; great respect marked by submission, as to a superior

“Some moderate deference is due the boss, but too much can seem to conceal other motives.”

1. definitive- (adj.) conclusive, final, the limit of what can be done

“She is working on what she hopes will be the definitive biography of Emily Dickinson.”

1. demeanor- (n.) the way a person behaves, overall impression made by comportment, manner, etc.; facial appearance, mien

“Charles Dicken’s’ Mr Pickwick had such a cheerful and sympathetic demeanor that few can resist him.”

1. enigmatic- (adj.) puzzling, perplexing, inexplicable, not easily understood

“He was staring me straight in the eye, neither pleased nor displeased, his expression enigmatic.”

1. impromptu- (adj., adv.) without preparation, offhand, suddenly or hastily done; (n.) an extemporaneous composition or remark; a minimal piece suggestive of improvisation

“His impromptu speech allowed him to express not only what he was thinking but also what he was feeling.”

“An impromptu by Schubert may not stun you at first, but you’ll find hours later that you haven’t forgotten it.”

1. mawkish- (adj.) excessively and objectionably sentimental; having a mildly sickening flavor

“Jimmy Stewart’s portrayal of his character in It’s a Wonderful Life was poignant without being mawkish.”

1. mollify- (v.) to soften; to calm, allay (as an emotion); reduce in intensity

“The senator hoped to mollify her angry public, but nothing she said was likely to get her reelected.”

1. onus- (n.) something that is heavy or burdening (especially an unwelcome responsibility); a stigma; blame

“If the onus for a defective product is placed on the consumer, some complicated legal and ethical questions are sure to arise.”

1. presentiment- (n.) a vague sense of approaching misfortune

“Ironically by denying their presentiment, they made their worst fears come true.”

1. profligate- (adj.) given over to dissipation and self-indulgence, immoral; recklessly extravagant; (n.) a person given to wild spending

“He was the family’s profligate son, the charming one from whom nothing was expected.”

1. remit- (v.) to send or hand in (as in money); to cancel (as a penalty or punishment), forgive; to lessen, diminish; postpone, defer

“The would remit a certain sum each year to a local charity.”

1. requisite- (adj.) needed, necessary, regarded as essential or indispensable

“If you have the requisite coordination and an ear for music, I’ll pay for your first year of dance instruction.”

1. sartorial- (adj.) of or pertaining to a tailor or his work; having to do with clothe or dress (especially men’s)

“Paging through historical picture books is a fascinating study in sartorial standards through the centuries.”

1. thwart- (v.) to oppose successfully; to prevent, frustrate

“Our dog’s friendliness would thwart the sternest efforts of the most expensive guard-dog trainer.”