neigh (hom)  To make the loud, long cry of a horse.  Horses **neigh** and cows moo.

pamphlet  A small unbound book with a paper cover.  This ten-page **pamphlet** tells you all you need to know about your new bicycle.

dolphin  A long-nosed sea animal related to the whale.  A **dolphin** flipped out of the water and snatched a fish from the trainer’s fingertips.

rodeo  A cowboy show of riding horses and roping cattle.  We watched cowboys ride broncos at the **rodeo**.

shuttlecock  A small rounded ball with feathers, hit back and forth in the game of badminton.  She swung her racket, sending the **shuttlecock** high over the net.

tortoise  A land turtle.  In one of Aesop’s fables the **tortoise** wins a race against the hare.

gauze  A thin, loosely woven cloth.  She wrapped a **gauze** bandage around my finger.

meteor  A piece of stone or metal that comes from outer space and glows brightly as it enters the earth’s atmosphere; a shooting star.  I saw a **meteor** flash across the night sky.

eruption  The act of bursting forth or breaking out suddenly.  The **eruption** of the volcano covered the mountainside with molten lava.

Fantasy  Imagination; something imagined.  In the land of **fantasy**, Peter Pan never grows old.

shrink  To dry up; to wrinkle.  When apples **shrink**, they lose their juicy taste.
DIVISION IV - Grades 7 and 8

geyser  A hot spring that from time to time shoots up a spray of steam and hot water. Old Faithful, the famous geyser in Yellowstone National Park, erupts every hour.

airborne  Off the ground; supported by air; carried by air. The plane was airborne seconds after it started down the runway.

blight  A plant disease that causes withering and decay. A blight struck the corn crop and caused the ears of corn to shrivel.

proficient  Skillful; expert. Beth became proficient in typing after practicing all summer.

emigrant  A person who leaves his country to live in another. The Russian emigrant settled on a farm in Israel.

jaunt  A short pleasure trip. Mike and his family went on a weekend jaunt to the lake.

careen  To lean from side to side while moving fast. We watched racing cars careen around a corner of the slippery track.

stationary  Standing still; not moving. He exercises on a stationary bicycle in his room.

barrage  An overwhelming attack by artillery or machine gun fire. The barrage of cannons kept the attacking army from moving forward.

billiards  A game played on a cloth-covered table with hard balls and a long stick. Jim drove the ball right into a pocket to win the game of billiards.

acrid  Bitter or harsh in taste or smell; sharp or irritating. The burning rubber gave off acrid smoke.
irrigate  To supply the land with water.
Farmers irrigate their fields during dry spells.

reservoir  A place where water is stored in quantity.
This city has a plentiful supply of water in its reservoir.

plaque  A plate with inscriptions, used for identification or decoration.
The principal’s office has a plaque on the door with his name on it.

disastrous  Causing great damage or much suffering.
Freezing weather was disastrous to the citrus crop in Florida.

query  A question; an inquiry.
The library sent me a letter in response to my query about the book.

emcee  A master of ceremonies.
The emcee introduced the speaker and the other guests at the banquet.

outmoded  No longer in fashion; no longer practical.
The commission abolished the outmoded rules and adopted new ones.

rigorous  Strict; severe; exact.
Rigorous enforcement of traffic laws helped reduce the number of accidents.

antonym  A word that means the opposite of another word.
Hate is an antonym of love.

pedestal  A base on which a column, a statue, or a lamp stands.
The statue of Abraham Lincoln stands on a marble pedestal.

locale  A place or a setting for an event.
The locale of the drama is a New England fishing village.

revved  Increased the speed (of an engine).
He revved up the engine as he entered the expressway.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>placard</td>
<td>A poster. The man carried a large placard that said “On Strike”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrative</td>
<td>A story. He wrote an interesting narrative of his travels in China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mimicry</td>
<td>Humorous imitation. The comedian’s mimicry of the President’s voice made everyone laugh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nymph</td>
<td>One of the goddesses of nature in Greek and Roman mythology. The story is about a beautiful nymph who lived in the woods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resonant</td>
<td>Having a rich, pleasing sound. The announcer’s deep, resonant voice charmed his radio audience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precedent</td>
<td>Something done or said that may serve as a model or an example to be followed later. The court decision set a precedent for other similar cases to follow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sterilize</td>
<td>To make free of germs. Mothers sterilize baby bottles by boiling them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>procedure</td>
<td>A way or a method of doing something. The doctor explained the surgical procedure to his assistants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haphazardly</td>
<td>Without planning; aimlessly. “If you want to lose weight, don’t try haphazardly; stick to a diet.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nurture</td>
<td>To bring up; to care for; to train. Most books we read nurture our minds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compliment</td>
<td>Something said to praise, admire or approve. Mother deserved a compliment for the fine dinner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DIVISION IV - Grades 7 and 8

parsley  A small plant with tiny green leaves used for flavoring and garnishing. The roast turkey was served with a garnish of parsley leaves.

stalemate  A tie; a deadlock. The football game was at a stalemate until the Hawks scored the winning touchdown in the closing moments.

strategy  A plan of action. Our team’s strategy for the football game was to run more and to pass less.

embroidery  A decoration made by needle work on cloth. Her sweater has an embroidery of roses on the front.

addressee  One to whom a letter or a package is sent. If the addressee has moved, please forward this package to him.

partridge  A general term for a game bird such as the grouse or the quail. The partridge flew away, beating its wings noisily.

scavenger  An animal that feeds on refuse and decaying matter. I keep a snail as a scavenger in my aquarium.

eclipse  The temporary darkening of the sun or the moon. The moon’s eclipse is caused by the earth’s shadow.

domain  A field of activity or influence. “The kitchen is the chef’s domain; let him do what he pleases.”

jaunty  Light-hearted; cheerful; easy and lively. The young comedian walked on stage with jaunty steps.

recurrent  Happening again. He went to see the doctor again about his recurrent headache.

livelihood  A means of support; living. He earned his livelihood by building and selling homes.

adolescence  The period between childhood and adulthood. Acne is a common skin problem during adolescence.

coincidence  The happening of events at the same time by chance. It is quite a coincidence that Steve and his father have their birthdays on the same day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<th>Example</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>infirmity</td>
<td>Weakness; ailment. The <strong>infirmity</strong> of old age made him stop playing tennis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excerpt</td>
<td>A passage; a selection. She read an <strong>excerpt</strong> from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conscience</td>
<td>A feeling of doubt or uneasiness; a guilty feeling. “I had a <strong>conscience</strong> about telling the lie.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disciple</td>
<td>A person who follows the teachings of a master. She was such a fine cook that he became a <strong>disciple</strong> of her art.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mischievous</td>
<td>Naughty; full of pranks. Jeff and his <strong>mischievous</strong> friends played a prank on Jennifer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illegible</td>
<td>Not clear to read; incapable of being read. His scribbly handwriting is <strong>illegible</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flourish</td>
<td>To grow well; to prosper. Orange groves <strong>flourish</strong> under the Florida sun.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>octopus</td>
<td>A sea animal having a soft body and eight long arms. The <strong>octopus</strong> is sometimes called the devilfish because of its frightening look.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>longitude</td>
<td>Distance east or west on the earth’s surface, measured in degrees. The vertical lines on the map are lines of <strong>longitude</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>herbicide</td>
<td>A chemical used to destroy plants, especially weeds. The farmer spread a <strong>herbicide</strong> over the cornfield to get rid of weeds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>counterfeit</td>
<td>A fake; fake money. That twenty-dollar bill is worthless because it is a <strong>counterfeit</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illiterate</td>
<td>Not knowing how to read and write. Since the man was <strong>illiterate</strong>, he did not know how to fill out the job application forms.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>percussion</td>
<td>The striking of an object against another, especially when sound is produced. Pianos and drums are <strong>percussion</strong> instruments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>optimistic</td>
<td>Inclined to believe that things will turn out well, hopeful. We were the underdog, but our coach was <strong>optimistic</strong> about winning the game.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>granary</td>
<td>A building for storing grain. The farmer stored wheat in his large <strong>granary</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
beguile  To deceive; to cheat.  
The enemy made a fake retreat to beguile our soldiers.

incidental  Of less importance; happening along with something more important.  
On the trip you will need incidental expense money for extras like souvenirs and stamps.

veterinarian  An animal doctor.  
Dave took his dog to a veterinarian for rabies shots.

cymbal  A musical instrument of brass plate for making a clashing sound.  
The cymbal makes a loud clang when struck against another.

epoch  The beginning of a new period; a period of time during which important events happen.  
Alexander Graham Bell’s invention of the telephone marked an epoch in communication.

pliant  Sending easily; flexible.  
The pliant reeds swayed in the breeze.

erroneous  Mistaken; incorrect.  
It is erroneous to believe that the sun moves around the earth.

suede  Soft leather with a nap on one side.  
The nap on his new suede jacket feels like velvet.

anticipation  Expectation; a looking forward to.  
He hurried home in anticipation of a warm supper.

literary  Having to do with books and writings.  
Shakespeare was a literary genius.

occupancy  The act of living in a place, as in a house, an apartment or a room.  
This hotel makes no additional charge for double occupancy of rooms.

satellite  A heavenly body that revolves around a larger one; an object sent from the earth or revolve around a planet or the sun.  
The moon is a satellite of the earth.

lubricate  To put oil or grease on machine parts to make them work smoothly.  
You can lubricate your bicycle by putting oil on the bearings.
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>enumerate</td>
<td>To name or count one by one; to list.</td>
<td>“Can you enumerate the fifty states in the United States?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seething</td>
<td>Bubbling and foaming. The geyser sent seething waters up in the air.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>utility</td>
<td>A service provided to the public; a company that provides a public service.</td>
<td>Homeowners pay utility bills for gas, electricity and water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unfurl</td>
<td>To unroll; to spread out.</td>
<td>“Please unfurl the flag so we can raise it.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consulate</td>
<td>The office of a consul.</td>
<td>While in Italy, she went to the American consulate in Rome to have her passport renewed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>befuddle</td>
<td>To confuse; to dull; to perplex.</td>
<td>The question seems to befuddle even experts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expectancy</td>
<td>The state of expecting or being expected; the expected amount; that which is expected.</td>
<td>Thanks to modern medicine, life expectancy has risen about the 70 year mark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cylinder</td>
<td>A long, round body with ends cut flat.</td>
<td>The rolling pin has a smooth wooden cylinder used for rolling out dough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intelligible</td>
<td>Capable of being understood; clear.</td>
<td>The man mumbled something barely intelligible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reprimand</td>
<td>A scolding; a severe reproof.</td>
<td>For fighting at school, the boys received a reprimand from the principal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cylindrical</td>
<td>Shaped like a cylinder.</td>
<td>Mallets are hammers with large cylindrical heads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aerospace</td>
<td>Of or having to do with space and space vehicles; the science dealing with space and space vehicles.</td>
<td>Landing man on the moon was a great accomplishment in aerospace technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unique</td>
<td>Single in kind; having no equal.</td>
<td>Neil Armstrong has the unique honor of being the first man to walk on the moon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vogue</td>
<td>Prevailing fashion or style.</td>
<td>Long skirts were in vogue that year among women of all ages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
torrid
Very hot.
Most plants cannot grow in the torrid climate of the desert.

predecessor
One who has held an office or a position before another.
The new football coach is much younger than his predecessor.

philosophy
Basic knowledge; wisdom; practical understanding of life and nature.
The coach built his football team on the philosophy that the best offense is the best defense.

prophet (hom)
A person who tells what is to come in the future.
He was so good at forecasting the weather that they called him a weather prophet.

scalding
Boiling; hot enough to burn.
After washing the dishes, she rinsed them in scalding water.

missile
An object thrown or shot, such as a spear or a rocket.
The missile fired from the launching pad carried a satellite into space.

morale
The way a group of people feel about how they are progressing toward a goal.
The team's morale sagged during their four-game losing streak.

chancellor
The head of a state or of a university.
The new chancellor of the university is a former English professor.

helium
A very light gas.
Balloons filled with helium float easily.

wheedle
To persuade by pleasing words or flattery.
Dan tried to wheedle his brother into giving him the candy.

valet
A hotel employee who performs personal services for guests.
Hotel guests may call the valet for laundry and dry cleaning.

personnel
The group of people working for a business or other organization.
This company has modern equipment and well-trained personnel to serve its customers.

auxiliary
Serving in a supporting role; held in reserve.
The hospital has an auxiliary generator that will produce electricity in a blackout.

genteel
Polite and courteous.
The genteel old man shook hands with every customer who came into his store.
**concerted**  Planned or done together; combined; joint.
The army and the air force made a **concerted** attack on the fortress.

**distillation**  The process of heating a liquid to vaporize it and then cooling the vapor to change it back into a liquid.
Gasoline is produced by the **distillation** of crude oil.

**maxim**  A general truth; a proverbial saying.
“That incident reminds me of the **maxim** ‘A stitch in time saves nine’.”

**illogical**  Not reasonable; making no sense.
His argument was so **illogical** no one could understand it.

**manuscript**  An article or a book that is handwritten or typed before it is printed.
She sent her 500-page **manuscript** to a publisher.

**initial**  Happening at the beginning; first.
When she received the job offer, her **initial** response was no, but she later accepted.

**threshold**  A doorsill; a beginning point.
She paused at the **threshold** of the room before going in.

**discus**  A heavy plate thrown in athletic contests.
He threw the **discus** with an underarm swing.

**initiative**  The first step in doing something; readiness or ability to start doing something.
Diane took the **initiative** in making friends by introducing herself to her new classmates.

**regatta**  A boat race; a series of boat races.
His sailboat finished first in the **regatta**.

**exemplify**  To be an example of.
Eagle Scouts **exemplify** the ideals of the Boy Scouts.

**sequel**  A novel or a movie that continues a story begun in an earlier one; something that follows.
“The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” is a **sequel** to “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.”

**pauper**  A very poor person, often supported by charity.
His pay was so small he lived like a **pauper**.
remembrance  Memory; the act of remembering. Memorial Day is observed in remembrance of those who gave their lives defending their country.

midget  A person who is abnormally small. “A midget we saw at the circus was smaller than a 6 year old boy.”

decathlon  An athletic contest in which each player competes in ten different track and field events. The decathlon includes the javelin and discus throws.

monitory  Giving a warning; scolding mildly. The teacher’s monitory glance hushed the children’s giggles.

pacify  To calm; to quiet down; to make peaceful. She gave the crying child a lollipop to pacify him.

allegiance  Loyalty. The knights pledged their allegiance to the king.

propagate  To produce or cause to produce young; to multiply. Many trees and flowers propagate by seeds.

velocity  Speed. Wind velocity increased rapidly as the hurricane approached.

renovate  To make like new; to repair. The landlord will renovate the apartment before new tenants move in.

forum  A discussion held in public; a meeting for such a discussion. The mayor answered many questions at the city forum.

legion  An army, a large number. She had a legion of supporters who campaigned hard for her election.

benefactor  One who gives money or other help; a patron. The symphony orchestra received a large donation from a wealthy benefactor.

ledger  A book for keeping records of money received and paid by a business. The store owner updated his ledger every week to keep track of his profits.

buoyancy  The tendency or the power to float in water or other liquid. This life jacket gives you buoyancy because it is filled with cork.
ineptitude  Lack of skill for a particular task.  
His ineptitude in business led to his bankruptcy.

oppressive  Harsh and burdensome; cruel and unjust. 
The people revolted against the dictator’s oppressive rule.

traceable  Capable of being traced. 
Much of the heat loss in a house is traceable to doors and windows.

municipal  Of a city. 
He went to the municipal court to pay his traffic fine.

acquisition  Something gained or bought. 
The latest acquisition of the museum is a painting by Picasso.

quorum  The minimum number of members that must be present to hold a meeting or to take a vote. 
The committee couldn’t get a quorum because more than half of the members were on vacation.

exhalation  The act of breathing out. 
During exhalation, the lungs get rid of carbon dioxide.

purge  To rid of things or persons that are undesirable; to cleanse. 
At the end of the year the secretary will purge her files.

terminus  An end; the last stop. 
New York is the terminus of their train trip across America.

boisterous  Violent, rough, or noisy. 
The boisterous roar of the crowd drowned the speaker’s voice.

turmoil  A condition of agitation and confusion. 
The escaped lions put the circus in a turmoil.

morsel  A small piece; a bit. 
“I enjoyed every morsel of the cake you baked.”

combustible  Capable of catching fire and burning. 
“To prevent fires, keep paper and other combustible material away from fireplaces.”

therefore  For that reason. 
I disagreed; therefore, I voted no.
pestle  A hand tool used for grinding something.  
The pharmacist used a pestle to grind medicine in a mortar.

precipitation  The falling of moisture, as rain, snow, sleet or hail.  
The snow and rain yesterday gave us one inch of precipitation.

nautical  Of the sea or navigation.  
The captain studied his nautical charts before sailing into the bay.

elation  High spirits; pride; joy.  
She felt great elation at winning the contest.

amiable  Friendly and sociable; good-natured.  
Susan is an amiable young lady; she is like by everyone in her class.

codger  An odd or peculiar man.  
The owner of the country store was a friendly old codger.

fissure  A long narrow opening.  
The earthquake created a fissure a mile long and two feet wide.

immersible  Capable of being dipped into a liquid without damage.  
This coffee pot is immersible in water for cleaning.

heirloom  Something valuable handed down in a family for generations.  
This candlestick is an heirloom that once belonged to Janet’s great-grandmother.

attire  Clothing.  
The richness of the queen’s attire dazzled her guests.

idiocy  A very foolish act; something very stupid.  
“Going out in this weather without wearing a coat is idiocy.”

exotic  Foreign; unusual.  
Jane grows exotic tropical flowers in her greenhouse.

galore  Plentiful; in abundance.  
Shoppers found bargains galore at the store.

hodgepodge  A confused mixture; a jumble.  
His report was a hodgepodge of articles copied from several books.

millinery  The business of making and selling women’s hats.  
She bought her Easter hat at the new millinery.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>smirk</td>
<td>An affected, silly or self-satisfied smile. She gave him a smirk that seemed to say, “I don’t believe you.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obstinate</td>
<td>Stubborn; not giving in to reasoning; unwilling to do what others want. The obstinate mule would not pull the farmer’s plow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>populace</td>
<td>All the people living in an area; the common people. The military government was never supported by the populace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deluge</td>
<td>A heavy downpour; a flood. The rain came down in a deluge which filled the streets with ankle-deep water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elegant</td>
<td>Showing good taste; refined; graceful and beautiful. She looked elegant in her long silk dress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nectar</td>
<td>A sweet liquid found in flowers. Bees take nectar from flowers to make honey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chimpanzee</td>
<td>An intelligent ape smaller than the gorilla. The smart chimpanzee quickly learned to use the tools in the lab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>delinquent</td>
<td>Failing to do what is required; neglecting obligation. If a customer is delinquent in paying his bills, he loses his credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colleague</td>
<td>An associate; a fellow worker. Professor Smith is Professor Brown’s colleague at the university.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exquisite</td>
<td>Delicately beautiful. Her birthday cake had an exquisite design of roses and letters iced in bright colors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>podium</td>
<td>A raised platform for a speaker or an orchestra conductor. The conductor stepped onto the podium and signaled the orchestra to play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>secrete</td>
<td>To produce and give off a substance. Flowers secrete nectar which bees use to make honey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vermin</td>
<td>Troublesome or harmful insects and small animals, like roaches and mice. The old run-down houses were infested with vermin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unkempt</td>
<td>Not combed; not neat; not properly cared for. The beggar had a dirty face and long unkempt hair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>renown</td>
<td>Fame. Robin Hood won renown as the best archer in England.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
aspirant  A person who seeks a high position or honor.
For ten years she has been an aspirant to the office of mayor.

rogue  A tricky, dishonest person; one who plays pranks; a rascal.
That little rogue put a frog in my lunch box.

abacus  A frame with rows of sliding beads, used for calculating.
Sliding beads back and forth, he added numbers on an abacus.

lineage  Ancestry; the line of ancestors.
His lineage can be traced to the king of England.

censor  An official who examines movies, books or letters to remove anything though harmful or unsuitable.
The censor checked all mail going in to and going out of the prison.

anecdote  A short story about an interesting incident.
She told us the anecdote about George Washington and the cherry tree.

ominous  Seeming to foretell a bad happening.
Since the dark clouds looked ominous, we decided to postpone the picnic.

criticism  A careful judgment or review about something.
"I would like to have your criticism and comments when you finish reading my book."

acclaim  Praise; loud applause.
The hero won acclaim for his bravery.

burlap  A coarse cloth used in making sacks or wrappings.
He dug out the rose bush and wrapped its roots with burlap for transplanting.

intrigue  To arouse interest; to fascinate.
The mysteries of the universe intrigue astronomers.

laxity  Lack of strictness; looseness; carelessness.
Because of laxity in discipline, many players skipped practice sessions.

aluminum  A silver-white metal of light weight.
Aluminum is used in making airplanes because it is light, strong and rust-free.

indulgent  Yielding to the desires of others or oneself; not very strict.
His indulgent mother bought him anything he asked for.
DIVISION IV - Grades 7 and 8

forestall To prevent by acting in advance; to hold off. The company made every effort to forestall the strike.

mystify To perplex; to puzzle. The murder case continued to mystify detectives.

corral An enclosed place for keeping animals. The cowboys herded the cattle into a white-fenced corral.

forlorn Lonesome; deserted; sad and miserable; left alone. The stray dog looked hungry and forlorn.

saxophone A wind instrument having a single-reed mouthpiece, a curved metal body with finger keys, and a tone deeper than that of a clarinet. Jim plays a saxophone in the jazz band.

jubilant Showing great joy. The jubilant players carried the coach on their shoulders in the victory celebration.

annuity A yearly allowance; money paid regularly, as in a pension. The retired couple lived on a modest annuity paid by their insurance company.

equivalent Equal One dollar is equivalent to four quarters.

strenuous Requiring much energy or effort. Shoveling the deep snow on the long driveway was strenuous work.

relevant Related to the matter at hand. The judge dismissed the witness because her testimony was not relevant to the case.

protein A substance that contains nitrogen and is needed for the growth of plant and animal cells. Meat and beans are rich in protein.

obsolete Out of date; no longer useful. Since the store has a new catalog, the old one is obsolete.

tinsel Thin strips of glittering metal, paper or plastic used in decoration. A garland of silver tinsel glittered on the tree.

stealthily Secretly; quietly to avoid notice. Not making a sound, the cat moved stealthily toward the mouse.
harpischord  A musical instrument played like a piano.
The harpischord looks like a baby grand piano but sounds more like a harp.

irrelevant  Having nothing to do with the subject; unrelated.
Whether you like dogs or cats is irrelevant to our discussion about zoo animals.

comparable  Equivalent; having qualities worthy of comparison.
Soybeans are comparable to steaks in protein content.

jocular  Jesting; jovial; joking.
He teased his friends and made them laugh at his jocular remarks.

huckster  A peddler, especially of fruits and vegetables.
A huckster went around the neighborhood selling baskets of tomatoes.

supplant  To take the place of someone else; to replace.
Computers can supplant people in doing simple jobs.

deferece  Respect; courteous regard.
In deference to their grandmother’s wishes, they stayed at her house another day.

bounteous  Plentiful; generous.
The pilgrims were thankful for the bounteous blessings of harvest.

tenure  The right of holding an office; the length of time of holding an office.
The newly-elected President won a four-year tenure to the White House.

impetuous  Acting hastily.
He wished he hadn’t made the impetuous decision.

grimace  A twisting of the face showing displeasure or pain.
A grimace of annoyance crossed her face when she had to answer several embarrassing questions.

surmount  To overcome.
Abraham Lincoln had to surmount many obstacles in his rise to the Presidency.

recourse  A turning to for help; a source of help.
As a last recourse, they appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

straggle  To stray behind; to spread out in a scattered way.
The children began to straggle into camp after the long hike.
DIVISION IV - Grades 7 and 8

scaly Covered with scales.
The **scaly** wall had to be scraped before it could be painted.

gawky Clumsy; awkward.
The gorilla walked around with a **gawky** gait.

mulberry A tree with broad leaves and edible purple fruit shaped like blackberries.
Silkworms feed on **mulberry** leaves.

decipher To make out the meaning of something hard to understand.
No one could **decipher** the secret code in the spy’s letter.

tariff A tax on imports or exports.
Because of the high **tariff**, anything made outside the country is very expensive.

 appraise To set a value on.
She had a jeweler **appraise** her diamond to determine its worth.

assessor A person who sets the values of property for taxation.
The **assessor** said the house was worth $100,000.

tentacles Long, slender, flexible body parts of some animals, used for feeling or grasping.
The octopus seized a small fish in its **tentacles**.

daffodil A plant with yellow flowers and slender leaves.
The **daffodil** blooms in early spring.

undaunted Not afraid or discouraged.
**Undaunted** by his earlier interceptions, the quarterback threw another long pass.

corpulent Fat; large and bulky.
The wrestler, a **corpulent** giant, weighed nearly 400 pounds.

swarthy Having a dark skin.
The **swarthy** Indians called the white settlers palefaces.

perseverance Continued or steadfast effort in spite of difficulties.
After many years of **perseverance** the Wright brothers finally made their airplane fly.

hemisphere One half of a globe; one of the halves of the earth’s surface.
Europe and Asia are in the same **hemisphere**.

tapestry A heavy woven cloth with decorative designs.
A large **tapestry** hangs on the living room wall.
augment To add to; to increase.
He worked at night to augment his income.

intuition The power to understand something by instinct.
Many persons depend on intuition more than reason when they form opinions about others.

ardor Warmth of emotion; enthusiasm; eagerness.
The patriots’ ardor soon cooled off after the war ended.

ambiguity Uncertainty of meaning; vagueness.
He spoke with ambiguity to avoid definite answers.

linear Of or like a line; having to do with length.
Inches and centimeters are units of linear measure.

consensus General agreement; an opinion generally held.
The family reached a consensus on a Florida vacation.

intricate Very complicated; hard to follow or understand.
It took Bob and Sue all day to figure out that intricate puzzle.

indelible Incapable of being erased or washed; permanent.
Johnny wrote his name on the football in indelible ink.

zealous Very eager; very enthusiastic.
His zealous supporters wanted to make him emperor.

bane Something harmful or destructive.
The smoke from the factory was the bane of the neighboring townspeople.

interminable Endless; seeming to be endless; very long.
The wait in line seemed interminable to the weary customers.

toxic Poisonous
Toxic chemicals leaked into the lake and killed all the fish.

incessant Uninterrupted; constant; continual.
The incessant chirping of crickets lasted all evening.

niche A place in a wall to hold a statue.
A marble statue stood in a niche at the bottom of the stairway.

invigorate To give energy or strength; to refresh.
On a hot day a dip in the swimming pool will invigorate you.
DIVISION IV - Grades 7 and 8

**albeit**
Although
The food at the restaurant was very good, **albeit** expensive.

**defendant**
A person who is sued or accused in a court.
The judge declared the **defendant** innocent.

**inflammation**
Swelling and redness in some part of the body, often accompanied by heat and pain.
I had an inflammation in my throat from a cold.

**riddance**
A removal; the act of getting rid of.
“The mosquitoes are gone, and good **riddance**.

**medieval**
Of the Middle Ages.
Robin Hood was a legendary outlaw of **medieval** England.

**tendon**
A strong cord or band of tissue joining a muscle to a bone.
When he fell, he tore a **tendon** at the back of his ankle.

**caboose**
A small car, usually at the end of a freight train, in which trainmen sleep and rest.
The **caboose** has a stove so that the trainmen can cook their meals.

**scrimmage**
A confused struggle; in football, the play that follows the snapping of the ball.
The quarter back fumbled the football in the **scrimmage**.

**temperament**
A person’s nature or disposition.
Since Becky has a calm **temperament**, she rarely gets upset.

**rancid**
Having the smell or the taste of stale fat.
That **rancid** butter is unfit to eat.

**inference**
The act of finding out by reasoning; the act of figuring out from something known or assumed.
Weathermen make their forecasts by **inference**.

**prejudiced**
Having a strong feeling or an opinion formed unfairly or without good reason; biased.
Since the judge was **prejudiced** against the defendant, he could not hold a fair trial.

**capacious**
Roomy; capable of holding a large quantity.
The carpenter carried a hammer and nails in her **capacious** pocket.

**opulent**
Rich; plentiful; luxurious.
The king entertained the guests with an **opulent** banquet.
aggregate  A collection; a total.
The aggregate of small contributions in dimes and quarters amounted to more than $100.

hyacinth  A plant of the lily family, with a cluster of small bell-shaped flowers.
The sweet-smelling hyacinth blooms in early spring.

arrogant  Offensively proud; having too much pride.
The arrogant young genius tried to show how smart he was.

brazen  Bold and shameless.
In brazen defiance of the law, he parked his car in front of a “No Parking” sign.

emissary  A person sent on a mission as the representative of another.
The ambassador was sent as the President’s emissary to negotiate a treaty.

bedlam  A scene of confusion, disorder or noisy uproar.
Bedlam reigned in the stadium when the home team won the championship.

infallible  Free from error; unfailing.
This computer has an infallible memory.

unanimous  In full agreement by all members.
The judges were unanimous in their decision to declare David the winner.

dearth  Scarcity; short supply.
The football team suffered from a dearth of quarterback talent.

propriety  Correctness of behavior.
The propriety of calling someone this late in the evening is questionable.

inherent  Belonging by nature; forming an essential quality.
Freedom of speech is inherent in the American way of democracy.

caribou  A large deer that lives in arctic regions of North America.
Both male and female caribou grow antlers.

turban  A headdress made of a long scarf wound around the head.
The Moslem man wore a white turban drawn over his forehead.

wrangle  A noisy quarrel; an angry dispute.
The players got into a wrangle over the rules of the games.
DIVISION IV - Grades 7 and 8

**capricious**  Fickle; given to whim; unpredictable; changeable.
The **capricious** weather brought thunderclouds out of the blue sky.

**tundra**  A treeless plain in arctic regions.
In the fall, reindeer migrate south across the **tundra**.

**vigilance**  Watchfulness; alertness.
The sentry guarded his pot with **vigilance**.

**moccasins**  Soft leather shoes without heels.
When Karen got home, she took off her boots and put on **moccasins**.

**sauerkraut**  Shredded cabbage fermented in its own juice with salt until sour.
I had sausage and **sauerkraut** for lunch at the German restaurant.

**limousine**  A large luxurious automobile; a small bus for transporting passengers to and from an airport.
They took a **limousine** from the airport to the hotel.

**acme**  The highest point.
Winning the Super Bowl was the **acme** of his coaching career.

**rouge**  A reddish cosmetic put on cheeks or lips.
Her healthy complexion needed no **rouge**.

**hypnotize**  To put a person in a trance; to fascinate.
He can **hypnotize** an audience with the eloquence of his speaking.

**lithe**  Bending easily.
Her **lithe** body rolled over in a graceful somersault.

**etiquette**  Rules of conduct expected of polite people.
Speaking with your mouth full isn’t good **etiquette**.

**bazaar**  A fair where many kinds of articles are sold; a store offering many kinds of articles.
The church members held a **bazaar** to raise money for the orphanage.

**irresistible**  Incapable of being resisted or opposed; overpowering.
The aroma of fresh-baked cookies was **irresistible** to the hungry children.

**mammoth**  Very large; gigantic.
The circus set up a **mammoth** tent that could hold thousands of people.

**chauffeur**  A person whose job is driving an automobile.
The **chauffeur** opened the door for Mary as she entered the limousine.