Chapter One

1. admonish- (v.) to caution or advise against something; to scold mildly; to remind of a duty

“The librarian had to admonish the noisy students several times before they settled down”

1. breach- (n.) an opening, gap, rupture, rift; a violation or infraction; (v.) to create an opening, break through

“Because of a serious breach of the rules, two players were ejected from the game.”

“Our troops were unable to breach the enemy’s lines during battle.”

1. brigand- (n.) a bandit, robber, outlaw, highwayman

“Ancient caravans passing through desolate areas were sometimes attacked by brigands.”

1. circumspect (adj.) careful, cautious

“It is important for a diplomat to behave in a manner that is both discreet and circumspect.”

1. commandeer- (v.) to seize for military or official use

“Under certain circumstances the U.S. government has the right to commandeer private property.”

1. cumbersome- (adj.) clumsy, hard to handle; slow-moving

“The bus was filled to capacity with holiday shoppers carrying large and cumbersome packages.”

1. deadlock- (n.) a standstill resulting from the opposition of two equal forces or factions; (v.) to bring to such a standstill

“After fifteen innings, the score remained a frustrating 3-to-3 deadlock.”

“The refusal of labor and management to modify their demands deadlocked the contract negotiations.”

1. debris- (n.) scattered fragments, wreckage

“After the storm, the beach was littered with driftwood and other debris.”

1. diffuse- (v.) to spread or scatter freely or wildly; (adj.) wordy, long-winded, or unfocused; scattered or widely spread

“The scent of lilacs slowly diffused through the open window”

“The speech was so long and diffused that most audience members were thoroughly confused by it.”

1. dilemma- (n.) a difficult or perplexing situation or problem

“During the crisis the President found himself caught in a painful dilemma.”

1. efface- (v.) to wipe out; to keep oneself from being noticed

“Time had effaced almost all signs of the struggle that took place on that famous battlefield.”

1. muddle- (v.) to make a mess of; muddle through; to get by; (n.) a hopeless mess

“Too much stress and too little sleep will almost certainly muddle a person’s ability to concentrate.

“The muddle was principally caused by their failure to carry out the general’s orders properly.”

1. opinionated- (adj.) stubborn and often unreasonable in holding to one’s own ideas, having a closed mind

“My friend is so opinionated that sometimes she will not listen to a reasonable proposal.”

1. perennial- (adj.) lasting for a long time, persistent; (n.) a plant that lives for many years

“Pizza is a perennial favorite of young and old alike in the United States.”

“A garden of perennials is relatively easy to maintain.”

1. predispose- (v.) to incline to beforehand

“My genetic makeup seems to predispose me to colds and sore throats.”

1. relinquish- (v.) to let go, give up

“Severe illness forced me to relinquish my role in the school play.”

1. salvage- (v.) to save from fire or shipwreck; (n.) property thus saved

“Fortunately, we were able to salvage a few things from the fire.”

“Salvage from sunken ships can be of great value to archaeologists and historians.”

1. spasmodic- (adj.) sudden and violent but brief; fitful; intermittent

“Spasmodic flashes of lightning and booming thunderclaps were accompanied by torrential rain.”

1. spurious- (adj.) not genuine, not true, not valid

“Manufacturers who make spurious claims for their products may face fines or lawsuits.”

1. unbridled- (adj.) lacking in restraint

“Sometimes the unbridled enthusiasm of sports fans can get a little out of hand.”

Chapter Two

1. adjourn- (v.) to stop proceedings temporarily; move to another place

“The judge adjourned the hearing until ten o’ clock the following morning.”

1. alien- (n.) a citizen of another country; (adj.) foreign, strange

“Movies about aliens from outer space have been extremely popular for decades.”

“An alien species of plant or animal can upset the balance of our ecosystem.”

1. comely- (adj.) having a pleasing appearance

“The proud parents and their comely children posed for a family picture.”

1. compensate- (v.) to make up for; to repay for services

“The manufacturer was ordered to compensate customers injured by the defective product.”

1. dissolute- (adj.) loose in one’s morals or behaviors

“The mad Roman emperor Caligula led an extravagant and dissolute life.”

1. erratic- (adj.) not regular or consistent different from what is ordinarily expected; undependable

“Students who have an erratic attendance record may find themselves disciplined by the principal.”

1. expulsion- (n.) the process of driving or forcing out

“The Biblical story of the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden is told in Genesis.”

1. feint- (n.) a deliberately deceptive movement; a pretense; (v.) to make a deceptive movement; to make a pretense of

“The chess master’s opening feint gave her an immediate advantage.”

“His uncanny ability to feint and counterpunch made the champ unbeatable.”

1. fodder- (n.) food for horses or cattle; raw material for a designated purpose

“Every experience in life is fodder for a novelist’s imagination.”

1. fortify- (v.) to strengthen, build up

“The soldiers fortified the garrison against the expected attack.”

1. illegible- (adj.) difficult or impossible to read

“The effects of air pollution have rendered the inscriptions on many old gravestones illegible.”

1. jeer- (v.) to make fun of rudely or unkindly; (n.) a rude remark or derision

“To jeer at someone with a disability is absolutely inexcusable.”

“Umpires and other referees quickly become immune to the jeers of angry fans.

1. lucrative- (adj.) bringing in money; profitable

“Many people find that they can turn a favorite hobby into a highly lucrative business.”

1. mediocre- (adj.) average, ordinary, undistinguished

“The team’s number-one draft pic turned out to be a rather mediocre player, not a star who could lead them to the championship.”

1. proliferate- (v.) to reproduce, increase, or spread rapidly

“Because malignant cells proliferate, early detection of cancer is absolutely crucial to successful treatment.”

1. subjugate- (v.) to conquer by force, bring under complete control

“‘We must act quickly,’ the general said, “in order to subjugate the rebel forces.’”

1. sully- (v.) to soil, stain, tarnish, defile, besmirch

“The Nixon-era Watergate scandal sullied the image of politicians in the minds of many voters.”

1. tantalize- (v.) to tease, torment by teasing

“When I am on a diet, the treats in the bakery windows seem to have been put there to tantalize me.”

1. terse- (adj.) brief and to the point

“The manuscript for my short story was returned to me with a terse letter of rejection.”

1. unflinching- (adj.) firm, showing no signs of fear, not drawing back

“Everyone admires the unflinching courage with which firefighters and other rescue workers carry out their dangerous jobs.”

Chapter Three

1. abridge- (v.) to make shorter

“Travel by air abridges the time needed to reach far-distant places.”

1. adherent- (n.) a follower, a supporter; (adj.) attached, sticking to

“The senators loyal adherents campaigned long and hard for her reelection.”

“Before we could repaint the walls of our living room, we had to remove an adherent layer of wallpaper.”

1. altercation- (n.) an angry argument

“A noisy altercation in the next apartment kept me awake for hours.”

1. cherubic- (adj.) resembling an angel portrayed as a little child with a beautiful, round, or chubby face; sweet and innocent

“How well those photographers of the month-old twins capture the cherubic expressions on their faces!”

1. condone- (v.) to pardon or overlook

“Our parents always have always made it crystal clear to us that they do not condone rude behavior.”

1. dissent- (v.) to disagree; (n.) disagreement

“Justices have an option to dissent from a ruling issued by a majority of the Supreme Court.”

“Some people give voice to their dissent on issues of public policy by writing letters to newspapers.”

1. eminent- (adj.) famous, outstanding, distinguished; projecting

“A group of eminent scientists met to discuss long-term changes in Earth’s climate.”

1. exorcise- (v.) to drive out by magic; to dispose of something troublesome, menacing, or oppressive

“We must do all we can to exorcise the evils of hatred and prejudice from our society.”

1. fabricate- (v.) to make , manufacture; to make up, invent

“Threads from the cocoons of caterpillars called silkworms are used to fabricate silk.”

1. gluttony- (n.) engaging in extreme eating or drinking; greedy overindulgence

“Im the Middle Ages, gluttony was considered one of the Seven Deadly Sins.”

1. irate- (adj.) angry

“Long delays caused by bad weather are likely to make even the most unflappable traveler irate.”

1. marauder- (n.) a raider, plunderer

“Edgar Allan Poe’s story ‘The Gold Bug’ concerns treasure buried by the marauder Captain Kidd.”

1. pauper- (n.) an extremely pour person

“During the Great Depression, many people were reduced to leading the desperate lives of paupers.”

1. pilfer- (v.) to steal in small quantities

“An employee who pilfers from the petty cash box will get caught sooner or later.”

1. rift- (n.) a split, break, breach

“Failure to repay a loan can be the cause of an angry rift between longtime friends.”

1. semblance- (n.) a likeness; an outward appearance; an apparition

“Despite a bad case of stage fright; I tried to maintain a semblance of calm as I sang my solo.”

1. surmount- (v.) to overcome, rise above

“Wilma Rudolph surmounted childhood illness and physical disabilities to win three Olympic gold medals.”

1. terminate- (v.) to bring to an end

“If you fail to perform your job satisfactorily, your boss may terminate your employment.”

1. trite- (adj.) commonplace; overused, stale

“When you write an essay or a story, be especially careful to avoid using trite expressions.”

1. usurp- (v.) to seize and hold a position by force or without right

“The general who led the coup usurped the office of the duly elected president.”

Chapter Four

1. abscond- (v.) to run off and hide

“The thieves who absconded with several of the museums most valuable paintings have never been located.”

1. access- (n.) approach or admittance to places, persons, things; an increase; (v.) to get at, obtain

“Access to information on a seemingly unlimited number of topics is available over the Internet.”

“You need a password in order to access your email accounts.”

1. anarchy- (n.) a lack of government and law; confusion

“In the final days of a war, civilians may find themselves living in anarchy.”

1. arduous- (adj.) hard to do, requiring much effort

“No matter how carefully you plan for it, moving to a new home is an arduous chore.”

1. auspicious- (adj.) favorable; fortunate

“My parents describe the day that they first met as a most auspicious occasion.”

1. daunt- (v.) to overcome with fear, intimidate; to dishearten, discourage

“Despite all its inherent dangers, space flight did not daunt the Mercury program astronauts.”

1. disentangle- (v.) to free from tangles or complications

“Rescuers worked for hours to disentangle a whale from the fishing net wrapped around its jaws.”

1. fated- (adj.) determined in advance by destiny or fortune

“The tragic outcome of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet is fated from the play’s very first scene.”

1. hoodwink- (v.) to mislead by a trick, swindle

“Many sweepstakes offers hoodwink people into thinking they have already won big prizes.”

1. inanimate- (adj.) not having life; without energy or spirit

“Although fossils are inanimate, they hold many clues to life on Earth millions of year ago.”

1. incinerate- (v.) to burn to ashes

“Because of environmental concerns, many cities and towns no longer incinerate their garbage.”

1. intrepid- (adj.) very brave, fearless, unshakable

“Intrepid Polynesian sailors in outrigger canoes were the first humans to reach the Hawaiian Islands.

1. larceny- (n.) theft

“Someone who steals property that is worth thousands of dollars commits grand larceny.”

1. pliant- (adj.) bending readily; easily influenced

“The pliant branches of the sapling sagged but did not break under the weight of the heavy snow.”

1. pompous- (adj.) overly self important in speech and manner; excessively stately or ceremonious

“Political cartoonists like nothing better than to mock pompous public officials.”

1. precipice- (n.) a very steep cliff; the brink or edge of disaster

“During the Cuban Missile Crisis the world hovered on the precipice of nuclear war.”

1. prototype- (n.) an original model on which later versions are patterned

“The assembly line managers studied the prototype of the new car for weeks before production began.”

1. rectify- (v.) to make right, correct

“The senators debated a series of measures designated to rectify the nation’s trade imbalance.”

1. reprieve- (n.) a temporary relief or delay; (v.) to grant a postponement

“A vacation is a kind of reprieve from the cares and responsibilities of everyday life.”

“A judge may reprieve a first time offender from jail until sentencing.”

1. revile- (v.) to attack with words, call bad names

“The enraged King Lear reviles the daughters who have cast him out into a fierce storm.”

Chapter Five

1. accomplice- (n.) a person who takes part in a crime

“The driver of the getaway car was arrested and tried as an accomplice in the daring robbery.”

1. annihilate- (v.) to destroy completely

“Throughout history, nations that are bitter enemies have sought to annihilate each other.”

1. arbitrary- (adj.) unreasonable; based on one’s wishes or whims without regard for reason or fairness

“A judge may be criticized for rulings that appear to be arbitrary and without legal precedent.”

1. brazen- (adj.) shameless, impudent; made of brass

“Behavior considered brazen in one era may be deemed perfectly acceptable in another.”

1. catalyst- (n.) a substance that causes or hastens a chemical reaction; any agent that causes change

“Enzymes are catalysts that aid in the digestion of food.”

1. exodus- (n.) a large-scale departure or flight

“The exodus of African Americans to the industrialized northern states is known as the Great Migration.”

1. facilitate- (v.) to make easier; to assist

“The Federal Reserve Board may lower interest rates in order to facilitate economic growth.”

1. incorrigible- (adj.) not able to be corrected; beyond control

“Criminals deemed incorrigible can expect to receive maximum sentences for their offenses against society.”

1. latent- (adj.) hidden, present but not realized

“Don’t you think it’s sad that many people use only a small fraction of their latent abilities?”

1. militant- (adj.) given to fighting; active and aggressive in support of a cause; (n.) an activist

“In the struggle for civil rights, Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated peaceful rather than militant protest.”

‘Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a militant in the fight for woman suffrage.”

1. morose- (adj.) having a gloomy or sullen manner; not friendly or sociable

“Heathcliff is the morose and vengeful protagonist in Emily Brontë’s novel Wuthering Heights.”

1. opaque- (adj.) not letting light through; not clear or lucid; dense, stupid

“I have read that book twice, but I still find the author’s meaning completely opaque.”

1. paramount- (adj.) chief in importance, above all others

“Voters should insist that candidates for hight office address the paramount issues facing our society.

1. prattle- (v.) to talk in an aimless, foolish, or simple way; to babble; (n.) baby talk; babble

“Some people can prattle away on the phone for hours on end.”

“Over time, recognizable words become a part of a toddler’s cheerful prattle.”

1. rebut- (v.) to offer arguments or other evidence that contradict an assertion; to refuse

“It is a defense lawyer’s job to rebut the charges made by the persecutor.”

16. reprimand- (v.) to scold; find fault with; (n.) rebuke

“A judge may need to reprimand a lawyer for repeatedly harassing a witness.”

“An employee who frequently violates a company’s rules may receive a written reprimand.”

1. servitude - (n.) slavery; forced labor

“In Les Misérables, Jean Valjean is sentenced to many years of servitude for stealing a loaf of bread.”

1. slapdash- (adj.) careless and hasty

“ Landlords who routinely make slapdash repairs should be considered negligent.”

1. stagnant- (adj.) not running or flowing; foul from standing still; inactive

“It is dangerous for hikers to drink from any source that appears to be stagnant.”

1. succumb- (v.) to give away to a superior force, yield

“Most dieters occasionally succumb to the lure of a high-calorie dessert.”

Chapter Six

1. atone- (v.) to make up for

“At one time or another, everyone has done something for which he or she needs to atone.”

1. bondage- (n.) slavery;any state of being bound or held down

“Many people escaped the cruel bondage of slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad.”

1. credible- (adj.) believable

“Do you have a credible explanation for not completing your assignment on time?”

1. defray- (v.) to pay for

“Corporate sponsors helped to defray the cost of the charity’s annual telethon.”

5.diligent- (adj.) hardworking, industrious, not lazy

“Diligent employees are likely to be well rewarded for their dedication and hard work.”

1. doleful- (adj.) sad, dreary

“One look at the players’ doleful faces told me the team had lost the championship game.”

1. ghastly- (adj.) frightful, horrible; deathly pale

“Some people are almost afraid to go to sleep because they suffer from ghastly recurring nightmares.”

1. hamper- (v.) to hold back

“Poor grades will hamper you in your effort to get a college education.”

1. hew- (v.) to shape or cut down with an ax; to hold to

“Even in a crisis, we must hew to this nation’s principles of liberty, equality, and justice.”

1. impoverished- (adj.) poor, in a state of poverty; depleted

“After World War II, impoverished European countries received U.S. aid under the Marshall Plan.”

1. incessant- (adj.) never stopping, going on all the time

“The loud and incessant chatter of the people at the next table made it hard for us to hear each other.”

1. intricate- (adj.) complicated, hard to understand

“Our teacher took us through the intricate solution to the equation step by step.”

1. lucid- (adj.) easy to understand, clear; rational, sane

“The ability to speak in a lucid and persuasive fashion is a great asset to a politician.”

1. posthumous- (adj.) occurring or published after death

“Many artists and writers have been ignored during their lifetime only to achieve posthumous fame.”

1. prim- (adj.) overly neat, proper, or formal; prudish

“How is it that such a prim and tidy person and such a messy one can be such good friends?”

1. sardonic- (adj.) grimly or scornfully mocking, bitterly sarcastic

“Great satirists save their most sardonic wit for the greedy, the corrupt, and the hypocritical.”

1. superfluous- (adj.) exceeding what is significant or required, excess

“Neat and well organized people know how to eliminate all superfluous clutter.”

1. supplant- (v.) to take the place of, supersede

“Computers rapidly supplanted typewriters in the workplace, just as photocopiers replaced carbon paper.”

1. taunt- (v.) to jeer at, mock; (n.) an insulting or mocking remark

“It is not at all unusual for brothers and sisters to tease and taunt one another good-naturedly.”

1. tenacious- (adj.) holding fast; holding together firmly; persistent

“Athletes must be tenacious in the pursuit of of excellence if they’d hope to become Olympic champions.”

Chapter Seven

1. adieu- (int.) “Farewell!”; (n.) a farewell

“As my friends boarded the airplane, I waved to them and shouted, “Adieu! Have a safe trip.”

“I made my adieu to the hosts and left.”

1. advent- (n.) an arrival; a coming into place or view

“The advent of spring is particularly welcome after a long, harsh winter.”

1. apex- (n.) the highest point, tip

“If you want to reach the apex of the Washington Monument, take the stairs or an elevator.”

1. assimilate- (v.) to absorb fully; to adopt as one’s own; to adapt fully

“A well-read person assimilates knowledge of a wide range of subjects.”

1. bogus- (adj.) false, counterfeit

“Cashiers receive special training so that they will be able to identify bogus currency.”

1. exorbitant- (adj.) unreasonably high; excessive

“Management rejected the union’s demands for higher wages and better benefits as exorbitant.”

1. interim- (n.) the time between; (adj.) temporary, coming before two points in time

“In the interim between landing and takeoff, the ground crew cleaned and refueled the plane.”

“The team played well under an interim coach for the final three months of the season.”

1. inundate- (v.) to flood, overflow; to overwhelm by numbers or size

“Torrential rains and high tides inundated the streets of the picturesque seaside community.”

1. malign- (v.) to speak evil of, slander; (adj.) evil

“In every office, there are gossips who are only too willing to malign their co-workers.”

“Iago reveals his malign motives to the audience in a series of soliloquies.”

1. meander- (v.) to wander about, wind about; (n.) a sharp turn or twist

“When I travel, I like to meander through unfamiliar towns and cities.”

“Lombard Street in San Francisco is famous for its many meanders.”

1. metropolis-(n.) a large city; the chief city of an area

“Archaeologists have learned much about the Mayans from the ruins of the metropolis Palenque.”

1. momentous- (adj.) very important

“A momentous decision by the Supreme Court in 1954 declared public school segregation unconstitutional.”

1. obstreperous- (adj.) noisy; unruly, disorderly

“Our teacher will not tolerate obstreperous behavior in the classroom.”

1. pensive- (adj.) thoughtful; melancholy

“We admired the skill with which the artist captured the child’s pensive expression.”

1. perilous- (adj.) dangerous

“Episodes of old-time movie serials usually ended with the hero or heroine in perilous.”

1. shoddy- (adj.) of poor quality; characterized by inferior workmanship

“That designer watch I bought from a street vender turned out to be a shoddy knockoff.”

1. sprightly- (adj.) lively, full of life; spicy, flavorful

“Though Grandmother is well into her eighties, she is still as sprightly as a teenager.”

1. surly- (adj.) angry and bad-tempered; rude

“Passengers stranded in an airport because their flight is canceled may become quite surly.”

1. tirade- (n.) a long, angry speech, usually very critical

“The dictator’s televised tirades against his opponents lasted for hours.”

1. vagrant- (n.) an idle wanderer, tramp; (adj.) wandering aimlessly

“During the Great Depression, many people lost everything and were forced to live as vagrants.”

“Advertisers continually vie with one another to capture the vagrant attention of fickle consumers.”

Chapter Eight

1. assurance- (n.) a pledge; freedom from doubt, self-confidence

“The airport was built with the assurance that all the people displaced by its construction would be fairly compensated.”

1. asylum- (n.) an institution for the care of children, elderly people, etc.; a place of safety

“Some refugees are political fugitives who have fled their homeland to seek asylum in another country.”

3. console- (v.) to comfort; (n.) the keyboard of an organ; a control panel for an electrical or mechanical device

“A neighbor tried to console the sobbing child whose cat had wandered away.”

“The console of the large church organ had an assortment of keys, knobs, pedal.”

1. dilate- (v.) to make or become larger or wider; to expand upon

“The ophthalmologist said she would dilate the pupil before examining the injured eye.”

1. dross- (n.) refuse, waste products

“The dross from the manufacturing process turned out to be highly toxic.”

1. dwindle- (v.) to lessen, diminish

“During the coldest weeks of winter, the pile of firewood slowly dwindled until there were no logs left.”

1. flippant- (adj.) lacking in seriousness; disrespectful, saucy

“Parents and other adults are often upset by a teenager’s flippant responses.”

1. immunity- (n.) resistance to disease; freedom from some charge or obligation.

“Most babies are vaccinated so that they develop an immunity to measles.”

1. institute- (v.) to establish, set up; (n.) organization that promotes learning

“Congress had been reluctant to institute new guidelines for campaign spending.”

“After graduation from high school, I plan to attend an accredited institute of technology.”

1. 10. liability- (n.) a debt, something disadvantageous

“A limited attention span is hi biggest liability as a student.”

1. 11. preposterous- (adj.) ridiculous, senseless

“The theory that Stonehenge was constructed by alien life-forms is utterly preposterous.”

12. pugnacious- (adj.) quarrelsome, fond of fighting

“The fox terrier is a particularly pugnacious breed of dog known for its aggressive behavior.”

1. 13. rabid- (adj.) furious, violently intense, unreasonably extreme; mad; infected with rabies

“Police arrived in force to quell the riot set off by rabid soccer fans.”

1. 14. realm- (n.) a kingdom; a region or field of study

“While astronomy falls within the realm of science, astrology does not.”

1. 15. rejuvenate- (v.) to make young again; to make life new

“A few minutes of conversation with my best friend helped to rejuvenate my flagging spirits.”

1. 16. remunerate- (v.) to reward, pay, reimburse

“The couple promised to remunerate the artist handsomely for a portrait of their child.”

1. 17. sparse- (adj.) meager, scant, scattered

“Unlike its neighboring metropolis, the area has quite a sparse population.”

1. 18. sterling- (adj.) genuine, excellent; made of silver of standard fineness

“The reviewer noted the young actor’s sterling performance in A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

1. 19. venture- (n.) a risky or daring undertaking; (v.) to expose to danger; to dare

“An overseas voyage was a daunting and dangerous venture during the Age of Exploration.”

“It takes courage to venture out into unknown territory.”

1. 20. warp- (v.) to twist out of shape; (n.) an abnormality

“The carpenter explained that humidity caused the kitchen door to warp.”

“Criminal behavior often shows a striking lack of judgement or a warp in thinking.”

Chapter Nine

1. auxiliary- (adj.) giving assistance or support; (n.) a helper, aid

“If the main motor fails, the instructions say to turn on the auxiliary motor.”

“Someone second in command is an auxiliary to the person in charge.”

1. candid- (adj.) frank, sincere; impartial; unposed

“It is safe to be candid about out faults with friends and loved ones.”

1. cubicle- (n.) a small room or compartment

“The tiniest cubicle is usually assigned to the newest employee.”

1. drudgery- (n.) work that is hard and tiresome

“Trade unions lobby to relieve the endless drudgery of factory workers.”

1. envoy- (n.) a representative or messenger (as of government)

“On more than one occasion, a former President has been asked to act as a special envoy to the United Nations.”

1. escalate- (v.) to elevate; to increase in intensity

“A small dispute can escalate into a major conflict unless opposing parties sit down and talk.”

1. expedient- (n.) a means to an end; (adj.) advantageous, useful

“As an expedient, we chose to use a rock as a makeshift hammer.”

“An opportunist is someone who is always ready to do whatever is most expedient.”

1. feign- (v.) to pretend

“Children sometimes feign illness to avoid going to school.”

1. flair- (n.) a natural quality, talent, or skill; a distinctive style

“An opera singer needs a flair for the dramatic as well as good voice.”

1. grievous- (adj.) causing sorrow or pain; serious

“Reporters should take careful notes when interviewing yo avoid making grievous errors in print.”

1. heterogenous- (adj.) composed of different kinds, diverse

“Most college admissions officers actively seek a student body that is both talented and heterogenous.”

1. horde- (n.) a vast number (as of people); a throng

“When the doors opened, a horde of shoppers headed toward the sales racks.”

1. impel- (v.) to force, drive forward

“Hunger often impels people to leave their homes in search of food.”

1. incredulous- (adj.) disbelieving, skeptical

“When the testimony of a witness contradicts the evidence, you can expect incredulous stares from the jury.”

1. inscribe- (v.) to write or engrave; to enter a name on a list

“The young man asked the jeweler to inscribe the locket with his fiancée’s name.”

1. monologue- (n.) a speech by one actor; a long talk by one person

“By means of a monologue, a playwright shares a character’s private thoughts with the audience.”

1. prognosis- (n.) a forecast of the probable course and the outcome of a disease or situation

“Doctors are particularly happy to deliver a prognosis of a speedy recovery.”

1. rasping- (adj.) with a harsh, grating sound; (n.) a harsh sound

“Chronic bronchitis can lead to a rasping cough that is difficult to cure.”

“The rasping of metal scraping against metal sets my teeth on edge.”

1. repugnant- (adj.) offensive, disagreeable, distasteful

“Despite their repugnant lack of cleanliness, pigs are endearing to many people.”

1. scuttle- (v.) to sink a ship by cutting holes in it; to get rid of something in a decisive way; to run hastily; (n.) a pail

“Pirates would not wish to scuttle a captured galleon before looting its cargo.”

“Years ago, it was possible to buy a scuttle of coal at the corner grocery store.”

Chapter Ten

1. adept- (adj.) thoroughly skilled; (n.) an expert

“Not only is the soloist an accomplished singer, but he is also adept at playing the saxophone.”

“An adept at chess, she hopes to compete in tournaments against top-rated players.”

1. aspire- (v.) to have ambitious hopes or plans, strive towards a higher goal, desire earnestly; to ascend

“An early fascination with ants led to the young naturalist to aspire to a career as an entomologist.”

1. bleak- (adj.) bare, dreary, dismal

“Urban renewal can turn a run-down city with bleak economic prospects into a flourishing metropolis.”

1. chide- (v.) to blame; scold

“The teacher chided the student for truancy and tardiness.”

1. despicable- (adj.) worthy of scorn, contemptible

“Whatever the provocation, there is no justification for such despicable behavior.”

1. diminutive- (adj.) small, smaller than most others of the same type

“The diminutive lapdog was so small that it actually fits in its owner’s purse.”

1. emancipate- (v.) to free from slavery, to release or liberate

“Scientific knowledge can emancipate humanity from blind superstition.”

1. erroneous- (adj.) incorrect, containing mistakes

“An erroneous first impression is not easily corrected.”

1. exploit- (v.) to make use of, develop; to make improper use of for personal profit; (n.) a feat, deed

“A good debater knows how to exploit weaknesses in an opponent’s argument.”

“The exploits of Robin Hood and his Merry Men are so well known that they have become a part of his Western culture.”

1. extemporaneous- (adj.) made or delivered on the spur of the moment

“The stand-up comedian’s outrageous act included about twenty minutes of completely extemporaneous banter.”

1. impair- (v.) to make imperfect, damage, harm

“I am fortunate that the scratch on my eye will not permanently impair my vision.”

1. invincible- (adj.) not able to be defeated, unbeatable

“Napoleon I, emperor of France, was invincible until he launched a disastrous invasion of Russia.”

1. languid- (adj.) drooping; without energy, sluggish

“A big lunch makes me feel languid for the rest of the day.”

1. mire- (n.) mud; wet, swampy ground; a tough situation; (v.) to get stuck

“The once verdant expanse of the soccer field had become a rectangle of muck and mire.”

“Congress will never ratify that bill mired in controversy.”

1. obtrusive- (adj.) forward; undesirably prominent; thrust out

“I don’t blame you for being put off by his obtrusive attempt to dominate the conversation.”

1. preamble- (n.) an introduction to a speech or piece of writing

“The preamble to the Constitution describes the purpose of out national government.”

1. render- (v.) to cause to become; to preform; to deliver officially; to process, extract

“The freelance writer presented the managing editor with a bill for services rendered.”

1. rugged- (adj.) rough, irregular; sever, stern; strong; stormy

“Settlers had a rough time crossing the rugged Appalachian mountains.”

1. skeptical- (adj.) inclined to doubt; slow to accept something as true

“I am skeptical of promises made by politicians when they are running for office.”

1. slipshod- (adj.) untidy in dress, personal habits, etc.; careless, sloppy

“The commission attributed the unfortunate collapse of the apartment building to its slipshod construction.”