

Vocabulary Week 1

BELL comes from the Latin word meaning “war.” *Bellona* was the little-known Roman goddess of war; her husband, Mars, was the god of war.

1. antebellum (adj.): Existing before a war, especially before the American Civil War (1861-1865).

Ex. When World War I was over, the members of the French nobility found it impossible to return to their extravagant antebellum way of life.

2. bellicose (adj.): Warlike, aggressive, quarrelsome.

Ex. The country often elected the more bellicose party after a period of tension along the border, hoping that military action would result.

3. belligerence (n.): Aggressiveness, combativeness.

Ex. The belligerence in Jacob Turner’s voice told the townspeople that the warning he gave was really a serious threat and that they were in danger.

4. rebellion (n.): Open defiance and opposition, sometimes armed, to a person or thin in authority.

Ex. When the science students protested because they were not allowed to do the promised lab, the substitute teacher ended the student rebellion by insisting on absolute quiet.

PAC/PEAS is related to the Latin words for “agree” and “peace.” The *Pacific Ocean* – that is, the “Peaceful Ocean” – was named by Magellan because it seemed so calm after the storms near Cape Horn.

1. pacify (v.): To soothe anger or agitation; to subdue by armed action.

Ex. After the rally at city hall, it took the police hours to pacify the angry demonstrators and clear the streets of the small town.

2. pacifist (n.): A person opposed to war or violence, especially someone who refuses to bear arms or to fight, on moral or religious grounds.

Ex. Always a strong pacifist, in later life John Smith took to actively promoting the cause of peace and nonviolence around the world.

3. pact (n.): An agreement between two or more people or groups; a treaty or formal agreement between nations to deal with a problem or to resolve a dispute.

Ex. The young girls made a pact never to reveal what had happened on that terrifying night in the abandoned house.

4. appease (v.): To make peaceful and quiet; to calm, satisfy.

Ex. Long ago in a very different culture, the Aztecs offered mass human sacrifices in order to appease their gods and ensure their way of life.

Vocabulary Week 2

THE/THEO comes from the Greek word meaning “god.” *Theology*, for example, is the study of gods or religion.

1. apotheosis (n.): Transformation into a god; the perfect example.

Ex. After his assassination, Abraham Lincoln underwent an apotheosis that transformed the controversial politician into a saintly father of democracy.

2. atheistic (adj.): Denying the existence of God or divine power.

Ex. The atheistic Madalyn Murray O'Hare successfully sought the removal of prayer from American public schools in the 1960s.

3. pantheistic (adj.): Seeing the power of God in all the natural forces of the universe; worshipping all gods of all creeds and cults.

Ex. Her personal religion was almost pantheistic; she saw the holy books of Hinduism and the rituals of Caribbean folk religion as expressions of the same essential truths.

4. theocracy (n.): Government by officials who are regarded as divinely inspired; a state governed by religious leaders.

Ex. The ancient Aztecs lived in a theocracy in which guidance came directly from the gods through the priests.

PROB/PROV comes from the Latin words for "prove or proof" and "honesty or integrity." To *prove* a statement is to "make it honest," and *probate* court is where the genuineness of the wills of deceased people must be *proved*.

1. approbation (n.): A formal or official act of approving.

Ex. The United States Senate signaled its approbation of the new environmental plan by voting for it unanimously last Wednesday in a special session.

2. disprove (v.): To show that something is not what it has been claimed to be; refute.

Ex. A week before the election, Jane disproved her opponent's lies about her supposed connections to organized crime.

3. probity (n.): Absolute honest and uprightness.

Ex. Over the course of the years, Heather's unquestioned probity helped to win her the respect of her fellow judges on the panel.

4. reprobate (n.): A person of thoroughly bad character.

Ex. Finally, on the verge of physical and financial ruin, the reprobate dropped his lowlife friends, found an honest job, and begged his girlfriend to come back.

Vocabulary Week 3

CAP/CEP/CIP comes from *capere*, the Latin verb meaning "take, seize." *Capture*, which is what a *captor* does to a *captive* has the same meaning.

1. reception (n.): The act of receiving; a social gathering where guests are formally welcomed.

Ex. Although the board of director's immediate reception of Jamie's plan was enthusiastic, it was months before anything concrete was done about it.

2. incipient (adj.): Starting to come into being or to become evident.

Ex. Henry felt the stirrings of incipient panic as he riffled through the file and realized that the letter had been removed.

3. perceptible (adj.): Noticeable or able to be felt by the senses.

Ex. Mayra's feelings about Garret were barely perceptible to him because she always became quiet and shy when he was around.

4. susceptible (adj.): Open to some influence; responsive.

Ex. Impressed with her intelligence and self-confidence, Josh was highly susceptible to Emily's positive influence, so they decided to study together more often.

FIN comes from the Latin word for "end" or "boundary." *Final* describes last things, and a *finale* or a *finish* is an ending.

1. affinity (n.): Sympathy; attraction

Ex. Felix Mendelssohn showed an affinity for music at a very early age and composed several fully developed symphonies while still in his early teens.

2. definitive (adj.) Authoritative and final.

Ex. After a ten year study, the team's brilliant research provided a definitive description of the virus and its strange mutation patterns.

3. infinitesimal (adj.): Extremely or immeasurably small.

Ex. Looking more closely at the research data, Jared now saw an odd pattern of changes so infinitesimal that they had not been noticed before.

4. finite (adj.) Having definite limits.

Ex. Jason's dreams about his future as a rock singer are infinite, but the time he can spend pursuing these dreams are quite finite since he has a full time job and a family to support.

Vocabulary Week 4

TRACT comes from *trahere*, the Latin verb meaning "drag or draw." Something *attractive* draws us toward it.

1. detract (v.): to decrease the importance, value, or effectiveness of something.

Ex. None of the gossip or racy subject matter in the new biography detracts in the least from her greatness as a writer.

2. protracted (adj.): drawn out, continued, or extended.

Ex. Neither Wendy, the mother, or George, the father, was looking forward to a protracted struggle for custody of their only child.

3. retraction (n.): A taking back or withdrawal; a denial of what one has previously said.

Ex. The following week, the newspaper reluctantly printed a retraction of the errors in the article, but the damage had already been done.

4. intractable (adj.): Not easily handled, led, taught, or controlled.

Ex. The army's corruption was known to be the country's intractable problem, and all foreign aid ended up in the colonels' pockets.

MAL, as a combining form means "bad." *Malpractice* is bad medical practice. *Malodorous* things smell bad.

1. malevolent (adj.): Having or showing intense ill will or hatred.

Ex. In Herman Melville's classic novel, Captain Ahab sees Moby Dick not simply as a whale but as a malevolent, evil enemy.

2. malady (n.): a disease or illness of the body or mind.

Ex. The woman had been suffering from a mysterious malady that she can trace to her stay in India with the Peace Corps.

3. malign (v.): To make harsh and often false or misleading statements about.

Ex. Some teenagers who dress in all black, have multiple piercings, and sport brightly colored hair are often maligned by society even though they have done nothing wrong.

4. malnourished (adj.): Badly or poorly nourished.

Ex. When the search and rescue team finally found the children in the locked cabin, both girls were pale and malnourished but unharmed.

Vocabulary Week 5

ANTE is Latin for "before" or "in front of." Antediluvian, a word describing something very old or outdated, literally meant "before the flood" – that is, the flood described in the Bible.

1. antechamber (n.): An outer room that leads to another and is often used as a waiting room.

Ex. The antechamber to the lawyer's office in New York City was both elegant and comfortable, designed to inspire trust and confidence.

2. antedate (v.): To date something (such as a check) with a date earlier than that of actual writing.; to precede in time.

Ex. Nantucket Island has hundreds of beautifully preserved houses that antedate the Civil War that are often used as museums or tourist attractions.

3. ante meridiem (adj.): Before noon.

Ex. On great ancient sundials the shadow crossed the central line at noon, dramatically marking the shift from ante meridiem to post meridiem.

4. anterior (adj.): Located before or toward the front or head; coming before in time or development.

Ex. The first-class passengers are always seated in the plane's anterior section and fly with the luxury of lots of legroom, reclining seats, and a better menu.

DEMO comes from the Greek word meaning "people." A demagogue leads the people, usually into trouble, by lying and appealing to their prejudices.

1. demographic (adj.): Having to do with the study of human populations, especially their size, growth, density, and patterns of living.

Ex. The government used the latest demographic figures to decide how much money to spend on education.

2. endemic (adj): Found only in a given place or region; often found in a given occupation, area, or environment.

Ex. Malaria is a disease that is endemic in tropical regions around the world.

3. pandemic (n.): Widespread and affecting a large portion of the people.

Ex. The worldwide AIDS pandemic may eventually prove to be the most deadly such event in human history.

4. demotic (adj.): Popular or common.

Ex. The most demotic color worn at Edison is probably black, and those who wear it tend to blend in with the crowd.

Vocabulary Week 6

FLECT/FLEX comes from *flectere*, the Latin verb meaning “to bend.” Things that are *flexible* can be bent.

1. deflect (v.): To turn aside, especially from a straight or fixed course.

Ex. Some celebrities deflect resentment over the amount of money they make by giving their time and some of their money to charity.

2. flexor (n.): A muscle that bends a part of the body such as an arm or a leg.

Ex. Marcy’s fitness instructor told her that she could improve her bad posture by strengthening her hip flexors using weight-training workouts.

3. genuflect (v.): To kneel on one knee and then rise as an act of respect.

Ex. Pilgrims in China not only genuflect before religious shrines but also may lay themselves flat on the ground and light incense as well.

4. inflection (n.): A change in the pitch, tone, or loudness of the voice.

Ex. Erica could not understand her grandfather’s words because he spoke so softly, but she knew from his inflection that he was asking a question.

POST comes from a Latin word meaning “after” or “behind.” A *postscript* is a note that comes after an otherwise completed letter, usually as an afterthought.

1. posterior (n.): Situated toward or on the back; rear.

Ex. One of the goals of Steve’s fitness program was to reduce the rather large dimensions of his posterior.

2. posthumous (adj.): Following or happening after one’s death.

Ex. Vincent Van Gogh’s rise to posthumous fame as one of the world’s great artists came despite the fact that he scarcely sold a single painting during his lifetime.

3. postmodern (adj.): Having to do with a movement in art, architecture, or literature that occurred after World War II and expanded on previously created modernist concepts.

Ex. Andy Warhol is one of the most famous postmodern artists, and his painting of the Campbell’s soup can was greeted with mixed reviews of surprise, concern, and pleasure.

4. postmortem (adj.): An examination, investigation, or process that takes place after an event.

Ex. Medical Examiners perform postmortem examinations of bodies in order to determine the time and cause of death of an individual.

Vocabulary Week 7

AUD, from the Latin verb *audire*, is the root that has to do with hearing. What is *audible* is hearable, and an *audience* is a group of people that listens.

1. auditor (n.): A person who formally examines and verifies financial accounts.

Ex. It seems impossible that so many banks could have gotten themselves into so much trouble in the 1980s if their auditors had been doing their jobs.

2. auditory (adj.): Of or relating to the sense or organs of hearing.

Ex. With the new sophisticated sound systems that are now available, going to a movie has become an amazing auditory experience as much as it is a visual one.

3. audition (n.): A trial performance to evaluate a performer's skills.

Ex. Auditions for popular Broadway shows attract so many hopeful unknown singers and dancers that they are referred to as "cattle calls."

4. inaudible (adj.): Not heard or capable of being heard.

Ex. The coach spoke to the young gymnast in a low voice that was inaudible to the rest of the team.

SON is the Latin root meaning "sound," as in our word *sonata*, meaning a kind of music usually played by one or two instruments.

1. dissonant (adj.): Clashing or discordant, especially in music; incompatible or disagreeing.

Ex. Critics of the health-care plan pointed to its two seemingly dissonant goals: cost containment, which would try to control spending, and universal coverage, which could increase spending.

2. resonance (n.): A continuing or echoing of sound; a richness and variety in the depth and quality of sound.

Ex. Audiences for both Star Wars and CNN are drawn to the resonance in the voice of James Earl Jones.

3. sonic (adj.): Having to do with sound; having to do with the speed of sound in air.

Ex. With a sonic depth finder, they determined the depth of the lake by bouncing a sound signal off the bottom.

4. ultrasound (n.): The use of sound vibrations above the limits of human hearing to produce images with which to diagnose internal bodily conditions.

Ex. His doctor, who loved new technology, used CAT scans, MRIs, and an ultrasound to view Michael's various organs.

Vocabulary Week 8

ERR, from the Latin verb *errare*, means “to wander” or “to stray.” This root is easily seen in the word *error*, which means a wandering or straying from what is correct or true.

1. aberrant (adj.): Straying or differing from the right, normal, or natural type.

Ex. Richard’s aberrant behavior began to make his colleagues fear that the stress of the project was getting to be too much for him.

2. errant (adj.): Wandering or moving about aimlessly.

Ex. Modern-day cowboys have been known to use helicopters to spot errant calves that have separated from the herd.

3. erratic (adj.): Inconsistent.

Ex. In the 1993 World Series, the Phillies were not helped by the erratic performance of their ace relief pitcher.

4. erroneous (adj.): Mistaken, incorrect.

Ex. The chess wizard’s parents formed an erroneous idea of his intelligence because he didn’t talk until he was six.

CED/CESS, from the Latin verb *cedere*, meaning “to go” or “to proceed,” produces many English words, from *procession*, meaning something that goes forward, to *recession*, which is a moving back or away.

1. accede (v.): To give in to a request or demand

Ex. Voters tend to worry when Congress accedes to the demands of too many special-interest groups.

2. antecedent (n.): A preceding event, state, or cause.

Ex. The demanding terms of the treaty that ended World War I are often said to have been antecedents of World War II.

3. concession (n.): The yielding of a point or privilege, often unwillingly; an acknowledgment or admission.

Ex. When the company agreed to pay millions of dollars in damage claims, the payments were seen as a concession that somebody had done something wrong.

4. precedent (n.): Something done or said that may be an example or rule to guide later acts of a similar kind.

Ex. When Judy bought Christmas presents for all her relatives one year she claimed that it set no precedent, but it did.

Vocabulary Week 9

METR comes to us from Greek by way of Latin; in both languages it refers to “measure.”

1. metric (adj.): Relating to or based on the metric system.

Ex. Many Americans are beginning to become accustomed to metric units such as the liter, milligram, and kilometer.

2. odometer (n.): An instrument used to measure distance traveled.

Ex. Jennifer watched the odometer to see how far she would have to drive to her new job.

3. symmetrical (adj.): Having or exhibiting balanced proportions or the beauty that results from such balance.

Ex. Noting the dents in both front fenders, Robert comforted himself after his accident by thinking that at least his car was now symmetrical.

4. tachometer (n.): A device used to measure speed of rotation.

Ex. Even though one purpose of having a tachometer is to help drivers keep their engine speeds down, some people occasionally try to see how high they can make the needle go.

QUIS is derived from the Latin verb *quaerere*, meaning “to seek or obtain.” You can see it in our word *acquire*.

1. inquisition (n.): A questioning or examining that is often severe.

Ex. The President’s choice for the cabinet position turned down the appointment, fearing that the confirmation hearings would turn into an inquisition into her past.

2. perquisite (n.): A privilege or profit that is provided in addition to one’s base salary; something claimed as an exclusive possession or right.

Ex. A new car, a big house, and yearly trips to Europe were among the perquisites that made the presidency of Wyndam Collage such an attractive position.

3. acquisitive (adj.): Eager to acquire; greedy.

Ex. With each year the couple became more madly acquisitive, buying jewelry, a huge yacht, and two country estates.

4. requisition (n.): A demand or request (such as for supplies) made with proper authority.

Ex. The teachers had grown impatient with having to submit a requisition for even routine classroom supplies.

Vocabulary Week 10

HOSP/HOST comes from the Latin word *hospes* and its stem *hospit-* meaning both “host” and “guest.” Many words based on it came to English through French, which often dropped the *-pi-*, leaving *host-*.

1. hostage (n.): A person given or held to ensure that an agreement, demand, or treaty is kept or fulfilled.

Ex. The kidnappers released their hostage unharmed once all their demands were met.

2. hospice (n.): A place or program to help care for the terminally ill.

Ex. Uncle Harold was moved to the hospice only after Aunt Judy had almost collapsed with exhaustion while caring for him.

3. hostel (n.): An inexpensive, supervised place for young travelers to stay overnight.

Ex. Generations of American college students have traveled through Europe cheaply by staying at hostels instead of hotels.

4. inhospitable (adj.): Not welcoming or generous; unfriendly

Ex. Shot down by government agents, the smuggler struggled for survival on the rocky inhospitable island.

SEC/SEQU comes from the Latin verb *sequi*, meaning “to follow.” A *sequel* follows the original novel, film, or television show.

1. consequential (adj.): resulting; important

Ex. None of our discussions thus far has been very consequential; next week’s meeting will be the important one.

2. execute (v.): To carry out or perform; to put to death legally or formally.

Ex. Because it was his job to do so, he executed all of the governor’s policies even when he was opposed to them.

3. obsequious (adj.): excessively submissive, obedient, or flattering.

Ex. Since he loves flattery, he surrounds himself with obsequious people, none of whom he ever really trusts.

4. sequential (adj.): Arranged in order or in a series; following in a series.

Ex. In writing the history of the revolution, he found it hard to put some of the events in sequential order.

Vocabulary Week 11

AMBI/AMPHI means “on both sides” or “around”; *ambi-* comes from Latin and *amphi-* from Greek.

1. ambiguous (adj.): Doubtful or uncertain especially from being obscure or indistinct; unclear in meaning because of being understandable in more than one way.

Ex. Successful politicians are good at giving ambiguous answers to questions on controversial issues.

2. ambient (adj.): Existing or present on all sides.

Ex. The ambient lighting in the restaurant was low, but there was a bright candle at each table.

3. ambivalent (adj.): Holding opposite feelings and attitudes at the same time toward someone or something; continually wavering between opposites or alternate courses of action.

Ex. He was extremely ambivalent about the trip: he badly wanted to travel but hated to miss the summer activities at home.

4. amphitheater (n.): An oval or circular building with an open area ringed by rising tiers of seats, used in ancient Rome for contests and spectacles; a large modern theater or stadium.

Ex. The Romans held popular contests between gladiators or between gladiators and wild beasts in their amphitheaters.

EP/EPI comes from Greek and means variously “upon,” “besides,” “attached to” “over,” “outer,” or “after.”

1. ephemeral (adj.): Lasting a day only; lasting a very short time.

Ex. The benefits from the strategy will only be ephemeral, but we will be paying for it for years to come.

2. epicenter (n.): The portion of the earth’s surface directly over the focus of the earthquake.

Ex. After the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, scientists discovered that the epicenter was actually in the Santa Cruz mountains and not in San Francisco.

3. epitaph (n.): An inscription on a grave or tomb in memory of the one buried there.

Ex. The great English architect Christopher Wren designed London’s majestic St. Paul’s Cathedral, the site of his tomb and epitaph: If you seek my monument, look around you.”

4. epithet (n.): A descriptive word or phrase occurring with or in place of the name of a person or thing; an insulting or demeaning word or phrase.

Ex. King Richard I of England was known by the epithet “Lionhearted.”

Vocabulary Week 12

HYPHO/HYP as a prefix can mean variously “under,” “beneath,” “down,” or “below normal.” Many *hypo-* words are medical.

1. hypochondriac (n.): A person unduly concerned with health and often suffering from delusions of physical disease.

Ex. Hercule Poirot, the hero of Agatha Christie’s mysteries, is a notorious hypochondriac, always trying to protect himself from drafts.

2. hypocrisy (n.): A pretending to be what one is not or to feel what one does not really feel.

Ex. The protesters were objecting to the hypocrisy of doing business with a government whose racist policies were condemned by everyone.

3. hypothermia (n.): Subnormal temperature of the body.

Ex. Bu the time rescuers were able to pull the skater from the pond’s icy waters, hypothermia had reached a life-threatening stage.

4. hypothetical (adj.): Involving an assumption made for the sake of argument or for further study or investigation; imagined for purposes of example.

Ex. The presidential candidate refused to say what she would do if faced with a hypothetical military crisis.

THERM/THERMO comes from the Greek word meaning “warm.” A *thermometer* measures the amount of warmth in a body, the air, or an oven.

1. thermal (adj.): Of, relating to, or caused by heat; designed to insulate in order to retain body heat.

Ex. The glider circled slowly, seeking a thermal updraft from a plowed field that would take it spiraling upward.

2. thermocline (n.): The region in a body of water that divides the warmer, oxygen-rich surface layer from the colder, oxygen-poor deep water.

Ex. The warm water above the thermocline is relatively shallow: for most of the world’s oceans the top layer is only about 150 to 300 feet deep.

3. thermocouple (n.): A device for measuring temperature that makes use of the way different metals respond to heat.

Ex. Thermocouples can be used to measure temperatures as high as 2300°C or as low as -270°C, far beyond the range of ordinary thermometers.

4. thermonuclear (adj.): Of or relating to the changes in the nucleus of atoms with low atomic weight, such as hydrogen, that require a very high temperature to begin.

Ex. During the 1950s and 1960s American families built thousands of home underground shelters to protect themselves from thermonuclear blasts.

Vocabulary Week 13

POLY comes from *polys*, the Greek word for “many.” Polysyllabic words, for example, are words of many syllables.

1. polychromatic (adj.): Showing a variety or a change of colors; multicolored.

Ex. The Wizard of Oz begins in black and white but suddenly becomes gloriously polychromatic once Dorothy and Toto land in Oz.

2. polyglot (n.): One who can speak or write several languages.

Ex. As trade between countries increases, there is more need for polyglots who can act as negotiators.

3. polymer (n.): A chemical compound formed by a reaction in which two or more molecules combine to form larger molecules with repeating structural units.

Ex. Nylon, a polymer commercially introduced in 1938, can be spun and woven into fabrics or cast as tough, elastic blocks.

4. polyphony (n.): Music consisting of two or more independent but harmonious melodies.

Ex. At concerts she preferred Mahler and Beethoven, but when she was working she listened only to Renaissance polyphony.

PRIM comes from *primus*, the Latin word for “first.” Something that is *primary* is first in time, development, rank, or importance.

1. primal (adj.): Original or primitive; first in importance.

Ex. She argued that to restore the economy, the primal necessity was to reform the health care system.

2. primiparous (adj.): Bearing a first offspring; having borne only one previous offspring.

Ex. The purpose of the study was to compare the average duration of labor for primiparous women with that of multiparous women.

3. primogeniture (n.): An exclusive right of inheritance belonging to the eldest son of a single set of parents.

Ex. Many of the world's monarchies descend by the principle of primogeniture.

4. primordial (adj.): First created or developed; existing in or from the very beginning.

Ex. Many astronomers think the universe is continuing to evolve from a primordial cloud of gas.

Vocabulary Week 14

DIS comes from Latin, where it means "apart." In English, its meanings have increased to include "do the opposite of" (as in disestablish).

1. disenfranchise (v.): To deprive a person or organization of a privilege, immunity, or legal right, especially the right to vote.

Ex. In the first half of the twentieth century, the government of the United States disenfranchised the African American community because of racism and ignorance.

2. dissension (n.): Disagreement in opinion.

Ex. There was so much dissension at the meeting that nothing got done, and everyone went home angry.

3. disseminate (v.): To spread widely as if by sowing seeds.

Ex. Television and computer networks now make it possible to disseminate information throughout the world very quickly.

4. dissipate (v.): To cause to spread out to the point of vanishing; disperse.

Ex. The moderator's good humor slowly dissipated the tension that had filled the meeting room.

CIRCU/CIRCUM means "around" in Latin. So circumnavigate is "to navigate around," often describing a trip around the world.

1. circuitous (adj.): Having a circular or winding course; not forthright or direct in action.

Ex. Some philosophers arrive at their conclusions by circuitous reasoning that most people can barely follow.

2. circumference (n.): The perimeter or boundary of a circle; the outer boundary or surface of a shape or object.

Ex. In order to calculate the approximate circumference of a circle, one must multiply its diameter by 3.14.

3. circumspect (adj.): Careful to consider all circumstances and possible consequences; cautious.

Ex. She never rushed into any decision but was instead always circumspect and thoughtful.

4. circumvent (v.): To make a circuit around; to manage to get around, especially by clever means.

Ex. The team circumvented the traffic jam on the highway by using the back roads in order to get to the field.

Vocabulary Week 15

CRED comes from *credere*, the Latin verb meaning “to believe.” If something is *credible* it is believable, and if it is *incredible* it is not.

1. credence (n.): Mental acceptance of something as true or real; belief.

Ex. He scoffed and said that no one still gives any credence to the story of the Loch Ness monster.

2. creditable (adj.): Worthy of praise.

Ex. Even though the young team did not win the tournament, they turned in a creditable performance in the playoffs.

3. credulity (n.): Readiness and willingness to believe on the basis of little evidence.

Ex. Thrillers and action movies only succeed if they do not strain the audience’s credulity too much.

4. creed (n.): A statement of the basic beliefs of a religious faith; a set of guiding principles or beliefs.

Ex. She made her money on Wall Street by following the simple creed: Buy low, sell high.

CURR/CURS comes from *currere*, the Latin verb meaning “to run.” Although the sense of speed may be lacking from words based on this root, the sense of movement remains.

1. concurrent (adj.): Happening or operating at the same time.

Ex. The convicted killer was sentenced to serve three concurrent life terms in prison.

2. cursory (adj.): Hastily and often carelessly done.

Ex. Having spent the weekend going to parties, she was only able to give the chapter a cursory reading before class on Monday.

3. discursive (adj.): Passing from one topic to another.

Ex. Some days he allowed himself to write long discursive essays in his diary instead of his usual simple reporting of the day’s events.

4. precursor (n.): One that goes before and indicates the coming of another.

Ex. Scientists are trying to identify special geological activity that may be a precursor to an earthquake, which will help them predict the quake’s size, time, and location.

Vocabulary Week 16

RECT comes from the Latin word *rectus*, which means “straight” or “right.” To *correct* something is to make it right.

1. rectitude (n.): Moral integrity; correctness of procedure.

Ex. The school superintendent was not popular, but no one could question her rectitude.

2. rectify (v.): To set right; remedy; to correct by removing errors; revise.

Ex. John must rectify the unfortunate copying incident at school before his teacher calls home and tells his parents.

3. rectilinear (adj.): Moving in or forming a straight line; having many straight lines.

Ex. After admiring Frank Lloyd Wright’s highly rectilinear buildings for years, the public was astonished by the giant spiral of the Guggenheim Museum.

4. rector (n.): A clergyman in charge of a church or parish; the head of a university or school.

Ex. Jack and Jill asked the rector of their church to perform their marriage ceremony.

VID/VIS comes from the Latin verb *videre*, and appears in words having to do with seeing and sight.

1. visage (n.): The face or appearance of a person.

Ex. A kindly man, he had a bright, cheerful visage that people found attractive.

2. envision (v.): To see something with the imagination.

Ex. After many years of learning how to be a chef, Aaron could clearly envision his future in his own restaurant in New York City.

3. visionary (n.): A person with foresight and imagination; a dreamer whose ideas are often impractical.

Ex. His followers regarded him as an inspired visionary; his opponents saw him as either a con man or a lunatic.

4. visitation (n.): A visit or short stay, often for some definite, official purpose such as an inspection; a parent’s privilege to have temporary access to or care of a child.

Ex. The local ministers dreaded the annual visitation from the bishop’s evaluation committee.

Vocabulary Week 17

VOC/VOK, from the Latin noun *vox* and the verb *vocare*, has to do with speaking and calling and the use of the voice.

1. equivocate (v.): To use ambiguous language, especially in order to deceive; to avoid giving a direct answer.

Ex. As the company directors equivocated, the union prepared to return to the picket lines.

2. irrevocable (adj.): Impossible to call back or retreat.

Ex. By throwing her hat into the presidential race, the young governor made the irrevocable decision to put her family into the public eye.

3. provoke (v.): To call forth or stimulate a feeling or action; to anger.

Ex. Before every boxing match, Muhammad Ali would provoke his opponent with poetic taunts.

4. vociferous (adj.): Making noisy or emphatic outcries.

Ex. Parents at soccer games are often known to make vociferous protests when they think the referee has made a bad call.

PHON is a Greek root meaning “sound,” “voice,” or “speech.” It is similar to the Latin voc in meaning but typically means only “sound.”

1. cacophony (n.): Harsh or unpleasant sound.

Ex. To some people, a lot of recent jazz sounds more like cacophony than like smooth traditional jazz.

2. phonetic (adj.): Relating to or representing the sounds of the spoken language.

Ex. Some school systems teach first-graders to read by the phonetic method.

3. polyphonic (adj.): Referring to a style of music in which two or more melodies are sung or played against each other in harmony.

Ex. The polyphonic chants of the monks punctuated the ceremony at important intervals.

4. symphony (n.): A usually long and complex musical composition for orchestra.

Ex. Beethoven, Bruckner, Mahler, and possibly Schubert completed nine symphonies each before their deaths.

Vocabulary Week 18

CUR, from the Latin verb *curare*, means basically “care for.” Our verb *cure* comes from this root, as do *manicure* and *pedicure*.

1. curative (adj.): Having to do with curing diseases.

Ex. As soon as the antibiotic entered his system, he imagined he could begin to feel its curative effects.

2. curator (n.): Someone in charge of something where things are on exhibit, such as a collection, a museum, or a zoo.

Ex. Curators of zoos continually try to make the animals’ surroundings more and more like their natural homes.

3. procure (v.): To get possession of; obtain.

Ex. In an era of Defense Department cutbacks, military planners must procure the supplies they need in more economical ways.

4. sinecure (n.): A job or position requiring little work but usually providing some income.

Ex. The job of Dean of Students at any college is no sinecure; the hours can be long and the work draining.

PERI usually means “going around something.” With a *periscope*, you can see around corners.

1. perimeter (n.): The boundary or distance around a body or figure.

Ex. All along the city’s perimeter the guerrillas kept up their attack night after night.

2. periodontal (adj.): Surrounding the teeth; concerning or affecting the tissues around the teeth.

Ex. Years of bad living had filled his teeth with cavities, but it was periodontal disease that finished them off.

3. peripatetic (adj.): Having to do with walking; moving or traveling from place to place.

Ex. She spent her early adult years as a peripatetic musician, traveling from one engagement to another.

4. peripheral (adj.): Having to do with the outer edges, especially of the field of vision; auxiliary or supplemental.

Ex. The teacher seemed to have eyes in the back of her head, but what she really had was excellent peripheral vision and a thorough knowledge of how ten-year-olds behave.

Vocabulary Week 19

SOPH is a Greek root from the word meaning “wise” or “wisdom.” In our language, the root sometimes appears in words where the wisdom concerned is of the “wise-guy” variety, but often, we see it used with a more respectful attitude toward wisdom.

1. sophistry (n.): Cleverly deceptive reasoning or argument.

Ex. The defendant’s claim that he was not guilty of the crime because he did not actually pull the trigger was dismissed as pure sophistry.

2. sophisticated (adj.): Having a thorough and refined knowledge of the ways of society; highly complex or developed,

Ex. In Woman of the Year, Katherine Hepburn plays a sophisticated newspaperwoman who can handle everything except Spencer Tracy.

3. sophomoric (adj.): Overly impressed with one’s own knowledge, but, in fact, undereducated and immature.

Ex. The kids at summer camp played the usual sophomoric pranks: short-sheeted beds, salt in the sugar bowl, shaving cream on the light switch, and a water bucket balanced on the door.

4. theosophy (n.): A set of teachings about God and the world based on mystical insights into their nature and workings.

Ex. She experimented with a number of beliefs, starting with theosophy and ending with a variety of Hinduism.

TEND/TENT, from the Latin *tendere*, meaning “to stretch, extend, or spread,” can be seen most simply in the English word *tent*, meaning a piece of material stretched or extended over a frame.

1. contentious (adj.): Having a tendency to pick fights; quarrelsome.

Ex. The school board meeting lasted late into the night as contentious parents argued over every detail of the new bus routes.

2. distend (v.): To swell or become expanded.

Ex. The stomachs of young children who suffer from malnutrition and starvation distend, giving uninformed observers the impression that they are actually well fed.

3. portend (v.): To give a sign or warning beforehand; to indicate or signify.

Ex. Although the warm spell in February was welcome, the huge puddles by the melting snowbanks portended the spring floods that were likely to follow.

4. tendentious (adj.): Leaning toward a particular point of view; biased.

Ex. In his later years, the professor wrote a series of tendentious essays attacking many modern novelists and praising authors from earlier eras.

Vocabulary Week 20

PEND/PENS, meaning “to hand, weigh, or cause to hang down,” comes from the Latin verb *pendere*.

1. appendage (n.): Something joined on to a larger or more important body or thing; a subordinate body part, such as an arm or a leg.

Ex. Some babies are born with six toes on one foot even though there seems to be no reason for this extra appendage to be there.

2. expend (v.): To pay out; to use up.

Ex. The company expended too much money on health-care costs and disability benefits last year, so they are looking to cut back in the future.

3. propensity (n.): An often intense natural inclination or preference.

Ex. In-laws have a propensity to offer advice, especially when it has not been requested by anyone.

4. stipend (n.): A sum of money paid at regular intervals in return for services or to cover expenses.

Ex. David’s fellowship to graduate school included a stipend to cover his basic living expenses.

PAN comes from Greek with its spelling and meaning intact. It simply means “all” in Greek; as an English prefix it can also mean “completely,” “whole,” or “general.”

1. panacea (n.): A remedy for all ills or difficulties; cure-all.

Ex. Educational reform is sometimes viewed as the panacea for all of society’s problems.

2. pandemonium (n.): A wild uproar or commotion.

Ex. Pandemonium erupted in the football stadium as the underdogs scored an upset victory in the final seconds.

3. panegyric (n.): A formal speech or statement giving high praise to someone or something..

Ex. Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address” is as much a panegyric celebrating American democratic ideals as it is a eulogy for the brave soldiers who died on the battlefield.

4. panoply (n.): A magnificent or impressive array; a display of all appropriate accessory items.
Ex. The full panoply of a royal coronation was a thrilling sight for the throngs of sidewalk onlookers and the millions of television viewers.

Vocabulary Week 21

EXTRA places words outside or beyond their usual or routine territory. *Extraterrestrial* and *extragalactic* affairs take place beyond the earth or the galaxy.

1. extramundane (adj.): Situated in or relating to a region beyond the material world.
Ex. Communism is atheistic and admits no extramundane authority.

2. extrapolate (v.): To extend or project facts or data into an area not known in order to make assumptions or to predict facts or trends.
Ex. As an economist, Earl extrapolated future buying trends from current economic data.

3. extrovert (n.): A person mainly concerned with things outside him- or herself; a sociable and outgoing person.
Ex. A complete extrovert, Esther made friends easily and was always surrounded by lots of people.

4. extraneous (adj.): Existing or coming from the outside; not forming an essential part; irrelevant.
Ex. Your essay should be well-focused and should not contain any extraneous material.

PHOS/PHOT comes from the Greek word for "light." *Phos* can be seen in the word *phosphorus*, which refers generally to anything that glows in the dark and also to a particular glowing chemical element.

1. phosphorescent (adj.): Giving off a glow that continues after an energy source has stopped transmitting energy; giving off a glow over a period of time without producing noticeable heat.
Ex. The boat's wake glittered in the night with phosphorescent sea creatures stirred up by its passing.

2. photogenic (adj.): Very suitable for being photographed.
Ex. Visitors to New England are often disappointed to find that the photogenic small towns with white churches and tidy houses are actually few and far between.

3. photon (n.): A tiny particle or bundle of radiant energy.
Ex. The idea that light consists of photons was difficult for Christy to accept until she began to think of a ray of light as being caused by a stream of very small particles.

4. photosynthesis (n.): The process by which green plants use light to produce organic matter from carbon dioxide and water.
Ex. Sagebrush survives in harsh climates because it is capable of carrying on photosynthesis at very low temperatures.

Vocabulary Week 22

MOR/MORT comes from the Latin *mori*, “to die,” and *mort-*, the stem of *mors*, meaning “death.” A *mortuary* is a place where dead bodies are kept until burial.

1. immortality (n.): Deathless or unending existence; lasting fame.

Ex. Michelangelo achieved immortality with his painting and sculpture, Beethoven with his music.

2. moribund (adj.): In the process of dying or approaching death; inactive or being outmoded.

Ex. Many economists believe that America must replace its moribund smokestack industries with businesses based on new technology.

3. mortician (n.): A person who prepares the dead for burial or cremation and manages the funeral.

Ex. Every town needs a mortician, but the job is not always a popular choice among young students.

4. mortify (v.): To subdue or deaden (the body) especially by self-discipline or self-inflicted pain; to embarrass greatly; humiliate.

Ex. The parents' attempts to act in a youthful manner while at the school fundraiser mortified their teenage children.

HER/HES, from the Latin verb *haerere*, means “to stick” or “to get stuck.” This has produced words with two kinds of meaning. A word such as *adhesive* means basically “sticking,” whereas a word such as *hesitate* means more or less “stuck in one place.”

1. adherent (n.): Someone who follows a leader, a part, or a profession; one who believes in a particular philosophy or religion.

Ex. The general's adherents heavily outnumbered his opponents and managed to shoot them down repeatedly.

2. cohesion (n.): The act or state of sticking together.

Ex. Successful athletic teams usually achieve their victories through tight cohesion among the players.

3. incoherent (adj.): Unclear or difficult to understand; loosely organized or inconsistent.

Ex. She was tired of her boss's angry lectures, which usually turned into incoherent ranting and raving.

4. inherent (adj.): Part of something by nature or habit.

Ex. A guiding belief behind the Constitution is that individuals have certain inherent rights that ought to be protected from governmental interference.

Vocabulary Week 23

FUG comes from the Latin verb *fugere*, meaning “to flee or escape.” A *refugee* flees from some threat or danger to a *refuge*, which is a place that provides shelter and safety.

1. centrifugal (adj.): Moving outward from a center or central focus.

Ex. Their favorite ride was the Round-up, in which centrifugal force flattened them against the outer wall of a rapidly spinning cage.

2. fugitive (n.): A person who flees or tries to escape.

Ex. The United States sometimes makes special allowances for refugees who are fugitives from persecution in their homelands.

3. fugue (n.) A musical form in which a theme is echoed and imitated by voices or instruments that enter one after another and interweave as the piece proceeds.

Ex. For his debut on the new organ, the church organist chose a fugue from Johann Sebastian Bach.

4. subterfuge (n.): A trick designed to help conceal, escape, or evade; a deceptive trick.

Ex. The students employed every kind of subterfuge they knew to keep the substitute teacher from assigning homework.

COSM, from the Greek word meaning both “ornament” and “order,” gives us two different groups of words. *Cosmetics* are what we use to ornament our faces. The “order” meaning combines with the Greek belief that the universe was an orderly place, so words in this group related to the universe and the worlds within it.

1. cosmetic (adj.): Done or made for the sake of beauty or appearance.

Ex. Renovating the house would involve more than just cosmetic changes such as fresh paint and new curtains.

2. cosmology (n.): A theory that describes the nature of the universe; a branch of astronomy that deals with the origin and structure of the universe.

Ex. Many New Age philosophies propose a cosmology that differs greatly from the traditional Jewish, Christian, or Islamic ways of viewing the universe.

3. cosmopolitan (adj.): Having international sophistication and experience; made up of persons, elements, or influences from many different parts of the world.

Ex. New York, like most cosmopolitan cities, offers a wonderful array of restaurants featuring cooking styles from around the world.

4. cosmos (n.): The universe, especially when it is viewed as orderly and systematic; any orderly system that is complete in itself.

Ex. The biologist, the philosopher, and the astronomer all try in their own ways to understand the mysteries of the cosmos.

Vocabulary Week 24

SCI comes from the Latin verb *scire*, “to know” or “to understand.” This root appears in the word *science*, which refers to factual knowledge, and in *conscience*, which refers to moral knowledge.

1. conscientious (adj.): Governed by morality; scrupulous; resulting from painstaking or exact attention.

Ex. New employees should be especially conscientious about turning in all of their assignments on time to give the boss a good impression of their abilities.

2. omniscience (n.): Infinite awareness, understanding, and insight.

Ex. It was comforting to believe in the omniscience of a Supreme Being, and it kept him on his best behavior.

3. prescient (adj.): Having or showing advance knowledge of what is going to happen.

Ex. For years she had read The Wall Street Journal every morning in hopes of finding prescient warnings about future crashes, crises, and catastrophes.

4. unconscionable (adj.): Not guided by any moral sense; unscrupulous; shockingly excessive, unreasonable, or unfair.

Ex. The used car dealer was convicted of rolling back odometers and other unconscionable business practices.

JUNCT, from the Latin verb *jungere*, means “join.” A *junction* is a place where things come together.

1. adjunct (n.): Something joined or added to another thing of which it is not a part.

Ex. The technical school promised formal classroom instruction that would be a valuable adjunct to the on-the-job training and experience.

2. disjunction (n.): A break, separation, or sharp difference between two things.

Ex. Most English teachers see no disjunction between theory and practice when it comes to good writing.

3. injunction (n.): A warning, direction, or prohibition regarding an activity; a court order commanding or forbidding the doing of some act.

Ex. She was glad to see that her new fitness program included no injunctions against drinking caffeine.

4. junta (n.): A committee that controls a government, especially after a revolution.

Ex. Hopes for democratic reforms ended when the military junta took power and closed down the country’s major newspaper.

Vocabulary Week 25

MIT/MIS, from the Latin verb *mittere*, “to send,” appears in such English words as *missionary*, one who is sent out to convert others to a new faith.

1. emissary (n.): Someone sent out to represent another; an agent.

Ex. The senior diplomat had served as a presidential emissary to many troubled regions of the world.

2. manumission (n.): The act of freeing from slavery.

Ex. Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Harriet Tubman were major forces in the movement that led to the manumission of slaves in this country.

3. missive (n.): A letter or written communication.

Ex. During the Civil War, wives awaited missives from their husbands that gave them information about their health and general well-being.

4. remittance (n.): Money sent in payment; the sending of money, especially to a distance place.

Ex. The hardest part of April 15, the day taxes are paid, is putting the remittance into the envelope with the 1040 form.

PEL/PULS comes from the Latin verb *pellere*, meaning “to move or drive.” A *propeller* moves an airplane forward.

1. compel (v.): To drive or urge with force.

Ex. The suffering of the refugees compelled the entire fourth grade class to raise money in order to make contributions to the relief agencies.

2. expel (v.): To drive or force out; to force to leave, usually by official action.

Ex. The doctor had him take a deep breath and then expel all the air from his lungs.

3. repel (v.): To drive something back.

Ex. The soldiers repelled the enemy’s charge and ended up winning the battle.

4. repulsion (n.) A feeling of great dislike; disgust.

Ex. She overcame her feeling of repulsion long enough to notice the snake’s beautiful diamond patterning.

Vocabulary Week 26

LOG, from the Greek word *logos*, meaning “word, speech, reason,” is found particularly in English words that end in *-logy* and *-logue*.

1. eulogy (n.): A speech in praise of someone, often someone who has died.

Ex. At President Kennedy’s funeral, Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered a moving eulogy.

2. monologue (n.): A speech or dramatic scene spoken by one person or one actor; talk that dominates a conversation.

Ex. Myra’s loud and endless monologue about her travels was still ringing in Joe’s ears when he got home.

3. neologism (n.) A new word, usage, or expression.

Ex. Such neologisms as *cyberspace* and *virtual reality* come from computer technology.

4. genealogy (n.): The descent of a person or family from an ancestor, or a history of such descent; the study of family history.

Ex. In ancient Rome, prominent senators could trace their genealogies almost to the founding of the city.

TERR comes from the Latin *terra*, “earth.” *Terra firma* is a Latin phrase that means “firm ground” and is often praised by those who dislike sea travel.

1. *parterre* (n.): A decorative garden with paths between the beds of plants; the back area of the ground floor of a theater, often under the balcony.

Ex. The city’s park boasts a beautiful parterre with many varieties of roses.

2. *subterranean* (adj.): Underground.

Ex. Carlsbad Caverns National Park has a subterranean chamber over half a mile long.

3. *terrarium* (n.): an enclosure, usually transparent, with a layer of dirt in the bottom in which plants and sometimes small animals are kept indoors.

Ex. When no one was watching, the boys dropped their snake in the fifth-grader’s terrarium and then waited in the hall to hear the screams.

4. *terrestrial* (adj.): Having to do with the earth or its inhabitants.

Ex. Although a largely terrestrial bird, the roadrunner can take to wing for short periods when necessary.

Vocabulary Week 27

MAR, from the Latin word *mare*, meaning “sea,” brings its influence to English in words like *marine*, “having to do with the sea,” and *submarine*, “under the sea.”

1. *aquamarine* (adj.): A pale blue or greenish blue that is the color of clear seawater in sunlight.

Ex. Many of the houses on the Italian Riviera are painted aquamarine to match the Mediterranean.

2. *marina* (n.): A dock or harbor where pleasure boats can be moored securely, often with facilities offering supplies or repairs.

Ex. The coast of Florida has marinas all along it for the use of anything from enormous powerboats to the flimsiest sailboats.

3. *mariner* (n.): A seaman or sailor.

Ex. When he signed on as a mariner, the young Ishmael never suspected that the ship would be pursuing a great white whale.

4. *maritime* (adj.): Bordering on or having to do with the sea; having to do with navigation or commerce on the sea.

Ex. Canada’s Maritime Provinces – New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island – have a late spring but a mild winter as a result of the ocean.

PATH comes from the Greek word *pathos*, which means “suffering.” A *pathetic* sight moves us to pity.

1. *apathetic* (adj.): Showing or feeling little or no emotion; having no interest.

Ex. His apathetic response to the victory bewildered his friends and showed that there was something really wrong with Billy.

2. empathy (n.): The feeling of, or the ability to feel, the emotions and sensations of another.
Ex. Her maternal empathy was so strong that she often seemed to be living her son's life emotionally.

3. pathology (n.): The study of diseases; the abnormalities that are characteristic of a disease.
Ex. Scientists understood the pathology of smallpox long before they found a vaccine to prevent it.

4. sociopath (n.): A mentally ill or unstable person who acts in a way that harms people and society; a psychopath.
Ex. The sociopath went on a deadly rampage and felt no remorse for his actions when he was caught.

Vocabulary Week 28

PEN/PUN comes from the Latin words *poena*, "penalty," and *punier*, "to punish." From them come such English words as *penalty*, a consequence for a negative action.

1. impunity (n.): Freedom from punishment, harm, or loss.
Ex. Under the flag of truce, the soldiers crossed the field with impunity.

2. penal (adj.): Having to do with punishment or penalties, or institutions where punishment is given.
Ex. The classic novels Les Miserables and The Count of Monte Cristo portray the terrible conditions in French penal institutions in the nineteenth century.

3. penance (n.): An act of self-punishment or religious devotion to show sorrow or regret for sin or wrongdoing.
Ex. In the Middle Ages bands of pilgrims would trudge to distant holy sites as penance for their sins.

4. punitive (adj.): Giving, involving, or aiming at punishment.
Ex. The loser in a court case is often directed to pay punitive damages, money over and above the actual cost of the harm done to the other party.

MATR/METR comes from the Greek and Latin words for "mother." For example, a *matron* is a mature woman with children.

1. maternity (n.): The state of being a mother; motherhood.
Ex. Some think the Mona Lisa's smile is the result of her maternity.

2. matriculate (v.): To enroll as a member of a group, especially a school or college.
Ex. They matriculated together at both boarding school and college, but after college they disappeared entirely from each other's life.

3. matrilineal (adj.): Based on or tracing the family through the mother.

Ex. Many of the peoples of Ghana in Africa trace their family through matrilineal connections.

4. metropolitan (adj.): Having to do with a large, important city and sometimes also its surrounding suburbs (*metropolis* means basically “mother city.”).

Ex. The Los Angeles metropolitan area is among the largest in the world and continues to grow.

Vocabulary Week 29

MONI comes from the Latin verb *monere*, “to warn” or “to scold.” Warning and scolding often are rather similar, since many warnings could be called “pre-scoldings.”

1. admonish (v.): To warn or criticize mildly.

Ex. The physical education teacher admonished the daydreaming student at third base just in time for him to jump out of the way of the line drive headed his direction.

2. monitory (adj.): Giving warning; cautionary.

Ex. Through the fog they could hear the mournful, monitory note of the foghorn.

3. monitor (v.): To keep track of or watch, usually for a special reason.

Ex. The North’s armored ship monitored the South’s naval activities in the coastal waters.

4. premonition (n.): A previous warning or notice; forewarning; a feeling about an event or situation before it happens.

Ex. He now remembered how the birds had been restless and noisy, as though they had felt a premonition of the coming earthquake.

DIC, from *dicere*, the Latin word meaning “to speak,” says a lot. *Diction* is another word for speech, and a *dictionary* is a treasury of words.

1. Edict (n.): An official announcement that has the force of a law; an order or command

Ex. In 1989, an edict by the leader of Iran pronouncing a death sentence on British novelist Salman Rushdie stunned the world.

2. interdiction (n.): The destruction of or cutting off of an enemy’s line of supply.

Ex. United States forces repeatedly tried to halt the North Vietnamese by interdiction of their supplies.

3. jurisdiction (n.) The power or right to control or exercise authority; the territory where power may be exercised.

Ex. Unluckily for the defendants, the case fell within the jurisdiction of the federal court rather than the more tolerant state court.

4. malediction (n.): A curse.

Ex. In the story of Sleeping Beauty, the evil fairy hurls a malediction at the infant princess, foretelling that she will prick her finger and die.

CANT, from the Latin verbs *canere* and *cantare*, meaning “sing,” produces several words that come directly from Latin, and others that come by way of French and add an *h* to the root: for example, *chant*.

1. cantata (n.): A musical composition, particularly a religious work from the seventeenth or eighteenth century, for one or more voices accompanied by instruments.

Ex. During the Baroque era, composers like Telemann composed sacred cantatas by the hundreds.

2. incantation (n.): A use of spells or verbal charms spoken or sung as part of a ritual or magic; a formula of words used in, or as if in, such a ritual.

Ex. He repeated the words like an incantation: "The only way! The only way! The only way!"

3. cantor (n.): An official of a Jewish synagogue who sings or chants the music of the services and leads the congregation in prayer.

Ex. The congregation waited for the cantor to begin the prayers before joining in.

4. descant (n.): An additional melody sung above the principal melody.

Ex. The soprano added a soaring descant to the final chorus that held the listeners spellbound.

Vocabulary Week 30

LUD/LUS comes from the Latin verb *ludere*, "to play," and *ludum*, "play" or "game." An *interlude* thus is something "between games."

1. allude (v.): To refer broadly or indirectly.

Ex. In order to appear more important than she really was, Wendy constantly alluded to her glamorous past without ever filling in the details.

2. collusion (n.): A secret agreement or conspiracy for an illegal or deceptive purpose.

Ex. Cuban cigars have continued to be smoked in this country in spite of the embargo against them because of collusion between Cuban cigar makers and American smugglers.

3. ludicrous (adj.): Laughable because of clear absurdity, falseness, or foolishness.

Ex. At the rodeo, the ludicrous antics of the clown distract the angry bull and entertain the crowd.

4. prelude (n.): A performance, action, event, or piece of music that precedes and prepares for the more important thing that follows.

Ex. The sound of a symphony orchestra tuning up is the prelude to a night of music.

PHAN/PHEN, comes from the Greek verbs that mean "to appear or seem" or "to present to the mind," and has to do with the way things seem or appear rather than the way they really are.

1. phantasm (n.): An illusion or a ghost produced by imagination or creative invention.

Ex. When night fell, his imagination filled the old, dark house with phantasms.

2. phantasmagoria (n.): A shifting succession of things seen or imagined; a collection or combination of weird or imaginary things.

Ex. Salvador Dali's paintings offer a bizarre phantasmagoria of odd images.

3. phenomenon (n.): A fact or event observed or known with the senses; a rare, unusual, or important fact or event.

Ex. To Noah and the others on his ark, the appearance of a rainbow was a joyous phenomenon.

4. diaphanous (adj.): Transparent or insubstantial material.

Ex. The ballerinas of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake wore diaphanous costumes that seemed to float.