

**Chapter 1**

detriment (dĕ'trə-mənt) noun

-something that causes damage, harm, or loss; a disadvantage

Loni's purple hair may be a **detriment** when she goes for a job interview.

dexterous (dĕks'tər-əs) adjective

-skillful in using hands and body

The juggler was so dexterous that he managed to keep five balls in motion at once.

discretion (dĭ-skrĕsh'ən) noun

-good judgement or tact in actions or speaking; good sense

Ali wasn't using much **discretion** when he passed a police car at eighty miles an hour.

facetious (fə-sĕ'shəs) adjective

-humorous; playfully joking; funny

My boss always says, "You don't have to be crazy to work here, but it helps." I hope he is being **facetious**.

gregarious (grĭ-gâr'ĕ-əs) adjective

-sociable; enjoying and seeking the company of others; outgoing

Melissa is so **gregarious** that she wants to be with other people even when she's studying.

optimum (ŏp'tə-məm) adjective

-best possible; most favorable; most desirable; ideal

The road was so very icy that the **optimum** driving speed was about ten miles an hour.

ostentatious (ŏs'tən-tā'shəs) adjective

-meant to impress others; flashy; showy

My show-off aunt has some **ostentatious** jewelry, such as a gold bracelet that's so heavy she can hardly lift her arm.

scrupulous (skrŏŏ'pyə-ləs) adjective

-careful about moral standards; conscientious; ethical

The judge was **scrupulous** about never accepting a bribe or allowing a personal threat to influence his decisions.

sensory (sĕn'sə-rĕ) adjective

-having to do with seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, or smelling; of the senses

Since our **sensory** experiences are interrelated, what we taste is greatly influenced by what we smell.

vicarious (vĭ-kâr'ĕ-əs) adjective

-experienced through the imagination; not experienced directly; indirectly

I don't like to take risks myself, but I love the **vicarious** thrill of watching death-defying adventures in a movie.

**Chapter 2**

collaborate (kə-lăb'ə-rāt) verb

-to work together on a project; cooperate in an effort

When Sarah and I were asked to **collaborate** on an article for the school newspaper, we found it difficult to work together.

despondent (dī-spōn'dənt) adjective

-downhearted; hopeless; overwhelmed with sadness

Devon becomes **despondent** too easily. If he gets one bad grade, he loses all hope of succeeding in school.

instigate (ɪn'stə-gāt') verb

-to bring about by moving to action; stir up

The rock group's violent performance **instigated** a riot in the audience.

resilient (rī-zīl'yənt) adjective

-able to recover quickly from harm, illness, or misfortune

Children can be amazingly **resilient**. Having faced sad and frightening experiences, they often bounce back to their normal cheerful selves.

retrospect (rē'trə-spēkt') adjective

-reviewing the past; considering past events

After hobbling around on her broken foot for a week before seeing a doctor, Maw then needed surgery. In **retrospect**, it's clear she should have gotten help sooner.

rudimentary (rūō'də-mēn'tər-ē) adjective

-fundamental; necessary to learn first

A grammar book usually starts with **rudimentary** skills, such as identifying nouns and verbs.

scoff (skɔf) verb

-to make fun of; mock; refuse to take seriously; to ridicule

Tony **scoffed** at reports that a hurricane was coming until he saw the winds knocking down trees and overturning cars.

squelch (skwɛlch) verb

-to silence or suppress; crush; to hold back

My history teacher shot me a dirty look during class when I couldn't quite manage to **squelch** a burp.

venerate (vēn'ər-āt') verb

-to respect deeply; revere; to honor

The guests at our dean's retirement banquet made it clear that they **venerated** her; when she entered the room, everyone rose.

zealot (zēl'ət) noun

-a person totally devoted to a purpose or cause

Annie, a **zealot** about health, runs a hundred miles a week and never lets a grain of sugar touch her lips.

### Chapter 3

ambiguous (ām-bīg'yōō-əs) adjective

-able to be interpreted in more than one way; not clear

Lee left an **ambiguous** message on my answering machine: "Meet me at twelve o'clock." I couldn't tell whether he meant noon or midnight.

dissident (dīs'ə-dənt) noun

-a person opposed to established ideas or beliefs, especially in politics or religion; a rebel

Some **dissidents** in the Catholic church favor such changes as allowing women to be priests and allowing priests to marry.

embellish (ĕm-bĕl'ĭsh) verb  
-to decorate; beautify by adding details  
Lauren **embellished** the door of her locker with postcards from her friends and photos of her cat.

fritter (frĭt'ər) verb  
-to spend or waste a little at a time  
I thought that my little sister would **fritter** away her entire allowance on M&M's, but instead of wasting her money, she put it in her piggy bank.

inadvertent (ĭn-ăd-vŭr't'nt) adjective  
-unintentional; accidental; not intended  
Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin was **inadvertent**. He forgot to cover a dish of bacteria, and some mold got into it. The next day, Fleming found that the mold had killed the bacteria.

inane (ĭn-ān') adjective  
-without sense or meaning; foolish; silly  
The conversation at the party was **inane**, consisting mainly of foolish comments about whose clothes were the most "awesome."

juxtapose (jŭks'tə-pōz') verb  
-to place close together, especially in order to compare or contrast; side by side  
Dottie spread her new dress out on her bed and then **juxtaposed** all her scarves and jackets to it to see which combination would look best.

lethargy (lēth'ər-jē) noun  
-a great lack of energy; inactivity due to laziness  
With the hot weather, **lethargy** descended upon the class. The students had trouble staying awake, and even the instructor gazed dreamily out the window.

sporadic (spə-răd'ĭk) adjective  
-happening now and then; occasional; irregular  
It rained continuously until noon. After that, there were only **sporadic** showers.

subsidize (sŭb'sə-dīz) verb  
-to support financially; to pay for  
During college, many students are **subsidized** by their parents, while others rely on grants or loans.

#### **Chapter 4**

berate (bĕ-rāt') verb  
-to criticize or scold harshly, angrily  
Gemma can accept reasonable criticism, but she was upset when her boss **berated** her loudly in front of everyone else in the office.

estrangle (ĕ-strānj') verb  
-to make unsympathetic or unfriendly; alienate; to drive away  
My cousin's recent moodiness has **estranged** some of his old friends.

euphoric (yŭō-fōr'ĭk) adjective  
-overjoyed; having an intense feeling of well-being; very happy  
I was **euphoric** when I received my grades. To my amazement and joy, they were all A's and B's.

impetuous (ĩm-pěch'õõ-əs) adjective  
-done or acting in a hurry, with little thought; impulsive; impulsive  
Children tend to be **impetuous** and often don't think about the consequences of their actions. For instance, they'll throw snowballs at passing cars without worrying about causing an accident.

infallible (ĩn-fāl'ə-bəl) adjective  
-not capable of error or failure; unable to make a mistake; perfect  
Computers aren't **infallible**. If you put the wrong data into a computer, you'll get the wrong answers.

maudlin (mõd'lĩn) adjective  
-tearfully sentimental; overly emotional  
The author of **maudlin** soap operas must feel that they haven't done their job unless viewers are crying by the end of each show.

regress (rē-grěs') verb  
-to return to an earlier, generally worse, condition or behavior; to go backward  
Adolescents under stress sometimes regress to childish ways: dependency, temper tantrums, and silliness.

relinquish (rĩ-lĩng'kwĩsh) verb  
-to surrender (something); give (something) up; to yield  
Donna had to **relinquish** her share in the beach house because she couldn't afford it anymore.

ubiquitous (yõõ-bĩki'wə-təs) adjective  
-existing or seeming to exist everywhere at the same time; found everywhere  
We postponed our plan to drive home on Sunday because a dense fog was **ubiquitous**. It covered the entire town.

zenith (zē'nĩth) noun  
-the highest point or condition; peak  
Maya reached the **zenith** of her career when she became president of Ace Products.

## Chapter 5

charlatan (shâr'lə-tən) noun  
-a fake; a person who falsely claims to have some special skill or knowledge; a con artist  
My grandmother once bought a "magnetic box" from a **charlatan** who assured her that it would for her arthritis. Of course, the box was worthless.

corroborate (kə-rõb'ə-rāt') verb  
-to support; strengthen with further evidence; provide proof of; to confirm  
Sid says he saw a flying saucer in the park, but no one else in the area has come forward to corroborate his account.

disseminate (dĩs-sěm'ə-nāt') verb  
-to spread or scatter widely; distribute  
Champagne workers went all over the city to **disseminate** pamphlets and flyers about their candidate.

diverge(dī-vûrj´) verb  
-to branch off in different directions from the same starting point; to become different; to go in different direction  
The brothers' path **diverged** greatly. One became a famous lawyer, and the other ended up in jail for armed robbery.

dormant (dôr´mænt) adjective  
-inactive; alive but not actively growing, as if asleep  
Many insects lay eggs that remain **dormant** all winter and do not hatch until spring, in the warmer weather.

hoist (hoist) verb  
-to lift, especially with some mechanical means, like a cable; to raise  
So far, the attempts to **hoist** the wreckage of the jetliner from the ocean floor have been unsuccessful.

illicit (il-lis´it) adjective  
-illegal; unlawful  
Years of **illicit** activities resulted in Gene's sentenced to serve a life term in prison.

irrevocable (ir-rĕv´ə-kə-bəl) adjective  
-not able to be canceled or undone; irreversible  
Patty would like to break off her engagement to Steven, but she feels that her promise to marry him is **irrevocable**.

precipitate (prĕ-sĭp´ə-tāt´) verb  
-to cause to happen quickly, suddenly, or sooner than expected; to bring on  
Mark's search for a larger house was **precipitated** by his marriage to a woman with four children.

proliferation (prō-lĭf´ər-ā´shən) noun  
-a rabid spread or increase  
Hannah's doctor's hope that chemotherapy will halt the proliferation of cancer cells in her body.