

Chapter 8 vocabulary words



affable—good-natured; friendly

Think of affable as laughable and being with an affable person who makes you laugh.

example: Tami Hughes is an affable instructor who is always willing to help.

apocryphal—fictitious; untrue

Think of apo-cry-fail—you cry because you think you will fail BUT that is untrue because you passed.

example: A classmate spread the rumor that we all failed the test, but that was apocryphal. We actually did significantly better than classes from previous years.

desultory—disorganized; disconnected; random; unfocused

Desultory and **disorganized** and **disconnected** all start with the same sound.

example: Jon's paper was a desultory effort, thrown together with random disconnected thoughts.

garbled—distorted; mixed up; hard to understand *say what?*

Garbled is like you are trying to talk while gargling. It would be hard to understand you.

example: After a stroke, some people partially lose their ability to speak, so their words come out garbled until they recover.

irascible—bad-tempered; unfriendly

If affable is (laughable) friendly, then irascible is (you're an ass-ible) unfriendly. Remember these as opposites.



example: I don't know why Ivan is so irascible; he gets angry over the slightest thing.

loquacious—very talkative; chatty

If you combine **eloquent** and **voracious**, you would have loquacious.

You would be greedy about giving passionate speeches.

example: My name is Tami L. Hughes. My friends tease me that the L. stands for loquacious since I like to talk a lot.



obtuse—stupid; dimwitted; dumb *duhhhhh*

I have no **use** for the obtuse, for they always have a dumb excuse.

example: Children can be remarkably obtuse about understanding school subjects like math, but their wits sharpen amazingly when learning a new video game.

opaque—difficult to understand; unclear

Remember garbled and opaque as both being hard to understand. Garbled is hard to understand because it is distorted; opaque is hard to understand because the content is difficult for the average person to comprehend.



example: We attempted to follow the movie’s complex plot, but the characters’ motives and reactions remained opaque. We finally gave up trying to understand it.

paucity—lack; scarcity; dearth

A **poor city** lacks resources. Look at the endings for **paucity** and the definition **scarcity**.



example: There was a paucity of toilet paper and hand sanitizer during the coronavirus pandemic.

recapitulate—sum up; summarize

Think of doing a *recap* of a sporting event. You are basically just giving the highlights.

example: Before an exam, the teacher always has a review session in which she recapitulates some of the most important material the class has studied.

Chapter 9 vocabulary words

accolade—approval; praise



Think of Hey Kool-Aid—you get **Kool-ade** and a snack because I approve of what you did.

example: Many people rushed out to try the new Thai restaurant in Belleville after it received an accolade in a newspaper review.

assuage—lessen; make less severe; soothe

You might be able to **assuage** an angry dog with sausage.

example: My brother’s apology helped to assuage my anger at him.

cacophony—unpleasant noise; harsh sounds



Clamor (chapter 7) is loud noise; cacophony is unpleasant noise. Think of cacophony as being the opposite of harmony. Coughing during the symphony creates a cacophony.
example: I told my daughter to turn down that cacophony she calls music.

censure—disapproval; criticism

Think of books that have been **censored** or banned because people disapprove of them. Also think of opposites—**accolade/approval** and **censure/disapproval**.



example: After Kate dyed her hair hot pink, she had to deal not only with her mother's censure but also with her grandmother's icy stares.

diatribe—a written or verbal attack; a bitterly critical speech or piece of writing

Think of a diet tribe where people are speaking and writing mean stuff because they miss eating ice cream and cookies.



example: The art teacher, normally soft-spoken, subjected the class to a loud diatribe when he discovered that someone had spilled soda on his computer.

edifice—a large structure or building

Think of having an **office** in an **edifice**.



example: On the college's 100th anniversary, a plaque was put up in honor of the architect who had designed its first edifice, now the administration building.

gravity—seriousness; weightiness

Gravity pulls stuff down to the Earth's surface which makes things heavy or weighty.



example: The anxious parents waited in the emergency room to learn the gravity of their son's condition.

infraction—a violation; breaking of a law or rule

If you **fracture** your arm, you break it; so an **infraction** is breaking the rules. Or you can remember the last part of the word—**infraction** means **violation**.

example: "In my class, there will be no texting or other cell-phone use during the test," said the instructor. "Any infraction of this rule will lead to a lower grade."

profane—showing disrespect toward something sacred; irreverent

Think of profanity as being disrespectful language.



example: Karen refuses to use profane language. She says 'OH MY GOSH' instead of "Oh my God."

somber—sad and depressing; very serious

Somber and **sad** both start with **s**. Also, think of similar meanings—**gravity/seriousness** and **somber/very serious**.



example: When I saw the doctor's somber expression, I was afraid she had bad news for me.

Chapter 10 vocabulary words

blasphemy—insult to something holy; disrespect toward something sacred; irreverence

This is similar to profanity or *profane* (chapter 9). You might speak **blasphemy** about your **enemy**.

example: Don't speak blasphemy about the St. Louis Cardinals or the St. Louis Blues. People in St. Louis love their sports teams.

enmity—hatred; hostility

You would **hate** your **enemy**. So think of **enmity** as **hatred**.

example: Lila seems to feel real enmity toward her boss; she criticizes everything he says or does.



erroneous—in error; wrong; mistaken; incorrect

$$4 + 4 = 9$$

Erroneous looks like its definition—in **error**.

example: Because the newspaper had printed an erroneous date and time for the community meeting, few people showed up when it actually took place.

garner—gather; collect

Garner looks like its definition—**gather**.

example: Once a year, the company president sends around a questionnaire to garner ideas from the employees about how to improve workplace conditions.

heretic—rebel; protestor; dissident; nonconformist

Here's a tick, and I'm protesting against these disgusting **bloodsuckers**.

example: People who believed that the world was round, not flat, were once considered lunatics or heretics.



incite—urge on; stir up

Both *kindle* (chapter 6) and *incite* have similar meanings. But *kindle* means to urge on or stir up in a good way. *Incite* is more to urge on or stir up in a violent or rebellious way.

example: The smell of blood in the water can incite sharks to attack.

languish—do poorly; become weak

Think of being squished. You would soon become weak and do poorly.

example: Some people languish in the summer heat, but others love the hot weather and feel full of energy and strength.



peruse—inspect; examine; scrutinize (chapter 6)

Think of trying to **use** all your resources to examine something closely.

example: To peruse a train timetable, with its tiny type and tinier footnotes, you need good eyesight and plenty of patience.



recluse—hermit; loner

Think of a **recluse** who **closes** the door and won't let anyone in.

example: Local old-timers tell stories about Wild Man Bill, a recluse who lived in a cave and came into town only once a year to buy supplies.

renounce—give up; reject; disown

Think of **rescind** (chapter 7)—to take back or cancel. **Renounce** is similar. You cancel, **reject**, or disown something.

example: Uncle Jed was a member of the Communist Party when he was a young man, but he soon decided to renounce communism and become a Republican.