

**Chapter 11**

<b>curtail</b> (kər-tāl')	-to cut short or reduce Upon hearing the reports of a tornado, the principal <b>curtailed</b> the school day so students could go home early.
<b>devastate</b> (dēv' əs-tāt')	-to upset deeply; overwhelm Learning that their son had been arrested for armed robbery <b>devastated</b> the Huttons.
<b>digress</b> (dī-grēs')	-to turn aside, or stray, especially from the main topic in speaking or writing Professor Rubin never <b>digresses</b> during a lecture. Even his jokes relate to the day's topic.
<b>incentive</b> (īn' sēn' tīv)	-something that moves one to take action or work harder The insurance company offers an <b>incentive</b> – a free vacation – to encourage its representatives to make more sales.
<b>incorporate</b> (īn-kōr' pər-āt')	-to unite into a single whole; combine Jerry <b>incorporated</b> all of his favorite desserts into one: a chocolate-covered banana-cream pecan pie.
<b>indispensable</b> (īn-dī-spēn' sə-bəl)	-necessary Since there's no bus or train service nearby, a car is <b>indispensable</b> in my neighborhood.
<b>intermittent</b> (īn' tər-mīt ' ənt)	-starting and stopping from time to time; off-and-on You have to work steadily with your dog to train him well. <b>Intermittent</b> practice won't work.
<b>rigor</b> (rīg' ər)	-great hardship or difficulty; harshness; severity The <b>rigor</b> of working at two part-time jobs while going to school proved too much for Joseph.
<b>squander</b> (skwɔn ' dər)	-to waste; spend or use foolishly It's sad to see such a wonderful artist <b>squander</b> her talent designing labels for baked-bean cans.
<b>succumb</b> (sə-kūm')	-to give in; stop resisting Leah <b>succumbed</b> to her daughter's begging and bought her a pet lizard for her birthday.

**Chapter 12**

<b>alleviate</b> (ə-lē' vē-āt')	-to relieve; make easier to endure To <b>alleviate</b> his loneliness, the widower moved closer to his daughter and her family.
<b>benefactor</b> (bēn' ə-fāk ' tər)	-a person or organization that gives help, especially financial aid The wealthy <b>benefactor</b> who paid for the child's operation prefers to remain anonymous.
<b>covert</b> (kūv' ərt)	-secret; hidden If you enjoy <b>covert</b> activities, become a CIA or FBI agent.
<b>cynic</b> (sīn' īk)	-a person who believes the worst of people's behavior and motives; someone who believes people are motivated only by selfishness Her parents' nasty divorce had made Libby a <b>cynic</b> about marriage.
<b>demise</b> (dī-mīz')	-death During my years in grade school and high school, the untimely <b>demise</b> of several of my classmates made me very aware of my mortality.

<b>infamous</b> (ɪn' fə-məs)	-having a very bad reputation; widely known for being vicious, criminal, or deserving of contempt King Henry VIII of England was <b>infamous</b> throughout Europe for executing two of his six wives.
<b>intrinsic</b> (ɪn-trɪn' sɪk)	-belonging to a person or thing by its very nature (and thus not dependent on circumstances) Trust is <b>intrinsic</b> to any good friendship.
<b>revulsion</b> (rɪ-vül' shən)	-great disgust or distaste Whenever I read about child abuse in the newspapers, I am filled with such <b>revulsion</b> that I often cannot finish the article.
<b>speculate</b> (spɛk' yə-lāt')	-to come up with ideas or theories about a subject; theorize It's interesting to <b>speculate</b> how history might have been different if Abraham Lincoln had lived a few years longer.
<b>virile</b> (vîr' əl)	-manly; masculine When a male heron stamps his feet and sticks his neck out, and then drops his head and says “plop-buzz,” the female hinds him very <b>virile</b> . In fact, that behavior is how the male attracts a mate.

### **Chapter 13**

<b>abstain</b> (ăb-stān')	-to hold oneself back from something; refrain My sister called off her engagement to Clayton because he wouldn't <b>abstain</b> from dating other women.
<b>affiliate</b> (ə-fîl' ē-āt')	-to associate; join Diane is neither a Democrat nor a Republican. She isn't <b>affiliated</b> with any political party.
<b>agnostic</b> (ăb-nŏs' tɪk)	-a person who believes we cannot know whether or not there is a God Iris believes there is a God, and Marcia feels sure there isn't. Jean, an <b>agnostic</b> , feels that we can't be certain one way or the other.
<b>aspire</b> (ə-spîr')	-to strongly desire; to be ambitious (to do something or to get something) Twelve-year-old Derek, who loves drawing, <b>aspires</b> to be a great architect.
<b>benevolent</b> (bə-něv' ə-lənt)	-charitable People are more <b>benevolent</b> when they get tax deductions for their donations.
<b>deficit</b> (děf' ə-sīt)	-a shortage; a lack (in amount) Our club had spent so much more than it had taken in that it now has a huge budget <b>deficit</b> .
<b>dissent</b> (dî-sěnt')	-disagreement The committee was so torn by the <b>dissent</b> that its members could not agree even on whether or not to schedule another meeting.
<b>diversion</b> (də-vûr' zhən)	-an amusement or pastime; anything that relaxes or amuses My history teacher says that one of her favorite <b>diversions</b> during summer vacation is reading mystery novels.
<b>lucrative</b> (lŏō' krə-tîv)	-profitable; well-being Investments in the stock market can be <b>lucrative</b> ; however, they can also result in great financial loss.
<b>mandatory</b> (măn' də-tŏr' ē)	-required Members of the basketball team have to follow strict rules. For example, it's <b>mandatory</b> that each player attends at least 80 percent of the practices.

## Chapter 14

- charisma** (kə-rīz' mə) -the quality of a leader which captures great popular devotion; personal magnetism; charm  
Jason had such **charisma** that when he ran for class president, every person in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade voted for him.
- contemporary** (kən-tēm' pə-rēr' ē) -modern; up-to-date  
Beth likes **contemporary** furniture, but her husband prefers antiques.
- contend** (kən-tënd') -to state to be so; claim; affirm  
Scientists **contend** that no two snowflakes are identical, but how could they possibly prove it?
- conversely** (kən-vûrs' lē) -in an opposite manner; in an altogether different way  
Ron, who is basically bored by food, eats in order to live. **Conversely**, Nate loves food so much that he seems to live in order to eat.
- extrovert** (ĕk' strə-vûrt') -an outgoing, sociable person  
Surprisingly, not all performers are **extroverts**. Offstage, many are quiet and shy.
- poignant** (poin' yənt) -emotionally moving; touching  
The service honoring American soldiers missing in action was touching. A speech by a friend of one of the soldiers was particularly **poignant**.
- prevalent** (prēv' ə-lənt) -widespread; common  
Unemployment was **prevalent** during America's Great Depression. By 1932, over twelve million people were out of work.
- proponent** (prō-pō' nənt) -someone who supports a cause  
I voted for Senator Williams, a **proponent** of improved services for the elderly, because I feel that many older people need greater assistance.
- quest** (kwĕst) -a search; pursuit  
During Carlo's **quest** for the perfect pizza, he sampled the cheese pizza at twenty-seven different restaurants.
- traumatic** (trô-măt' ĭk) -causing painful emotions, with possible long-lasting psychological effects  
Divorce can be less **traumatic** for children if their fears and feelings are taken into account as the divorce takes place.

## Chapter 15

- congenial** (kən-jĕn' yəl) -agreeable or pleasant in character; friendly  
I was nervous being at a party where I didn't know anyone, but the other guests were so **congenial** that I soon felt at ease.
- flippant** (flĭp' ənt) -disrespectful and not serious enough  
When a teenage boy is asked to clean his room, he's likely to give a **flippant** response such as "Why should I? I just cleaned it last month."
- impasse** (ĭm' pās) -a situation with no way out; dead end  
If you think you've reached an **impasse** when trying to solve a problem, take a break. The solution may come to mind while you're doing something else.
- perception** (pər-sĕp' shən) -insight or understanding gained through observation  
Brenda's **perceptions** of others are usually accurate. She is a good judge of character.

<b>prompt</b> (prɒmpt)	-to urge into action To <b>prompt</b> her son to get a job, Mrs. Davis pinned the want ads to his pillow.
<b>prone</b> (prɒn)	-having a tendency; inclined Mr. Walker is <b>prone</b> to sleep problems, so he limited his intake of caffeine.
<b>rapproach</b> (rə-pɔːtʃ)	-relationship, especially one that is close, trusting, or sympathetic In high school, I had such a good <b>rapproach</b> with my English teacher that our close relationship continues to this day.
<b>rational</b> (ræʃnəl)	-the underlying reasons for something; logical basis Danielle's <b>rational</b> for majoring in business was simple. She said, "I want to make a lot of money."
<b>relentless</b> (rɪ-lɛntlɪs)	-persistent; continuous The dog's <b>relentless</b> barking got on my nerves. He barked the entire two hours his owners were out.
<b>reprisal</b> (rɪ-prɪzəl)	-the paying back of one injury or bad deed with another In <b>reprisal</b> for being fired, a troubled man shot several people at the factory where he used to work.