

**Chapter 16**

<b>benign</b> (bĭ-nĭn')	-kindly; gentle Finding a stranger on our doorstep startled me, but the <b>benign</b> expression on his face told me not to worry.
<b>blasé</b> (blā-zā')	-unexcited or bored about something already experienced repeatedly The new staff members were enthusiastic at the weekly meetings, but the old-timers were pretty <b>blasé</b> .
<b>comprise</b> (kōm-prīz')	-to consist of The United Kingdom <b>comprises</b> of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
<b>condescend</b> (kōn-dĭ-sĕnd')	-to do something one feels is beneath oneself The snobby millionaire wouldn't <b>condescend</b> to associate with anyone who wasn't also rich.
<b>façade</b> (fə-sōd')	-the front of something The <b>façade</b> of the hotel –facing Main Street—was marble, but the sides and back were made of plain brick.
<b>glib</b> (glĭb)	-characterized by a smooth, easy manner of speaking that often suggests insincerity or thoughtlessness The man thought his conversation would impress Sandra, but she found it <b>glib</b> and insincere.
<b>haughty</b> (hō' tē)	-proud of one's appearance or accomplishments to the point of looking down on others; arrogant The Smiths acted as though they were better than anybody else. Not surprisingly, their <b>haughty</b> manner made them unpopular with their neighbors.
<b>libel</b> (lĭ' bəl)	-the publishing of false information that harms a person's reputation Many magazine editors double-check the facts they publish about a person. Then, if they are accused of <b>libel</b> , they can prove that they stated the truth.
<b>pseudonym</b> (sōō' də-nĭm')	-a false name used by an author; a pen name The author Stephen King uses a <b>pseudonym</b> on some of his books so readers won't be aware that so many of the horror novels on the market are his.
<b>redundant</b> (rĭ-dūn' dənt)	-wordy or needlessly repetitive The teacher wrote " <b>redundant</b> " in several spots in the essay where Eric had repeated a point or used extra, unneeded words.

**Chapter 17**

<b>averse</b> (ə-vûrs')	-having a feeling of dislike or distaste for something That little boy was once so <b>averse</b> to tomatoes that the very sight of them made him gag.
<b>detract</b> (dĭ-trăkt')	-to lessen what is admirable or worthwhile about something All of the litter in the park certainly <b>detracts</b> from the beauty of the trees and flowers.
<b>disdain</b> (dĭs-dān')	-an attitude or feeling of contempt; scorn The snobby waiter in the French restaurant viewed Tanya with <b>disdain</b> because she couldn't pronounce anything on the menu.
<b>divulge</b> (dĭ-vŭlj')	-to reveal; to make known It's against the law to ask people to <b>divulge</b> their age at a job interview.
<b>elation</b> (ĭ-lā' shən)	-a feeling of great joy or pride The coach shouted with <b>elation</b> when the school team scored the winning touchdown.

<b>endow</b> (ĕn-dou')	-to provide with a talent or quality Nature has <b>endowed</b> hummingbirds with the ability to fly backwards.
<b>expulsion</b> (ĕks-pŭl' shən)	-the act or condition of being forced to leave The manager told us we risked <b>expulsion</b> from the theatre if we continued to talk during the movie.
<b>mortify</b> (môr' tə-fī')	-to humiliate or embarrass It would <b>mortify</b> me if my voice were to crack during my choir solo.
<b>nullify</b> (nŭl' ə-fī')	-to make legally ineffective; cancel A soft drink company decided to <b>nullify</b> its contract with a well-known athlete because he was convicted of drunken driving.
<b>ominous</b> (ŏm' ə-nəs)	-threatening harm or evil; menacing The sore's failure to heal was <b>ominous</b> , a possible sign of cancer.
<b>Chapter 18</b>	
<b>credible</b> (krĕd' ə-bəl)	-believable Some jurors doubted the witness's testimony, but most of them found it <b>credible</b> .
<b> cursory</b> (kŭr' sə-rĕ)	-done quickly and without attention to detail Most people do only a <b> cursory</b> job of brushing their teeth. To avoid cavities, however, you must take the time to brush carefully.
<b>designate</b> (dĕz' ĭg-nāt')	-to name to an office or duty; appoint A coworker was <b>designated</b> to present Jackie with the "Employee of the Year" award at the company banquet.
<b>deviate</b> (dĕ' vĕ-āt')	-to turn aside or stray, as from a path, direction, or standard If you <b>deviate</b> even a little from the test's directions, you might hurt your grade.
<b>improvise</b> (ĭm' prə-vĭz')	-to compose, perform, or provide without preparation Nadia is such an accomplished pianist that she can <b>improvise</b> accompaniments on the piano to songs that she's never heard before.
<b>interim</b> (ĭn' tər-ĭm)	-the period of time in between; meantime After the secretary left, it took two weeks for her replacement to arrive at the real-estate office. In the <b>interim</b> , the agents had to do their own typing.
<b>latent</b> (lāt' ənt)	-present but hidden or inactive Certain viruses, such as the one for AIDS, can be <b>latent</b> in the body for years before symptoms appear.
<b>secular</b> (sĕk' yə-lər)	-not directly related to religion; not spiritual; worldly While our government is <b>secular</b> , some governments are directly tied to a religion.
<b>shun</b> (shŭn)	-to keep away from; avoid consistently I used to see a lot of Tracy, but since our argument, she <b>shuns</b> me whenever possible.
<b>simulate</b> (sĭm' yōō-lāt')	-to act or look like; imitate Equipment that <b>simulates</b> a human heart can keep someone alive only temporarily, until an actual heart can be substituted.

## Chapter 19

**commemorate** (kə-mēm' ə-rāt') -to honor the memory of someone or something, as with a ceremony; celebrate; observe  
Each year, my parents **commemorate** their first date by having dinner at McDonalds, the place where they first met.

**complacent** (kəm-plā' sənt) -self-satisfied; feeling too much satisfaction with oneself or one's accomplishments  
Getting all A's hasn't made Ivy **complacent**. She continues to work hard at school.

**consensus** (kən-sen' səs) -an opinion held by everyone (or almost everyone) involved  
The family **consensus** was that we should go camping again this summer. Ray was the only one who wanted to do something else for a change.

**deplete** (dī-plēt') -to use up  
In order to not **deplete** their small quantity of canned food, the shipwreck survivors searched the island for plants they would eat.

**diligent** (dīl' ə-jənt) -steady, determined, and careful in work  
I wish I had been more **diligent** about practicing the piano when I was younger. It would be nice to be able to play well now.

**empathy** (ēm' pə-thē) -the ability to share in someone else's feelings or thoughts  
Ms. Allen is an excellent career counselor partly because of her great **empathy**. She understands each student's feelings and point of view.

**menial** (mē' nē-əl) -not requiring special skills to higher intellectual abilities  
Victor seems to think my summer job delivering pizza is **menial** work, but I've found that it requires some skills.

**niche** (nīch) -an activity or situation especially suited to a person  
Although her degree was in accounting, Laura decided her **niche** was really in business management, so she went back to school for more training.

**transcend** (trān-sēnd') -to rise above or go beyond the limits of; exceed  
Yoga can help one **transcend** the cares of the world and reach a state of relaxation.

**waive** (wāv) -to willingly give up (as a claim, privilege, or right); do without  
The defendant decided to **waive** his right to an attorney and, instead, speak for himself in court.

## Chapter 20

**bizarre** (bī-zār') -dramatically unusual, as in manner or appearance; strange  
Wally's outfits may seem **bizarre**, but if you see him with his even stranger-looking friends, his clothing looks quite ordinary.

**conducive** (kən-dōō' sīv) -tending to promote or bring about  
A deliciously warm and sunny April day is **conducive** to a bad case of spring fever.

**falter** (fôl' tər) -to act or speak with uncertainty; hesitate  
Vincent **faltered** on the first few notes of his piano piece but then played the rest without pausing.

**flaunt** (flônt) -to show off (something)  
Instead of enjoying their wealth quietly, the Stewarts **flaunt** every new thing they buy in front of their poor relatives.

- frenzy**  
(frɛn' zɛ)  
-a wild outburst of excited feelings or actions  
When Grace couldn't find her little son in the department store, she went into a **frenzy** and didn't calm down until she knew he was safe.
- gist**  
(jɪst)  
-the main point or essential part of a matter; central idea  
We asked Alex to skip the details and get right to the **gist** of the argument.
- hamper**  
(hæm' pər)  
-to limit, interfere with, or restrict  
The breakdown of telephone lines **hampered** business all along the West Coast today.
- paradox**  
(pɑr' ə-dɒks'  
-a statement that seems contradictory yet may be true  
When Deanna kept postponing her decision about whether or not to go back to school, I reminded her of the **paradox**: "No decision is also a decision."
- repertoire**  
(rɛp' ər-twɔr'  
-a range or collection of skills or accomplishments  
In order to be successful in school, it's important to have a **repertoire** of study strategies from which to choose.
- viable**  
(vi' ə-bəl)  
-workable; capable of being successful or effective  
The little boy quickly learned that using plastic tape is not a **viable** solution to mending a broken vase.