

Vocabulary Lessons 1-49

Vocabulary Lesson 1: Get to the Point!

Today's roots:

co-, con- together, with
cis cut

brev

brief

- concise** (adj) brief and to the point (*con-* altogether+*cis* cut) (*succinct, terse*)
Ricky, try to be a bit more **concise** in this paper; the assignment was for a three-page paper; yours was 106.
- laconic** (adj) disposed to using few words (*taciturn, reticent*)
I've known Lucy for 10 years, but she's so **laconic** that I hardly know anything about her past.
- succinct** (adj) spoken or written in a clear and precise manner (*concise, terse*)
Because commercial time during the Super Bowl runs over \$3 million per minute, it's good to be **succinct**.
- brusque** (adj) rudely abrupt (*curt, abrupt*)
My girlfriend tends to be **brusque** when she's mad; she just tells me to "talk to the hand."
- abridge** (v) to shorten a written text (*abbreviate, curtail, prune, synopsisize*)
The dictionary was 1,400 pages long before it was **abridged** by the publishers to 850 pages.
- brevity** (n) quality of succinct expression (*brev* brief + *ity* quality of) (*conciseness, piffliness, succinctness*)
Speeches at the Academy Awards are not known for their **brevity**; they often go on long past their allotted time.

Vocabulary Lesson 2: Think Before You Judge

Today's roots:	<i>jud</i>	<i>judge</i>	<i>per</i>	<i>through, thoroughly</i>
	<i>jur</i>	<i>oath, law</i>	<i>scrut</i>	<i>to examine</i>

- judicious** (adj) showing sound judgment; prudent (*jud* judge + *-ious* full of) (*wise, sagacious, prudent*)
After much thought, I decided that the most **judicious** thing to do was to avoid the swamp full of alligators.
- adjudicate** (v) to hear and judge a case (*jud* judge + *-ate* to do) (*judge, arbitrate*)
Sometimes when my two children fight, I feel like I'm **adjudicating** a capital crime rather than settling a quarrel.
- astute** (adj) shrewd; keen (*incisive, shrewd, canny, perspicacious*)
The young Sherlock Holmes was quite the **astute** investigator; he always unraveled even the toughest mystery.
- scrutinize** (v) to examine carefully (*scruta* examine + *-ize* to do) (*analyze, peruse, probe, inspect*)
Before buying an apple, **scrutinize** it to be sure that it has no bruises.
- perjure** (v) to lie under oath (*per-* through + *jur* oath)
The mobster told blatant lies while on the stand, **perjuring** to keep his partners out of jail.
- prudent** (adj) using good judgment (*prudential* knowledge) (*judicious, sensible, politic, shrewd*)
It would not be **prudent** to sneak out of your room again tonight; your parents will ground you if they catch you!

Vocabulary Lesson 3: Let's Talk About It

Today's roots:

locu, loqu
verb

talk
word

circum
e-, ex-

around
out

- eloquent** (adj) well spoken (*e-* out + *loqu* talk) (*articulate, expressive, fluent*)
 She is an **eloquent** spokeswoman for animal rights; she conveys her ideas with great ease and fluidity.
- loquacious** (adj) very talkative (*loqu* talk + *-ious* full of) (*garrulous, voluble, expansive*)
 That guy never stops talking; now I understand why they call him "Loquacious Larry!"
- circumlocution** (n) evasive speech; talking around the subject (*circum* around + *loqu* talk) (*evasion*)
 The politician had perfected the art of **circumlocution**; he knew exactly how to avoid answering direct questions.
- colloquial** (adj) conversational; using everyday language (*co-* together + *loqu* talk)
 I like Professor Thompson because she is so **colloquial**; yesterday she said my thesis idea was "really cool."
- grandiloquent** (adj) speaking in a pompous manner (*grand* great + *loqu* talk + *-ent* adjective) (*florid*)
 His speech was pompous and **grandiloquent**; it seemed he was just trying to use as many big words as possible.
- elocution** (n) expressive delivery of public speech (*e-* out + *loqu* talk + *-tion* noun) (*enunciation*)
 James is quite the **elocutionist**; his expressions and mannerisms add a new level of meaning to his words.

Vocabulary Lesson 4: "Good, Thanks."

Today's roots:

ben, bene
fact

bon good
to make

eu
vole

good
wish

- benefactor** (n) one who supports or helps another (*bene* good + *fact* to make) (*philanthropist*)
 Mr. King is the **benefactor** who generously donated the money for the new children's wing in the hospital.
- benign** (adj) harmless (*bene* good) (*innocuous, kindly*)
 She was relieved to find out that her tumor was **benign**.
- benevolent** (adj) kind; considerate (*bene* good + *vole* wish) (*altruistic, munificent, gracious*)
 The **benevolent** Cub Scout did his good deed for the day when he helped a motorist change a tire.
- benediction** (n) an expression of good wishes (*bene* good + *dictus* declaration) (*blessing*)
 At the reception, the father of the bride offered a **benediction**, wishing the couple never-ending love and happiness.
- euphemism** (n) the substitution of an inoffensive term for an offensive one (*eu-* good + *pheme* speech)
 A good journalist avoids the **euphemisms** of war, like "ordnance" for bombs and "collateral damage" for casualties.
- eulogy** (n) a praising tribute (*eu-* good + *logia* discourse) (*accolade, panegyric*)
 His touching **eulogy** for his fallen friend left all the mourners weeping.

Vocabulary Lesson 5: Changes

Today's roots:	rupt	break	morph form,	shape
	mut	change	meta	change, beyond

- immutable** (adj) unchangeable (*im-* not + *mut* change) (*inveterate, steadfast, static*)
Emily is an **immutable** vegetarian. No matter how hard we try, we cannot get her to eat meat.
- metamorphosis** (n) a transformation (*meta-* change + *morph* form) (*transformation, transmutation*)
The old house underwent a **metamorphosis** from a rundown shack into a beautiful cottage.
- rupture** (v) to break open (*rupt* break) (*breach, fracture*)
When the vat of smelly liquid **ruptured**, we picked up our feet to avoid getting the stuff on our shoes.
- transmute** (v) to transform (*trans-* across + *mut* change) (*transform, metamorphose*)
Harry Potter was able to **transmute** a feather into a frog using a spell he learned in incantations class.
- amorphous** (adj) lacking shape, changeable in form (*a-* without + *morph* shape) (*nebulous, shapeless*)
Rather than marching in precise formation, the battalion broke down into an **amorphous** mass of charging soldiers.
- mercurial** (adj) erratic, subject to wild changes in character (from the speedy god Mercury) (*volatile*)
Molly is the most **mercurial** person in the office; we can never tell if she'll be the evil Molly or the sympathetic Molly.

Vocabulary Lesson 6: One Boring World

Today's roots:	vac	empty	sapere	taste
	mund	world		

- hackneyed** (adj) overused, trite (*clichéd, overused, vapid, banal*)
This film was a **hackneyed** remake with a story line that had been done a hundred times.
- mundane** (adj) ordinary, typical (*mund* world) (*monotonous, workaday, routine*)
Having worked for years behind a desk, she wanted to leave the **mundane** world behind for exotic adventures.
- vacuous** (adj) lacking substance (*vac* empty) (*inane, insipid, fatuous*)
His latest book is widely criticized as **vacuous** and unintelligent.
- prosaic** (adj) unimaginative, ordinary (*conventional, run-of-the-mill, trite*)
I don't understand why his oration was selected as the best; it was so **prosaic** that I nearly fell asleep.
- insipid** (adj) uninteresting, dull, without flavor (*in-* not + *sapere* taste) (*uninspired, inane, pedestrian*)
Christine is the life of the party, but Tom is as **insipid** as they come; hardly anyone wants to talk with him.
- banal** (adj) ordinary, trivial (*pedestrian, lackluster*)
That show used to be my favorite, but its story lines became so **banal** that I could no longer stand it.

Vocabulary Lesson 9: Time Is of the Essence

Today's roots:	<i>trans</i>	across, through	<i>vanescere</i>	to disappear
	<i>chronos</i>	time	<i>tempus</i>	time

- transient** (adj) fleeting; short-lived (*transire* to go across) (*impermanent, short-lived, fleeting*)
We never understand the transient nature of childhood until we wake up one day and realize we're all grown up.
- ephemeral** (adj) short-lived (*hemera* day) (*transitory, transient*)
Critics wrote off the band as a fad, their success an ephemeral phenomenon.
- sporadic** (adj) irregular or unpredictable; infrequent (*sporas* scattered) (*occasional, intermittent*)
He has experienced sporadic success as an actor, with occasional big roles amid many unmemorable parts.
- capricious** (adj) whimsical; impulsive (*fickle, mercurial, whimsical*)
My English teacher runs her class capriciously, flitting from idea to idea with no reason or direction.
- evanescent** (adj) likely to vanish (*vanescere* to disappear) (*vanishing, fugitive, ephemeral*)
The aurora borealis is beautiful but evanescent, a curtain of cascading light that can disappear in a heartbeat.
- extemporaneous** (adj) done with little or no practice (*ex tempore* of time) (*spontaneous, improvised*)
The speech was all the more remarkable because Dr. Sherman gave it extemporaneously.
- anachronism** (n) something out of place in time (*ana-* backward + *chronos* time) (*archaism, antiquity*)
Her old-fashioned perspective on motherhood makes her an anachronism among her friends.

Vocabulary Lesson 10: If You Can't Say Anything Nice . . .

Today's roots:	<i>de</i>	<i>down</i>	<i>dia</i>	through, thoroughly
	<i>monere</i>	to warn		

- censure** (n) official condemnation; harsh criticism (*rebuke, reprimand, admonishment*)
Congress voted to declare **censure** on the representative who took money and gifts from a lobbyist.
- diatribe** (n) malicious criticism or abuse (*dia-* thoroughly + *tribein* to rub) (*tirade, harangue, polemic*)
A good debate must avoid vicious personal diatribe and focus on a respectful discussion of issues.
- caustic** (adj) corrosive; sarcastic (*abrasive, sardonic, scathing, mordant*)
James immediately regretted making such a **caustic** remark; he could tell his words truly hurt Vanessa.
- derogatory** (adj) disparaging; belittling (*de-* down, away) (*deprecatory, pejorative, libelous*)
Derogatory remarks are not allowed in class; discussions should criticize ideas, not people.
- admonish** (v) to reprimand mildly (*ad-* to + *monere* to warn) (*reprimand, scold, reprove, chide*)
The boy was **admonished** by his mom for spilling his soda on the brand-new rug.
- repudiate** (v) to cast off publicly (*repudium* divorce) (*renounce, disown, revoke*)
The newspaper **repudiated** the reporter's comments and retracted the story.

Vocabulary Lesson 11: Holy Cow

Today's roots:

sacer sacred de down
sanctus holy vereri respect

- sanctimonious** (adj) falsely pious or self-righteous (*sanctus* holy) (*self-righteous, preachy*)
I prefer ministers who are real people, not **sanctimonious** know-it-all preachers.
- sacrosanct** (adj) profoundly sacred (*sacer* sacred + *sanctus* holy) (*hallowed, inviolable*)
To Hindus, the cow is a **sacrosanct** creature to be treated with the utmost respect.
- sanctuary** (n) a place of refuge; a sacred place (*sanctus* holy) (*haven, refuge*)
The Notre Dame cathedral is a **sanctuary** to all; anyone in need of a safe place to rest is welcome.
- sacrilegious** (adj) grossly irreverent; disrespectful of something sacred (*sacer* sacred) (*profane*)
To Hindus, to whom cows are sacred, the mass slaughter of cattle is considered **sacrilegious**.
- revere** (v) to regard with honor and devotion (*re-* intensive + *vereri* respect) (*esteem, lionize*)
Every genre of music has its stars, whom fans **revere** like gods.
- pious** (adj) showing religious reverence (Latin *pious* devout) (*sanctimonious, religious*)
Cotton Mather considered it his **pious** duty to hang anyone in Salem accused of witchcraft.
- deference** (n) respect for the wishes of others (*de-* away, down + *ferre* carry, bring) (*submissiveness*)
It is important to show **deference** to your elders and treat them with respect.

Vocabulary Lesson 12: Power It Up

Today's roots:

potens strong in-, im- not
domit lord via way

- formidable** (adj) awesome; hard to overcome; dreadful (*formido* fear) (*redoubtable, daunting*)
The Yankees are a **formidable** team; we'll be lucky to win a single game against them this year.
- potent** (adj) strong and effective (*potens* strong) (*powerful, efficacious*)
Although the drug is clearly the most **potent** treatment for depression, it also has the strongest side effects.
- indomitable** (adj) unable to be conquered (*in-* not + *domit* lord) (*invincible, unassailable*)
The **indomitable** castle has been under the control of the Spaniards for 6,000 years, despite repeated attacks.
- redoubtable** (adj) arousing fear; formidable; awesome (*re-* intensive + *douter, dubitare* to doubt)
The mob boss is a **redoubtable** figure who makes his enemies cower in fear.
- robust** (adj) full of vigor (*resilient, powerful*)
The **robust** young men were able to run miles at a time through the rugged terrain without breaking a sweat.
- impervious** (adj) incapable of being penetrated or affected (*im-* not + *per* through + *via* road)
Bulletproof vests are almost always **impervious** to bullets.

Vocabulary Lesson 13: Come Together

Today's roots:	co-, com-, con- syn	together same, together	vocare legere	to call choose
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- coalesce** (v) to blend or fuse together (*co-* together + *alere* to nourish) (*consolidate, amalgamate*)
Raindrops are usually formed when water vapor and microscopic particles in the atmosphere coalesce.
- anthology** (n) a collection of works (*anthos* flower + *legion* together) (*compendium, treasury*)
The *Beatles Anthology* is one of the best-selling greatest-hit albums of all time.
- convoke** (v) to call together (*con-* together + *vocare* call) (*summon, convene*)
The village elders **convoked** the citizens to discuss the sale of the ceremonial land.
- synchronize** (v) to arrange events to occur simultaneously (*syn-* same, together + *chronos* time) (*coordinate*)
Nothing is harder for a dance teacher than trying to **synchronize** 10 eight-year-old ballerinas.
- synthesis** (n) a fusion; a bringing together (*syn-* together + *tithenai* to put) (*fusion, amalgam*)
The **synthesis** of DNA occurs when many ribonucleic acids are joined together into one long double helix.
- eclectic** (adj) made up of parts from many different sources (*ec-* out + *legere* to choose) (*diverse*)
Rob Mathes's **eclectic** compositions reveal a subtle yet effective blend of blues, gospel, classical, and jazz styles.
- yoke** (v) to join different things (*harness, hitch, tether*)
Politicians often **yoke** unpopular legislation to popular bills so that they can sneak them through Congress.

Vocabulary Lesson 14: Cruel and Unusual

Today's roots:	homos super-	same above, beyond	idios -less	peculiar without
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- ruthless** (adj) cruel; merciless (*rue* regret + *-less* without) (*callous, sadistic, merciless*)
Torquemada is widely regarded as the most **ruthless** interrogator of the Spanish Inquisition.
- contempt** (n) scorn; disrespect (*temnere* to despise) (*scorn, disdain*)
Many eminent and successful scientists often show **contempt** for novel theories that question their own.
- callous** (adj) hardened; insensitive (*callum* hard skin) (*heartless, ruthless*)
Since they see so much suffering daily, emergency room doctors often struggle to avoid becoming **callous**.
- supercilious** (adj) full of haughty arrogance (*super* above + *cilium* brow) (*condescending, patronizing*)
Although he seems **supercilious** when you first meet him, Joe is actually a modest and down-to-earth guy.
- idiosyncrasy** (n) a peculiar trait or habit (*idio* peculiar) (*eccentricity, peculiarity, quirk*)
My history teacher has the **idiosyncrasy** of always squinting just before she asks a question of the class.
- anomaly** (n) unusual event (*an-* not + *homos* same) (*incongruity, aberration*)
The 90-degree day in Siberia was an **anomaly**; the temperature had only gone that high once before.

Vocabulary Lesson 15: Weak and Weaker

Today's roots:	batre	to beat	troph	nourishment
	ad	to	lassus	weary

- atrophy** (v) to weaken from disuse (*a-* without + *troph* nourishment) (*wither, deteriorate*)
After surgery, extended bed rest often causes muscles to **atrophy** unless it is accompanied by physical therapy.
- abate** (v) to subside; to decrease in intensity (*ad-* to + *batre* to beat) (*subside, ebb*)
The crews had to wait until the storm **abated** before they could begin to assess the damage to the coastal town.
- porous** (adj) filled with many holes (*porus* opening) (*pervious, permeable*)
The teenager's story was a **porous** one that her parents could easily see through.
- wane** (v) to grow smaller or less intense (*diminish, flag*)
As the size of the moon **wanes** over the next few nights, it will get harder to see when it is dark.
- lassitude** (n) a feeling of weakness (*lassus* weary) (*languor, lethargy, torpor*)
Although she tried valiantly to play through her illness, Danielle's **lassitude** overtook her in the second half.
- undermine** (v) to weaken or diminish something (*subvert, compromise*)
The continual setbacks to the project over many weeks **undermined** the morale of the workers.

Vocabulary Lesson 16: Chillin'

Today's roots:	status	position, standing	quies	rest
	plac	to please	serenus	calm

- placid** (adj) calm (*plac* to please) (*tranquil, unflappable*)
A relaxing day at the spa always makes me feel more **placid**.
- inert** (adj) sluggish; inactive (*in-* not + *ertem* active) (*dormant, indolent*)
After his final exams, Ricky sat **inert** on his couch for two days watching soap operas and game shows.
- listless** (adj) sluggish; without energy (*-less* without) (*enervated, lethargic, languid*)
I always feel **listless** on rainy days; sometimes I don't even want to get out of bed.
- quiescent** (adj) resting; quiet (*quies* rest) (*idle, passive*)
During the **quiescent** phase of cell division, the cell does not split or grow.
- serene** (adj) tranquil; calm; placid (*serenus* peaceful, calm) (*placid, equable, tranquil*)
There was not a single wave on the surface of the **serene** lake.
- static** (adj) stationary (*status* standing) (*immobile, constant*)
The patient's vitals have been **static** for an hour. We hope this means he can be moved from intensive care.
- languid** (adj) weak; sluggish (*listless, lethargic*)
The flu left me feeling **languid** even two days after my fever had broken.

Vocabulary Lesson 17: Wanna Fight?

Today's roots:	bellum	war	vola	to fly
	pugnare	fight	ire	anger

- belligerent** (adj) warlike; quarrelsome (*bellum* war + *gerere* to wage) (**bellicose, pugnacious**)
My brother is a **belligerent** guy; he picks his fair share of bar fights.
- irascible** (adj) easily angered (*ire* anger) (**cranky, petulant, fractious**)
Adam's **irascible** nature landed him in anger management therapy; he overreacts to the smallest things.
- volatile** (adj) explosive; tending to evaporate quickly (*vola* to fly) (**mercurial, capricious**)
The situation in the Middle East is a **volatile** one that must be handled with care.
- rebuttal** (n) refutation; opposing response to an argument (*re-* back + *bouter* to put) (**refutation**)
After the opponent made his remarks, the debate team captain approached the podium to deliver her **rebuttal**.
- refute** (v) to disprove; to rebut forcefully (*refutare* to drive back) (**debunk, discredit**)
The judge found no evidence to **refute** your claim that the car is yours, so you get to keep it for now.
- incite** (v) to urge into action (*ciare* to cause to move) (**inflame, instigate, provoke**)
The rebels **incited** a revolt in the small city by convincing the citizens that their mayor was a crook.
- pugnacious** (adj) quarrelsome; warlike (*pugnare* fight) (**combative, belligerent, contentious**)
The **pugnacious** punk was happiest when his fists were pounding someone else's chin.

Vocabulary Lesson 18: Bad and Ugly

Today's roots:	acri	bitter	caco	ugly
	plorare	to cry out	phon	sound

- acrimony** (n) bitterness of feelings; harsh words (*acri* bitter + *monia* action or condition) (**rancor**)
Her toast was inappropriately **acrimonious**, and we could all tell that she had not forgiven her friend.
- appalling** (adj) shocking; causing dismay (*pain* to grow pale) (**abhorrent, ghastly**)
The way he yells at his wife is **appalling**; he treats her like she is his servant.
- cacophony** (n) discord; harsh sounds (*cacos* ugly + *phon* sound) (**din, clamor**)
How can this **cacophony** coming out of my son's room be today's popular music?
- abysmal** (adj) extremely bad; wretched (Gr *byssos* bottom of the sea) (**atrocious, dire**)
The food at this hospital is **abysmal**! Is this bread or cardboard?
- acrid** (adj) harsh smelling or tasting (*acri* bitter) (**pungent, caustic**)
Don't inhale too much of this chemical; it is known to be quite **acrid** and can make you pass out.
- deplorable** (adj) worthy of reproach or censure (*plorare* to cry out in sorrow) (**reprehensible**)
Although they claimed to love animals, the conditions at their run-down shelter were **deplorable**.

Vocabulary Lesson 19: Moving Right Along

Today's roots:	ambulare pel, pul	walk force, drive	flux peri-	flow around
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- ambulatory** (adj) capable of moving around (*ambulare* walk) (*mobile, motile*)
He must stay in bed for a week, and once he is ambulatory, he will need crutches.
- deviate** (v) to swerve or deflect (*de-* away + *via* path) (*digress, diverge*)
The tire sitting in the left lane of the highway caused the driver to deviate from her path.
- influx** (n) a flowing in (*in-* in + *flux* flow) (*inundation*)
The school saw quite an influx of new applicants once it increased the number of scholarships.
- peripatetic** (adj) traveling from place to place (*peri-* around + *patein* to walk) (*itinerant, nomadic*)
The nomads were a peripatetic clan; they never stayed in the same place very long.
- impel** (v) to put into motion; to urge (*pel* force) (*coerce, compel, exhort, goad, spur*)
The zoo visitors were impelled into action by the announcement that a lion was loose.
- expedite** (v) to speed up the progress of (*ex-* out + *pes, pedis* foot: to free from entanglement) (*hasten*)
The project was expedited once the CEO decided that its outcome reflected on him personally.

Vocabulary Lesson 20: Going, Going, Gone!

Today's roots:	purgare deplere	cleanse to empty	ab-	away
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- raze** (v) to destroy completely (*demolish*)
The massive level-five hurricane razed the entire port city, crushing everything in its path.
- jetison** (v) to throw overboard (*reject, spurn*)
The killer jetisoned the murder weapon into the lake as he sailed to his hideout in the cove.
- abort** (v) to terminate prematurely (*ab-* away + *oriri* to appear) (*terminate*)
The soldiers aborted their mission when they learned their cover was blown and it was no longer safe.
- purge** (v) to cleanse of something unwanted (*purgare* to cleanse) (*cleanse, eradicate*)
It is satisfying to purge your email inbox of unwanted junk messages.
- forgo** (v) to give something up (*for-* away + *go* go) (*eschew, waive, abstain from, abjure*)
The woman decided to leave the hospital early and forgo further treatment on her injured hip.
- deplete** (v) to decrease the supply of (*deplere* to empty) (*expend, exhaust, diminish*)
The run on gasoline depleted the gas station of its fuel reserves, and it was forced to shut down.
- dearth** (n) lack; scarcity (*dear* greatly valued) (*paucity, deficiency, sparseness*)
There has been a dearth of good will between the teams ever since the bench-clearing brawl.

Vocabulary Lesson 21: Nice Guy!

Today's roots:	amicus	friend	anthro	mankind
	munus	gift, money, sharing	phila	brotherly love

- altruism** (n) selflessness (*alter* other) (*benevolence, philanthropy, charity, magnanimousness*)
Tom's **altruism** pushes him to spend 30 hours per week working with the needy.
- amiable** (adj) friendly; agreeable (*amicus* friend) (*affable, amicable, genial, cordial*)
Mr. Richards is such an **amiable** guy, always smiling and laughing as he interacts with his customers.
- philanthropist** (n) one who does good; lover of mankind (*phila* love + *anthro* mankind) (*benefactor, patron*)
It is amazing that a penny-pincher like Paul is a **philanthropist** who has donated millions to charity.
- congenial** (adj) friendly; pleasant (*con-* with + *genialis* pleasant) (*genial, amiable, convivial*)
After months of imagining her in-laws as monsters, Julia was surprised at how **congenial** they actually were.
- munificent** (adj) generous (*munus* sharing) (*magnanimous, beneficent, philanthropic, altruistic*)
Donating that outfit to charity is quite a **munificent** gesture, considering that it is your favorite.
- decorum** (n) propriety; good manners (*decorus* proper) (*propriety, seemliness, protocol, etiquette*)
While eating at the country club, you must behave with the utmost **decorum** and mind your manners.

Vocabulary Lesson 22: Show Off!

Today's roots:	ped-, paedere-	instruct	grandis	great, big
	ostentare	to display	pomp	splendor

- pedantic** (adj) showy about knowledge (*paedere* to instruct) (*dogmatic, pompous, bombastic*)
Kim's **pedantic** teaching style bothers her students; she uses bizarre vocabulary words nobody understands.
- grandiose** (adj) pretentious; ridiculously exaggerated (*grand* great + *osus* full of) (*resplendent, pompous*)
The castle's foyer was the most **grandiose** of its kind, adorned with crystal chandeliers and gilded banisters.
- bombastic** (adj) pompous; using inflated language (*pompous, turgid, verbose, ostentatious*)
The **bombastic** language in the mayor's campaign speech made her seem arrogant and disconnected from the public.
- braggart** (n) one who boasts; a showoff (*braguer* to show off) (*swaggerer, pedant*)
"No one likes a **braggart**, son; it's best to be modest and humble about your successes."
- ostentatious** (adj) showy; pretentious (*ostentare* to display + *-tious* full of) (*pretentious, gaudy, grandiose*)
That solid-gold statue is the most **ostentatious** display of wealth I have ever seen.
- pompous** (adj) possessing excessive self-esteem; pretentious (*pomp* splendor + *-ous* full of) (*haughty*)
His **pompous**, holier-than-thou attitude annoyed all of his classmates.
- swagger** (v) to walk or strut in an arrogant manner (*strut, gloat, bluster*)
Having beat their crosstown rivals handily, the players **swaggered** back to the locker room.

Vocabulary Lesson 23: Like a Pit Bull

Today's roots:	tract	pull	tenax	holding fast
	ob-	against	per-	very

- dogged** (adj) determined; unwilling to give up (think of "follow like a dog") (*tenacious, resolute, staunch*)
Outmanned and overmatched, the **dogged** fighters nevertheless refused to surrender the Alamo.
- inexorable** (adj) relentless (*in-* not + *exorabilis* able to be swayed) (*obdurate, relentless, intransigent*)
Inexorable in his wooing, Jason vowed to send Kathy roses every day until she accepted his prom invitation.
- obstinate** (adj) stubborn (*obstinatus* to stand stubbornly) (*intractable, recalcitrant, refractory*)
No matter what she tried, she could not make her **obstinate** husband change his mind.
- intractable** (adj) difficult to manage (*in-* not + *tract* pull) (*obstinate, intransigent*)
The **intractable** mule refused to pull the plow and instead sat in the field all day.
- contentious** (adj) quarrelsome (*contendere* to strive after + *-ious* full of) (*disputatious, pugacious*)
Julia sighed as her excessively **contentious** husband started another unnecessary argument with their waiter.
- pertinacity** (n) stubbornness (*per-* very + *tenax* holding fast) (*obstinacy, willfulness, tenacity*)
Kyle showed incredible **pertinacity** after breaking his leg, making it back in time for the championship game.
- steadfast** (adj) unchanging; unswerving (*stede* stand + *foest* firmly fixed) (*resolute, staunch, unfaltering*)
Despite many hardships, the team was **steadfast** in its pursuit of the summit.

Vocabulary Lesson 24: You're Good at That!

Today's roots:	apt	fit	summus	highest
	para-	beyond	dexter	skillful

- adroit** (adj) dexterous; skillful (*à droit* rightly) (*adept, dexterous, astute, deft*)
An **adroit** con-man, Clarence knew how to fool even the most skeptical eye.
- unerring** (adj) committing no mistakes; perfect (*un-* not + *err* to make a mistake) (*infallible, impeccable*)
Her **unerring** sense of direction always puts her in the right place even if she has never been there before.
- adept** (adj) highly skilled (*adroit, proficient, consummate*)
Roberto, an **adept** mathematician, completed the outrageously difficult calculus final in just 25 minutes.
- aptitude** (n) a natural ability; intelligence (*apt* fit) (*capacity, faculty, facility*)
Kenneth showed a great **aptitude** for computers as a child, designing complex programs at the age of ten.
- paragon** (n) a model of excellence; perfection (*para-* beyond) (*epitome, quintessence, archetype*)
The head of several charities, Susan is the **paragon** of philanthropy.
- consummate** (adj) perfect in every respect; highly skilled (*summus* highest) (*superlative, preeminent*)
A consummate psychologist, Dr. Carter is often asked to lend his expertise on difficult cases.

Vocabulary Lesson 25: Bad and Worse

Today's roots:	mal	bad, evil	vol	wish
	facere	to do or make	odium	hate

- nefarious** (adj) wicked; sinful (*ne* - not + *fas* lawful) (*iniquitous, heinous, diabolical*)
Cinderella's **nefarious** step-sisters took joy in making her do their daily chores.
- repugnant** (adj) offensive; repulsive (*re* - back + *pugnare* to fight) (*abhorrent, odious, execrable*)
Christopher's mother found his superstition of not bathing after games **repugnant**.
- infamous** (adj) famous for bad deeds; notorious (*in* - not + *famosus* celebrated) (*ignominious*)
The infamous "El Hecor" was remembered for the way he tortured the poor villagers of Santa Potula.
- odious** (adj) worthy of dislike; arousing feelings of dislike (*odium* hate + *osus* full of) (*vile*)
Jimmy was no longer afraid to go to school once the **odious** bully was suspended.
- malevolent** (adj) wishing harm to others; evil (*mal* evil + *vol* wish) (*malicious, vindictive*)
The **malevolent** dictator smiled as he ordered his soldiers to burn down the church.
- malefactor** (n) an evil-doer (*mal* evil + *facere* to do or make) (*miscreant, culprit, transgressor*)
Superman has found and stopped many a **malefactor** before the crime could actually be committed.
- abominable** (adj) loathsome; unpleasant (*loathsome, odious, repugnant, execrable*)
His **abominable** behavior at the game included excessive drinking, loud swearing, and the removal of his clothes.

Vocabulary Lesson 26: Ripped Off

Today's roots:	sub, subter	under, secretly	fugere	to flee
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- charlatan** (n) a fraud; a quack (It *chiarlatino* a quack) (*sham, quack, fraud, mountebank*)
June's family warned her that Chaz was a **charlatan**, only pretending to be a successful lawyer.
- ruse** (n) a crafty scheme (*ploy, stratagem, machination, gambit*)
The clever criminal came up with a flawless **ruse** to steal the money from the bank.
- subterfuge** (n) a scheme; an attempt to deceive (*subter* secretly + *fugere* to flee) (*duplicity*)
It takes real **subterfuge** to sneak anything past Principal Guber; it's like he is able to see your every move.
- pilfer** (v) to steal (*purloin, loot*)
The looters **pilfered** countless items from the electronics store during the riot.
- swindle** (v) to cheat (*defraud, bilk, hoodwink*)
The street hustler **swindled** the unsuspecting man, tricking him into buying a fake designer watch.
- gullible** (adj) easily deceived (*credulous, naive, dupable*)
The **gullible** teenager was easily tricked by her friends into believing that one of them was a secret agent.

Vocabulary Lesson 27: Good Guys and Bad Guys

Today's roots:	archos a-, an-	leader, government without	theos pacis	god peace
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- hedonist** (n) a pleasure seeker (*hedone* pleasure) (*sybarite, epicure, voluptuary*)
The 1960s are often considered the age of the **hedonist**, a time when everyone felt she had the right to have fun.
- ascetic** (n) one who lives a holy life of self-denial (*asketes* monk) (*abstainer, puritan, hermit*)
Tim has spent years at a time as an **ascetic**, each time giving away all he owns and living on rice and prayer.
- anarchist** (n) one who opposes all political authority (*an-* without + *archos* leader) (*subversive*)
Before the coup d'etat, the dictator claimed to be an **anarchist**; that all changed once he was given power.
- pacifist** (n) an individual who is opposed to violence (*pacis* peace + *facere* to make) (*peace-monger*)
Forever a **pacifist**, Julie organized a rally protesting the war in the Middle East.
- atheist** (n) one who does not believe that God exists (*a-* without + *theos* god) (*skeptic, nonbeliever*)
Although she is an **atheist** and does not worship the Buddha, Cathy meditates with her Buddhist friends.
- nihilist** (adj) one who rejects moral distinctions and knowable "truths" (*nihil* nothing) (*negativist, disbeliever*)
Because she is a **nihilist**, Carrie likes to contend that the world may be a figment of her imagination.
- despot** (n) a tyrant; one who rules oppressively (Gr *despotes* absolute ruler) (*tyrant, oppressor, dictator*)
The despot rules with reckless abandon, doing only what he wants with no concern for the citizens.

Vocabulary Lesson 28: That's Better

Today' roots:	culpa ex-, e-	blame out	placare mollis	please soft
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- vindicate** (v) to clear from blame (*absolve, exonerate, exculpate, acquit*)
The adroit defense lawyer was able to **vindicate** her client of all charges, and he was set free.
- assuage** (v) to soothe anger or pain; to satisfy a hunger (*suavis* agreeable, sweet) (*mollify, placate*)
If your dog gets stung by a bee, place a wet washcloth on the area to **assuage** the pain.
- mollify** (v) to soothe the anger of (*mollis* soft) (*appease, pacify, conciliate, ally*)
The waiter attempted to **mollify** the angry customer by offering him a free dessert with his dinner.
- exonerate** (v) to clear from accusation (*ex-* out + *onus* burden) (*exculpate, vindicate, acquit*)
When the principal found the spray paint in Rex's locker, Timmy was **exonerated** of all graffiti charges.
- placate** (v) to soothe; to mollify (*placare* please) (*appease, mollify, propitiate*)
The mother attempted to **placate** her crying baby by handing him his favorite teddy bear.
- exculpate** (v) to free from blame (*ex-* out + *culpa* blame) (*absolve, vindicate, exonerate*)
Although the DNA evidence did not identify the killer, it did **exculpate** the police's primary suspect.

Vocabulary Lesson 29: Make Me!

Today's roots:	<i>legare</i>	to bind	<i>vocare</i>	to call
	<i>ducere</i>	to lead	<i>pro-</i>	forth

- cajole** (v) to persuade by using flattery (*coax, inveigle, entice*)
The clever eight-year-old girl successfully **cajoled** her parents into taking her to Disney World.
- exhort** (v) to urge strongly (*ex- thoroughly + hortari to urge*) (*entreat, implore, enjoin*)
The doctor **exhorted** his patient to stop smoking by explaining how dangerous a habit it really was.
- coerce** (v) to persuade through the use of force (*coerere hold in, restrain*) (*compel, browbeat*)
The bully **coerced** the smaller boy into handing over his lunch money with threats of wedgies and deadarms.
- induce** (v) to cause (*in- in + ducere to lead*) (*affect, instigate, engender*)
After 36 hours of labor, the doctors decided to **induce** the baby's birth with medication.
- coax** (v) to persuade by using flattery (*whistle, cajole*)
The charming man used well-placed compliments to **coax** the pretty waitress into meeting him for a drink.
- provoke** (v) to stir up; to excite (*pro- forth + vocare to call*) (*goad, incite*)
Eric **provoked** his older brother into fighting by whacking him on the head with his action figure.
- obligatory** (adj) required (*ob- to + ligare to bind*) (*mandatory, compulsory, incumbent*)
The **obligatory** jumps in the skating competition must be performed or the competitor loses points.

Vocabulary Lesson 30: Come to Your Senses

Today's roots:	<i>audire</i>	to hear	<i>palpare</i>	to touch
	<i>gustare</i>	to taste	<i>cernere</i>	to separate

- tactile** (adj) able to be sensed by touch (*tactilis touchable*) (*palpable*)
The petting zoo provides a fun **tactile** experience for children, allowing them to touch dozens of animals.
- olfactory** (adj) relating to the sense of smell (*olere a smell of + facere to make*)
For those with a strong **olfactory** sense the spray of a skunk is extremely pungent.
- gustatory** (adj) relating to the sense of taste (*gustare to taste*)
The meal was a **gustatory** extravaganza; her taste buds were exploding from all the savory spices.
- auditory** (adj) relating to the sense of hearing (*audire to hear*) (*acoustic, auricular*)
Kris's **auditory** deterioration prevented him from appreciating the subtle tonality of the music.
- discern** (v) to perceive as separate; to sense keenly (*dis- away + cernere distinguish, separate*)
The fog made it difficult for me to **discern** how many people stood at the far end of the parking lot.
- palpable** (adj) detectable by touch (*palpare to touch*) (*tangible, discernable*)
As the tightrope walker attempted to regain his balance, the tension in the audience was nearly **palpable**.

Vocabulary Lesson 31: Stop It!

Today's roots:	<i>ab-, abs- terere</i>	<i>from hold</i>	<i>terrere ped</i>	<i>to frighten foot</i>
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- thwart** (v) to stop something before it is able to succeed (*frustrate, stymie, foil, forestall*)
Thanks to inside information, the police department was able to thwart the bank robbery before it even began.
- abstain** (v) to refrain from action (*ab-* from + *tenere* to hold) (*refrain, forbear, eschew*)
An alcoholic of 20 years, Robert was unable to abstain from drinking when offered a beer.
- deterrent** (n) something that acts to discourage (*de-* away + *terrere* to frighten) (*curb, disincentive*)
The picture of the vicious lion baring his teeth was an effective deterrent against kids' reaching into the cage.
- impede** (v) to slow the progress of, to block (*impedire* to entangle the foot) (*obstruct, thwart*)
The orange cones did not do much to impede the progress of the cars; they just drove right over them.
- hinder** (n) to slow the progress of (*hamp, impede, thwart*)
The weed-killer sprayed on the garden successfully hindered the growth of the unwanted plants.
- curtail** (v) to make less (*curtus* to cut short) (*curb, retrench*)
In an effort to lose weight, Mark tried to curtail his ice cream consumption.
- impediment** (n) something that works to impede progress; a hindrance (*hindrance, handicap*)
Louise had a speech impediment that caused her to stutter, but that did not keep her from being a D.J.

Vocabulary Lesson 32: Must Be the Money!

Today's roots:	<i>pecunia pro-</i>	<i>money ahead</i>	<i>parsi videre</i>	<i>to save to see</i>
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- destitute** (adj) completely penniless (*destitutus* abandoned) (*impoverished, impecunious*)
The stock market collapse of 2000–2002 left many an adept investor destitute.
- frugal** (adj) economical; good with your money (*frux*- fruit, profit) (*thrifty, economical, austere*)
A frugal shopper does not make a purchase before checking many other places for a lower price.
- remuneration** (n) payment for services (*re-* back + *munerari* to give) (*compensation, reimbursement*)
The job is tedious, but the remuneration is worthwhile—over 50 dollars per hour!
- impecunious** (adj) without money (*im-* not + *pecunia* money) (*indigent, insolvent, destitute*)
You would never guess that Marisa was so impecunious if you watched her spend money at the mall.
- improvident** (adj) failing to provide for the future (*im-* not + *pro-* ahead + *videre* to see) (*spendthrift, prodigal*)
Despite once being a millionaire, Tom was now broke due to his improvident spending decisions.
- parsimony** (n) excessive thriftiness (*parsi-* to spare, save + *monium* an action, a condition) (*stinginess*)
Al's parsimoniousness reached an extreme when he hand-delivered a bill rather than spending money on a stamp.

Vocabulary Lesson 33: Saw That Coming

Today's roots:

<i>pro-, pre-, fore-</i>	<i>before</i>	<i>scientia</i>	<i>knowledge</i>
<i>monere</i>	<i>to warn</i>	<i>por-</i>	<i>forward</i>

- prophecy** (n) a prediction of the future (*pro-* before + *phrasi* to speak) (*prognostication, divination, augury*)
The prophecy told of a young boy who would soon be born to save the human race from extinction.
- harbinger** (n) a precursor (*herald, omen, portent*)
Many consider the robin to be a harbinger of spring.
- augur** (v) to predict the future (an *augur* in ancient Rome was an official who foretold events) (*bode, portent*)
The "psychic network" claims to augur what is to come for its callers, but most believe it to be a hoax.
- premonition** (n) a forewarning (*pre-* before + *monere* to warn) (*foreboding, presentiment*)
The traveler had a premonition of the upcoming disaster and refused to board the plane.
- portend** (v) to give advanced warning (*por-* forward + *tendere* to extend) (*presage, foreshadow, prophesy*)
The weather service looks for atmospheric signs that portend violent storms.
- prescient** (adj) having knowledge of future events (*pre-* before + *scientia* knowledge) (*clairvoyant*)
The seemingly prescient gambler made a fortune at the racetrack, always knowing which horse would win.
- omen** (n) a sign of something to come (*harbinger, portent, herald*)
The nervous bride took the death of the minister who was to marry them as an omen that her marriage was doomed.

Vocabulary Lesson 34: Old and Worn-Out

Today's roots:	<i>arch</i>	<i>ancient</i>	<i>per-</i>	<i>through</i>
	<i>ante-</i>	<i>before</i>	<i>linguere</i>	<i>to leave</i>

- archaic** (adj) ancient (*arch* ancient) (*obsolete, outmoded, anachronistic*)
The boat's archaic navigation system confused the young sailor who knew how to read only the newer consoles.
- relic** (n) an object from an ancient time (*re-* back + *linguere* to leave) (*artifact, antiquity*)
The relic found at the ancient burial site once served as a water pitcher for an Aztec family.
- decrepit** (adj) worn out from old age or use (*de-* down + *crepare* to break, to crack) (*feeble, rickety*)
The decrepit swing set in the schoolyard had been used by four generations of children.
- antiquated** (adj) obsolete; outdated (*antiquus* ancient) (*archaic, outmoded, anachronistic*)
The computer technology in rural Italy is quite antiquated; even Internet access is rare.
- antediluvian** (adj) very old (*ante-* before + *diluvian* a flood; in reference to the Biblical flood) (*obsolete*)
The piece of pottery they found was an antediluvian bowl that was made over 4,000 years ago.
- perpetuate** (v) to keep from dying out (*per-* through + *petere* to seek, go to) (*sustain, prolong*)
The myth that cigarettes don't harm you has been perpetuated by the cigarette companies.

Vocabulary Lesson 35: Feelings

Today' roots:	pathos con-	emotion with	prehens solari	to grasp comfort
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- apathy** (n) lack of feeling; lack of interest (*a-* without + *pathos* emotion) (*indifference*)
Mark was **apathetic** about Stephanie's desire to keep her laptop clean; he put his fingerprints all over the screen.
- apprehensive** (adj) anxious about what is to come (*anxious, agitated*)
It is normal to feel **apprehensive** on the morning of your driver's test; it is a nerve-wracking experience.
- contrite** (adj) repentant (*con-* with + *terere* to wear down) (*remorseful, penitent, rueful*)
The **contrite** murder suspect scored points with the judge, who appreciated her remorseful attitude.
- lament** (v) to mourn, to show sorrow (*lamentum* a wailing) (*deplore, bemoan, rue*)
The fans **lamented** the passing of John Lennon; they cried as if they had lost a brother.
- console** (v) to comfort (*con-* with + *solari* comfort) (*solace, comfort, reassure*)
Many family members were on hand to **console** the grieving widow at her husband's funeral.
- impassive** (adj) lacking emotion (*im-* not + *passivus* capable of feeling) (*stoic, indifferent*)
Joy's **impassiveness** about her grades upset her parents; they wanted her to care more about her work.

Vocabulary Lesson 36: What the Heck?

Today's roots:	vocare <i>crypto</i>	to call secret	equi <i>nebula</i>	same mist
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- ambiguous** (adj) unclear in meaning (*ambigere* to wander) (*equivocal, imprecise*)
The teacher's **ambiguous** instructions left us with no idea of what we were supposed to do.
- obscure** (adj) not easily understood; indistinct (*obscurus* to darken) (*abstruse, arcane*)
The comedian's jokes contained **obscure** references that left the audience confused and silent.
- equivocal** (adj) deliberately ambiguous or misleading (*equi* same + *vocare* to call) (*ambiguous*)
The defendant's **equivocal** answers made it hard for the prosecutor to prove his case.
- convoluted** (adj) intricate and hard to follow (*con-* together + *volvere* to roll) (*tortuous*)
The instructions in this manual are so **convoluted** that I don't know where even to begin.
- cryptic** (adj) enigmatic; mysterious (*crypto* concealed, secret) (*enigmatic, arcane*)
The soldier's **cryptic** reply over the radio to his captain suggested that something was amiss.
- unfathomable** (adj) impossible to comprehend (*un-* not + *fathom* to grasp) (*inscrutable*)
The idea that time slows as our speed increases is **unfathomable** to most of us.
- nebulous** (adj) vague; indefinite (*nebula* mist) (*amorphous, vague*)
Bill's memory of the car accident was **nebulous**; he remembered only bits and pieces of the ordeal.

Vocabulary Lesson 37: True or False?

Today's roots:	verax	true	candere	to shine
	genuinus	natural	apo-	away

- candor** (n) honesty; straightforwardness (*candere* to shine) (*frankness, forthrightness, sincerity*)
I appreciated my doctor's **candor**; I prefer a straightforward approach when discussing my health.
- affect** (v) to put on airs; to pretend (*feign, make a pretense of*)
Hoping to fit in while in London, Jules **affected** a British accent.
- veracity** (n) truthfulness (*verax* true) (*probity, rectitude*)
Since we can't test the **veracity** of his statements, we will never know for sure if he was telling the truth.
- debunk** (v) to expose something as fraudulent (*explode, quash, discredit, refute*)
The D.A. knew that the cop was crooked and made it his mission to **debunk** the officer's claims.
- apocryphal** (adj) of doubtful authenticity (*apo-* away + *kryptein* hide) (*spurious, unauthenticated*)
Before they found out it was a fake, the **apocryphal** Van Gogh painting sold for over a million dollars.
- forthright** (adj) honest; straightforward (*candid, frank, unsparing*)
The student's **forthright** admission of guilt was appreciated by the principal, who reduced his suspension.
- disingenuous** (adj) insincere; crafty (*dis-* away from + *genuinus* natural) (*duplicious, insincere*)
Daphne's expressions of remorse were clearly **disingenuous** because she did not feel any regret for her actions.

Vocabulary Lesson 38: Arts and Entertainment

Today's roots:	curare	to take care of	aisthetikos	perception
	jocus	joke	satira	a poetic melody

- mirth** (n) merriment; laughter (*levity, jocularity, buoyancy, joviality*)
The little boy could not contain his **mirth** when playing with the bubbles.
- aesthetic** (adj) relating to beauty or a theory of beauty (*Gr aisthetikos* perception) (*artistic, tasteful*)
The beautiful colors that emerged from the crystal when struck by the sunlight were **aesthetically** pleasing.
- satire** (n) a mocking literary or dramatic work (*satira* a poetic medley) (*parody, burlesque, lampoon*)
Animal Farm by George Orwell is a **satire** that mocks socialism.
- curator** (n) the individual in charge of a museum (*currare* to take care of)
The **curator** in charge of the Louvre in Paris controls the *Mona Lisa*, perhaps the world's most famous painting.
- witticism** (n) a clever or funny remark (*quip, bon mot, wisecrack*)
Will Rogers is famous for his **witticisms** about American life.
- jocular** (adj) done in a joking way (*jocus* joke) (*droll, witty, facetious*)
Jeff's **jocular** tone relaxed the visitors trapped in the elevator; he even made a few people laugh.

Vocabulary Lesson 39: You're in Trouble

Today's roots:	<i>culpa</i>	blame	<i>censura</i>	judgment
	<i>dictare</i>	to declare	<i>probus</i>	honest, worthy

- censure** (v) to express strong disapproval (*censura* judgment) (*admonish, scold, castigate*)
The congressman's illicit behavior was met with public censure in the media.
- reprove** (v) to scold (*re-* not + *probus* worthy) (*reproach, upbraid, chastise*)
The teacher reproved her students strongly for talking during her lecture.
- reprehensible** (adj) worthy of blame or censure (*deplorable, despicable, repugnant*)
The woman could not believe that her son would do something so reprehensible as torturing small animals.
- culpable** (adj) deserving blame (*culpa* blame) (*culpable, reproachable, blame worthy*)
Although the DNA evidence clearly proved he was culpable, the defendant continued to claim innocence.
- indict** (v) to accuse of an offense (*dictare* to declare) (*impeach, arraign*)
The mob boss was indicted on 10 cases of money laundering.
- reproach** (v) to blame; to express disapproval (*admonish, chide, berate, rebuke*)
After hitting the softball through the window, Ella was reproached by her mother for being so careless.
- rebuke** (v) to scold (*re-* back + *buke* to strike) (*castigate, admonish, censure*)
Because Belinda was rebuked the last time she left her toys out, she cleaned up thoroughly to avoid another scolding.

Vocabulary Lesson 40: Working Hard

Today's roots:	<i>fatigare</i>	tire	<i>sedere</i>	to sit
	<i>metus</i>	fear		

- diligence** (n) hard work and dedication (*diligentia* attentiveness) (*assiduousness, rigor*)
Ty's diligence paid off when his boss gave him a promotion and a raise.
- scrupulous** (adj) careful, ethical (*scruples* ethical standards) (*punctilious, meticulous*)
Always a scrupulous student, Simone made sure she got her assignments in on time.
- meticulous** (adj) extremely attentive to detail (*metus* timidity) (*painstaking, fastidious*)
The accountant was incredibly meticulous; no detail ever slipped by her.
- indefatigable** (adj) untiring (*in-* not + *fatigare* to tire) (*resolute, unrelenting, unflagging*)
Despite working 100 hours per week, the lawyer was indefatigable, remaining energetic about his job.
- painstaking** (adj) meticulous; paying great attention to detail (*meticulous, conscientious*)
After 11 painstaking hours in the operating room, the surgeon declared the brain surgery a complete success.
- assiduous** (adj) hard working (*sedere* to sit) (*diligent, meticulous, painstaking*)
Dave studied assiduously for the bar exam, dedicating 12 hours of daily studying for over five weeks.

Vocabulary Lesson 41: The Faithful and the Unfaithful

Today's roots:	orthos straight	strict to rise	sub- klas	under to break
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- conform** (v) to do what one is expected to do (*com-* together + *formare* to form) (*acquiesce, yield*)
His desire to avoid punishment at all costs causes him to **conform** to his parents' many rules.
- orthodoxy** (n) strict adherence to tradition (*orthos* straight, strict + *doxa* opinion) (*dogma*)
The Amish are well known for their **orthodoxy**; tradition is very important to their culture.
- iconoclast** (n) one who challenges tradition (Gr *eikon* image + *klas* to break) (*renegade, infidel*)
Always an **iconoclast**, Michael did everything in his power to do the opposite of what was expected.
- heresy** (n) opinion or action that violates traditional belief (*dis-sent, heterodoxy, apostasy*)
In many villages in colonial New England, to question religious doctrine was considered heresy.
- insurgent** (n) rebel (*in-* against + *urgere* to rise) (*subversive, guerrilla, rebel*)
Gillian was an **insurgent** on the team; although she had a lot of talent, she couldn't tolerate authority.
- convention** (n) a practice that comports with the norms of a society (*custom, propriety, norm*)
Ms. Frazier's teaching style went against **convention** and thus angered the conservative school board.
- insubordination** (n) rebellion against authority (*in-* against + *sub-* under + *ordinare* arrange) (*insolence*)
By punishing all **insubordination**, the commander showed his troops that any act of rebellion would not be tolerated.

Vocabulary Lesson 42: How Rude!

Today's roots:	puudere solere	to cause shame accustomed	vereri haut	to respect high
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- insolence** (adj) brash disrespect (*in-* not + *solere* accustomed) (*impertinence, impudence*)
The despot punished the rebel's **insolence** with a lengthy prison sentence.
- affront** (n) an insult (Fr *afronter* to confront) (*indignity, insult, slight, outrage*)
When he found out that his dad had let him win, Frank took it as a personal **affront** to his tennis skills.
- haughty** (adj) overly proud (*haut* high) (*pompous, supercilious, condescending, vain*)
The **haughty** young goalie felt that he had no equal in the league.
- impudent** (adj) rudely bold (*in-* not + *puudere* to cause shame) (*impertinent, insolent, brash*)
The young soldier's **impudence** would be punished; it is not wise to undermine the authority of a superior officer.
- boorish** (adj) crude, barbaric (unrelated to *boar*, a wild pig, but *piggish* is a close synonym) (*uncouth*)
The **boorish** barbarians ripped at the meat with their bare hands and spit bones onto the table.
- irreverence** (n) disrespect (*ir-* not + *vereri* to respect) (*contempt, insolence, impudence*)
The **irreverence** with which he mocked his teachers showed he had no respect for their authority.

Vocabulary Lesson 43: Earth, Moon, and Sky

Today's roots:

astrum	star	luna	moon
naus, nauticus	pertaining to ships	kosmos	universe

- arid** (adj) extremely dry (*arere* to be dry) (*barren, scorched*)
Some regions of Africa have become so arid that entire lakes have evaporated.
- astral** (adj) relating to the stars (*astrum* star) (*celestial, stellar*)
The supernova is perhaps the most dramatic of astral events.
- nautical** (adj) pertaining to sailing (*naus, nauticus* pertaining to ships or sailors) (*maritime*)
The southern tip of Africa poses many nautical challenges to even the most adept and experienced sailor.
- lunar** (adj) relating to the moon (*luna* moon)
The lunar vehicle can traverse some of the rockiest and most forbidding terrain on the moon.
- fecund** (adj) fertile; fruitful (*fecundus* fruitful) (*fertile, prolific, efficacious*)
Over the summer, our fecund vegetable garden provided us with an endless supply of wonderful salads.
- fallow** (adj) unused; plowed but not cultivated (*dormant, quiescent, inert*)
The fallow land would be replanted in two years once all the nutrients had been restored.
- cosmic** (adj) relating to the universe (Gr *kosmos* universe, order) (*celestial, extraterrestrial*)
The enormous and unprecedented meteor shower was being hailed as the cosmic event of the century.

Vocabulary Lesson 44: More or Less

Today's roots:	facere	to do	plere	to fill
	copia	abundance		

- paucity** (adj) lack, scarcity (*paucus* few, little) (*dearth, scarcity, want*)
I love good food, so I'm frustrated by the paucity of good restaurants in town.
- surfeit** (n) an excessive amount (*sur-* over + *facere* to do) (*superfluity, glut, abundance*)
The surfeit of food on the table for Thanksgiving dinner left us all with bulging stomachs.
- copious** (adj) abundant (*copia* abundance) (*abundant, profuse, lavish*)
The copious number of mistakes in Robert's final paper showed his lack of effort.
- barren** (adj) infertile (*sterile, unproductive, infertile*)
The barren land was so devoid of life that it was difficult to find even a weed.
- scanty** (adj) meager; barely enough (*sparse, paltry, deficient*)
The scanty portions the soldiers received left them hungry and weak.
- replete** (adj) completely filled (*re-* again + *plere* to fill) (*sated, gorged, satiated*)
The old storage facility was replete with decrepit furniture that had far outlived its usefulness.

Vocabulary Lesson 45: Tough Times

Today's roots:	logia	speaking	dolus	grief
	eu-	good	emia	blood

- enulogy** (n) an horrific speech at a funeral (*eu-* good + *logia* speaking) (*accolade, tribute, acclaim*)
Because Eric had been her best friend, he delivered an emotional **enulogy** at her funeral.
- despondent** (adj) lacking hope (*de-* without + *sperare* hope) (*disheartened, woebegone, crestfallen*)
With their team trailing by ten runs in the ninth inning, the fans became **despondent**.
- doleful** (adj) filled with grief (*dolus* grief + *-ful* full of) (*lugubrious, morose, melancholy, forlorn*)
The funeral for the child was a **doleful** affair; it is always so sad to see someone die at such a young age.
- anemic** (n) feeble; characterized by oxygen deficiency in the blood (*a-* without + *emia* blood) (*feeble*)
Our offense was so **anemic** that we didn't hit the ball out of the infield all game.
- malady** (n) a disease (*mal* bad) (*affliction, infirmity, ailment*)
The flu is a common **malady** that strikes millions of people each year.
- anguish** (n) extreme suffering (*agony, torment, angst*)
The **anguish** Walker felt when his dog died was unbearable; he could hardly stop crying for a week.
- dirge** (n) a funeral song (*elegy, lament, requiem*)
You may think all **dirges** are depressing until you've been to a New Orleans jazz funeral.

Vocabulary Lesson 46: Good Learnin'

Today's roots:	graph	write	demos	people
	logos	study, word, speech	gena	descent

- etymology** (n) the study of the origin of words (Gr *etymon* true sense + *logos* word)
A good understanding of **etymology** can help you succeed on the SAT I.
- anthropology** (n) the study of human cultures (*anthro* mankind + *logia* study)
Anthropologists are fascinated by the similarities between tribal rituals and modern social conventions.
- ethics** (n) the study of and philosophy of moral choice (*ethos* character) (*morality*)
The more deeply one studies **ethics**, the less one is able to think in terms of moral absolutes.
- theology** (n) the study of religion (*theos* god + *logia* study)
In Catholic school, we had many **theological** discussions about the role of God in daily life.
- genealogy** (n) the study of ancestry (*gena* descent + *logia* study) (*lineage, ancestry, pedigree*)
Sarah was so fascinated by **genealogy** that she compiled a three-volume guide to her family ancestry.
- demographics** (n) the study of statistics relating to human populations (*demos* people + *graph* write)
The **demographics** reveal that Democratic candidates typically perform better in urban areas than rural areas.

Vocabulary Lesson 47: All Alone

Today's roots:	claudere	to close	solus	alone
	insula	island	ex-	out

- hermit** (n) one who prefers to live alone (Gr *ermita* a person of solitude) (**recluse, ascetic**)
The hermit lived alone in a shack in the middle of the woods, more than 10 miles from the nearest road.
- ostracize** (v) to exclude from a group (**shun, exile, snub**)
Her comments to the others were so self-centered and cruel that she was ostracized for months.
- exile** (n) a banishment (**banish, expatriate, expel**)
After the dictator was overthrown, he lived a life of exile far away from his native country.
- recluse** (n) one who likes to live alone (**re- away + claudere to close**) (**hermit, ascetic, eremite**)
In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the recluse Boo Radley is endlessly fascinating to Scout.
- isolate** (v) to place something apart from everything else (**insula island**) (**segregate, sequester**)
The patient with tuberculosis was isolated from the other patients so he could not infect them.
- solitude** (n) isolation; the quality of being alone (**solus alone**) (**seclusion, isolation**)
Before the two cosmonauts joined him, the lone astronaut on the space station had spent five months in solitude.

Vocabulary Lesson 48: Go Forth

Today's roots:	seminare	to sow	dis-	away
	vergere, vert	to turn	undare	to flow

- disseminate** (v) to spread information (**dis- away + seminare to sow**) (**promulgate, propagate**)
The members of the band disseminated flyers that advertised their debut concert this coming weekend.
- diverge** (v) to go apart (**dis- away + vergere to turn**) (**bifurcate, digress, veer, stray**)
After traveling together for nearly 100 miles, the two cars finally diverged.
- proliferate** (v) to grow rapidly; to produce offspring at a rapid pace (**proles offspring**) (**flourish**)
The bacteria proliferated at an alarming rate, multiplying tenfold in just 30 minutes.
- amass** (v) to accumulate; to gather together (**accumulate, accrue, gather**)
Over the years, Rick has amassed quite a collection of CDs, accumulating over one thousand of them.
- distend** (v) to swell; to increase in size (**dis- away + tendere to stretch**) (**swell, bloat, dilate**)
Malnutrition can cause the abdominal cavity to distend and produce a bloated look.
- propagate** (v) to cause to multiply, to publicize; to travel through a medium (**pro- forth**) (**proliferate**)
Plants of all sizes and shapes propagate by forming seeds, which develop into new seedlings.
- inundate** (v) to flood (**in- into + undare to flow**) (**swamp, deluge, engulf, besiege**)
After days without work, the lawyer was astonished to suddenly find himself inundated with paperwork.

Vocabulary Lesson 49: Even More

Today's roots:	ad-	to	scriber	to write
	post-	after	aug-	to increase

- annex** (v) to attach; to acquire land to expand an existing country (*ad-* to + *nectare* to attach) (*seize*)
When Hitler **annexed** Poland, the dictator's imperialist designs should have been clear.
- addendum** (n) something added; a supplement to a book (*ad-* onto) (*appendix, supplement*)
After he completed the story, the author wrote an **addendum** explaining why he finished it the way he did.
- postscript** (n) a message added after the completion of a letter (p.s.) (*post-* after + *scriber* to write)
After my wife signed the postcard, she remembered something else she wanted to say and wrote a **postscript**.
- epilogue** (n) an extra chapter added onto the end of a novel (Gr *epti-* in addition + *logia* words)
In the **epilogue**, the author described what the characters of the novel did 15 years after the main narrative.
- append** (v) to affix something; to add on (*ad-* to + *pendere* to hang) (*affix, add*)
The publishers **appended** an index to the end of the text to help the reader find things more easily.
- adjunct** (adj) added in a subordinate capacity (*ad-* to + *iungere* to attach) (*supplement*)
Although principally a biologist, Dr. Carter was also an **adjunct** professor in the zoology department.
- augment** (v) to add onto; to make greater (*aug* to increase) (*amplify, escalate*)
One important way to **augment** your SAT I score is to study vocabulary.