

Chapter Seven

- calamity** -an event bringing great loss and misery
(kə-lām' ĭ-tē) The survivors of the earthquake slowly rebuilt their homes and lives after the **calamity**.
- comprehensive** -including all or much
(kōm' prē-hēn' sīv) The company's **comprehensive** insurance plan covers most health services, including hospitals, doctors, and dentists.
- conventional** -customary; ordinary
(kən-vēn' shə-nəl) The **conventional** Valentine's Day gifts are roses and chocolates.
- flagrant** -shocking obvious; outrageous
(flā' grənt) The use of campaign funds for the congressman's private business was a **flagrant** violation of the law.
- fluctuate** -to vary irregularly; to go up and down or back and forth
(ŭ'ōōā') Desert temperatures can **fluctuate** by as much as fifty degrees between daytime and nighttime.
- persevere** -to continue with an effort or plan despite difficulties
(pūr' sə' vīr) "I know you're tired," Jack said, "but we've got to **persevere** and get to the camp before the storm hits."
- ponder** -to consider carefully; think deeply about
(pōn' dər) Too often we don't take time to **ponder** the possible consequences of our actions.
- rehabilitate** -to restore to a normal life through therapy or education
(rē' hə-bīl' ə-tāt) My grandfather learned to walk, write, and speak again in a program that **rehabilitates** stroke victims.
- turmoil** -complete confusion; uproar
(tūr' mōil) Without a teacher, the sixth-grade class was in **turmoil**, until the principal entered the room and the students quickly came to order.
- venture** -to take the risk of; dare
(vēn' chər) At tomorrow's staff meeting, I will **venture** to say what I really think and cross my fingers that I don't get fired.

Chapter Eight

- attest** -to make a statement about something on the basis of personal experience; bear witness; testify
(ə-tēst') Anyone who has seen the Golden Gate Bridge in the rose-gold light of sunset can **attest** to its beauty.
- attribute** -a quality or feature of a person or thing
(ă'trə-byōōt') In Japan, some cars have such computerized **attributes** as windshield wipers that automatically turn on when it rains.
- discern** -to recognize; detect
(dī-sūr'n') An experienced jeweler can easily **discern** whether a diamond is genuine or fake.
- dispatch** -to send to a specific place or on specific business
(dī-späch') I wanted to **dispatch** the letter as quickly as possible, so I took it to the post office instead of dropping it into a mailbox.

enhance (ĕn-hāns')	-to improve Our gym teacher enhanced her appearance with a more attractive hairstyle.
enigma (ĭ-nĭg' mə)	-a mystery or puzzle How the thief entered our house was an enigma until we remembered that the cellar door had been left unlocked.
exemplify (ĭg-zĕm' plə-fĭ')	-to be an example of; represent; be typical of The many IRS employees who give citizens inaccurate information exemplify government incompetence.
mobile (mō' bəl)	-moving or able to move from place to place Every morning when I was in the hospital, a volunteer wheeled a mobile library into my room.
nocturnal (nŏk-tŭr' nəl)	-of, about, or happening in the night; active at night Being nocturnal , owls are rarely seen during the day.
orient (ôr' ē -ĕnt)	-to determine one's location or direction; to locate in relation to a direction (east, west, etc.) When coming up from the subway, I often need to look at a street sign to orient myself.

Chapter Nine

concurrent (kən-kŭr' ənt)	-happening or existing at the same time; simultaneous Having mistakenly registered for two concurrent classes, Joe had to drop one of them and choose a course that met at a different time.
confiscate (kŏn' fĭs-kāt')	-to seize with authority; legally take possession of "Hand 'em over," my father said. Just as we were really starting to have fun, he confiscated our entire supply of water balloons.
constitute (kŏn' stĭ-tōt)	-to make up; be the parts of Twelve business and professional people constitute the board of directors of the local women's shelter.
decipher (dĭ-sĭ' fēr)	-to interpret or read (something confusing or hard to make out) On one of Holly's essays, her English teacher wrote, "Please type your papers. I can't decipher your handwriting."
default (dĭ-fôlt')	-to fail to do something required We won our case against the appliance repairman because he defaulted by failing to appear in court.
hypothetical (hĭ' pŏ-thĕt' ĭ-kəl)	-supposed for the sake of argument or examination; imaginary; theoretical Imagine the hypothetical situation of going to live alone on an island. Which books and CDs would you take along?
nominal (nŏm' ə-nəl)	-slight; very small compared with what might be expected Except for the nominal registration fee, the camp for needy children is entirely free.
predominant (prĭ-dŏm' ə-nənt)	-most common or most noticeable Rock is the predominant music in our dorm, but country music is also popular.
prerequisite (prĕ-rĕk' wĭ-zĭt)	-something required beforehand You can't take Spanish Literature I unless you've taken the prerequisite .

recession -a temporary decline in business
(rĭ-sēsh' ən) While seashore businesses in the North suffer a **recession** in the winter, they do very well from spring and fall.

Chapter Ten

degenerate -to worsen; deteriorate
(dĭ-jĕn' ər-āt') Mike's relationship with his parents **degenerated** when he dropped out of school against their wishes and became a bartender.

implausible -difficult to believe; unlikely
(ĭm-plō' zə-bəl) As **implausible** as it may sound, Southern Florida sometimes does get snow.

incoherent -unable to speak in an orderly, logical way
(ĭn' kō-hĭr' ənt) My sister talks in her sleep, but she's so **incoherent** that we can never figure out what she is saying.

intercede -to make a request or plead on behalf of someone else
(ĭn' tər-sĕd') When the principal said Harry couldn't play in Friday's football game, the coach **interceded**, hoping to change the principal's mind.

intricate -having many parts arranged in a complicated way; complex
(ĭn' trĭ-kĭt) *War and Peace* is a long, **intricate** novel that weaves together the detailed life stories of many individuals.

sanctuary -a place of safety, protection, or relief
(sǎngk' chōō-ĕr' ē) When the household of children becomes too noisy, Ned finds the laundry room to be a **sanctuary**, a place where he can read in quiet.

scrutiny -close inspection; careful examination
(skrōōt' ən-ē) Store security guards give careful **scrutiny** to people carrying large bags, since the bags may be used for shoplifting.

sinister -evil; wicked
(sĭn' ĭs-tər) In the movie, a mad scientist thought up the **sinister** scheme of releasing a deadly virus.

suffice -to be good enough
(sə-fĭs') The amount of research you've done may **suffice** for a high-school term paper, but not for a college one.

vulnerable -open to damage or attack; susceptible
(vŭl' nə-r-ə-bəl) Homes in heavily wooded areas are especially **vulnerable** to termites.

Chapter Eleven

blatant -very obvious, often offensively so
(blā' tənt) The company's disregard of the environment is **blatant**. It makes no efforts to stop polluting coastal waters with garbage.

blight -something that weakens, damages, or destroys
(blĭt) Nothing has hurt our country more than the **blight** of drugs.

contrive -to plan cleverly; think up
(kən' trĭv) My eight-year-old son could write a book titled *101 Ways I Have **Contrived** to Stay Up Past My Bedtime*.

- garble** (gär' bəl) -to mix or confuse (as a story or message); scramble
The company had **garbled** the bike's assembly instructions so badly that we were constantly confused about which step to do next.
- gaunt** (gônt) -thin and bony
Abraham Lincoln's beard made his **gaunt** face look fuller.
- gloat** (glōt) -to feel or express delight or self-satisfaction, often spitefully
The coach told his team, "There's only one thing worse than a sore loser, and that's a mean winner. Don't **gloat**."
- immaculate** (ĩ-măk' yə-līt) -perfectly clean
It's amazing that while Carolyn appears **immaculate**, her apartment often seems very dirty.
- plagiarism** (plā' jē-rīz' əm) -using someone else's writing or ideas as one's own
When the author saw a movie with the same plot as one of her novels, she sued for **plagiarism**.
- qualm** (kwŏm) -an uneasy feeling about how right or proper a particular action is
Larry is so honest that he has **qualms** about telling "little white lies." For instance, it bothers him to say he likes a friend's new haircut when he really doesn't.
- retaliate** (rĩ-tăl' ē-āt') -to return an injury for an injury; pay back
When I broke my sister's stereo, she **retaliated** by cutting the cord of my CD player's headphones.

Chapter 12

Prefix / Suffix / Base Word

Meaning

Words

anti-	-against, acting against	antifreeze	antiwar
bi-	-two	bicycle	bigamist
en-, em-	-in, into	embrace	enter
graph, gram	-something written or drawn	autograph	diagram
inter	-between	interpreter	interstate
-less	-without	homeless	loveless
phon	-sound, speech	telephone	saxophone
post-	-after	postscript	postponed
spect	-look, watch	inspecting	spectators
sub-	-under, below	subway	submarine