

**Chapter 6**

- calamity** -an event bringing great loss and misery  
(kə-lām' ī-tē) The survivors of the earthquake slowly rebuilt their homes and lives after the **calamity**.
- comprehensive** -including all or much  
(kōm' prē-hēn' sīv) The company's **comprehensive** insurance plan covers most health services, including hospitals, doctors, and dentists.
- conventional** -customary; ordinary  
(kən-vēn' shə-nəl) The **conventional** Valentine's Day gifts are roses and chocolates.
- flagrant** -shocking obvious; outrageous  
(flā' grənt) The use of campaign funds for the congressman's private business was a **flagrant** violation of the law.
- fluctuate** -to vary irregularly; to go up and down or back and forth  
(ŭ'ōōā') Desert temperatures can **fluctuate** by as much as fifty degrees between daytime and nighttime.
- persevere** -to continue with an effort or plan despite difficulties  
(pūr' sə' vīr) "I know you're tired," Jack said, "but we've got to **persevere** and get to the camp before the storm hits."
- ponder** -to consider carefully; think deeply about  
(pōn' dər) Too often we don't take time to **ponder** the possible consequences of our actions.
- rehabilitate** -to restore to a normal life through therapy or education  
(rē' hə-bīl' ə-tāt) My grandfather learned to walk, write, and speak again in a program that **rehabilitates** stroke victims.
- turmoil** -complete confusion; uproar  
(tūr' mōil) Without a teacher, the sixth-grade class was in **turmoil**, until the principal entered the room and the students quickly came to order.
- venture** -to take the risk of; dare  
(vēn' chər) At tomorrow's staff meeting, I will **venture** to say what I really think and cross my fingers that I don't get fired.

**Chapter 7**

- attest** -to make a statement about something on the basis of personal experience; bear witness; testify  
(ə-tēst') Anyone who has seen the Golden Gate Bridge in the rose-gold light of sunset can **attest** to its beauty.
- attribute** -a quality or feature of a person or thing  
(ā't trə-byōōt') In Japan, some cars have such computerized **attributes** as windshield wipers that automatically turn on when it rains.
- discern** -to recognize; detect  
(dī-sūr'n') An experienced jeweler can easily **discern** whether a diamond is genuine or fake.
- dispatch** -to send to a specific place or on specific business  
(dī-späch') I wanted to **dispatch** the letter as quickly as possible, so I took it to the post office instead of dropping it into a mailbox.

<b>enhance</b> (ĕn-hāns')	-to improve Our gym teacher <b>enhanced</b> her appearance with a more attractive hairstyle.
<b>enigma</b> (ĭ-nĭg' mə)	-a mystery or puzzle How the thief entered our house was an <b>enigma</b> until we remembered that the cellar door had been left unlocked.
<b>exemplify</b> (ĭg-zĕm' plə-fĭ')	-to be an example of; represent; be typical of The many IRS employees who give citizens inaccurate information <b>exemplify</b> government incompetence.
<b>mobile</b> (mō' bəl)	-moving or able to move from place to place Every morning when I was in the hospital, a volunteer wheeled a <b>mobile</b> library into my room.
<b>nocturnal</b> (nōk-tūr' nəl)	-of, about, or happening in the night; active at night Being <b>nocturnal</b> , owls are rarely seen during the day.
<b>orient</b> (ôr' ē -ĕnt)	-to determine one's location or direction; to locate in relation to a direction (east, west, etc.) When coming up from the subway, I often need to look at a street sign to <b>orient</b> myself.

## **Chapter 8**

<b>concurrent</b> (kən-kūr' ənt)	-happening or existing at the same time; simultaneous Having mistakenly registered for two <b>concurrent</b> classes, Joe had to drop one of them and choose a course that met at a different time.
<b>confiscate</b> (kŏn' fĭs-kāt')	-to seize with authority; legally take possession of "Hand 'em over," my father said. Just as we were really starting to have fun, he <b>confiscated</b> our entire supply of water balloons.
<b>constitute</b> (kŏn' stĭ-tōt)	-to make up; be the parts of Twelve business and professional people <b>constitute</b> the board of directors of the local women's shelter.
<b>decipher</b> (dĭ-sĭ' fēr)	-to interpret or read (something confusing or hard to make out) On one of Holly's essays, her English teacher wrote, "Please type your papers. I can't <b>decipher</b> your handwriting."
<b>default</b> (dĭ-fôlt')	-to fail to do something required We won our case against the appliance repairman because he <b>defaulted</b> by failing to appear in court.
<b>hypothetical</b> (hĭ' pŏ-thĕt' ĭ-kəl)	-supposed for the sake of argument or examination; imaginary; theoretical Imagine the <b>hypothetical</b> situation of going to live alone on an island. Which books and CDs would you take along?
<b>nominal</b> (nŏm' ə-nəl)	-slight; very small compared with what might be expected Except for the <b>nominal</b> registration fee, the camp for needy children is entirely free.
<b>predominant</b> (prĭ-dŏm' ə-nənt)	-most common or most noticeable Rock is the <b>predominant</b> music in our dorm, but country music is also popular.
<b>prerequisite</b> (prĕ-rĕk' wĭ-zĭt)	-something required beforehand You can't take Spanish Literature I unless you've taken the <b>prerequisite</b> .

**recession** -a temporary decline in business  
(rĭ-sēsh' ən) While seashore businesses in the North suffer a **recession** in the winter, they do very well from spring and fall.

## Chapter 9

**degenerate** -to worsen; deteriorate  
(dĭ-jĕn' ər-āt') Mike's relationship with his parents **degenerated** when he dropped out of school against their wishes and became a bartender.

**implausible** -difficult to believe; unlikely  
(ĭm-plō' zə-bəl) As **implausible** as it may sound, Southern Florida sometimes does get snow.

**incoherent** -unable to speak in an orderly, logical way  
(ĭn' kō-hĭr' ənt) My sister talks in her sleep, but she's so **incoherent** that we can never figure out what she is saying.

**intercede** -to make a request or plead on behalf of someone else  
(ĭn' tər-sĕd') When the principal said Harry couldn't play in Friday's football game, the coach **interceded**, hoping to change the principal's mind.

**intricate** -having many parts arranged in a complicated way; complex  
(ĭn' trĭ-kĭt) *War and Peace* is a long, **intricate** novel that weaves together the detailed life stories of many individuals.

**sanctuary** -a place of safety, protection, or relief  
(sǎngk' chōō-ĕr' ē) When the household of children becomes too noisy, Ned finds the laundry room to be a **sanctuary**, a place where he can read in quiet.

**scrutiny** -close inspection; careful examination  
(skrōōt' ən-ē) Store security guards give careful **scrutiny** to people carrying large bags, since the bags may be used for shoplifting.

**sinister** -evil; wicked  
(sĭn' ĭs-tər) In the movie, a mad scientist thought up the **sinister** scheme of releasing a deadly virus.

**suffice** -to be good enough  
(sə-fĭs') The amount of research you've done may **suffice** for a high-school term paper, but not for a college one.

**vulnerable** -open to damage or attack; susceptible  
(vŭl' nər-ə-bəl) Homes in heavily wooded areas are especially **vulnerable** to termites.

## Chapter 10

**blatant** -very obvious, often offensively so  
(blā' tǎnt) The company's disregard of the environment is **blatant**. It makes no efforts to stop polluting coastal waters with garbage.

**blight** -something that weakens, damages, or destroys  
(blĭt) Nothing has hurt our country more than the **blight** of drugs.

**contrive** -to plan cleverly; think up  
(kən' trĭv) My eight-year-old son could write a book titled *101 Ways I Have **Contrived** to Stay Up Past My Bedtime*.

- garble**  
(gär' bəl) -to mix or confuse (as a story or message); scramble  
The company had **garbled** the bike's assembly instructions so badly that we were constantly confused about which step to do next.
- gaunt**  
(gônt) -thin and bony  
Abraham Lincoln's beard made his **gaunt** face look fuller.
- gloat**  
(glōt) -to feel or express delight or self-satisfaction, often spitefully  
The coach told his team, "There's only one thing worse than a sore loser, and that's a mean winner. Don't **gloat**."
- immaculate**  
(ĩ-măk' yə-līt) -perfectly clean  
It's amazing that while Carolyn appears **immaculate**, her apartment often seems very dirty.
- plagiarism**  
(plā' jē-rīz' əm) -using someone else's writing or ideas as one's own  
When the author saw a movie with the same plot as one of her novels, she sued for **plagiarism**.
- qualm**  
(kwŏm) -an uneasy feeling about how right or proper a particular action is  
Larry is so honest that he has **qualms** about telling "little white lies." For instance, it bothers him to say he likes a friend's new haircut when he really doesn't.
- retaliate**  
(rĩ-tăl' ē-āt') -to return an injury for an injury; pay back  
When I broke my sister's stereo, she **retaliated** by cutting the cord of my CD player's headphones.