

General Level 2

accused

(say uh-**kyoohzd**)

noun someone charged with a crime:

The judge let the accused go free.

approval

(say uh-**prooh**-vuhl)

noun agreement or permission:

I'll have to get approval to leave early to catch the train.

bloated

(say **bloh**-tuhd)

adjective swollen:

I always felt bloated after Christmas lunch because I eat too much.

boomerang

(say **booh**-muh-rang)

noun a curved, flat piece of wood that returns to you if you throw it in the right way.

Boomerangs were first used by Aboriginal people as hunting weapons:

We bought a boomerang when we visited Central Australia.

capsize

(say **kap**-suyz)

verb to turn over:

Look out! The boat is going to capsize.

chatter

(say **chat**-uh)

verb If people **chatter**, they talk quickly and continuously about unimportant things:

My friend and I like to chatter when we go home on the bus.

commune

(say **kom**-yoohn)

noun a group of people who live together, sharing their property and work, and following their own rules and standards:

The people from the commune sold their organic vegetables at the markets.

curfew

(say **ker**-fyoooh)

noun an order which says people are not allowed to be out on the streets after a certain time at night:

After the riots, there was a ten o'clock curfew.

cyclist

(say **suy**-kluhst)

noun someone who rides a bicycle:

The cyclist rode his bike everywhere to stay healthy and reduce pollution.

defy

(say duh-**fuy**)

verb If you **defy** a law or a person, you refuse to obey them:

It is not a good idea to defy the police.

devoid

(say duh-**voyd**)

adjective If something is **devoid** of something, it is without it:

Before long, the new neighbour's yard was completely devoid of trees.

dumbfound

(say **dum**-fownd)

verb to be so surprised that they are unable to speak:

Her new hairstyle will completely dumbfound her mother.

elevator

(say **el**-uh-vay-tuh)

noun An **elevator** is something shaped like a large box for carrying people up and down inside tall buildings:

Let's catch the elevator -- it's quicker than walking up the stairs.

embellish

(say em-**bel**-ish)

verb To **embellish** something is to make it beautiful by decorating it:

They used precious jewels to embellish the crown.

encounter

(say en-**kown**-tuh)

verb If you **encounter** someone, you meet them:

I had not expected to encounter an old friend such a long way from home.

fluent

(say **floo**-uhnt)

adjective flowing smoothly and easily:

She speaks fluent Portuguese after living in Rio de Janeiro for a year.

frantic

(say **fran**-tik)

adjective wild with fear, worry, pain or excitement:

We were frantic when we couldn't find our dog for two days.

galley

(say **gal**-ee)

noun a kitchen on a ship or plane:

The ship's cook prepared meals for the whole crew in a tiny galley.

giraffe

(say juh-**rahf**)

noun an African animal with spots, a very long neck and long legs:

A giraffe has the largest heart of any land living animal.

hazard

(say **haz**-uhd)

noun a risk or danger:

The hole in the footpath is a hazard for pedestrians.

janitor

(say **jan**-uh-tuh)

noun a caretaker:

I had to get the school janitor to unlock the classroom for me.

jovial

(say **joh**-vee-uhl)

adjective cheerful and friendly:

My uncle is always so jovial that everyone loves visiting him.

kiosk

(say **kee**-osk)

noun a small shop or stall which sells food and drink:

After our swim at Freshwater we walked up the beach to buy some drinks at the kiosk.

legend

(say **lej**-uhnd)

noun a story that comes from long ago in the past and which is thought by many people to be at least partly true:

Many people know of the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

lizard

(say **liz**-uhd)

noun a reptile with a long body, four legs and a tail:

The lizard was lying in the sun to warm itself up for the day.

mania

(say **may**-nee-uh)

noun great enthusiasm or excitement:

The whole family shared a mania for football.

nuzzle

(say **nuz**-uhl)

verb To **nuzzle** someone or something is to touch or rub them with the nose:

My dog always greets me with a bark and a nuzzle with his wet nose.

parcel

(say **pah**-suhl)

noun a package or wrapped bundle of goods:

He was carrying a large brown parcel which he had picked up from the post office.

peanut

(say **pee**-nut)

noun a small nut which ripens in a pod underground and which you can eat:

We fed the dog a peanut but she didn't like it.

peevish

(say **peev**-ish)

adjective cross or easily annoyed:

Because I was tired, I was feeling peevish.

proudly

(say **prowd**-lee)

adverb If you do something **proudly**, you show that you feel pleased or satisfied about something:

She walked proudly out onto the stage to accept her award.

reindeer

(say **rayn**-dear)

noun a kind of deer with large antlers:

The reindeer lives in the cold northern areas of the world.

rissole

(say **riss**-ohl)

noun a fried ball or small cake of chopped up food:

I had a cold tuna rissole for lunch.

salami

(say suh-**lah**-mee)

noun a kind of sausage with a strong salty taste:

It will be a simple picnic of bread and salami.

salmon

(say **sam**-uhn)

noun a large fish with pink flesh:

The salmon returns from the ocean to breed in rivers.

singe

(say **sinj**)

verb If you **singe** something, you burn it slightly:

You'll singe your hair if you get too close to that candle.

skipper

(say **skip-uh**)

noun the captain of a team or of a ship:

The skipper of the cricket team gave the squad an encouraging talk at lunchtime.

squirm

(say **skwerm**)

verb If you **squirm**, you wriggle, often because you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed about something:

We started to squirm with embarrassment when we realised how silly we had been.

tackle

(say **tak-uhl**)

verb In sports such as football and hockey, if you **tackle** your opponent, you try to get the ball from them:

At soccer training we are being taught how to tackle.

tarnish

(say **tar-nish**)

verb (of metal) to lose shine and become stained:

Eventually all silver will tarnish and will need polishing.

teeter

(say **tee-tuh**)

verb to almost lose balance:

We held our breath as we watched the acrobat teeter on the high wire.

thatch

(say **thach**)

noun material such as dried straw, grass or leaves used to cover a roof:

In the past, thatch was often used as a roofing material.

thimble

(say **thim-buhl**)

noun a protective cover for the top of the finger, usually metal, and worn to stop the needle pricking your finger when you are sewing:

I use a thimble when I sew so I don't prick my finger.

triplet

(say **trip-luht**)

noun one of three children born at the same time to the same mother:

The last triplet was the smallest -- a little boy.

trivia

(say **triv-ee-uh**)

plural noun facts that are not important or essential:

His head is filled with cricket trivia.

tumble

(say **tum-buhl**)

verb to fall or roll over:

She saw him tumble off the wall and into the soft grass.

turnstile

(say **tern-stuyl**)

noun a turning gate that allows one person to pass at a time:

Only one person could go through the turnstile at a time.

tweezers

(say **tweez**-uhz)

plural noun small pincers for pulling out hairs or picking up small objects:

She used tweezers to pull the splinter out of her finger.

urgent

(say **er**-juhnt)

adjective Something **urgent** needs immediate action or attention:

I'm sorry to interrupt, but I have an urgent message for you.

withdrawn

(say with-**drawn**)

adjective rather shy:

The new student was understandably a little withdrawn.

General Level 3

ability

(say uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

noun the power to do something:

Nadia has the ability to swim across the pool.

abject

(say **ab**-jekt)

adjective wretched or miserable:

It was heartbreaking to see people living in abject poverty.

absentee

(say **ab**-suhn-tee)

noun a person who is away or not present:

He is a consistent absentee from the meetings.

academic

(say ak-uh-**dem**-ik)

adjective belonging to a college or university:

Julia tried to fit her tennis training around her academic program.

activate

(say **ak**-tuh-vayt)

verb to make something active or set it in motion:

Turn the key to activate the engine.

adamant

(say **ad**-uh-muhnt)

adjective staying firm in what you decide:

Mum was adamant that the bathroom wall should remain bright yellow.

affluent

(say **af**-looh-uhnt)

adjective wealthy or rich:

Australia is a relatively affluent country with few people living in extreme poverty.

allure

(say uh-**looh**-uh)

noun temptation or attraction:

We couldn't resist the allure of a morning at the beach.

ally

(say **al**-uy)

noun (plural **allies**)

An **ally** is a person or country who is your friend or supporter:

My sister was my ally in the argument about which film we should see.

almond

(say **ah**-muhnd)

noun an oval-shaped, cream-coloured nut with a sweet taste:

There is a café in Bulli that sells a delicious almond slice.

animated

(say **an**-uh-may-tuhd)

adjective lively or full of life:

She was known for her animated way of speaking.

annual

(say **an**-yooh-uhl)

adjective happening once a year:

It was the annual surfing competition and I was determined to do better this year than last year.

aplomb

(say uh-**plom**)

noun the ability to handle difficult or unusual situations:

Our school captain introduced the guest speaker with aplomb.

aromatic

(say a-ruh-**mat**-ik)

adjective having a pleasant smell:

The heated aromatic oil made the whole house smell pleasant.

attendance

(say uh-**ten**-duhns)

noun Your **attendance** is the number of times that you are present at a place:

She was told that her attendance at school had not been very good.

aura

(say **aw**-ruh)

noun a special character or feel:

She has an aura of calm about her.

austere

(say ost-**ear** or awst-**ear**)

adjective very plain and simple:

The monks lead an austere life with no luxuries at all.

banal

(say buh-**nahl**)

adjective ordinary and unoriginal:

The new show was so banal that I couldn't be bothered watching it.

bangalow

(say **bang**-guh-loh)

noun a palm tree of New South Wales and Queensland, sometimes growing in clumps near the coast:

He climbed a bangalow to get a better view of the beach.

battleaxe

(say **bat**-uhl-aks)

noun an axe used as weapon of war:

The battleaxe was used in warfare during the Viking Age.

beautify

(say **byooh**-tuh-fuy)

verb to decorate something or make it more beautiful:

We decided to help beautify the city by planting trees.

bedraggled

(say buh-**drag**-uhld)

adjective wet, dirty and hanging limply:

His clothes were muddy and bedraggled.

beige

(say bayzh)

adjective very light brown:

His beige trousers and mustard shirt were last fashionable in the 1970's.

belfry

(say **bel**-free)

noun a tower with a bell hanging in it:

He climbed to the top of the belfry to ring the bell.

beret

(say **be**-ray)

noun a soft, round cap:

The Frenchman at the cheese shop in Tilba always wears a beret.

blaspheme

(say **bl**ass-**feem**)

verb If someone **blasphemes**, they speak without respect about God or sacred things:

They chose their words carefully so that they did not blaspheme.

braise

(say **brayz**)

verb to fry meat or vegetables quickly in a pan, then stew it gently in a covered pot:

We did not have time to braise the lamb, so we had sausages instead.

brigalow

(say **brig**-uh-loh)

noun a type of acacia tree that grows in Queensland and northern New South Wales, and which has strong, heavy wood used by Aboriginal people for carving:

I received a carving that was made from brigalow wood.

bunion

(say **bun**-yuhn)

noun a swelling of a joint on the foot, especially on the big toe:

The bunion on my foot makes walking very painful.

bypass

(say **buy**-pahs)

noun a road built to take traffic around the edge rather than through a town or a busy traffic area:

We had to use the bypass because there was an accident on the freeway.

cache

(say kaysh)

noun a section of a computer's memory which can be accessed very quickly:

Sometimes you need to clear out the cache to make your computer work more quickly.

callous

(say **kal**-uhs)

adjective showing no concern for another person's feelings:

Ignoring his cry for help was both callous and cruel.

causality

(say kaw-**zal**-uh-tee)

noun the relation of cause and effect:

He dismissed all the theories about the causality of his illness.

cavernous

(say **kav**-uh-nuhs)

adjective like a huge deep cave:

Our voices echoed in the empty, cavernous hall.

chocolate

(say **chok**-luht or **chok**-uh-luht)

noun a sweet food made from the seeds of a small, tropical American tree:

I love the taste of chocolate but I get sick if I eat too much.

chowder

(say **chow**-duh)

noun a kind of soup or stew often containing fish:

Seafood chowder and crusty bread is a delicious meal in winter.

clairvoyant

(say klair-**voy**-uhnt)

noun someone who claims to be able to see into the future:

My aunt visited a clairvoyant hoping to discover what her future held.

cockatoo

(say kok-uh-**tooh**)

noun a crested parrot:

He taught his pet cockatoo to whistle the national anthem.

coleslaw

(say **kohl**-slaw)

noun a salad made with sliced raw cabbage:

We always have coleslaw when we have a barbecue.

collector

(say kuh-**lek**-tuh)

noun a person employed to collect debts, tickets, taxes, etc.:

Being a tax collector, he had many enemies.

commodore

(say **kohm**-uh-daw)

noun a senior captain in the navy:

The commodore was disgusted with the sailor's behaviour on the ship.

complexity

(say kuhm-**pleks**-uh-tee)

noun the state or quality of being complex or intricate:

It took her some time to understand the complexity of running her own business.

concoct

(say kuhn-**kokt**)

verb to make up or invent a story, account or excuse:

The teacher grouped us in pairs and asked us to concoct a story that contained an elephant, coffee beans and a photocopier.

conniving

(say kuh-**nuy**-ving)

adjective scheming; crafty:

Her conniving scheming resulted in us being put in a group together to do the assignment.

contractor

(say **kon**-trak-tuh)

noun someone who contracts to supply or do something at a certain price or rate:

The company hired a trucking contractor to distribute their goods.

coronial

(say kuh-**roh**-nee-uhl)

adjective of or relating to a coroner:

There will be a coronial inquiry into the fatal train crash.

courtesy

(say **ker**-tuh-see)

noun politeness and good manners:

Her courtesy and understanding were appreciated by everyone.

crockery

(say **krok**-uh-ree)

noun cups, plates, dishes and similar articles made of china or pottery:

The waiter was fired after breaking most of the crockery.

cubbyhouse

(say **kub**-ee-hows)

noun a small house for children to play in:

Only three of us could fit into the cubbyhouse at the same time.

culinary

(say **kul**-uhn-ree)

adjective relating to cooking:

His culinary skills had improved after attending cooking classes.

custodian

(say kuss-**toh**-dee-uhn)

noun a keeper or guardian:

We were welcomed by a traditional custodian of the land.

debilitate

(say duh-**bil**-uh-tayt)

verb to make weak:

We feared that her illness would debilitate her even more.

deceive

(say duh-**seev**)

verb To **deceive** someone is to trick them or hide the truth from them:

He could not deceive them -- they knew immediately that he wasn't telling the truth.

decoy

(say **dee**-koy)

noun something or someone that tricks you, especially into danger or into a trap:

The police used a sports car as a decoy to catch the car thieves.

deign

(say dayn)

verb If you **deign** to do something, you lower yourself to do something you think is below you:

The queen would not deign to answer her servant.

delicacy

(say **del**-uh-kuh-see)

noun a tasty or expensive food:

Caviar is considered a delicacy by many.

deluge

(say **del**-yoohj or **del**-yoozh)

noun a very heavy fall of rain:

We got soaked in the sudden deluge.

destitute

(say **des**-tuh-tyoht)

adjective without money or the means of getting any:

The theft of his wallet and belongings left the traveller destitute.

deviation

(say dee-vee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the act of swerving or turning aside:

A rail deviation needs to be constructed to decrease delays.

diffident

(say **dif**-uh-duhnt)

adjective not confident or sure of yourself:

At first she felt diffident about singing in public.

discerning

(say duh-**sern**-ing)

adjective having good judgement:

The art historian passed her discerning eye over the painting.

discipline

(say **diss**-uh-pluhn)

noun training given to teach good behaviour:

I took my dog to a training school to improve her discipline.

divisive

(say duh-**viz**-iv or duh-**vuysiv**)

adjective causing people to disagree or to oppose one another:

It was a particularly divisive policy that angered many.

doubloon

(say dub-**loohn**)

noun an old Spanish gold coin:

The diver found a doubloon near the wreck of a Spanish ship.

duplicity

(say dyooh-**pliss**-uh-tee)

noun the hiding of the truth for your own benefit:

Rupert's duplicity was so well known that no-one trusted him.

eligible

(say **el**-uh-juh-buhl)

adjective If someone is **eligible** they are accepted as suitable:

Because his birthday fell in April, he was eligible for the older team.

emanate

(say **em**-uh-nayt)

verb to spread out from:

A terrible smell began to emanate from the plastics factory as the fire took hold.

encourage

(say en-**ku**-rij)

verb If you **encourage** someone, you give them help and support, often to make them feel that they can do something:

We tried to encourage him to enter the art competition.

equivalent

(say uh-**kwiv**-uh-luhnt)

adjective equal or matching:

An inch is equivalent to about 2.5 centimetres in the metric system.

essential

(say uh-**sen**-shuhl)

adjective completely necessary:

If you want to pass your exam, it is essential that you study.

expedite

(say **eks**-puh-duyt)

verb If you **expedite** something you are doing, you hurry it up or do it quickly:

Parliament tried to expedite the passing of several laws before the Christmas break.

explicit

(say uhks-**plis**-uht)

adjective clearly and fully set out:

Make the instructions explicit so we can understand them.

fallible

(say **fal**-uh-buhl)

adjective able to make a mistake:

Even the cleverest people are fallible.

fatuous

(say **fach**-ooh-uhs)

adjective If something that someone says is **fatuous**, it is foolish because they have not thought properly about it:

We were told to think before we speak so that we wouldn't make fatuous comments.

fiscal

(say **fis**-kuhl)

adjective relating to the public treasury or finances:

The treasurer is largely responsible for fiscal matters affecting the country.

fishmonger

(say **fish**-mung-guh)

noun a shopkeeper who sells fish.:

The fishmonger in Tathra recommended the barramundi which had been caught that morning.

flotilla

(say fluh-**til**-uh)

noun a group of small naval ships, or a small group of any boats:

The battleship flotilla was a very impressive sight.

forfeit

(say **faw**-fuht)

verb If you **forfeit** something, you have to give it up, usually because you have broken a rule or made a mistake:

Because we arrived late, we had to forfeit the game.

galleon

(say **gal**-ee-uhn)

noun a kind of large Spanish sailing ship:

The galleon sank in the violent storm.

gossamer

(say **gos**-uh-muh)

noun very fine cobweb-like material:

We draped white gossamer over the Christmas tree.

gourmet

(say **gaw**-may)

noun someone who knows a lot about good food and drink:

George thinks of himself as a gourmet and likes to talk at length about food.

granary

(say **gran**-uh-ree)

noun a building in which grain is stored:

All of the town's barley grain is stored in the granary.

grotesque

(say groh-**tesk**)

adjective very unnatural or ugly in shape, form or appearance:

We wore grotesque monster masks to the fancy-dress party.

hammock

(say **ham**-uhk)

noun a hanging bed made of canvas or net-like material:

Dad hung up a hammock between two trees so that we could lie in the sun and read books.

heifer

(say **hef**-uh)

noun a young cow that has not had a calf:

There was only one heifer in the herd of cows.

horoscope

(say **ho**-ruh-skohp)

noun a diagram showing the position of the planets in the sky at a particular time and thought by some people to be a help in telling the future:

The clairvoyant studied her client's horoscope to reveal the future.

hydrant

(say **huy**-druhnt)

noun a point where a hose can be connected to a water main:

Every fire hydrant in our area has been marked.

immaterial

(say im-uh-**teer**-ree-uhl)

adjective unimportant or not related:

It's immaterial to me whether you come or not.

impromptu

(say im-**promp**-tyooh)

adjective made or done on the spot, without any previous preparation:

At my friend's birthday party, they asked me to give an impromptu performance on the piano, so I played my favourite Chopin etude.

imprudent

(say im-**prooh**-duhnt)

adjective not wise; rash:

It was imprudent of him to start his bushwalk without telling anyone where he was going.

infamous

(say **in**-fuh-muhs)

adjective having a very bad name or reputation:

She was not looking forward to sampling the infamous canteen food.

inquisitor

(say in-**kwis**-uh-tuh)

noun someone who inquires or investigates:

The inquisitor bombarded him with questions of his whereabouts on the night the theft took place.

insipid

(say in-**sip**-uhd)

adjective not having much taste:

Mum said that her coffee was rather insipid and asked for it to be stronger next time.

interpreter

(say in-**ter**-pruh-tuh)

noun someone who explains or interprets, such as someone whose work is translating from one language to another:

A good interpreter manages to convey small differences in meaning.

javelin

(say **jav**-uh-luhn or **jav**-luhn)

noun a spear which is thrown in sporting contests:

He could throw the javelin further than anyone else.

jealous

(say **jel**-uhs)

adjective You are **jealous** of someone if you want something they have:

Alice is jealous of her brother because he was given a new bike for his birthday.

juvenile

(say **joo**h-vuh-nuyl)

adjective acting as if you are younger than you are:

The teacher said our silly behaviour at the pool was juvenile.

leisurely

(say **lezh**-uh-lee)

adjective unhurried:

There was plenty of time, so we walked at a leisurely pace.

leopard

(say **lep**-uhd)

noun a large, fierce, spotted animal of the cat family:

I would not like to meet a leopard in the dark.

lichen

(say **luy**-kuhn)

noun a moss-like plant that grows in patches, usually on rocks or tree trunks:

The lichen growing on the rocks made a pretty pattern.

luggage

(say **lug**-ij)

noun the bags and other containers you use when travelling:

She was really annoyed that the airline had lost her luggage.

magnificent

(say mag-**nif**-uh-suhnt)

adjective beautiful in a way that gives a feeling of importance:

We saw some magnificent architecture during our tour of Europe.

manifesto

(say man-uh-**fes**-toh)

noun a public statement by a government or group, setting out its ideas or goals:

The government issued its manifesto.

maritime

(say **ma**-ruh-tuym)

adjective having to do with ships and sailing:

Have you visited the maritime museum?

marmalade

(say **mah**-muh-layd)

noun a jam made of citrus fruits, such as oranges and grapefruit:

There were lots of jars of marmalade for sale at the fete.

marzipan

(say **mah**-zuh-pan)

noun a sweet made of crushed almonds and sugar:

The wedding cake was covered with a layer of marzipan.

merchandise

(say **mer**-chuhn-dice)

noun goods for sale:

Department stores carry a large variety of merchandise.

minimum

(say **min**-uh-muhm)

noun the smallest number or amount possible:

You need a minimum of ten test tubes to complete this experiment.

mohair

(say **moh**-hair)

adjective of fabric made from the coat of an Angora goat:

I wear my mohair jumper when I'm really cold.

monetary

(say **mun**-uh-tree)

adjective relating to money:

Your health is more important than monetary wealth.

monotony

(say muh-**not**-uh-nee)

noun lack of change or variety, which produces boredom:

The road was straight for hundreds of kilometres with nothing to relieve the monotony.

multitude

(say **mul**-tuh-tyoohd)

noun a large number of things or people:

We received a multitude of complaints.

nectarine

(say **nek**-tuh-ruhn or nek-tuh-reen)

noun a kind of peach with a smooth skin:

Juice ran out of my nectarine when I bit into it.

nostalgia

(say noss-**tal**-juh)

noun a longing for the past and all the things that belonged to it:

That old song always generates great nostalgia.

oblivious

(say uh-**bliv**-ee-uhs)

adjective not noticing:

It was impossible to remain oblivious to the poverty in the city.

occupant

(say **ok**-yuh-puhnt)

noun someone who lives in or occupies a house or a room:

She was the only occupant in the house when the blackout occurred.

opportune

(say **op**-uh-choohn)

adjective favourable or appropriate:

She waited for an opportune moment to interrupt the discussion.

ottoman

(say **ot**-uh-muhn)

noun a low padded seat without a back or arms:

He chose to sit on the ottoman instead of the armchair.

pagoda

(say puh-**goh**-duh)

noun a sacred building or temple shaped like a tower and usually found in Asian countries:

During our trip to Japan, we visited a famous pagoda in the hills near Kyoto.

paragon

(say **pa**-ruh-guhn)

noun someone or something excellent enough to copy:

'She is the paragon of all virtues!' he said enthusiastically.

parishioner

(say puh-**rish**-uh-nuh)

noun someone who is a member of a parish:

My aunt is a parishioner of St Matthews church.

partridge

(say **pah**-trij)

noun a European bird that is hunted and eaten:

The painting was of an English scene with a partridge perched on the branch of a tree.

periphery

(say puh-**rif**-uh-ree)

noun the outside edge of an area or thing:

Police officers stood around the periphery of the crowd.

personality

(say per-suh-**nal**-uh-tee)

noun strong and interesting qualities of character:

He always enjoyed Meredith's company because she had such a vibrant personality.

pesticide

(say **pest**-uh-suyd)

noun a chemical for killing animals that are dangerous or harmful:

They had to use a pesticide to get rid of the termites.

phenomenon

(say fuh-**nom**-uh-nuhn)

noun something or someone that is outside the ordinary:

The phenomenon of the weeping statue was shown on the evening news.

plaque

(say plahk)

noun a metal plate, such as one fastened to a wall, with a name, profession or memorial date on it:

A plaque on the gatepost commemorated the soldiers who had died in the war.

platoon

(say pluh-**toohn**)

noun a group or unit of soldiers:

Each platoon was made up of sixteen soldiers.

plummet

(say **plum**-uht)

verb To **plummet** is to fall straight and fast, as something heavy does:

She dropped her camera from the tower and watched it plummet towards the ground.

porpoise

(say **paw**-puhs)

noun a sea animal with a rounded nose, usually blackish on top and paler beneath:

A porpoise leapt out of the water right beside our boat.

precipitate

(say pruh-**sip**-uh-tayt)

verb To **precipitate** something is to bring it about quickly:

The new advertising campaign should precipitate a surge of interest in the product.

prestige

(say pres-**teezh**)

noun high reputation or standing:

He thought the expensive car would add to his prestige.

prolific

(say pruh-**lif**-ik)

adjective producing plentifully:

He is a prolific author, publishing a novel every year.

prominent

(say **prom**-uh-nuhnt)

adjective If something is **prominent**, it is very noticeable:

The posters were placed in prominent positions around the city.

prophet

(say **prof**-uht)

noun someone who speaks on behalf of a god:

The prophet travelled far spreading the teachings of his god.

prospector

(say **pros**-pek-tuh)

noun a person who prospects for gold or other minerals:

This business was started by a prospector who came to Australia during the goldrush.

proviso

(say pruh-**vuyz**-oh)

noun a condition or stipulation:

His parents told him he could have a dog on the proviso that he looked after it.

psalm

(say sahm)

noun a sacred song, hymn or poem:

After the sermon, the congregation stood to sing the psalm.

pumice

(say **pum**-uhs)

noun a light, spongy form of volcanic stone used for rubbing or smoothing things:

Pumice can be used for smoothing dry skin.

puncture

(say **punk**-chuh)

noun A **puncture** is a small hole made in something:

The tyre on my bike is flat because it has a puncture.

putrefy

(say **pyooh**-truh-fuy)

verb to rot or decay:

The garbage bin hadn't been emptied for weeks and its contents were starting to putrefy.

pyjamas

(say puh-**jah**-muhz)

plural noun loose trousers and jacket worn in bed:

One morning I shot an elephant in my pyjamas. How he got in my pyjamas I don't know!

quadrant

(say **kwod**-ruhnt)

noun a quarter of a circle:

We had to fill in each quadrant of the circle with a different colour.

quiche

(say keesh)

noun a tart filled with a mixture of cooked eggs, cream and cheese, often eaten cold:

Would you like a spinach quiche or a pie?

raconteur

(say rak-on-ter)

noun someone who is very good at telling interesting and amusing stories, especially true ones:

He was a great raconteur who entertained everyone at dinner with his stories.

reconcile

(say rek-uhn-suyl)

verb If two people **reconcile**, they come to an agreement after arguing:

The brothers finally managed to reconcile their differences.

repatriation

(say ree-pat-ree-ay-shuhn)

noun assistance given to people who have served in the armed forces on their return to civilian life, in the form of pensions, medical care, allowances for dependants, etc:

Emily's grandfather received repatriation to help him after he returned from serving in World War II.

repudiate

(say ruh-pyoooh-dee-ayt)

verb to refuse to accept because of strong disapproval, especially an accusation, belief, course of action, etc.:

She asked all members of her party to publicly repudiate racism.

resigned

(say ruh-zuynd)

adjective giving in to or yielding, submissive; acquiescent:

He is resigned to his fate.

resonance

(say rez-uh-nuhns)

noun the amplification of the voice:

The high ceiling of the church gave their singing a lovely resonance.

reticent

(say re-tuh-suhnt)

adjective not inclined to speak freely:

She seemed very reticent to discuss the source of the money.

risotto

(say ruh-zot-oh)

noun an Italian dish made of rice mixed with meat, fish or vegetables:

Risotto with prawns is one of my favourite dishes.

rogue

(say rohɡ)

noun a dishonest person:

My father didn't trust the man and called him a rogue and a scoundrel.

salutation

(say sal-yuh-tay-shuhn)

noun something said, written, or done as a greeting:

He greeted everyone he met with a pleasant salutation and a smile.

sauna

(say saw-nuh)

noun a room with a kind of steam bath in which you become clean by perspiring a lot:

The yacht comes equipped with a swimming pool and sauna.

schedule

(say **shej**-oohl or **skej**-oohl)

noun a plan which shows you how something is to be carried out and sets out when each stage is to be done:

The tour schedule showed that we would be in Belgium on Tuesday.

semaphore

(say **sem**-uh-faw)

noun a system for signalling messages using flags:

Before radio, semaphore was used to communicate between the ships in a fleet.

serviette

(say ser-vee-**et**)

noun a piece of cloth or paper, used during a meal to wipe your lips and hands and to protect your clothes:

Mum always tells me to use a serviette, but I usually spill food on my clothes anyway.

sibilant

(say **sib**-uh-luhnt)

adjective in phonetics, a hissing sound, as in the four sounds indicated by `s' or `ss':

The words `this', `rose', `pressure' and `pleasure' all contain sibilant sounds.

smithereens

(say smidh-uh-**reenz**)

plural noun tiny pieces:

My new glass ornament has broken into smithereens.

spatial

(say **spay**-shuhl)

adjective relating to the measurement of spaces, distances, areas and the sizes and positions of things:

A surveyor uses special instruments to get accurate spatial measurements of building sites.

spectre

(say **spek**-tuh)

noun a source of terror or dread:

With the German annexation of Austria in 1938, the spectre of war loomed large over Europe.

squalor

(say **skwol**-uh)

noun dirt and poverty:

In the slum, many families lived in crowded squalor.

stirrup

(say **sti**-ruh-p)

noun a loop or ring of metal hung from the saddle of a horse to support the rider's foot:

The horserider's foot caught in the stirrup and she was in a tight spot!

superfluous

(say sooh-**per**-floo-h-uhs)

adjective more than is needed:

We'll freeze any superfluous food.

swami

(say **swah**-mee)

noun a Hindu religious teacher:

The swami taught them about Ganesha, the Hindu elephant-headed god.

tableau

(say **tab**-loh)

noun a group of people arranged to form a picture or scene:

In the final scene of the play the actors formed a colourful tableau.

tarmac

(say **tah**-mak)

noun the area in front of airport buildings where planes are loaded, boarded, etc.

(short for tarmacadam):

The plane waited on the tarmac until the runway was clear for take-off.

tarragon

(say **ta**-ruh-guhn)

noun a strong-smelling herb used in cooking and salads:

Roast chicken is delicious when flavoured with tarragon.

terminology

(say ter-muh-**nol**-uh-jee)

noun the system of special words or phrases belonging to a science, art, or subject:

She didn't understand a lot of the terminology used in the lecture on aeronautics.

tolerance

(say **tol**-uh-ruhns)

noun the ability to accept opinions, practices, and so on that are different from your own:

He had a wide tolerance and a respect for the beliefs of all men.

tortoiseshell

(say **taw**-tuhs-shel)

noun a hard, yellow-brown covering of a turtle, used in the past to make combs, etc.:

On the dressing table were her silver-backed hairbrushes and a long tortoiseshell comb.

tranquil

(say **trang**-kwuhl)

adjective peaceful or quiet:

It was a tranquil scene beside the river until the tractor arrived.

treacle

(say **tree**-kuhl)

noun a dark, sticky liquid made from sugar:

He added treacle instead of sugar to the biscuit mixture to sweeten it.

trespass

(say **tres**-pahs)

verb If you **trespass**, you go onto someone's land when you should not:

He put up a sign warning people not to trespass on his land.

trivial

(say **triv**-ee-uhl)

adjective unimportant:

He couldn't stand to be bothered with trivial details.

truant

(say **trooh**-uhnt)

noun If someone plays **truant**, they stay away from school without permission:

She played truant and went to the beach instead.

turmoil

(say **ter**-moyl)

noun wild disorder:

The school was in turmoil when the electricity failed.

tuxedo

(say tuk-**see**-doh)

noun a man's black jacket, worn on formal occasions:

He was looking very smart in his new shoes and a hired tuxedo.

twilight

(say **twuy**-luyt)

noun the weak light in the sky just after sunset, before it becomes completely dark:

In the twilight he could just make out the boat as it came back into the harbour.

unbecoming

(say un-buh-**kum**-ing)

adjective not appropriate or suitable:

Her behaviour was unbecoming to someone in such a public role.

unfortunate

(say un-**faw**-chuh-nuht)

adjective not lucky:

You were very unfortunate to miss out on a ticket to the concert.

utensil

(say yoooh-**ten**-suhl)

noun an implement, especially one of those used for cooking or eating:

This grater is a very useful kitchen utensil.

vague

(say vayg)

adjective If something is **vague**, it is not clear or certain:

I had a vague feeling that something was missing, but I couldn't work out what it was.

variance

(say **vair**-ree-uhns)

noun the condition or fact of varying:

There were a number of points of variance between his original story and what he later told the police.

versatile

(say **ver**-suh-tuyl)

adjective To be **versatile** is to be able to do a variety of things:

She is a versatile dancer, excelling at both jazz and classical ballet.

vinegar

(say **vin**-uh-guh)

noun a sour liquid made from wine or cider and used to flavour food:

Mum made a special sauce with vinegar to go with the roast lamb.

violet

(say **vuy**-uh-luht)

noun A **violet** is a small plant with purple flowers and a beautiful smell:

The scent she wore had the sweet perfume of a violet.

viscount

(say **vuy**-kownt)

noun a British nobleman ranking below an earl and above a baron:

His uncle was a viscount and lived in a castle.

vogue

(say vohg)

noun fashion:

Things that were in vogue twenty years ago have come back in.

voyage

(say **voy**-ij)

noun A **voyage** is a journey by sea to somewhere quite far away:

At school we learned about the greatest sea voyage of all.

waive

(say wayv)

verb If you **waive** something, you decide not to insist on it:

The library agreed to waive the fine because I'd been sick.

wary

(say **wair**-ree)

adjective watchful or careful:

She became wary when the salesman told her to sign and not worry about the fine print.

watermelon

(say **waw**-tuh-mel-uhn)

noun a large melon with green skin and dark pink flesh:

It's refreshing to eat watermelon slices on a hot day.

weasel

(say **wee**-zuhl)

noun a small, fierce, European animal that eats mice, rabbits and other small animals:

The weasel is often thought of as a cunning, devious animal.

wetsuit

(say **wet**-sooht)

noun a tight rubber piece of clothing worn by divers and surfers to keep in body heat:

She decided to pack her wetsuit as well as her snorkel in case the water was too cold.

whorl

(say werl)

noun anything shaped like a coil:

The coconut slice had a whorl of icing on top.

wondrous

(say **wun**-druhs)

adjective wonderful or marvellous:

He saw many wondrous sights on his trip to the Orient.

wrestle

(say **ress**-uhl)

verb to fight with someone and try to throw them to the ground without using any weapons:

Our coach taught us how to wrestle without injuring each other.

General Level 4

abundance

(say uh-**bun**-duhns)

noun a plentiful amount or supply:

Because of all the recent rain, there is an abundance of water in the reservoir.

abysmal

(say uh-**biz**-muhl)

adjective so bad that it could not be worse:

Unfortunately, my attempt to cook a pavlova was an abysmal failure.

acceptance

(say uhk-**sep**-tuhns)

noun approval or favourable reception:

Acceptance by the rest of the group was important to her.

accommodation

(say uh-kom-uh-**day**-shuhn)

noun somewhere to stay, as at a hotel:

It was very hard to find accommodation during the holidays.

acme

(say **ak**-mee)

noun the culmination or highest point:

He considered his award-winning performance to be the acme of his career.

acquaint

(say uh-**kwaynt**)

verb to tell, inform or make familiar:

You should acquaint the police with anything you know about the crime.

adhere

(say uhd-**hear**)

verb to stick to something:

You must adhere strictly to the rules.

adjective

(say **aj**-uhk-tiv)

noun a word which describes a noun:

The word 'cold' is an adjective in the phrase 'a cold wind'.

admissible

(say uhd-**miss**-uh-buhl)

adjective allowed as evidence in a court of law:

That evidence is hearsay, so is not admissible in this court case.

admonish

(say uhd-**mon**-ish)

verb to caution or warn someone:

I had to admonish the people in front of me for talking during the film.

adoration

(say ad-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun strong and faithful love:

His adoration was clear from the way he looked at her.

adventurous

(say uhd-**ven**-chuh-ruhs)

adjective wanting to take part in adventures:

Jodie was very adventurous -- she was always exploring new places.

affable

(say **af**-uh-buhl)

adjective friendly and approachable:

The guest speaker was both affable and entertaining.

aggregate

(say **ag**-ruh-guht)

noun the total or sum of a number of single things:

The aggregate of all their scores meant that their team won the carnival.

aggrieved

(say uh-**greevd**)

adjective feeling hurt or wronged:

I was aggrieved that I had not received an invitation to the party.

aisle

(say uyl)

noun a clear path between seats in a hall, aircraft, and so on:

The bride walked slowly down the narrow aisle.

alabaster

(say **al**-uh-bas-tuh)

noun a fine white stone used for carving:

Alabaster is often carved into ornaments.

allege

(say uh-**lej**)

verb to say that something is true without being able to prove it:

Some people allege that you are responsible for the graffiti at the station.

alliteration

(say uh-**lit**-uh-ray-shuhn)

noun the repeated use of the same letter or sound to start two or more words in a group:

An example of alliteration is: 'Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran'.

amendment

(say uh-**mend**-muht)

noun the alteration of a bill by a parliament:

An amendment was introduced to the bill to satisfy the groups who were opposing it.

anaconda

(say an-uh-**kon**-duh)

noun a large South American snake of the boa family:

The anaconda often suffocates its prey before eating it.

anagram

(say **an**-uh-gram)

noun a word made by changing the order of the letters in another word:

An anagram is made by rearranging the letters of another word.

ancestry

(say **an**-sess-tree)

noun descent from your ancestors or forebears:

Nick traced his family ancestry back to the First Fleet.

anonymous

(say uh-**non**-uh-muhs)

adjective If a piece of writing is **anonymous**, the writer does not want to tell people who they are:

The poem in the school magazine was anonymous, but we could guess who wrote it.

anticipation

(say an-tiss-uh-**pay**-shuhn)

noun the act of anticipating:

The anticipation of waiting for my results made me very nervous.

apiary

(say **ay**-pee-uh-ree)

noun a place where bees and their hives are kept:

The beekeeper wore a protective suit when working on his apiary.

apologetic

(say uh-**pol**-uh-jet-ik)

adjective full of regret, or showing that you are sorry:

He was apologetic about the way he had behaved at the party.

approximate

(say uh-**prok**-suh-muht)

adjective fairly accurate but not completely exact:

The approximate time of arrival is 11 a.m.

aquarium

(say uh-**kwair**-ree-uhm)

noun a glass container in which fish and water plants are kept:

Eleni kept some very interesting Mexican walking fish in her aquarium.

artery

(say **ah**-tuh-ree)

noun An **artery** is one of the small tubes inside your body that carry blood from your heart:

Foods that may help to keep an artery healthy include salmon, almonds and avocados.

askew

(say uhs-**kyooh**)

adverb out of position:

His cap had slipped askew.

asparagus

(say uh-**spa**-ruh-guhs)

noun a plant with long green shoots, used as a vegetable:

Steamed asparagus is tasty with butter and pepper.

atheist

(say **ay**-thee-uhst)

noun someone who believes that there is no God:

The clergyman and the atheist debated the existence of God.

attorney

(say uh-**ter**-nee)

noun a person appointed by someone to do legal business for them:

Our attorney acted for us while we were overseas.

atypical

(say ay-**tip**-i-kuhl)

adjective not typical, or different from usual:

His failure in the exam was atypical because he usually did very well.

automobile

(say **aw**-tuh-muh-beel)

noun a car:

The invention of the automobile has had drastic effects on the environment.

aviator

(say **ay**-vee-ay-tuh)

noun a pilot:

He was an aviator in the Second World War.

azure

(say **ay**-zhuh or az-**yoo**-uh)

adjective of a pale blue or sky-blue colour:

The sky was a lovely azure colour.

ballast

(say **bal**-uhst)

noun heavy material carried by a ship to keep it steady, or by a balloon to control its height:

Ships use water as ballast to improve their manoeuvrability and stability.

barrage

(say **ba**-rahzh or **ba**-rahj)

noun a long and strenuous verbal attack:

In a healthy democracy, the premier may face a barrage of questions from the press.

basilica

(say buh-**sil**-ik-uh)

noun a large oblong building in Roman times:

In Roman times, the basilica was used as a meeting place.

beguile

(say buh-**guyl**)

verb If something or someone **beguiles** you, they charm or enchant you:

The kitten's bright eyes managed to completely beguile us, so we took her home.

bequest

(say buh-**kwest** or bee-**kwest**)

noun money or other personal property left by someone in a will:

The bequest to the research organisation was greatly appreciated.

binocular

(say buh-**nok**-yuh-luh)

adjective using two eyes:

Being able to use both eyes is considered binocular vision.

biochemistry

(say buy-oh-**kem**-uh-stree)

noun the chemistry of living things:

If you study biochemistry, you learn about chemical processes in the body such as the digestion of food.

bisector

(say buy-**sek**-tuh)

noun a line or plane which divides an angle or line into two:

He used a protractor to draw the bisector of the angle.

bitumen

(say **bich**-uh-muhn)

noun a sticky, black mixture, like tar or asphalt, used to make roads and other hard surfaces:

We played basketball on the bitumen at lunchtime.

bolero

(say buh-**lair**-roh or buh-**lear**-roh)

noun a short jacket ending above or at the waistline:

The Spanish dancer wore tight black pants and a bolero over his shirt.

bract

(say brakt)

noun a specialised leaf or leaflike part, usually found at the base of a flower:

The bract on this plant is brightly coloured to attract bees.

breaststroke

(say **bre**st-strohk)

noun a way of swimming in which your arms move in a circle in front of your chest and your legs kick in a frog-like manner:

Swimming breaststroke always exhausts me.

brevity

(say **brev**-uh-tee)

noun shortness or briefness:

The brevity of the lecture surprised and pleased us.

brigadier

(say brig-uh-**dear**)

noun an army officer of high rank:

My grandfather was a brigadier in the Vietnam War.

bronchial

(say **brong**-kee-uhl)

adjective relating to the passages that lead to your lungs:

Coughing and wheezing are symptoms of a bronchial infection.

brutality

(say brooh-**tal**-uh-tee)

noun the quality of being brutal:

The brutality of the attack was shocking.

burglary

(say **berg**-luh-ree)

noun the crime of breaking into a building to steal things:

We were worried because there had been a burglary in the building next door.

burnish

(say **ber**-nish)

verb to polish metal until it is bright and shiny:

We had to burnish the silverware every few months so that it didn't tarnish.

cadence

(say **kay**-duhns)

noun the sequence of notes or chords which indicates the end of a piece of music:

Part of my music exam involved having to say what sort of cadence was being played.

cajole

(say kuh-**johl**)

verb to persuade, using pleasantness and flattery:

Joey tried to cajole Mike into helping him with his homework.

calculus

(say **kal**-kyuh-luhs)

noun a method of calculation which uses a special system of algebra:

Calculus is a branch of maths which is used a lot in science and engineering.

camellia

(say kuh-**meel**-yuh)

noun one of several shrubs or trees native to Asia, with glossy evergreen leaves and white, pink, or red, waxy, roselike flowers:

The camellia flowers best when planted in a semi-shaded area.

caramel

(say **ka**-ruh-muhl)

noun a type of sweet, or a colouring or flavouring made from burnt sugar:

The dentist told him that eating too much caramel wasn't good for his teeth.

carbuncle

(say **kah**-bung-kuhl)

noun a painful, pus-filled swelling, like a large boil:

A carbuncle is often treated by draining it, and taking a course of antibiotics.

carpentry

(say **kah**-puhn-tree)

noun the art of working with wood:

Susie hoped to do an apprenticeship in carpentry.

cassava

(say kuh-**sah**-vuh)

noun a family of tropical plants whose roots are used for food:

Cassava is the source of tapioca.

catalogue

(say **kat**-uh-log)

noun a list, usually in alphabetical order, of names, books or items on sale or display and some information about them:

We browsed through the catalogue of the pieces in the art exhibition.

cathedral

(say kuh-**thee**-druhl)

noun a very big and important church:

We awoke to the sound of bells coming from the cathedral and the flutter of pigeons in the square.

caustic

(say **koss**-tik)

adjective capable of burning or eating away living cells in the body:

We handled the caustic cleaning substance with great care.

ceremonious

(say se-ruh-**mohn**-ee-uhs)

adjective marked by formal ceremony:

The launching of the ship was a very ceremonious occasion marked by the smashing of a bottle of champagne against its bows.

chalet

(say **shal**-ay)

noun a small house in the mountains, sometimes used as a holiday house:

My cousins were very lucky -- they stayed in a luxurious chalet at the ski resort.

chasten

(say **chays**-uhn)

verb to restrain or subdue:

He knew the bad news would chasten the noisy children.

chimpanzee

(say chim-pan-**zee**)

noun a large monkey from Africa which spends much of its life in the trees:

We saw a baby chimpanzee at the zoo.

chintz

(say chints)

noun (plural **chintzes**)

shiny, brightly patterned cotton material, used to make curtains and furniture coverings:

The curtains and cushion covers were made from chintz.

circumference

(say suh-**kum**-fuh-ruhns)

noun the distance around something, especially around a circle or circular object:

The good thing about knowing the circumference of a circle is that you can then work out its diameter.

clarinet

(say kla-ruh-**net**)

noun a musical instrument belonging to the woodwind family which makes a deeper sound than the flute:

Nine members of our school band play the clarinet.

cockatiel

(say kok-uh-**teel**)

noun a small parrot with a long tail and a crest on top of its head like a cockatoo:

The cockatiel is common in inland areas of Australia.

cocoa

(say **koh**-koh)

noun a drink made from the brown powder which is also used to make chocolate:

I like to have a nice hot cocoa on cold winter evenings.

cognition

(say kog-**nish**-uhn)

noun the act or process of knowing:

The injury to the brain affected her cognition.

cohesion

(say koh-**hee**-zhuhn)

noun the state of sticking together or being connected:

Cohesion was needed within the party to present a united front.

cologne

(say kuh-**lohn**)

noun a kind of perfume:

The cologne had a pleasant fragrance.

commercial

(say kuh-**mer**-shuhl)

adjective having to do with commerce:

The commercial part of town is down by the port.

compensation

(say kom-puhn-**say**-shuhn)

noun something you receive to make up for debt, loss or suffering you have experienced:

He was given compensation for the injury he suffered at work.

competence

(say **kom**-puh-tuhns)

noun the quality of being capable or competent:

The surgeon's competence was known throughout the world.

complementary

(say kom-pluh-**men**-tuh-ree or kom-pluh-**men**-tree)

adjective forming a complete whole with something else:

The two flavours were complementary, forming a delicious combination.

compliment

(say **kom**-pluh-muhnt)

noun words or actions expressing praise and admiration:

I felt proud when the famous author paid me a compliment about my poem.

conceit

(say kuhn-**seet**)

noun pride in yourself and your own importance or ability:

His conceit produced the illusion that he was an important person.

concurrent

(say kuhn-**ku**-ruhnt)

adjective happening at the same time:

I am exhausted because I am working on three concurrent jobs.

condensation

(say kon-den-**say**-shuhn)

noun the changing of a gas to a liquid or solid:

The condensation of steam from the shower covered the mirror.

conduit

(say **kon**-joooh-uhnt or **kon**-dyoooh-uhnt)

noun a pipe or tube for carrying water, gas, etc.:

A large conduit was constructed to carry the stormwater away.

confidential

(say kon-fuh-**den**-shuhl)

adjective secret or private:

The politicians were shocked when details of their confidential conversations appeared in the media.

confiscate

(say **kon**-fuh-skayt)

verb to seize something by authority:

The teacher decided to confiscate my whistle until the end of term.

congenial

(say kuhn-**jee**-nee-uhl)

adjective pleasant or agreeable:

He is a congenial host who always makes his guests feel relaxed.

congregation

(say kong-gruh-**gay**-shuhn)

noun an assembly of persons met for common religious worship:

Some of the congregation stayed after the service to organise the upcoming fete.

conjecture

(say kuhn-**jek**-chuh)

noun the making of an opinion without enough information:

This is only conjecture -- no-one knows what really happened.

conquer

(say **kong**-kuh)

verb If you **conquer** something, you manage to control it, usually with an effort:

She is trying hard to conquer her fear of heights because she wants to climb mountains.

consequential

(say kon-suh-**kwen**-shuhl)

adjective following as an effect or result, or as a logical conclusion:

A consequential effect of the new shopping centre was that it generated more jobs.

conspiracy

(say kuhn-**spi**-ruh-see)

noun a secret plot planned by a number of people:

There was a conspiracy to give our teacher a surprise birthday party.

constructive

(say kuhn-**struk**-tiv)

adjective helpful or useful:

If you haven't got anything constructive to say, don't say anything!

construe

(say kuhn-**strooh**)

verb to explain, or put a particular interpretation on:

He was wrong to construe her anxiety as an indication of guilt.

contemptible

(say kuhn-**temp**-tuh-buhl)

adjective deserving people's disgust:

Accusing your brother of stealing when you took the money yourself was contemptible.

contingency

(say kuhn-**tin**-juhn-see)

noun something which may happen in the future which you have to be aware of in making plans:

A good planner thinks of every contingency and avoids nasty surprises.

continuous

(say kuhn-**tin**-yoooh-uhs)

adjective keeping on without stopping:

We listened to the continuous roar of the surf.

contortionist

(say kuhn-**taw**-shuhn-uhst)

noun a person who performs difficult gymnastic feats involving contorted postures:

The contortionist amazed us all with the postures she could adopt.

contravene

(say kon-truh-**veen**)

verb to break a rule:

Make sure that your car alarm does not contravene the noise pollution law.

controversial

(say kon-truh-**ver**-shuhl)

adjective subject to different points of view; debatable:

The political party was divided about the controversial issue.

convergence

(say kuhn-**ver**-juhns)

noun the act or result of converging or coming together:

The convergence of the two cultures resulted in a wonderful mix of traditions.

conveyancing

(say kuhn-**vay**-uhn-sing)

noun the process of preparing the legal documents necessary for buying or selling real estate:

Did you get a lawyer to do your conveyancing when you bought the house, or did you do it yourself?

copyright

(say **kop**-ee-ruyt)

noun the legal right you have to protect work that you write or compose, and to control who can copy it:

Copyright is essential for authors to protect their work.

corella

(say kuh-**rel**-uh)

noun a type of cockatoo with white feathers tinged with pink:

My grandmother's pet corella used to sit on her shoulder.

corps

(say kaw)

noun a unit of soldiers:

My brother has joined the cadet corps at his school.

corral

(say ko-**rahl**)

noun a pen or enclosure for horses, cattle, etc.:

We led the horses into the corral when we saw signs of bad weather approaching.

corroboree

(say kuh-**rob**-uh-ree)

noun an Aboriginal dance ceremony which includes singing and rhythmic music:

You could hear the singing from the corroboree from far away.

courteous

(say **ker**-tee-uhs)

adjective well-mannered or polite:

The teacher reminded them to be very courteous to the visitors.

coyote

(say koy-**oh**-tee or kuy-**oh**-tee)

noun a North American wild dog which makes a long, sad sound at night:

We heard a coyote howling at night on our camping trip in the United States.

credulous

(say **kred**-juh-luhs)

adjective ready to believe things unquestioningly:

You'd have to be pretty credulous to believe that the moon is made of cheese.

criticism

(say **krit**-uh-siz-uhm)

noun an analysis and judging of the quality of something:

Sam wants to do a course in film criticism to help him appreciate what makes a good movie.

crochet

(say **kroh**-shuh or **kroh**-shay)

verb to make lace using a special hook and yarn:

Juliet attempted to crochet a tea-cosy for her grandmother.

crotchety

(say **kroch**-uh-tee)

adjective bad-tempered or irritable:

She is always very crotchety before she has a cup of tea in the morning.

cubicle

(say **kyooh**-bik-uhl)

noun a partly enclosed, small space:

In the library, we each have a cubicle where we can work quietly.

cuisine

(say kwuh-**zeen**)

noun style of cooking:

The restaurant served modern Australian cuisine.

culpable

(say **kul**-puh-buhl)

adjective deserving blame:

The jury found him culpable of the crime of drug smuggling.

cumulative

(say **kyoohm**-yuh-luh-tiv)

adjective increasing by adding something on a regular basis:

The cumulative effects of one illness after another were too much for her.

cyanide

(say **suy**-uh-nuyd)

noun a strong poison:

The coroner found traces of cyanide in the blood during the autopsy.

dais

(say **day**-uhs)

noun a raised platform at the end of a hall:

The football trophies were lined up on a table on the dais.

decibel

(say **dess**-uh-bel)

noun a measure of loudness used to show how much louder one sound is than another:

If the music got one decibel louder we were sure our ears would explode!

decimate

(say **dess**-uh-mayt)

verb to destroy great numbers of:

Europeans arriving in the New World carried diseases that would decimate the local indigenous populations.

decorum

(say duh-**kaw**-ruhm)

noun proper behaviour, speech or dress:

She carried out her duties as school captain with grace and decorum.

deference

(say **def**-uh-ruhns)

noun respectful or courteous regard;

The schoolboy rose from his seat in deference to the pregnant woman.

deficiency

(say duh-**fish**-uhn-see)

noun the condition of lacking something:

She became very ill as a result of a vitamin deficiency.

deficit

(say **def**-uh-suht)

noun an amount of money lacking:

Unfortunately, there is a small deficit in the club's accounts.

delineate

(say duh-**lin**-ee-ayt)

verb to describe or show in words:

She did her best to delineate the plan precisely.

delirious

(say duh-**lear**-ree-uhs)

adjective If someone is **delirious**, they are extremely confused, often because they have a fever:

During the illness, he became delirious and we couldn't understand what he was saying.

derelict

(say **de**-ruh-likht)

adjective A building that is **derelict** has not been used for a long while and has fallen into ruin:

A derelict shed stood in the yard of the old house.

despicable

(say duh-**spik**-uh-buhl)

adjective deserving scorn:

Her despicable behaviour made her very unpopular.

despondent

(say duh-**spon**-duhnt)

adjective depressed or sad:

The bad news put him in a despondent mood.

detriment

(say **det**-ruh-muhnt)

noun If something is to the **detriment** of something else, it is damaging to it:

She concentrated on studying history, to the detriment of her other subjects.

diadem

(say **duy**-uh-dem)

noun a crown, or similar ornament:

The pearl affixed to the Persian diadem is quite famous.

ducat

(say **duk**-uht)

noun a gold coin that was widely used in European countries in the past:

The archaeologist uncovered a ducat near the ruins of an old French village.

eccentric

(say uhk-**sen**-trik)

adjective behaving in a very different way to most other people:

He is so eccentric he sleeps in a tent while his dogs sleep in the house.

electrician

(say uh-lek-**trish**-uhn)

noun someone who looks after the electrical wiring in buildings:

We had to call the electrician after the storm because the wires were damaged.

elliptical

(say uh-**lip**-tik-uhl or ee-**lip**-tik-uhl)

adjective of or having the form of an ellipse or oval:

The earth revolves around the sun in an elliptical orbit.

eloquent

(say **el**-uh-kwuhnt)

adjective able to speak in a flowing, expressive manner:

Being naturally eloquent, Ann was chosen to give the opening speech.

emancipist

(say uh-**man**-suh-puhst)

noun a convict pardoned by the governor in early colonial times in Australia:

The convict became an emancipist after he was pardoned by the governor.

ethanol

(say **eth**-uh-nol or **ee**-thuh-nol)

noun an alcohol produced from crops and used as a biofuel:

Ethanol can be blended with other fuels for use in vehicles.

expeditious

(say eks-puh-**dish**-uhs)

adjective quick and efficient:

It was more expeditious to clear the track before trying to move everybody through.

extracurricular

(say ek-struh-kuh-**rik**-yuh-luh)

adjective outside the regular course of study:

He was learning Korean on the weekends as an extracurricular activity.

extradition

(say ek-struh-**dish**-uhn)

noun the giving up of a prisoner by one state or authority to another:

Sweden requested the extradition of the man from the UK.

fallacy

(say **fal**-uh-see)

noun a mistaken idea or belief:

Many people believe the fallacy that measles is a harmless disease.

familiarity

(say fuh-mil-ee-**a**-ruh-tee)

noun thorough knowledge of a thing, subject, etc.:

His familiarity with the area made him an excellent guide.

filigree

(say **fil**-uh-gree)

noun a delicate lacelike design made out of metal thread, used in jewellery:

The brooch was made of ornate silver filigree.

freighter

(say **fray**-tuh)

noun a ship or plane that carries goods:

He worked as a cook on a freighter sailing between Karachi and the Gulf of Aqaba.

fulcrum

(say **full**-kruhm)

noun the point on which something balances or turns:

To make a seesaw we put a plank of wood on a stool which acted as the fulcrum.

fumigate

(say **fyoo**-muh-gayt)

verb To **fumigate** an area is to treat it with chemical fumes to get rid of insect pests:

We needed to fumigate the house to get rid of fleas.

generic

(say juh-**ne**-rik)

adjective known by the name of the product itself, not by a particular brand name:

I usually buy generic soap because it's cheaper than the others with brand names.

graffiti

(say gruh-**fee**-tee)

noun drawings or words written without permission on walls in public places:

The bus shelter was covered with graffiti.

grievous

(say **greev**-uhs)

adjective causing grief or sorrow:

The grievous news devastated the family.

harangue

(say huh-**rang**)

verb If you **harangue** someone, you talk to them for a long time, usually in a loud voice, criticising them or trying to change their opinion:

He started to harangue the crowd about the need for a change of government.

heirloom

(say **air**-loo^{hm})

noun something valuable that is handed down from generation to generation in a family:

The antique pendant is a family heirloom.

hippopotamus

(say hip-uh-**pot**-uh-muhs)

noun a large African mammal with short legs and a heavy body, that lives around lakes and rivers:

A hippopotamus likes nothing better than a swim in the mud.

hirsute

(say her-**syooh**t)

adjective hairy:

The three men were all pretty hairy but the most hirsute of them was Dave, the barista from Surry Hills.

icicle

(say **uy**-sik-uhl)

noun a hanging tapering piece of ice formed by the freezing of water falling in drops:

It was so cold that an icicle had formed above the window.

imminent

(say **im**-uh-nuhnt)

adjective likely to happen at any moment:

The black sky warned that a storm was imminent.

incredulity

(say in-kruh-**jooh**-uh-tee)

noun refusal or inability to believe something:

They greeted his announcement that he had won the lottery with incredulity.

ingenious

(say in-**jee**-nee-uhs)

adjective cleverly made or invented:

He has made an ingenious device to trap fish.

innocuous

(say in-**ok**-yooh-uhs)

adjective not harmful:

It was an innocuous comment, and not meant to upset her.

inscrutable

(say in-**skrooh**-tuh-buhl)

adjective mysterious or not easily understood:

His expression was inscrutable -- we couldn't tell what he was thinking.

insecticide

(say in-**sek**-tuh-suyd)

noun any chemical substance used to kill insects:

The farmer had to spray his crop with insecticide to protect it from locusts.

insolvency

(say in-**sol**-vuhnt)

noun bankruptcy:

In the face of insolvency, the company could manage to pay only half of its creditors.

intercede

(say in-tuh-**seed**)

verb to act on behalf of someone in trouble:

The lawyer will intercede with the government on behalf of the political prisoners.

intermittent

(say in-tuh-**mit**-uhnt)

adjective stopping and starting:

There was intermittent rain all day.

intrepid

(say in-**trep**-uhd)

adjective very brave:

The intrepid reporter risked her life by entering the war zone.

itinerant

(say uy-**tin**-uh-ruhnt)

adjective An **itinerant** person travels from place to place, especially to find work:

My uncle saw a lot of the country when he worked as an itinerant labourer.

karaoke

(say ka-ree-**oh**-kee)

noun singing along to a video and the background music of a song. The singer reads the words to the song displayed on a video screen:

There's a good Japanese restaurant close by that has karaoke on Saturday nights.

larynx

(say **la**-rinks)

noun the box-like space at the top of your windpipe that contains the vocal cords which are used for speaking:

She had an infection in her larynx and couldn't speak at all.

liability

(say luy-uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

noun something or someone that causes difficulty rather than being helpful:

Having a pet can be a liability when you want to go on holidays.

librarian

(say luy-**brair**-ree-uhn)

noun A **librarian** is someone who works in a library:

The librarian showed us how to use the internet to find the information we needed.

likelihood

(say **luyk**-lee-hood)

noun chance or probability:

There is every likelihood that a solution will be found very quickly.

limerick

(say **lim**-uh-rik)

noun a poem with five lines, intended to make you laugh:

The teacher recited a funny limerick about bees.

limousine

(say **lim**-uh-zeen)

noun a kind of car, usually large and comfortable, especially one driven by a paid driver:

The bridal party travelled in a limousine.

linguist

(say **ling**-gwuhst)

noun a person who studies language:

He is a linguist and is compiling a dictionary of an Aboriginal language of western Queensland.

liniment

(say **lin**-uh-muhnt)

noun an oily liquid for rubbing on bruises, sprains or sore muscles:

After tennis practice my shoulder was sore, so I rubbed some liniment onto it.

liqueur

(say luh-**kyooh**-uh)

noun a type of strong alcoholic liquor made in many flavours:

The liqueur is coffee-flavoured and very popular for making desserts.

luxuriate

(say lug-**zhoo**h-ree-ayt)

verb to enjoy as a luxury:

After a long day at work I like to luxuriate in a hot bath.

macadamia

(say mak-uh-**day**-mee-uh)

noun an edible nut with a very hard shell, grown in eastern Australia and South-East Asia:

The shell of a macadamia is very hard, but the nut inside is delicious.

malign

(say muh-**luyn**)

verb to speak ill of:

He tried to malign her by saying she was a thief and a liar.

managerial

(say man-uh-**jeer**-ree-uhl)

adjective relating to management or a manager:

Her voice changed slightly to a rather stern, managerial tone.

marjoram

(say **mah**-juh-ruhm)

noun a plant of the mint family used in cookery:

They grew marjoram and other herbs in pots on the windowsill.

marquee

(say mah-**kee**)

noun a big tent used for outdoor parties, circuses and so on:

They hired a marquee for the wedding celebration, so it didn't matter if it rained.

martyr

(say **mah**-tuh)

noun someone who is killed or suffers a great deal for the sake of their beliefs:

Joan of Arc died a martyr for the French cause.

massacre

(say **mas**-uh-kuh)

noun the killing of a large number of people:

Archaeological evidence suggested a massacre had led to the decrease in population in the area during the late Bronze Age.

mastiff

(say **mass**-tif)

noun one of a breed of large, powerful, short-haired dogs having an apricot, fawn, or brindled coat:

Our mastiff has just graduated to level three in his dog training class.

matriarch

(say **may**-tree-ahk)

noun a woman leader in a family, tribe or any field of activity:

Grandma was the matriarch of the family.

mercenary

(say **mer**-suhn-ree)

adjective A **mercenary** person works only for money:

He showed his mercenary nature when he accepted the most highly paid job, even though he knew he wouldn't enjoy the work.

mercurial

(say mer-**kyooh**-ree-uhl)

adjective rapidly changing in mood:

It's hard to predict when he'll be in a bad mood because he has such a mercurial personality.

millionaire

(say mil-yuh-**nair**)

noun someone who has a million dollars or more:

Tom's mother believes his singing talent will make him a millionaire.

miniature

(say **min**-uh-chuh)

noun a very small copy or model of something:

The model castle is a miniature of the real thing.

mirage

(say muh-**rahzh**)

noun an illusion or false vision in which someone sees distant things as much closer than they really are, or even sees things that are not there at all:

Driving through the outback, we thought we were approaching a huge lake, but it was only a mirage.

momentous

(say moh-**men**-tuhs or muh-**men**-tuhs)

adjective of great importance:

The opening of the new parliament house was a momentous occasion.

mystique

(say mis-**teek**)

noun an air of mystery or mysterious power surrounding some person, object, belief, etc.:

The strange occurrences added to the mystique of the old theatre.

nauseate

(say **naw**-zee-ayt or **naw**-see-ayt)

verb to cause a sick feeling in the stomach:

Being at sea can nauseate some people, but I never get sick on a boat.

necessity

(say nuh-**sess**-uh-tee)

noun something that cannot be done without:

A water flask is a necessity when you are hiking in the desert.

negligence

(say **neg**-luh-juhns)

noun the failure to take proper care:

The company was found guilty of negligence in not providing safe working conditions.

negotiable

(say nuh-**goh**-shuh-buhl)

adjective able to be negotiated:

The terms of the contract are negotiable, so we need to decide if any changes are necessary before we sign.

neurology

(say nyoooh-**rol**-uh-jee)

noun the science of the nerves or the nervous system, especially its diseases:

A specialist in neurology explained the possible reasons for her headaches.

nondescript

(say **non**-duh-skript)

adjective very ordinary-looking, without any easily recognised qualities:

My dog is rather nondescript, but I'd know her anywhere.

notorious

(say nuh-**taw**-ree-uhs)

adjective If someone is **notorious**, they are famous or well-known for something bad:

The striker was notorious for diving in the box to try and win penalties.

nougat

(say **nooh**-gah)

noun a hard chewy sweet, usually white or pink and containing nuts:

Traditional nougat tastes distinctly of almonds.

nullify

(say **nul**-uh-fuy)

verb to make or declare legally empty or inoperative:

The missing signature was enough to nullify the contract.

obituary

(say uh-**bich**-uh-ree)

noun a notice, usually in a newspaper, saying that someone has died and often including a short account of their life and achievements:

I was sad when I saw an obituary in the paper for my old economics professor.

ochre

(say **oh**-kuh)

noun a yellowish clay used in paints and dyes:

Ochre is often used in Indigenous artworks.

ominous

(say **om**-uh-nuhs)

adjective threatening:

We thought we were safe in the deserted house until we heard an ominous creaking.

omnivorous

(say om-**niv**-uh-ruhs)

adjective eating both animals and plants:

We had to list the animals as herbivorous, carnivorous or omnivorous according to what they eat.

onerous

(say **oh**-nuh-ruhs)

adjective difficult to do:

It was not an onerous task, but it seemed to take ages to finish.

opaque

(say oh-**payk**)

adjective If something is **opaque**, it does not let light through and you cannot see through it:

The window was opaque because it had been painted over.

opinionated

(say uh-**pin**-juhn-ay-tuhd)

adjective having strong opinions that you refuse to change:

He's an opinionated broadcaster, never paying much attention to anyone else's point of view.

panache

(say puh-**nash**)

noun a stylish way of doing things:

The spectacular show was put together with great panache.

parasailing

(say **pa**-ruh-say-ling)

noun the sport of soaring in the air with the aid of a parachute while being towed by a motorboat:

Zara loved parasailing -- she felt like she was flying.

peccadillo

(say pek-uh-**dil**-oh)

noun a small sin or fault:

Robin Hood believed that robbing the rich to feed the poor was only a trifling peccadillo.

perceptible

(say puh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective able to be perceived:

The only perceptible difference between the twins was that Belinda was slightly taller.

petulant

(say **pech**-uh-luhnt)

adjective showing or feeling impatient annoyance, especially over something unimportant:

'Well, I don't care anyway', she said in a petulant voice.

philosophical

(say fil-uh-**sof**-i-kuhl)

adjective rationally or sensibly calm in difficult circumstances:

Despite being fired before the end of the season, the football manager was philosophical about his situation.

pilgrimage

(say **pil**-gruh-mij)

noun a journey made to a sacred place:

He intended to make a pilgrimage across the north of Spain to the city of Santiago.

plaintiff

(say **playn**-tuhf or **playn**-tif)

noun a person who brings a court case against someone else known as the defendant:

The plaintiff had brought the case against her landlord.

poignant

(say **poyn**-yuhnt)

adjective deeply or keenly felt:

The photo was a poignant reminder of home.

porcupine

(say **pawk**-yuh-puyn)

noun a small animal covered with stiff, sharp spines, found in Europe, Africa, and North America:

Falling onto the porcupine was a nasty experience -- for us both.

posterior

(say pos-**teer**-ree-uh)

adjective from or at the back:

The X-ray gave a posterior view of the lung.

precarious

(say pruh-**kair**-ree-uhs)

adjective involving danger:

That plate is in a precarious position right on the edge of the table.

precipice

(say **press**-uh-puhs)

noun a steep cliff:

They stood at the top of the precipice and watched the waves crashing below.

precursor

(say pree-**ker**-suh)

noun someone or something that comes before:

The horse-drawn carriage was the precursor to the car.

prehistoric

(say pree-his-**to**-rik)

adjective belonging to the time before history was written or records were kept:

We can find out about prehistoric life by examining fossils.

principal

(say **prin**-suh-puhl)

noun the head of a school:

The principal called a special assembly to present the sports awards.

procrastinate

(say pruh-**kras**-tuh-nayt)

verb If you **procrastinate**, you put off doing something until another time:

It's best not to procrastinate -- just get it over with.

procure

(say pruh-**kyoouh**)

verb If you **procure** something, you obtain it:

Once we knew what food we could procure, we planned the menu.

proficient

(say pruh-**fish**-uhnt)

adjective skilled or expert:

Once we were proficient in hitting the ball, we learned how to aim.

proliferate

(say pruh-**lif**-uh-rayt)

verb to grow by multiplying:

Swimming pools seem to proliferate in suburbs where there are lots of kids.

propaganda

(say prop-uh-**gan**-duh)

noun information which is used to try to make you believe a certain point of view:

My father said the TV report was anti-government propaganda.

proprietor

(say pruh-**pruy**-uh-tuh)

noun the person who owns a business or a property:

The proprietor of the doughnut shop is a very good friend of mine.

prosperity

(say pros-**pe**-ruh-tee)

noun prosperous, flourishing, or thriving condition; good fortune; success:

The fishermen were experiencing a season of great prosperity with record hauls of fish.

protractor

(say pruh-**trak**-tuh)

noun an instrument used to measure or mark off angles:

He needed a protractor to measure the angles accurately.

pugnacious

(say pug-**nay**-shuhs)

adjective tending to quarrel or fight:

Our dog was always getting into fights so we had to train him to be less pugnacious.

quadrille

(say kwuh-**dril**)

noun a dance where four couples dance in a square pattern:

The dancing class was divided into groups of eight to learn the steps of the quadrille.

radioactivity

(say ray-dee-oh-ak-**tiv**-uh-tee)

noun the ability of some substances, like uranium, to release harmful radiation:

A high level of radioactivity was measured in the contaminated soil.

rapport

(say ruh-**paw**)

noun a friendly feeling between people:

Ricky and Karl have a good rapport and can talk about anything.

ravenous

(say **rav**-uh-nuhs)

adjective extremely hungry:

We were so ravenous that we ate our dinner quickly and in total silence.

refrigerator

(say ruh-**frij**-uh-ray-tuh)

noun a special appliance where food and drink are kept cool:

I hope there is some strawberry yoghurt in the refrigerator.

rejoinder

(say ruh-**joyn**-duh)

noun a spoken answer or response:

The teacher's rejoinder was short and to the point.

rendezvous

(say **ron**-day-vooh)

noun a meeting place:

He was waiting at the rendezvous to meet her.

resilient

(say ruh-**zil**-ee-uhnt)

adjective able to become strong, healthy or happy again after an illness or misfortune:

He showed how resilient he was by returning to work a few days after the accident.

resplendent

(say ruh-**splen**-duhnt)

adjective shining brightly:

Dame Edna was resplendent in a golden gown with a raspberry chiffon overlay.

reverie

(say **rev**-uh-ree)

noun a state of pleasant dreamy thoughts:

The voice of her father interrupted her reverie and brought her back to the present.

sacrosanct

(say **sak**-ruh-sangkt)

adjective especially sacred:

The area around the altar in a church is sacrosanct.

sagacious

(say suh-**gay**-shuhs)

adjective having good judgement and understanding:

A farmer, as well as knowing all the elements of agriculture, should be a sagacious businessperson.

salubrious

(say suh-**looh**-bree-uhs)

adjective (of a place) attractive and prosperous:

When they became wealthy, they moved to a more salubrious suburb.

scabbard

(say **skab**-uhd)

noun a holder for something like the blade of a sword or dagger:

The bandit slid the dagger out of its scabbard and waited patiently in the dark.

scaffolding

(say **skaf**-uhl-ding)

noun a system of scaffolds:

Workers had to erect scaffolding around the outside of the building before restoration could begin.

scalpel

(say **skal**-puhl)

noun a small, very sharp knife used by doctors in operations:

The surgeon held the scalpel in her steady hand.

scenario

(say suh-**nah**-ree-oh or suh-**nair**-ree-oh)

noun an outline of a general situation or plan:

It was hard to imagine the grim scenario the scientists described if the drought continued.

scissors

(say **siz**-uhz)

plural noun a cutting instrument made of two blades joined together:

My scissors need to be sharpened.

sedentary

(say **sed**-uhn-tree)

adjective relating to or needing a sitting position:

If you have a sedentary job you should make time for some exercise.

signatory

(say **sig**-nuh-tree)

noun someone who signs, or has the power to sign, a document, cheque, and so on:

The signatory of this document has to be a Justice of the Peace.

simile

(say **sim**-uh-lee)

noun a figure of speech which points out a likeness between two generally unlike things, usually using the words 'like' or 'as':

An example of a simile is 'She sings like a bird'.

skeletal

(say **skel**-uh-tuhl or skuh-**lee**-tuhl)

adjective like a skeleton:

Her long illness caused her to look pale and skeletal.

smorgasbord

(say **smaw**-guh-z-bawd)

noun a meal where you help yourself to a great variety of food laid out on a table:

The Italian seafood smorgasbord was delicious.

solace

(say **so-luhs**)

noun comfort in sorrow or trouble:

The widow found solace in the kindness of her friends and neighbours.

spinneret

(say **spin-uh-ret**)

noun an organ or part by means of which a spider, insect larva, etc., spins a silky thread for its web or cocoon:

The spinneret of the spider is usually on the underside of its abdomen, to the rear.

squadron

(say **skwod-ruhn**)

noun a fighting unit in the armed forces, especially in the air force or navy:

The squadron provided aerial support to the fleet of supply ships.

staccato

(say **stuh-kah-toh**)

adverb in music, played with the notes very short and detached from each other:

This piece should be played staccato, to sound like high-heeled shoes on the pavement.

strident

(say **struy-duhnt**)

adjective having a harsh sound:

The noises had become more strident, jangling her nerves.

stringent

(say **strin-juhnt**)

adjective strict or severe:

The principal took stringent measures to prevent truancy.

stupendous

(say **styoooh-pen-duhs**)

adjective amazingly good:

Everyone agreed that it was a stupendous party.

successive

(say **suhk-ses-iv**)

adjective coming one after the other:

Successive directors of the company took bonuses despite failing to make a profit.

succumb

(say **suh-kum**)

verb To **succumb** is to give in:

She tried not to succumb to the temptation of eating more chocolates.

surly

(say **ser-lee**)

adjective unfriendly and bad-tempered:

People avoided him because he had a reputation for being surly.

surmount

(say **ser-mownt**)

verb to get over or across (a problem, etc.):

If you can surmount these obstacles, you will be in a far better position.

tempura

(say **tem-poo-h-ruh**)

noun a Japanese dish in which seafood or vegetables are coated in a light batter and deep-fried in oil:

We always have vegetable tempura at our local Japanese restaurant.

territorial

(say te-ruh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

adjective of or relating to a territory:

Dingoes are territorial animals, and rarely venture outside their own territory.

theologian

(say thee-uh-**loh**-juhn)

noun someone who studies or is professionally qualified in theology:

The theologian had studied all the seminal doctrines of the faith.

toucan

(say **tooh**-kan)

noun a fruit-eating bird of tropical America, brightly coloured and with a very large beak:

The toucan eats fruit and is a poor flyer.

transparency

(say trans-**pair**-ruhn-see or trans-**par**-ruhn-see)

noun something which is transparent, especially a transparent photograph projected onto a screen or looked at by light shining through from behind:

We needed an overhead projector to put the transparency on.

treachery

(say **trech**-uh-ree)

noun the act of breaking faith or trust:

The charge of treachery filled her with shame.

trillion

(say **tril**-yuhn)

noun a million times a million:

It's hard to imagine a trillion dollars!

tuart

(say **tyooh**-uht)

noun a large eucalyptus tree from south-western Australia:

She sat in the shade of a large tuart, reading a book.

turquoise

(say **ter**-kwoyz)

noun a greenish-blue colour:

The water in the lakes on Fraser Island is a beautiful turquoise colour.

tyrant

(say **tuy**-ruhnt)

noun anyone in a position of power who uses it cruelly and unjustly:

They had only one thought -- to escape and get away from the tyrant.

ulterior

(say ul-**teer**-ree-uh)

adjective hidden behind what is seen or openly said:

He's been very friendly to me lately, but I suspect he has ulterior motives.

ultimatum

(say ul-tuh-**may**-tuhm)

noun a final statement of terms or conditions:

The coach gave an ultimatum that if we didn't come to training, we would not be in the team.

unanimous

(say yooh-**nan**-uh-muhs)

adjective If a decision is **unanimous**, everyone involved is in complete agreement:

There was a unanimous decision to add fresh fruit to the canteen list.

unassuming

(say un-uh-**syoo**h-ming)

adjective modest or not making any special claims about yourself:

Her quiet unassuming manner won her many friends.

undemonstrative

(say un-duh-**mon**-struh-tiv)

adjective not usually showing enthusiasm, affection, etc.; reserved:

The teacher's undemonstrative manner hid her caring nature.

unflappable

(say un-**flap**-uh-buhl)

adjective not easily upset; imperturbable:

His unflappable temperament enables him to cope with any amount of media attention.

unveiling

(say un-**vayl**-ing)

noun act of showing a monument, etc., for the first time, as in a ceremonial removal of a covering:

The unveiling of the statue in front of the town hall was an occasion of great dignity.

utterance

(say **ut**-uh-ruhns)

noun something uttered, such as a word or a cry:

His last utterance was a cry of glee as he jumped from the plane.

vacancy

(say **vay**-kuhn-see)

noun an unfilled office or position:

There is a vacancy in this department for a data entry worker.

valet

(say **val**-ay)

noun a male servant who looks after his employer's clothes and other personal things:

Not having a valet, I have to hang up my own clothes and even clean my own shoes.

vanquish

(say **vang**-kwish)

verb to defeat in battle:

The Roman army attempted to vanquish the Carthaginians led by Hannibal.

vengeance

(say **ven**-juhns)

noun harm done to someone in return for harm they have done to you:

The police thought the murder was an act of vengeance.

vicious

(say **vish**-uhs)

adjective very cruel or harmful:

The rumour was a vicious attack on her reputation but it wasn't true.

victorious

(say vik-**taw**-ree-uhs)

adjective having won a contest or battle:

The victorious sailing team was cheered when they arrived home from the Olympics.

vulnerable

(say **vuln**-ruh-buhl or **vul**-nuh-ruh-buhl)

adjective If someone is **vulnerable**, they are likely to suffer something unpleasant because they are in a weak position:

We felt vulnerable because we did not have a torch with us and the night was pitch black.

zoology

(say zoh-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the science or study of animal life:

My brother is passionate about animals and is studying zoology at university.

General Level 5

abeyance

(say uh-**bay**-uhns)

noun If something is in **abeyance**, it is not in operation for a limited time:

Our plan to renovate the house is in abeyance until we have more money.

abhor

(say uhb-**haw**)

verb to think of something with disgust and hatred:

It was part of his gentle nature to abhor violence.

abstemious

(say uhb-**stee**-mee-uhs)

adjective careful or restrained in the use of food, drink, and so on:

Everyone else ate a lot of junk food at the party but I was abstemious and ate none.

acquisitive

(say uh-**kwiz**-uh-tiv)

adjective eager to collect things:

She is an acquisitive person whose main interest in life is shopping.

acquittal

(say uh-**kwit**-uhl)

noun the state of being found innocent of a crime:

When it was clear there was an acquittal, the accused man's family cheered.

acrobatically

(say ak-ruh-**bat**-ik-lee)

adverb in an acrobatic manner:

The fullback scored a try by leaping acrobatically over his opponent and rolling into a somersault over the line.

acuity

(say uh-**kyooh**-uh-tee)

noun sharpness or acuteness:

Dogs are known for their acuity of hearing.

adjacent

(say uh-**jay**-suhnt)

adjective lying near or close to:

Most schools have pedestrian crossings adjacent to their entry gates.

adjourn

(say uh-**jern**)

verb to defer or postpone:

The judge decided to adjourn the court case until the next morning.

adolescent

(say ad-uh-**less**-uhnt)

adjective aged between childhood and adulthood:

This new magazine is for adolescent boys and girls.

advantageous

(say ad-van-**tay**-juhs)

adjective useful or beneficial:

It was advantageous for the athletes to run in the inside lane.

affectionate

(say uh-**fek**-shuh-nuht)

adjective having or showing great love or affection:

The puppy is very affectionate and is always trying to lick the children's faces.

affiliate

(say uh-**fil**-ee-ayt)

verb to become associated or connected:

The local club wants to affiliate with the national association.

affirmative

(say uh-**fer**-muh-tiv)

adjective agreeing:

We were pleased with our mother's affirmative response to our idea.

alacrity

(say uh-**lak**-ruh-tee)

noun cheerful willingness:

Smiling, she set about the job with alacrity.

albeit

(say awl-**bee**-it)

conjunction although:

Corinne and Carla organised all the stalls at the school fete -- albeit with a little help from their parents.

amateurish

(say **am**-uh-tuh-rish or **am**-uh-chuh-rish)

adjective characteristic of an amateur:

The game was amateurish but everyone enjoyed it anyway.

ancillary

(say an-**sil**-uh-ree)

adjective acting to help or support:

The ancillary staff at school help the teachers.

anecdote

(say **an**-uhk-doh)

noun a short story that tells about a funny or interesting person or event:

She kept us entertained with an anecdote about her family.

anguish

(say **ang**-gwish)

noun very great pain or sorrow:

The anguish of missing a penalty in the World Cup final remained with Roberto for much of his life.

antagonistic

(say an-tag-uh-**niss**-tik)

adjective mutually opposing:

The two brothers were antagonistic towards each other and were often arguing.

anthropologist

(say an-thruh-**pol**-uh-juhst)

noun someone who studies anthropology, the science of the beginnings and the development of humans:

He wants to become an anthropologist, so he can travel the world and see the different ways people live.

aperture

(say **ap**-uh-chuh)

noun a hole, slit, crack, gap, or other opening:

Light came in through a small aperture in the ceiling.

appellant

(say uh-**pel**-uhnt)

noun (in law) someone who appeals to a higher tribunal in the court system:

The appellant submitted an appeal for her case to be heard in the Supreme Court.

archaic

(say ah-**kay**-ik)

adjective characteristic of an earlier period of time:

'Forsooth' and 'begone' are two archaic English words.

archetype

(say **ah**-kuh-tuyp)

noun a typical example:

With his sun-bleached hair and tanned skin, he is the archetype of a surfer.

assignment

(say uh-**suyn**-muhnt)

noun a particular task:

Our assignment was to write a report on the Olympic Games.

assimilation

(say uh-sim-uh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun the process whereby differing ethnic groups acquire the customs of another all-embracing national culture:

The Australian government's policy of assimilation was replaced by one of multiculturalism in the 1970's.

atrocious

(say uh-**troh**-shuhs)

adjective very bad or unpleasant:

She was reprimanded for her atrocious behaviour.

attrition

(say uh-**trish**-uhn)

noun a natural, gradual reduction in personnel as by retirement, resignation or death:

The Western Front during World War I was a tragic example of a war of attrition.

aubergine

(say **oh**-buh-zheen or **oh**-buh-jeen)

noun a large, dark purple, more or less egg-shaped fruit used as a vegetable:

An aubergine is also known as an eggplant.

auctioneer

(say ok-shuh-**near**)

noun someone whose job is to sell things by auction:

The auctioneer sold the vase to the highest bidder.

aural

(say **aw**-ruhl)

adjective having to do with hearing or listening:

I failed the aural test in the music exam because I had a bad cold.

authoritarian

(say aw-tho-ruh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

adjective An **authoritarian** government or ruler is one which controls a country strictly and does not allow people to have freedom and individual rights:

The people were overjoyed when the authoritarian government was overthrown in the elections.

autobiography

(say aw-tuh-buy-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun your own life story written by yourself:

There was outrage when the sports star had someone else write his autobiography.

autonomous

(say aw-**ton**-uh-muhs)

adjective self-governing:

Although the organisation is associated with the United Nations, it is autonomous, so makes its own decisions.

awry

(say uh-**ruy**)

adverb out of the proper order; wrongly:

Our plans for the picnic went awry when it started to rain.

bailiff

(say **bay**-luhf)

noun a law officer employed to deliver court orders, collect payments of debts, and so on:

The bailiff handed the judge the evidence.

balsam

(say **bawl**-suhm or **bol**-suhm)

noun an aromatic ointment for medicinal or ceremonial use:

I felt much better after rubbing some balsam on my burn.

beneficiary

(say ben-uh-**fish**-uh-ree)

noun someone who receives assistance, especially money left in a will:

The local art gallery was the main beneficiary of the artist's will.

bibliography

(say bib-lee-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun a list of all the books, websites, etc., read or used when writing a book or essay:

We lose marks if we don't include a complete bibliography with our work.

boisterous

(say **boy**-struhs)

adjective rough and noisy:

There was a boisterous crowd at the football match.

botulism

(say **boch**-uh-liz-uhm)

noun a disease of the nervous system caused by a toxin developed especially in spoiled preserved and other foods, often causing death:

Botulism is a rare but very serious disease caused by eating spoiled food.

boudoir

(say **booh**-dwah)

noun a woman's bedroom or private room:

My grandmother's boudoir always smelt of jasmine and talcum powder.

bumptious

(say **bump**-shuhs)

adjective showing your importance in a way that offends people:

Our new neighbour is a bumptious young man who has already managed to irritate several people.

buoyant

(say **boy**-uhnt)

adjective tending to float or rise in a fluid:

This rubber ring will keep you buoyant in the water.

burgundy

(say **ber**-guhndee)

noun a purplish red colour:

The roses were a deep shade of burgundy.

burrawang

(say **bu**-ruh-wang)

noun a native, palm-like plant:

The nuts of the burrawang plant formed part of the traditional diet of some Aboriginal peoples.

cafeteria

(say kaf-uh-**teer**-ree-uh)

noun a cheap self-service restaurant:

We had a coffee in the hospital cafeteria.

camembert

(say **kam**-uhm-bair)

noun a rich, creamy, soft cheese, usually made in small flat rounds:

We served the camembert with freshly baked baguette.

camphor

(say **kam**-fuh)

noun a substance with a strong smell, used to keep moths and other insects away:

To prevent damage from moths, some people store their winter clothes with camphor.

capacious

(say kuh-**pay**-shuhs)

adjective able to hold a lot:

She pulled an umbrella, a pineapple and a straw hat out of her capacious bag.

capricious

(say kuh-**prish**-uhs)

adjective suddenly changing your mind without apparent reason:

She is so capricious, it's hard to know what she'll do next!

catapult

(say **kat**-uh-pult)

noun a Y-shaped stick with a length of elastic joined to the prongs, used for shooting stones at things:

In some shooting competitions, a small catapult is used to launch targets into the air.

cauliflower

(say **kol**-ee-flow-uh)

noun a vegetable with a large round head of white flowers:

We had cauliflower and cheese sauce with our roast beef.

celestial

(say suh-**less**-tee-uhl)

adjective heavenly:

The painting was of angels and other celestial beings.

cellophane

(say **sel**-uh-fayn)

noun a transparent, waterproof, paper-like product, used to wrap sweets, gifts, and so on:

The flowers were wrapped in clear cellophane.

cemetery

(say **sem**-uh-tree)

noun a burial ground:

We sometimes go to the cemetery to visit my great grandfather's grave.

chronicle

(say **kron**-ik-uhl)

noun a record or history of events in the order in which they happened:

We pieced together the chronicle of events leading to the accident.

circumnavigate

(say ser-kuhm-**nav**-uh-gayt)

verb to sail round something:

A sea expedition led by Ferdinand Magellan in the early 16th century was the first to circumnavigate the Earth.

circumstantial

(say ser-kuhm-**stan**-shul)

adjective **circumstantial** evidence is secondary or indirect:

All the evidence against the accused woman was circumstantial and she was not convicted.

cistern

(say **sis**-tuhn)

noun a tank for holding water, such as the one above a toilet:

A plumber came to mend the faulty cistern.

classicism

(say **klas**-uh-siz-uhm)

noun the classical style in literature or art, which pays special attention to form, stressing simplicity, balance, proportion and controlled emotion:

We compared the different styles of classicism and romanticism in art class.

coerce

(say koh-**erce**)

verb If you **coerce** someone into doing something, you force them to do it:

We tried to coerce him into telling us the secret code.

coherent

(say koh-**hear**-ruhnt)

adjective clear and well thought out:

She presented a coherent argument for building a new school hall.

colliery

(say **kol**-yuh-ree)

noun a coal mine with all its buildings and equipment:

Every miner entering the colliery must wear a safety helmet and safety boots.

colloquialism

(say kuh-**lohk**-wee-uhl-iz-uhm)

noun an informal expression that you use when talking and chatting:

'Fair dinkum' is a colloquialism used in Australian English.

comfrey

(say **kum**-free)

noun a kind of plant of Europe and Asia, having blue, purplish or white flowers, used in making herbal tea, etc.:

The naturopath made a paste out of comfrey leaves to put on my bruise.

concoction

(say kuhn-**kok**-shuhn)

noun the product of combining a group of ingredients:

The concoction of tea, lemon and honey helped soothe his sore throat.

conducive

(say kuhn-**dyooh**-siv)

adjective leading to or helping to bring about a result:

Lots of exercise is conducive to good health.

conservatorium

(say kuhn-serv-uh-**taw**-ree-uhm)

noun a school where you learn music:

Fran played two solo pieces in her audition for the conservatorium.

consignment

(say kuhn-**suyn**-muhnt)

noun property sent to an agent for sale, storage, or shipment:

The shop is expecting a consignment of the new phones next week.

contemplative

(say **kon**-tuhm-play-tiv or kon-**temp**-luh-tiv)

adjective considering things in a thoughtful way:

She stared out the window in a contemplative mood.

contemporary

(say kuhn-**temp**-uh-ruh-ree or kuhn-**temp**-ree)

adjective modern:

I prefer contemporary music to classical.

contentious

(say kuhn-**ten**-shuhs)

adjective characterised by argument:

The government's contentious new policy has caused many arguments in the community.

contiguous

(say kuhn-**tig**-yoooh-uhs)

adjective in contact, or touching:

The tea plant is grown in China and contiguous countries.

continuum

(say kuhn-**tin**-yoooh-uhm)

noun a continuous extent or series:

The symptoms of this disease can lie anywhere on a continuum ranging from mild to very serious.

cornucopia

(say kawm-yuh-**koh**-pee-uh)

noun an overflowing supply of anything:

A cornucopia of fresh ideas resulted from the conference.

culottes

(say kuh-**lots**)

plural noun trousers which are cut wide to look like a skirt:

Culottes look like a skirt, but they are really a pair of shorts.

dachshund

(say **daks**-uhnd or **dash**-uhnd)

noun a small dog with a long body and very short legs:

The dachshund is a friendly breed of dog.

debacle

(say day-**bah**-kuhl or duh-**bah**-kuhl)

noun a disastrous failure:

Unfortunately, the restaurant's opening night was a complete debacle with the chef storming out in a rage.

denunciation

(say duh-nun-see-**ay**-shuhn)

noun an open and harsh condemnation of someone or something you think is bad:

His angry denunciation of the government was heard by many at the rally.

depilatory

(say duh-**pil**-uh-tree)

noun a substance for removing hair, especially from women's legs:

She preferred to use a depilatory cream instead of shaving her legs.

desiccated

(say **dess**-uh-kayt-uhd)

adjective (of food) dried thoroughly, often in order to preserve it:

After icing the lamingtons, we rolled them in desiccated coconut.

diaspora

(say duy-**ass**-puh-ruh)

noun a dispersion, as of a people of common national origin or beliefs:

There was a mass diaspora of people during the dictator's cruel regime.

differentiate

(say dif-uh-**ren**-shee-ayt)

verb to see that one thing is different from another:

It is hard for colourblind people to differentiate between red and green.

discourteous

(say dis-**ker**-tee-uhs)

adjective lacking politeness:

Discourteous behaviour is not tolerated in my house.

discrepancy

(say dis-**krep**-uhn-see)

noun a difference:

There is a discrepancy between the two accounts and we don't know which to believe.

discriminatory

(say dis-**krim**-uh-nuh-tree or dis-**krim**-uh-nuh-tuh-ree)

adjective showing an unfair prejudice for one person or group over another:

The laws were changed because they were discriminatory towards women.

disintegrate

(say dis-**in**-tuh-grayt)

verb to break up into small parts:

The meteor began to disintegrate when it entered the earth's atmosphere.

disorientate

(say dis-**o**-ree-uhn-tayt)

verb to confuse, especially about where you are or which direction you are facing:

The winding roads often disorientate tourists.

disparate

(say **dis**-puh-ruht)

adjective unlike or different in kind:

The documentary highlighted the disparate lives of the city's rich and very poor.

dispensation

(say dis-pen-**say**-shuhn)

noun the act of giving out or the distribution of something:

My father was responsible for the dispensation of letters when the mail came.

dissociate

(say dis-**oh**-shee-ayt)

verb to separate or break a connection:

After the fight, Sam's mother wanted him to completely dissociate himself from the gang.

distinguished

(say duhs-**ting**-gwisht)

adjective important and famous:

Several distinguished guests attended the charity dinner.

diurnal

(say duy-**er**-nuhl)

adjective active or out by day, as certain birds, insects, flowers, and so on:

It's much easier to observe diurnal animals than nocturnal ones.

dyslexia

(say dis-**lek**-see-uh)

noun a medical condition that makes it difficult to learn to read:

Despite his dyslexia, Hans Christian Andersen became a famous writer of fairytales.

egalitarian

(say uh-gal-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn or ee-gal-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

adjective showing or believing in the equality of all people:

In an ideal world, society would be completely egalitarian and everyone would be treated as equals.

elucidate

(say uh-**looh**-suh-dayt)

verb to make clear or easily understood:

The scientist was asked to elucidate the theory so that we could all understand it.

entourage

(say **on**-tooh-rahj)

noun a group of people attending and helping someone, especially an important person:

The prime minister's entourage travelled with her on the plane.

equanimity

(say ek-wuh-**nim**-uh-tee)

noun steadiness of mind or temper:

She showed great equanimity during the disasters of last week.

equivocate

(say uh-**kwiv**-uh-kayt)

verb to use words having more than one meaning, especially in order to deceive:

He tends to equivocate in his speeches to avoid taking a stand on issues.

euphemism

(say **yooh**-fuh-miz-uhm)

noun a mild word or phrase chosen to replace one that some people might find unpleasant:

'To pass away' is a euphemism for 'to die'.

exactitude

(say uhg-**zak**-tuh-tyoohd)

noun quality of being exact; exactness; accuracy:

She calculated the provisions they would need with mathematical exactitude.

exaggerate

(say uhg-**zaj**-uh-rayt)

verb To **exaggerate** is to make something out to be greater than it is:

You always exaggerate so it's hard to know what really happened.

exhibitionism

(say ek-suh-**bish**-uh-niz-uhm)

noun the tendency to try to attract attention to oneself or one's abilities:

The last thing the teacher wanted in front of the inspector was a display of exhibitionism from the pupils.

exorbitant

(say uhg-**zaw**-buh-tuhnt)

adjective going beyond what is normal, right, or reasonable:

I avoid that shop because it charges exorbitant prices.

exquisite

(say ek-**skwiz**-uht or **ek**-skwuh-zuht)

adjective delicately beautiful:

This plant produces exquisite golden flowers.

extortionate

(say uhk-**staw**-shuhn-uht)

adjective excessively high:

The price of limes was extortionate because they were out of season.

extraneous

(say ek-**stray**-nee-uhs)

adjective unrelated, or not belonging:

We need to keep extraneous thoughts from our minds and concentrate on our task.

extravagance

(say uk-**strav**-uh-guhns or ek-**strav**-uh-guhns)

noun the spending of too much money:

Buying an outfit that she only planned to wear once was an extravagance.

facsimile

(say fak-**sim**-uh-lee)

noun a way of sending documents or pictures along a telephone line:

She requested that a copy of her dental records be sent by facsimile to her new dentist.

fiefdom

(say **feef**-duhm)

noun a powerful person's area of control:

Wales was once considered a fiefdom of English aristocrats.

focaccia

(say fuh-**kah**-chuh or fuh-**kah**-chee-uh)

noun flat Italian bread which can be eaten with various fillings or toppings:

We had focaccia with cheese and olives for lunch.

foible

(say **foy**-buhl)

noun a slight weakness in someone's character:

His major foible is spending too much money on computer games.

follicle

(say **fol**-ik-uhl)

noun a small cavity or gland in your body:

A hair grows from a follicle.

fortuitous

(say faw-**tyooh**-uh-tuhs)

adjective happening by chance or by good luck:

I needed to speak to her, so it was fortuitous that I bumped into her on my way to the shops.

frankincense

(say **frang**-kuhn-sens)

noun an aromatic resin used chiefly for burning as incense or ceremonially:

The aroma of frankincense filled the temple.

fugitive

(say **fyoo**-juh-tiv)

noun someone who is running away:

Police are still hunting for the fugitive who escaped from prison.

gangrenous

(say **gang**-gruh-nuhs)

adjective affected by gangrene:

After many days trapped in the blizzard, the mountain climber's leg became gangrenous.

gargantuan

(say gah-**gan**-chooh-uhn)

adjective huge or enormous:

I could only manage to eat a fraction of the gargantuan meal.

gargoyle

(say **gah**-goyl)

noun a spout, often carved in the shape of an ugly head with an open mouth, which carries rainwater off a roof:

Each corner of the old building was adorned with an ugly gargoyle.

geisha

(say **gay**-shuh)

noun a Japanese woman, trained to amuse men with singing, dancing and conversation:

The geisha owned a vast collection of elaborate kimonos.

gelatinous

(say juh-**lat**-uh-nuhs)

adjective jelly-like:

The worm had a thick, gelatinous body.

gelignite

(say **jel**-uhg-nuyt)

noun an explosive substance used in mining:

The miners kept their store of gelignite locked away safely.

gingivitis

(say jin-juh-**vuy**-tuhs)

noun inflammation of the gums around your teeth:

Gingivitis can make your gums red and sore.

glimpse

(say glimps)

noun a quick sighting:

I caught a glimpse of him as he ran past.

gondolier

(say gon-duh-**lear**)

noun the person who rows a gondola:

The gondolier used a long pole to move the gondola through the water.

gratuitous

(say gruh-**tyooh**-uh-tuhs)

adjective without reason, cause, or excuse:

Unfortunately there is an increasing amount of gratuitous violence in films today.

gratuity

(say gruh-**tyooh**-uh-tee)

noun a gift, usually of money, for service given:

He was given a gratuity of \$5 for carrying the luggage.

guarantor

(say ga-ruhn-**taw**)

noun someone who makes or gives a guarantee, such as promising they will pay someone's debt if that person can't:

He asked his parents to be a guarantor for his housing loan.

guiro

(say **gwear**-roh)

noun a percussion instrument consisting of a dried empty gourd, which has parallel notches across which a stick is drawn:

I love being the band's percussionist, because I get to play some unusual instruments, like the guiro.

gumption

(say **gump**-shuhn)

noun initiative or resourcefulness:

It took a lot of gumption to play again after losing so badly.

hallucination

(say huh-looh-suh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun something which someone imagines they have seen or heard:

I thought I saw a large, cool drink in front of me but it was just a hallucination.

heresy

(say **he**-ruh-see)

noun a belief, especially about religion, which goes against the things that people generally believe:

In some religions, the theory of evolution is considered heresy.

hypnotherapy

(say hip-noh-**the**-ruh-pee)

noun treatment of disease by means of hypnosis:

The doctor suggested she try hypnotherapy instead of traditional medication.

idiosyncratic

(say id-ee-oh-sin-**krat**-ik)

adjective unique to a particular person:

She was dressed in her usual idiosyncratic style -- odd socks and a bright purple hat.

idolatry

(say uy-**dol**-uh-tree)

noun worship of idols:

Idolatry is a part of some ancient religions.

illiterate

(say il-**it**-uh-ruht)

adjective unable to read and write:

Illiterate people face many hardships in everyday life.

impeccable

(say im-**pek**-uh-buhl)

adjective without any faults:

The principal said she was proud of our impeccable behaviour on the excursion.

imperceptible

(say im-puh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective not able to be seen:

The grey cat was almost imperceptible in the dark corner.

inauspicious

(say in-aw-**spish**-uhs)

adjective unfavourable:

The black clouds were inauspicious for the outdoor wedding.

incarcerate

(say in-**kah**-suh-rayt)

verb to imprison:

The prisoner was shocked when the judge chose to incarcerate him for twenty years.

incidental

(say in-suh-**den**-tuhl)

noun **Incidental** music is played during the action of a film or a play, but it doesn't form an essential part of the performance:

You often don't notice the incidental music playing in the background of a film scene, but it is important for creating the right atmosphere.

incomprehensible

(say in-kom-pruh-**hence**-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be understood:

After all the help we had given her, her angry outburst was incomprehensible.

insinuate

(say in-**sin**-yooh-ayt)

verb to suggest or hint slyly:

He always seems to insinuate things, rather than being straightforward.

interstellar

(say **in**-tuh-stel-uh)

adjective between the stars:

The science fiction novel was about interstellar travel.

intricacy

(say **in**-truh-kuh-see)

noun detailed complexity:

We admired the intricacy of her embroidery.

irrelevant

(say i-**rel**-uh-vuhnt)

adjective not connected with the current topic or issue:

Try to stay on the subject and don't waste time on irrelevant details.

irreparable

(say i-**rep**-uh-ruh-buhl or i-ruh-**pair**-ruh-buhl)

adjective not able to be fixed or repaired:

The mechanic said the damage to the car was irreparable.

irrepressible

(say i-ruh-**pres**-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be put down or repressed:

Even when things were at their worst, her optimism was irrepressible.

knapsack

(say **nap**-sak)

noun an old-fashioned word for a backpack:

The camper carried water and food in her knapsack.

languid

(say **lang**-gwuhd)

adjective drooping or flagging from weakness or fatigue:

The sick woman sent him away with a languid wave of her hand.

lassitude

(say **las**-uh-tyoohd)

noun weariness:

A feeling of lassitude overwhelmed him after the meal and he nodded off.

legionnaire

(say lee-juh-**nair**)

noun a member of a legion, especially the French Foreign Legion:

The legionnaire had fought in many parts of the world.

liege

(say leej or leezh)

noun a lord entitled to loyalty and service:

In medieval times, serfs used to work the land for their liege.

loquat

(say loh-kwot or loh-kwuht)

noun a small, evergreen tree native to China and Japan, but grown elsewhere for its yellow plumlike fruit:

The loquat produces its fruit early in the season.

macabre

(say muh-kahb or muh-kah-buh or muh-kah-bruh)

adjective horrible in a gruesome way:

I find the films of Tim Burton to be amusing, but a little macabre.

madrigal

(say mad-rig-uhl)

noun a short poem which can be set to music, popular in the past in Europe:

The minstrel performed a madrigal for the king and his court.

magnanimous

(say mag-nan-uh-muhs)

adjective nobly unselfish and generous:

It's very magnanimous of you to give me your ticket to the concert.

magnolia

(say mag-noh-lee-uh)

noun a large tree with spectacular flowers:

The garden is beautiful when the magnolia is in bloom.

maintenance

(say mayn-tuh-nuhns)

noun the act of maintaining or keeping something in good condition:

The maintenance of his motorbike took up much of his time.

malleable

(say mal-ee-uh-buhl)

adjective easily worked into a different shape:

Plasticine is easy to shape because it is malleable.

manuscript

(say man-yuh-skript)

noun a book, letter, or piece of music, written by hand or typed:

The manuscript of my unfinished novel is in the bottom drawer.

masquerade

(say mas-kuh-rayd or mahs-kuh-rayd)

noun a party at which the guests wear fancy dress:

I wore a pirate costume to the masquerade.

mathematician

(say math-uh-muh-tish-uhn)

noun an expert in mathematics:

Grace was good with numbers and wanted to be a mathematician.

mayonnaise

(say may-uh-nayz)

noun a thick, cold sauce made from eggs and oil, often eaten with salad:

I put some mayonnaise on my tuna sandwich.

memorabilia

(say mem-uh-ruh-**bil**-ee-uh)

plural noun things collected for the sake of memory:

The school hall was full of memorabilia donated by students from years ago.

menagerie

(say muh-**naj**-uh-ree)

noun a collection of wild or strange animals:

Their house was like a menagerie, with cats, dogs, rabbits, snakes, birds, and a ferret.

mendacious

(say men-**day**-shuhs)

adjective lying or untruthful:

He had a reputation for being mendacious, so we couldn't believe everything he said.

mezzanine

(say **mez**-uh-noon or mez-uh-**neen**)

noun a floor in a building like a balcony, usually between the ground floor and the next:

The women's clothing department is located on the mezzanine.

milliner

(say **mil**-uh-nuh)

noun someone who makes or sells hats:

My grandmother is a milliner and is busy every year making hats for the Melbourne Cup.

mimicry

(say **mim**-uh-kree)

noun the act of mimicking or copying something or someone:

His mimicry of the politician's unusual way of walking had us all laughing.

minion

(say **min**-yuhn)

noun a favourite, especially someone who behaves slavishly to keep the favour of their master:

He was accused of being a mere minion of the powerful politician.

muscly

(say **muss**-uh-lee)

adjective If someone is **muscly**, they have big muscles, and are usually very strong:

My brother became very muscly after several months of weight training at the gym.

naturopathy

(say nach-uh-**rop**-uh-thee)

noun a system of treating disease and disorders in humans based on promoting the body's own natural defences, especially by use of herbs, natural foods, massage, exercise and sunlight:

Naturopathy is an alternative approach in treating disease and illness.

necessarily

(say ness-uh-**se**-ruh-lee)

adverb as a necessary result:

A rainy day is not necessarily cold.

nirvana

(say ner-**vah**-nuh or nuh-**vah**-nuh)

noun a term used in Buddhism to describe a state of being completely peaceful and calm in the body, mind and spirit:

According to Buddhist belief, it takes practice to achieve the state of nirvana.

obsolescent

(say ob-suh-**less**-uhnt)

adjective becoming out of date:

The typewriter is obsolescent now that so many people have computers and printers.

occurrence

(say uh-**ku**-ruhns)

noun the action or fact of occurring, or happening:

The occurrence of rain after a drought is cause for great celebration.

opulently

(say **op**-yuh-luhnt-lee)

adverb in a rich or visibly wealthy manner:

The king dressed opulently in velvet robes and jewelled crowns.

orchestrate

(say aw-kuhs-**trayt**)

verb to put together in a well-planned way:

It is a challenge to orchestrate a large conference.

orthodox

(say **aw**-thuh-doks)

adjective accepted or conventional:

He has very orthodox ideas, so he won't shock anyone when he gives his speech.

pandemonium

(say pan-duh-**moh**-nee-uhm)

noun wild and noisy confusion:

There was absolute pandemonium when we heard that our team had made the finals.

paparazzi

(say pap-uh-**raht**-see)

plural noun news photographers who seek sensational but trivial material with great persistence:

Most celebrities hate their privacy being invaded by the paparazzi.

paradigm

(say **pa**-ruh-duym)

noun a pattern or example:

Dad regards his elder brother as the paradigm of a successful businessman.

parliamentarian

(say pah-luh-muhn-**tair**-ree-uhn)

noun someone who has been elected to be a member of parliament:

When my uncle was a federal parliamentarian he had to live in Canberra for much of the year.

parochial

(say puh-**roh**-kee-uhl)

adjective having a very narrow field of interest or activity:

She's very parochial in her outlook, and not interested in wider issues.

perfunctory

(say puh-**fungk**-tuh-ree)

adjective done only as an uninteresting or mechanical duty:

She uttered a perfunctory greeting as she strode into the room.

personification

(say puh-son-uh-fuh-**kay**-shuhn)

noun the treating of objects or ideas as if they were people, especially as a special effect in your writing:

'The book was begging to be opened' is an example of personification.

pheasant

(say **fez**-uhnt)

noun a kind of large, long-tailed bird, often eaten as food:

Pheasant is a popular item on menus in Europe.

physiotherapy

(say fiz-ee-oh-**the**-ruh-pee)

noun the treatment of disease and injuries by physical means such as massage and exercise:

She had five sessions of physiotherapy to strengthen her injured knee.

plebeian

(say pluh-**bee**-uhn)

adjective having to do with the common people:

She told us haughtily that we had plebeian tastes.

poliomyelitis

(say poh-lee-oh-muy-uh-**luy**-tuhs)

noun a disease, now rare, causing paralysis:

Most people are immunised against the crippling disease poliomyelitis these days.

polyunsaturated

(say pol-ee-un-**sach**-uh-ray-tuhd)

adjective having to do with certain types of fats or oils which are thought to be better for your health than other types:

Foods containing polyunsaturated fats are an important part of a healthy diet.

portraiture

(say **paw**-truh-chuh)

noun the art of creating portraits, as by painting or photography:

Her painting won first prize for portraiture.

poultice

(say **pohl**-tuhs)

noun a soft, moist mass of bread, meal, linseed, and so on, applied to the body as a means of curing an ailment:

He applied a poultice to his wound to reduce the swelling.

precocious

(say pruh-**koh**-shuhs)

adjective more advanced than others of the same age:

Anyone who composes music at the age of four, as Mozart did, could be regarded as a precocious talent.

predecessor

(say **pree**-duh-sess-uh)

noun someone who had the job before someone else:

Governor Macquarie arrived in New South Wales shortly after his predecessor had left.

premises

(say **prem**-uh-suhz)

plural noun a building or house with the land belonging to it:

The business will move to new premises next month.

prerequisite

(say pree-**rek**-wuh-zuht)

adjective something that is needed beforehand:

A knowledge of French was the only prerequisite for obtaining the job.

privilege

(say **priv**-uh-lij)

noun a special right or advantage enjoyed by only a limited number of people:

The sign said that it was a privilege to view the penguins and people should look after the site.

prodigious

(say pruh-**dij**-uhs)

adjective extremely great in size, amount or force:

He has a prodigious appetite for fantasy fiction and is always at the library.

promenade

(say **prom**-uh-nahd or **prom**-uh-nayd)

noun an area suitable for leisurely walking, especially one along the seafront:

Hundreds of people were enjoying a late afternoon stroll along the promenade.

prophecy

(say **prof**-uh-see)

noun a message from a god:

According to a widely publicised prophecy, the world was due to end last December.

prophecy

(say **prof**-uh-suy)

verb If you **prophecy** something, you predict that it will be so:

I prophesy that one day you will be the Prime Minister of Australia.

quadriceps

(say **kwod**-ruh-seps)

noun the great muscle of the front of the thigh, which stretches the leg and is considered as having four heads or origins:

He strained his quadriceps during the football game.

querulous

(say **kwe**-ruh-luhs)

adjective irritable and complaining:

'Is dinner ever going to be ready?' she asked in a querulous voice.

ravioli

(say rav-ee-**oh**-lee)

noun small squares of pasta wrapped around minced meat or vegetables, cooked, and served in a sauce:

The pasta we had for dinner was ravioli, served in a tomato sauce.

rebellious

(say ruh-**bel**-yuhs)

adjective fighting against a government or other organised authority:

Soldiers were sent to control the rebellious mob.

recruitment

(say ruh-**krooht**-muhnt)

noun the act of enlisting people to join some kind of organisation:

Her job involves the recruitment of new players for the team.

redoubtable

(say ruh-**dow**-tuh-buhl)

adjective producing fear and respect in others:

The new player was a redoubtable opponent.

regrettable

(say ruh-**gret**-uh-buhl)

adjective causing you to feel sorry or sad:

He apologised for his regrettable behaviour.

reiterate

(say ree-**it**-uh-rayt)

verb to say or do again or repeatedly:

How many times do I have to reiterate that you are not to jump on the table?

reminiscent

(say rem-uh-**niss**-uhnt)

adjective awakening memories of something else:

Today's game was reminiscent of the great Grand Final of 1975.

resurrection

(say rez-uh-**rek**-shuhn)

noun the act of rising again from the dead:

Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection at Easter.

rhomboid

(say **rom**-boyd)

noun a four-sided shape like a diamond:

Each tile had four sides and was in the shape of a rhomboid.

rubicund

(say **rooh**-buh-kuhnd)

adjective having a ruddy complexion; high-coloured:

His rubicund complexion made him a good choice to play Santa Claus.

sapphire

(say **saf**-uy-uh)

noun a clear blue gem:

The sapphire in her necklace matched the colour of her eyes.

satyr

(say **say**-tuh or **sat**-uh)

noun a kind of god in ancient Greek mythology, pictured as part goat and part human:

In Greek myth, Pan was a joyful satyr who loved dancing and playing on the shepherd's pipe.

scrimshaw

(say **skrim**-shaw)

noun carved or scratched work on articles of bone, ivory, steel, wood, etc., traditionally made by sailors in leisure times:

The maritime museum has a collection of scrimshaw carved by sailors in the 19th century.

septennial

(say sep-**ten**-ee-uhl)

adjective happening every seven years:

We missed the septennial eclipse, so we have to wait seven years to see the next one.

sequester

(say suh-**kves**-tuh)

verb to place in a position of solitude:

The movie star decided to sequester himself on an island, and lived alone for a year.

shawm

(say shawm)

noun an early woodwind instrument:

The shawm is an early musical instrument related to the modern oboe.

significance

(say sig-**nif**-uh-kuhns)

noun importance or meaning:

Do you know the significance of the different colours on the Aboriginal flag?

souvlaki

(say soohv-**lah**-kee)

noun a Greek dish made with diced lamb on skewers:

We both ordered souvlaki for lunch.

spherical

(say **sfe**-ruh-kuhl)

adjective having the shape of a sphere or ball:

Soccer is played with a spherical ball, unlike Rugby.

stalagmite

(say **stal**-uhg-muyt)

noun a stick of limestone or other material that forms, little by little, on the floor of a cave, from water dripping from above:

The stalagmite in the cave was several metres high.

stanchion

(say **stan**-shuhn or **stan**-chuhn)

noun an upright bar, beam, post or support:

The train left the tracks and hit the stanchion supporting the bridge.

statuesque

(say stach-oooh-**esk**)

adjective like or suggesting a statue, in dignity, grace or beauty:

She was statuesque in a long white satin gown.

strenuous

(say **stren**-yooh-uhs)

adjective needing a great effort:

Weightlifting is a very strenuous exercise.

stupefied

(say **styooh**-puh-fuyd)

adjective astounded or amazed:

We were stupefied to hear who had committed the murder; Colonel Mustard with the candlestick in the ballroom.

successor

(say suhk-**sess**-uh)

noun someone or something that comes after and takes the place of:

I am leaving the job in the capable hands of my successor.

succinct

(say suhk-**singkt**)

adjective expressed in a few words:

Our teacher advised us to write succinct answers as we did not have a lot of time.

suggestible

(say suh-**jes**-tuh-buhl)

adjective If someone is **suggestible**, they are easily influenced:

It won't be hard to convince my sister to play cards as she is very suggestible.

summate

(say suh-**mayt**)

verb to sum up:

The jury listened as the prosecutor began to summate his argument.

suppurate

(say **sup**-yuh-rayt)

verb to produce or discharge pus:

The lacerated flesh had begun to suppurate.

supremacy

(say suh-**prem**-uh-see)

noun the state of being supreme or the very best:

The election result signalled an end to the tyrant's supremacy.

surrogate

(say **su**-ruh-guht)

noun something that takes the place of another thing:

I use frozen raspberries as a surrogate for fresh raspberries when they are not in season.

suspicion

(say suhs-**pish**-uhn)

noun the condition of being thought to be guilty of something:

He is being held under suspicion of murder.

syllabus

(say **sil**-uh-buhs)

noun a plan of what is to be taught in a course of lessons:

After pressure from the students, they have added cooking to the syllabus at the local boys' school.

symmetry

(say **sim**-uh-tree)

noun the arrangement of the parts of something so that they are all balanced in size and shape:

We marvelled at the perfect symmetry of the butterfly's wings.

synonym

(say **sin**-uh-nim)

noun a word having the same or very similar meaning as another:

The teacher said that a synonym for 'joyful' is 'happy'.

teleprompter

(say **tel**-uh-promp-tuh)

noun a device used especially by television performers, on which words to be spoken appear while the speaker reads them:

When the teleprompter broke down, the TV host didn't know what to say.

thesaurus

(say thuh-**saw**-ruhs)

noun a book of words arranged in groups which have a similar meaning:

We used the thesaurus to find a more interesting word for 'nice'.

topiary

(say **toh**-pee-uh-ree)

adjective the art of clipping hedges, trees, etc., into different shapes:

My neighbour is a topiary expert and there are trees in his garden shaped like dragons, lions and even giraffes!

tortellini

(say taw-tuh-**lee**-nee)

noun a dish, originally from Italy, which consists of small coils of pasta, filled with a rich stuffing, usually of meat, eggs, and cheese, served with butter and grated cheese, or in a broth:

Tortellini is my favourite type of pasta.

transcendent

(say tran-**sen**-duhnt)

adjective going beyond ordinary limits; surpassing or extraordinary:

As the sun dropped below the horizon, the sky was filled with transcendent beauty.

trapezium

(say truh-**pee**-zee-uhm)

noun a four-sided figure, two of whose sides are parallel:

He based his table design on a trapezium.

trifecta

(say truy-**fek**-tuh)

noun a form of betting in which the first three placegetters in a particular race must be selected in the correct order:

My uncle picked the first three placegetters in the Melbourne Cup and won the trifecta.

unaccompanied

(say un-uh-**kum**-puh-need)

adjective playing an instrument or singing alone, without an accompaniment:

She played a Bach piece for unaccompanied cello.

unaccustomed

(say un-uh-**kus**-tuhmd)

adjective unused:

Pete had been treated like a prince since he was born and was unaccustomed to hardships.

uncommunicative

(say un-kuh-**myooh**-nuh-kuh-tiv)

adjective not wanting to give information or express opinions:

I can never get a thing out of her -- she is so uncommunicative!

unnatural

(say un-**nach**-uh-ruhl or un-**nach**-ruhl)

adjective not normal, natural or usual:

We couldn't work out what was causing the unnatural light in the sky.

unsociable

(say un-**soh**-shuh-buhl)

adjective not sociable; not having or wanting friendly social relations:

He was an unsociable person and preferred to keep to himself.

unwholesome

(say un-**hohl**-suhm)

adjective harmful to health or wellbeing:

Eating only cream biscuits and cake is an unwholesome way to live.

upholsterer

(say up-**hohl**-stuh-ruh)

noun someone whose business it is to make or repair the coverings of chairs, couches, and so on:

Our couch needed recovering, so we took it to an upholsterer.

vandalism

(say **van**-duh-liz-uhm)

noun intentional destruction or damage of property:

Our art room was wrecked in an act of mindless vandalism.

vigilance

(say **vij**-uh-luhns)

noun the quality of being watchful and alert:

Their vigilance was rewarded on the fifth night when they saw the fox sneaking up to the hen house.

vivacious

(say vuh-**vay**-shuhs)

adjective lively or energetic:

It's always a pleasure to be with such a happy, vivacious person.

warranty

(say **wo**-ruhn-tee)

noun a formal promise or assurance of reliability:

The computer's one-year warranty covered replacement of faulty parts.

witticism

(say **wit**-uh-siz-uhm)

noun a joke or witty remark:

Oscar often came out with a clever joke or witticism.

workaholic

(say werk-uh-**hol**-ik)

noun a person who is addicted to work:

She is an absolute workaholic and often gets home late at night.

worthwhile

(say werth-**wuyl**)

adjective useful or good enough to spend time on:

Going to see the maritime exhibition was a really worthwhile experience.

wrangle

(say **rang**-guh)

verb If two people **wrangle**, they argue or quarrel noisily:

They used to wrangle over how much Tim should pay for the rent.

wreckage

(say **rek**-ij)

noun the broken parts of something that has been destroyed:

They could see the wreckage of the plane from where they stood.

writhe

(say ruydh)

verb to twist, as if in pain or embarrassment:

The terrible pain of her broken leg made her writhe in agony.

General Level 6

abattoir

(say **ab**-uh-twah)

noun a place where animals are killed for food:

The cattle were herded into the abattoir.

abominable

(say uh-**bom**-uh-nuh-buhl)

adjective hateful or disgusting:

Selling people into slavery is an abominable thing.

accommodate

(say uh-**kom**-uh-dayt)

verb to provide with enough room:

The caravan will accommodate four people.

adjudicator

(say uh-**jooh**-duh-kay-tuh)

noun someone who acts as a judge, especially in a debate or other competition:

The adjudicator for the gymnastics competition is a former world champion.

allegiance

(say uh-**lee**-juhns)

noun loyalty or faithfulness:

Mum was thanked for her allegiance to the company over many years.

ambrosia

(say am-**broh**-zee-uh)

noun the food of the gods in Greek and Roman mythology:

Tantalus, a son of Zeus, was condemned to eternal punishment for stealing the ambrosia of the gods.

apostrophe

(say uh-**poss**-truh-fee)

noun a punctuation mark used to show that a letter has been left out or to show possession:

Some people get very cross when an apostrophe is used in plural words.

assassinate

(say uh-**sass**-uh-nayt)

verb to kill an important or well-known person suddenly or secretly after careful planning, especially for political reasons:

They plotted to assassinate the prime minister.

baldachin

(say **bawl**-duh-kuhn)

noun a fixed canopy, of metal, wood, or stone, above the high altar of a church or above a tomb:

The baldachin over the altar was supported by two heavily ornamented columns.

balustrade

(say **bal**-uh-strayd)

noun a rail with a row of short pillars holding it up, usually part of a balcony or staircase:

The old woman clung to the balustrade as she descended the steep staircase.

battalion

(say buh-**tal**-yuhn)

noun a large army unit:

An Australian battalion was the first to enter the town.

biennale

(say bee-uh-**nah**-lee)

noun a major exhibition or festival held every two years:

The biennale was so successful it's a shame we have to wait for another two years for the next.

bioremediation

(say buy-oh-ruh-mee-dee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the use of organisms to counteract damage done to the environment by oil spills and the like:

The environmental consultant was employed after the oil spill because of her knowledge about bioremediation.

bodhisattva

(say bod-uh-**sat**-vuh)

noun *Buddhism* an enlightened being who delays entry into nirvana in order to help others to attain enlightenment:

In Buddhism, a bodhisattva is motivated to achieve enlightenment by compassion for others.

bruschetta

(say broos-**ket**-uh or broosh-**et**-uh)

noun grilled slices of bread brushed with olive oil and a topping such as diced tomato:

Bruschetta is not difficult to make, and tastes delicious with a tomato and basil topping.

buoyancy

(say **boy**-uhn-see)

noun the power to float or rise in a liquid:

The way a canoe floats is a good example of buoyancy.

cacophony

(say kuh-**kof**-uh-nee)

noun a loud, unmusical sound:

There was a cacophony of car horns as the truck continued to block the road.

catacombs

(say **kat**-uh-kohmz or **kat**-uh-koohmz)

plural noun a series of underground tunnels and caves or rooms, once used as burial places:

I'm reading a scary book about a group of children lost in the catacombs under Paris.

catastrophe

(say kuh-**tass**-truh-fee)

noun a sudden disaster:

Thousands of lives were lost in the catastrophe.

catechesis

(say kat-uh-**kee**-suhs)

noun oral religious instruction, formerly especially before baptism or confirmation:

Catechesis is a type of religious instruction that is often given to people before they are confirmed or baptised.

caterwaul

(say **kat**-uh-wawl)

verb to cry or howl like fighting cats:

My sister says that I am more likely to caterwaul than to sing.

charisma

(say kuh-**riz**-muh)

noun the power to attract and influence people:

He had such charisma that everybody voted for him.

charlatan

(say **shah**-luh-tuhn)

noun someone who claims to have knowledge or skill that they do not really have:

That charlatan promised these pills would cure my allergy, but it is as bad as ever.

chivalrous

(say **shiv**-uhl-ruhs)

adjective having the high qualities characteristic of chivalry, such as courage, courtesy, generosity, loyalty, etc.:

The knight's chivalrous actions won him the love of the princess.

circuitous

(say suh-**kyooh**-uh-yuhs)

adjective roundabout; not direct:

We took a circuitous route home to avoid the traffic.

comparative

(say kuhm-**pa**-ruh-tiv)

adjective judged by comparison:

After his early struggles he lived a life of comparative luxury.

connoisseur

(say kon-uh-**ser**)

noun someone who has a special interest in or knowledge of a particular subject:

She is a well-known connoisseur of Australian Indigenous art.

conscientious

(say kon-shee-**en**-shuhs)

adjective If you are **conscientious**, you are always very careful to do good work:

She is too conscientious to leave a job unfinished.

consensus

(say kuhn-**sen**-suhs)

noun general agreement:

After hours of discussion, the committee reached consensus on which design would be adopted for the new building.

erroneous

(say uh-**roh**-nee-uhs)

adjective incorrect or containing a mistake:

She suspected she'd been given erroneous information when she found herself lost.

facetious

(say fuh-**see**-shuhs)

adjective intended to be amusing:

I was annoyed at his facetious remark about my sunburnt red nose.

fusillade

(say fyoozh-uh-**layd** or fyoozh-uh-**lahd**)

noun a firing or outpouring of anything:

The speaker wasn't given enough time to respond to the fusillade of questions.

implacable

(say im-**plak**-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be changed in opinion or feelings:

She met implacable opposition from the committee when she suggested the radical plan.

mademoiselle

(say mad-uhm-wuh-**zel**)

noun the French title of respect for a girl or unmarried woman:

During our trip to France, the waiters all called me 'mademoiselle'.

manoeuvre

(say muh-**nooh**-vuh)

noun a clever move:

The team won with a brilliant manoeuvre that ended in a magnificent goal.

nomenclature

(say nuh-**men**-kluh-chuh or **noh**-muhn-klay-chuh)

noun a set or system of names or terms, especially those used in a particular science or art:

You have to know the nomenclature of botany to fully understand the plants that are being described.

omniscient

(say om-**niss**-ee-uhnt or om-**nish**-uhnt)

adjective knowing everything:

Most religions believe that their god is omniscient.

patisserie

(say puh-**tiss**-uh-ree)

noun a shop selling pastries and fancy cakes:

We went to the patisserie to buy Mum a special birthday cake.

pertinacious

(say per-tuh-**nay**-shuhs)

adjective persistent, or refusing to give up something you have made up your mind to do:

Some pertinacious bargain hunters will travel kilometres to save a few dollars.

polygamy

(say puh-**lig**-uh-mee)

noun marriage to more than one person at a time:

The Turkish President Atatürk abolished polygamy and banned the fez as part of his modernising reforms in the 1920's.

polystyrene

(say pol-ee-**stuy**-reen)

noun a type of plastic that can be moulded into objects or made into a foam that is used for insulation and packaging:

The polystyrene cooler was a cheap but effective way to keep the drinks cold.

posthumous

(say **poss**-chuh-muhs)

adjective published, given or happening after someone's death:

The firefighter who died saving the children was awarded a posthumous award for bravery.

propriety

(say pruh-**pruy**-uh-tee)

noun good manners or proper behaviour:

My grandmother always tells me that it is important to act with propriety.

pyromania

(say puy-ruh-**may**-nee-uh)

noun a great desire to set things on fire:

Bonfire night! And it seemed everyone was in the grip of pyromania.

ranunculus

(say ruh-**nung**-kyuh-luhs)

noun a buttercup:

The ranunculus plant is also known by the names buttercup and crowfoot.

reciprocal

(say ruh-**sip**-ruh-kuhl)

adjective given, felt or done by two people, each to the other:

Mum has a reciprocal arrangement with our neighbour -- Mum drives us all to school one day and Mrs Jones does it the next.

reminiscence

(say rem-uh-**nis**-uhns)

noun a remembering of the past:

She was lost in reminiscence about the farm where her grandparents had lived.

rescind

(say ruh-**sind**)

verb to withdraw formally:

We had no choice but to rescind our offer.

rosaceous

(say roh-**zay**-shuhs)

adjective belonging to the rose family of plants, which includes also the blackberry, strawberry, etc.:

Apples and pears are examples of rosaceous plants.

rotisserie

(say roh-**tiss**-uh-ree)

noun a skewer which turns round and round in an oven or over a fire, for cooking chickens and other food:

The piece of lamb was roasted on a rotisserie in the backyard.

saboteur

(say sab-uh-**ter**)

noun someone who practises sabotage, which is deliberate damage done to stop someone else being successful:

A saboteur from the enemy side had damaged some of the army's equipment.

sanguine

(say **sang**-gwuhn)

adjective naturally cheerful and hopeful:

His sanguine temperament saw him through many financial difficulties.

saturnine

(say **sat**-uh-nuyn)

adjective having an inactive, gloomy, or sullen nature:

There was not the trace of a smile on his saturnine face.

sauerkraut

(say **sour**-krowt)

noun a vegetable dish made with cabbage:

The recipe for sauerkraut calls for lots of chopped cabbage.

scurrilous

(say **sku**-ruh-luhs)

adjective very rude and nasty:

The politician complained about the journalist's scurrilous article.

segue

(say **seg**-way)

noun any smooth transition from one topic of discussion to another:

The newsreader always manages to find a clever segue to link one story to the next.

simultaneous

(say sim-uhl-**tay**-nee-uhs)

adjective happening at the same time:

The unions planned to coordinate simultaneous strikes across the country.

subconscious

(say sub-**kon**-shuhs)

noun the part of your mind below consciousness or awareness:

Some people think that dreams are a window to your subconscious.

subterranean

(say sub-tuh-**ray**-nee-uhn)

adjective underground:

Ants build subterranean passages for their nests.

supernumerary

(say sooh-puh-**nyoohm**-uh-ree)

adjective in addition to the usual, proper, or required number; extra:

Supernumerary teeth may give rise to a variety of clinical problems.

supersede

(say sooh-puh-**seed**)

verb to take the place of something which is now out of date:

This new printer will supersede the previous model.

susceptible

(say suh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective easily affected by:

Since he suffered from a tropical disease as a young man, he has been more susceptible to stomach complaints.

symptomatic

(say simp-tuh-**mat**-ik)

adjective indicative:

Aching joints and a runny nose are symptomatic of the flu.

trachea

(say truh-**kee**-uh)

noun the main tube which conveys air to and from the lungs:

She had an infection in her trachea and couldn't stop coughing.

vociferous

(say vuh-**sif**-uh-ruhs)

adjective noisy or clamorous:

The vociferous crowd banged drums and blew whistles.

General Level 7

acquiesce

(say ak-wee-**ess**)

verb to agree or consent, especially in a quiet way:

To avoid an argument, he decided to acquiesce to his neighbour's demands.

axolotl

(say aks-uh-**lot**-uhl)

noun an amphibian with a long tail and short legs, found in Mexican lakes:

We kept our axolotl in a separate tank from our goldfish.

chihuahua

(say chuh-**wow**-wuh or chuh-**wah**-wuh)

noun a Mexican breed of very small dog:

My friend carries his pet chihuahua in his backpack!

cirrhosis

(say suh-**roh**-suhs)

noun a disease of the liver:

Cirrhosis is a disease which damages the liver.

eviscerate

(say uh-**viss**-uh-rayt or ee-**viss**-uh-rayt)

verb to remove the internal organs:

The campers had to eviscerate the fish before they could cook them.

isthmus

(say **iss**-muhs)

noun a narrow strip of land, with water on both sides, joining two larger pieces of land:

The island was joined to the mainland by an isthmus no wider than a road.

obsequious

(say uhb-**see**-kwee-uhs)

adjective too eager to serve or please:

His obsequious attitude to the boss made him unpopular with the rest of the staff.

osteoporosis

(say os-tee-oh-puh-**roh**-suhs)

noun a medical condition in which the bones become brittle because of a lack of calcium:

Osteoporosis is a condition which affects many older women, causing their bones to become brittle.

recidivism

(say ruh-**sid**-uh-viz-uhm)

noun a return to a life of crime after punishment:

The rate of recidivism among people who have been to prison is very high.

reconnoitre

(say rek-uh-**noy**-tuh)

verb If you **reconnoitre** something, and as an area, you look carefully at it in order to gain useful information before taking action:

Somebody has to reconnoitre the area to find where it is best to camp.

sepulchre

(say sep-uhl-kuh)

noun a tomb or grave:

The archaeologist discovered a sepulchre that had been used as a royal burial chamber over 1000 years ago.

Categorised Words

Senior Arts Level 2

casting

(say **kah**-sting)

noun the selection of actors for a play, film, etc.:

The casting for the new film is being done entirely in Australia.

editor

(say **ed**-uh-tuh)

noun someone who prepares written material for publication:

Mum is the editor of a health magazine.

essay

(say **ess**-ay)

noun a short piece of writing about a particular subject:

We had to write a one-page essay about our favourite animal.

harmony

(say **hah**-muh-nee)

noun a pleasant combination of musical notes sounding together:

The choir sang in perfect harmony.

music

(say **myooh**-zik)

noun sounds combined together in a way that is nice to listen to, and expresses ideas or feelings:

I like listening to music on the radio.

myth

(say mith)

noun an ancient traditional story, often about gods and supernatural events, that was used to explain natural events such as the weather:

Our teacher read us an ancient Greek myth about how the stars were formed.

scene

(say seen)

noun one of the divisions of a play:

The murder occurs in the first scene of the play.

tenor

(say **ten**-uh)

noun a man with a singing voice in the higher range:

There is a part for a tenor in the school musical.

tonal

(say **toh**-nuhl)

adjective in music, relating to tonality meaning the relations that exist between the notes of a scale or a musical system:

A didgeridoo does not have the tonal agility of many other wind instruments and so rhythm is used instead.

trio

(say **tree**-oh)

noun a group of three musicians:

My two brothers and I have formed a trio and we busk every weekend in the city.

tuba

(say **tyooh**-buh)

noun a big brass wind instrument with a very low pitch:

Carol didn't like carrying her tuba to and from band practice because it was so big and heavy.

understudy

(say **un**-duh-stud-ee)

noun an actor or singer who stands by to replace someone who is unable to perform, usually because of illness:

Luckily the understudy had trained well for the part and the show was a total success.

Senior Arts Level 3

animation

(say an-uh-**may**-shuhn)

noun the process of preparing animated cartoons:

The computer animation in the cartoon film was amazing.

artisan

(say **ah**-tuh-zuhn)

noun a skilled worker who makes useful things like tools, cooking items, etc.:

The medieval town had an artisan who made fine silverware.

ballad

(say **bal**-uhd)

noun a simple poem with short verses, which tells a story and is often turned into a song:

Most people find that a ballad is the easiest type of song to sing.

chord

(say kawd)

noun three or more musical notes played together:

When Jess first got her guitar, she could only play one chord, and now she's in a band.

classical

(say **klas**-i-kuhl)

adjective **classical** music is usually deemed to be high art, often taking traditional forms:

I had to learn two classical pieces as well as a jazz piece for my saxophone exam.

claves

(say klayvz or **klah**-vayz)

plural noun a simple musical instrument which consists of two wooden sticks which are hit together:

I didn't know how to play an instrument so the teacher got me to play the claves.

descant

(say **des**-kant)

noun a tune played or sung above the main tune:

The girls in the choir sang the descant part of the song.

design

(say duh-**zuyn**)

noun the combination of lines, colours and other parts of a work of art into a pleasing whole:

She sketched the design for her poster before starting to paint it.

frieze

(say freez)

noun a band around the top of a wall which is often decorated with a pattern:

A frieze had been carved all the way around the ancient building.

illustrator

(say **il**-uh-stray-tuh)

noun an artist who makes illustrations:

This illustrator uses lots of bright colours.

lyrics

(say **li**-riks)

noun the words of a song:

Can you remember the lyrics of that song we heard last night?

melody

(say **mel**-uh-dee)

noun a tune:

That new advertising jingle has a catchy melody.

narrative

(say **na**-ruh-tiv)

noun If you write a **narrative**, you do a piece of writing that tells a story:

Her narrative was about two children who got lost but managed to find their way home.

octave

(say **ok**-tiv)

noun a series of eight notes between two musical notes of the same name but different pitch:

Benny Goodman played an octave on the clarinet to warm up.

operetta

(say op-uh-**re**-tuh)

noun a short opera, usually of a light character:

Our music class was to perform an operetta at the end of term.

pantomime

(say **pan**-tuh-muym)

noun a play in which the actors use actions and not words to tell the story:

The children put on a pantomime of the story of Cinderella.

performance

(say puh-**faw**-muhns)

noun a show of singing, music, acting or other entertainment:

The Year Six students put on a great performance at the end of the year.

photograph

(say **foh**-tuh-graf)

noun A **photograph** is a picture you take with a camera:

Sarah had put a special ribbon in her hair for the school photograph.

prelude

(say **prel**-yoohd)

noun a piece of music that comes before a more important movement:

The prelude was a perfect introduction to the following piece.

prologue

(say **proh**-log)

noun a speech at the beginning of a play:

The prologue to 'The Tempest' provides some good clues as to the themes of the play.

pronunciation

(say pruh-nun-see-**ay**-shuhn)

noun The **pronunciation** of a word is the way you say it:

It takes practice to get the pronunciation of foreign words right.

tambourine

(say tam-buh-**reen**)

noun a type of small drum which has small, round pieces of metal set into a frame, and is played by hitting or shaking it:

You have to have a good sense of rhythm to play the tambourine.

tonality

(say tohn-**al**-uh-tee)

noun in music, all the relations, to do with both melody and harmony, that exist between the notes of a scale or a musical system:

Tonality is related to the use of major and minor scales.

vibrato

(say vuh-**brah**-toh)

noun a pulsating effect produced in the singing voice or in an instrumental tone:

The flautist used vibrato on the final note.

Senior Arts Level 4

adage

(say **ad-ij**)

noun a wise saying:

'It's the thought that counts' is an old adage.

allegory

(say **al-uh-guh-ree** or **al-uh-gree**)

noun a story which seems simple but has an extra meaning:

The story about the boy who cried wolf is an allegory.

anthology

(say an-**thol-uh-jee**)

noun a collection of poems, short stories or songs, each by a different author or songwriter:

I bought my uncle an anthology of Australian poetry for his birthday.

audience

(say **aw-dee-uhns**)

noun an assembly of hearers or spectators:

The audience was very surprised to see Hank Jones suddenly burst onto the stage.

biography

(say buy-**og-ruh-fee**)

noun the story of a person's life, written by someone else:

Writing someone's biography requires a lot of research.

cabaret

(say **kab-uh-ray**)

noun a musical or comedy show performed at a restaurant or club:

They ate dinner while enjoying the cabaret.

cameo

(say **kam-ee-oh**)

noun a short appearance in a film by a celebrity:

The Prime Minister agreed to do a cameo in the new film about politics.

cantata

(say kan-**tah-tuh**)

noun a work for singers and instruments with words set to music but not acted:

The cantata was performed in the Opera House.

chorister

(say **ko-ruhs-tuh**)

noun someone who sings in a choir:

She loved singing and wanted to be a chorister in the cathedral choir.

chromatic

(say kruh-**mat-ik**)

adjective having to do with a musical scale that moves by semitones:

Ella made a mistake when she was practising chromatic scales on the piano.

collage

(say kol-**ahzh** or **kol-ahzh**)

noun a picture made from various materials, such as pieces of paper, cloth, and so on:

At school I made a collage with coloured paper and foil.

concerto

(say kuhn-**cher-toh**)

noun a piece of music for one or more solo instruments and an orchestra:

The concerto was performed by a famous orchestra.

critique

(say kruh-**teek**)

noun an article or essay reviewing something:

The newspaper featured a critique of the new film.

crotchet

(say **kroch**-uht)

noun a musical note equal to the time of one beat:

A minim is twice as long as a crotchet, and a crotchet is twice as long as a quaver.

dialogue

(say **duy**-uh-log)

noun a conversation between two or more people, especially in a play or story:

The actors were asked to quickly memorise the dialogue.

documentary

(say dok-yooh-**men**-tuh-ree or dok-yooh-**men**-tree)

noun a film, television or radio program about a real event or someone's life:

We watched a documentary about World War II on television last night.

epilogue

(say **ep**-uh-log)

noun a short section at the end of a play or written work:

The epilogue gave the information that the story was based on real events.

exhibition

(say eks-uh-**bish**-uhn)

noun a show or display of something that a lot of people can go and see:

All their parents and friends came to see the students' art exhibition.

extravaganza

(say uhk-strav-uh-**gan**-zuh)

noun an entertainment event, especially a live performance, which is very colourful and elaborate and which costs a lot to produce:

The music festival ended with a spectacular extravaganza on the main stage.

filmography

(say film-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun a list of all the films featuring a particular actor, or all the films made by a particular director, etc.:

The director's filmography was listed on her website.

harmonium

(say hah-**moh**-nee-uhm)

noun a reed organ, especially one in which the air is forced outwards through the reeds:

Chucho could play the piano, but was eager to learn how to play a harmonium.

illustration

(say il-uhs-**tray**-shuhn)

noun a picture in a book:

The illustration at the bottom of the page shows how a tadpole turns into a frog.

instrumentalist

(say in-struh-**men**-tuhl-uhst)

noun a person who performs on a musical instrument:

Stan worked as an instrumentalist accompanying different singers.

intermezzo

(say in-tuh-**met**-soh)

noun a short piece of music played between the acts of a long musical work:

The most famous piece of music from that opera is the intermezzo.

ligature

(say **lig**-uh-chuh)

noun a metal band for adjusting the position of the reed on clarinets and saxophones:

She tightened the ligature on the mouthpiece of her saxophone.

magenta

(say muh-**jen**-tuh)

adjective reddish purple in colour:

Billie really stood out at the dance in her magenta dress.

maraca

(say muh-**rak**-uh)

noun an instrument made from a type of vegetable which has been dried out and filled with pebbles or seeds, and is shaken rhythmically:

The maraca is an important part of Latin-American music.

memoir

(say **mem**-wah)

noun a record of events based on the personal experience of the writer:

The film star's memoir described her childhood love of going to the cinema.

metronome

(say **met**-ruh-nohm)

noun an instrument that can be set to beat at a fixed rate and so give the right speed for playing a piece of music:

We practised with a metronome when the conductor couldn't make it to our rehearsal.

monologue

(say **mon**-uh-log)

noun a long talk by one person:

The hardest part of this role is the long monologue at the end of the first act.

oboist

(say **oh**-boh-uhst)

noun someone who plays the oboe:

My sister is the oboist in her school band.

ocarina

(say ok-uh-**ree**-nuh)

noun a simple musical wind instrument shaped like an elongated egg, with finger holes:

The ocarina is not a very difficult instrument to learn.

palette

(say **pal**-uht)

noun a thin board, usually with a thumb hole at one end, used by painters to mix colours on:

The artist mixed different paints on his palette until he created the perfect colour for the sunset.

pianoforte

(say pee-an-oh-**for**-tay)

noun a piano:

Grandma said she used to sing while her mother played the pianoforte.

piccolo

(say **pik**-uh-loh)

noun a small flute with a very high sound:

Nina plays the piccolo as well as the flute.

requiem

(say **rek**-wee-uhm)

noun music composed to honour the memory of the dead:

She composed the requiem in honour of the recently deceased great leader.

rhythm

(say **ridh**-uhm)

noun the pattern of beats in music or speech:

The crowd started clapping to the rhythm of the music.

semibreve

(say **sem**-ee-breev)

noun a musical note which is four crotchets long:

In our music class we learned that a semibreve is a note which is four times as long as a crotchet.

virtuoso

(say ver-chooh-**oh**-soh)

noun a highly skilled person, especially a musician:

We went to the concert hall to hear a famous violin virtuoso.

xylophone

(say **zuy**-luh-fohn)

noun a musical instrument made of a row of wooden bars of different lengths which you hit with small hammers:

He already knew how to play the piano, so he learned the xylophone very quickly.

Senior Arts Level 5

adagio

(say uh-**dah**-zhee-oh or uh-**dah**-jee-oh)

adverb a direction indicating that music should be played or sung slowly and calmly:

The conductor made the violins slow down during the passage marked `adagio'.

articulation

(say ah-tik-yuh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun the degree of clearness of speech:

The newsreader had impeccable articulation.

auditorium

(say aw-duh-**taw**-ree-uhm)

noun a hall or other large space for meetings or concerts:

We held the school play in the gym because the roof of the auditorium was being repaired.

bilingual

(say buy-**ling**-gwuhl)

adjective able to speak two languages:

She is bilingual, speaking both English and Japanese.

bouzouki

(say buh-**zoo**-kee)

noun a stringed instrument from Greece, related to a mandolin, played by plucking:

The music of the bouzouki immediately transported us to a sparkling Greek island.

cinematography

(say sin-uh-muh-**tog**-ruh-fee)

noun the art of film photography:

The cinematography in that new French film is outstanding.

decoupage

(say day-koooh-**pahzh**)

noun the art or process of decorating something with an arrangement of cut-out paper, cardboard, etc.:

We had to collect lots of colourful paper to cut up for our decoupage.

decrescendo

(say dee-kruh-**shen**-doh)

noun in music, a gradual reduction in loudness:

The piece of music ended with a decrescendo that faded away to silence.

elocution

(say el-uh-**kyoo**h-shuhn)

noun the way you speak:

Newsreaders have to have very clear elocution.

excerpt

(say **ek**-serpt)

noun a piece quoted from a book or shown from a film:

The teacher read us an excerpt from the final Harry Potter book.

fictitious

(say fik-**tish**-uhs)

adjective imaginary or made up:

The characters in this film are fictitious -- they are not based on real people.

glockenspiel

(say **glok**-uhn-speel or **glok**-uhn-shpeel)

noun a musical instrument with steel bars set in a frame, which you hit with hammers:

He enjoyed playing the glockenspiel in the band.

glossary

(say **gloss**-uh-ree)

noun a list of special or difficult words about a particular subject, with their definitions:

There was a glossary of terms at the end of the book.

haiku

(say **huy**-koooh or huy-**koooh**)

noun a Japanese form of poem which has 17 syllables and three lines:

There was a beautiful haiku poem engraved at the war memorial.

harpsichord

(say **hahp**-suh-kawd)

noun an old-fashioned musical instrument like a piano:

We listened to the sound of the harpsichord echoing through the old castle.

lyricist

(say **li**-ruh-suhst)

noun someone who writes the words of a song:

The composer and the lyricist had worked together on many hit songs.

marionette

(say ma-ree-uh-**net**)

noun a puppet which is worked by strings attached to its limbs:

Many puppets, including the original marionette used for Pinocchio, can still be seen in the Disney museum.

overture

(say **oh**-vuh-choouh)

noun music played as an introduction to an opera, ballet or musical show:

The audience listened with anticipation as the orchestra played the overture.

palindrome

(say **pal**-uhn-drohnm)

noun a word or expression which reads the same backwards as forwards:

The word 'Madam' is a palindrome -- it reads the same backwards as forwards.

pastiche

(say pas-**teesh**)

noun a work of art which consists of parts borrowed from the work or style of other artists:

The film was a pastiche of scenes from twelve different directors.

percussion

(say puh-**kush**-uhn)

noun relating to musical instruments which produce a note when they are struck:

The parts written for percussion in the overture were very hard and took a lot of practice to get right.

portfolio

(say pawt-**foh**-lee-oh)

noun a collection of an artist's drawings or photographs, which they can show to someone as examples of their work:

The artist showed his portfolio of drawings to the gallery owner.

rhapsody

(say **rap**-suh-dee)

noun a type of musical composition:

The first track on this CD is a famous rhapsody.

saxophone

(say **sak**-suh-fohn)

noun a wind instrument with a curved brass body:

Lisa is my favourite Simpsons character because she plays the saxophone.

synopsis

(say suh-**nop**-suhs)

noun a short version or summary:

I will give you a synopsis of what we have done so far.

timbre

(say **tim**-buh or **tam**-buh)

noun the particular sound an instrument makes:

His voice has a rich, warm timbre which is perfect for this particular role.

vernacular

(say vuh-**nak**-yuh-luh)

noun the native speech or language of a place:

Only a person who grows up in a place can really speak the vernacular.

zydeco

(say **zuy**-duh-koh)

noun a style of dance music from the southern United States:

The zydeco dance band featured accordions, guitars, and violins.

Senior Arts Level 6

accordion

(say uh-**kaw**-dee-uhn)

noun a musical instrument which you squeeze to produce sound, and which you play using buttons or keys:

Oscar entertained everybody by playing his accordion.

arabesque

(say a-ruh-**besk**)

noun a position in ballet in which one leg is stretched behind and the body lowered forward:

A ballet dancer has to do a lot of practice to master the perfect arabesque.

architecture

(say **ah**-kuh-tek-chuh)

noun the design of buildings:

Studying the architecture of the old buildings inspired her to explore the history of the area.

calliope

(say kuh-**luy**-uh-pee)

noun a type of musical instrument consisting of a set of steam whistles, played from a keyboard:

The calliope has a rather harsh sound.

choreography

(say ko-ree-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun the art of designing ballets and dances:

The choreography was devised specifically for these ballerinas.

diptych

(say **dip**-tik)

noun a pair of pictures or pieces of writing, painted or carved onto two panels which are joined together with hinges:

At the exhibition we saw a beautiful diptych carved in ancient times.

flageolet

(say flaj-uh-**let**)

noun a small flute similar to a recorder:

We have a flageolet player in our school band.

oratorio

(say o-ruh-**taw**-ree-oh)

noun a long, musical composition, usually based on a religious theme, for solo voices, chorus and orchestra:

Eartha was chosen to sing one of the solos in the oratorio.

pizzicato

(say pit-suh-**kah**-toh)

adjective played by plucking the strings with the finger instead of using the bow, as on a violin:

During the pizzicato section, the violinist plucked the strings with her fingers.

soliloquy

(say suh-**lil**-uh-kwee)

noun talking to yourself when you are alone, as in a play:

The teacher read out the famous soliloquy from Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'.

troubadour

(say **trooh**-buh-daw)

noun a singer or song-writer, especially in medieval France:

The troubadour sang a beautiful ballad about his lost love.

wurlitzer

(say **wer**-lit-suh)

noun a type of large electric organ, designed mainly to be played in a theatre:

The wurlitzer has a lot of sound effects which can reproduce the sounds of an orchestra.

Senior Arts Level 7

eisteddfod

(say uh-**sted**-fuhd)

noun a competition in which people sing, play music or recite poetry:

The country contestants had to travel for hours to perform in the eisteddfod.

fuchsia

(say **fyoo**-shuh)

noun a brilliant purplish-pink colour:

She didn't mind what style her dress was as long as it was fuchsia in colour.

onomatopoeia

(say on-uh-mat-uh-**pee**-uh)

noun the use of a word or words which sound like the thing or sound they are describing, such as `crunch', `splash' or `buzz':

Onomatopoeia is used by poets to bring life to what they are describing.

pyrotechnic

(say puy-roh-**tek**-nik)

adjective relating to fireworks:

The fantastic pyrotechnic display lit up the sky on New Year's Eve.

Senior Civil Level 2

capital

(say **kap**-uh-tuhl)

noun the city which is the official seat of government of a state or country:

Nairobi is the capital of Kenya.

career

(say kuh-**rear**)

noun the job or profession in which you earn your living:

My sister wants a career in television.

court

(say kawt)

noun the place where legal cases and trials are heard:

The case will go to court in October.

emblem

(say **em**-bluhm)

noun a badge or something that serves as a sign or symbol:

The floral emblem of New South Wales is the waratah.

envoy

(say **en**-voy)

noun a diplomatic agent:

His role as envoy sent him to many foreign countries.

family

(say **fam**-uh-lee)

noun parents and their children:

Our family went for a holiday to the snow last year.

federal

(say **fed**-uh-ruhl or **fed**-ruhl)

adjective relating to a union of states under a central government:

He is a journalist who writes about federal politics.

justice

(say **jus**-tuhs)

noun the quality of being just and fair:

It is important to uphold justice in a society.

nation

(say **nay**-shuhn)

noun a large group of people living in one country under one government:

The whole nation was saddened by the death of the president.

peace

(say pees)

noun freedom from war:

Everyone celebrated when the war ended and there was peace at last.

police

(say puh-**lees**)

noun members of a force employed by a state or nation to keep order and to protect life and property:

Robert was pulled over by the police for speeding.

poll

(say pol)

noun a counting of votes or opinions:

The latest opinion poll found that the community was evenly divided on the proposed law.

Senior Civil Level 3

ballot

(say **bal**-uht)

noun a ticket or paper you must fill in to record your vote:

Please mark your vote on the ballot and put it in the box.

boycott

(say **boy**-kot)

verb If you **boycott** something, you refuse to go to it:

She decided to boycott the meeting as a protest against the new policy.

cabinet

(say **kab**-uh-nuht)

noun the group of leading people in a government:

The prime minister and cabinet held an emergency meeting to discuss the alarming new developments.

capitalism

(say **kap**-uh-tuh-liz-uhm)

noun the economic system under which industries are owned privately, not by the government:

Capitalism is considered the Western world's dominant economic system.

census

(say **sen**-suhs)

noun an official recording of all the people who live in a place or country to gather information about them:

The government conducts a census of the whole country every five years.

citizen

(say **sit**-uh-zuhn)

noun a member of a nation who has certain rights and duties:

A baby born to Australian parents is automatically an Australian citizen.

colleague

(say **kol**-eeg)

noun someone you work with:

She had a meeting with a colleague to discuss the new plans.

colony

(say **kol**-uh-nee)

noun a group of people who have left their home and formed a settlement in a new land ruled by the parent country:

Each of the early European settlements in Australia was a colony of Britain.

committee

(say kuh-**mit**-ee)

noun a group of people chosen from a larger group to discuss or make decisions about a particular subject:

There is a separate committee for each stall at the fete.

congress

(say **kong**-gress)

noun a formal meeting or assembly of representatives, as envoys of independent states, for the discussion of some matter of common interest:

A number of important issues were to be discussed at the congress.

council

(say **kown**-suhl)

noun the government of a small area such as a city or its suburbs:

Our local council has a good recycling policy.

currency

(say **ku**-ruhn-see)

noun the type of money in current use in a country:

He changed his American dollars into Australian currency.

democracy

(say duh-**mok**-ruh-see)

noun the idea that everyone in a country has equal rights:

The right of free speech for all is essential in a democracy.

dignitary

(say **dig**-nuh-tree or **dig**-nuh-tuh-ree)

noun someone who is in an important position, especially in government:

The visiting dignitary was asked to open the new library.

electoral

(say uh-**lek**-tuh-ruhl)

adjective relating to electors or election:

The favoured candidate won the presidency in an electoral landslide.

equality

(say ee-**kwol**-uh-tee or uh-**kwol**-uh-tee)

noun the state of being equal; correspondence in quality, degree, value, rank, ability, etc.:

My mother says that in the interests of equality, everyone in the family should take turns in taking out the garbage bin.

federation

(say fed-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun the forming of a single nation by a number of states:

In Australia, Federation occurred in 1901, right at the start of the 20th century.

mayor

(say mair)

noun the person elected to lead a city:

The mayor welcomed the visiting soccer team.

nationality

(say nash-uh-**nal**-uh-tee)

noun Your **nationality** is when you officially belong to a particular country, because you were born there, or because the government has made you a member of the country:

Bruno's parents went through a special ceremony to become Australian citizens. Now their nationality is Australian instead of Italian.

politician

(say pol-uh-**tish**-uhn)

noun A **politician** is someone whose job is to represent people by being a member of the parliament and voting on the laws in the country:

My parents have been writing to our local politician about saving our town's river.

referendum

(say ref-uh-**ren**-duhm)

noun a public vote taken on a question of government or law:

A referendum was held to change the voting age from 21 to 18.

republic

(say ruh-**pub**-lik)

noun A **republic** is a country which does not have a king or queen as its leader.

Usually the leader of the country is a president who is chosen by the people:

Australia is not a republic but the United States is.

senate

(say **sen**-uht)

noun the upper house of the Australian parliament:

The debate in the senate continued well into the night.

taxation

(say tak-**say**-shuhn)

noun the act of taking taxes, or of being taxed:

Revenue from taxation keeps the country going.

Senior Civil Level 4

addendum

(say uh-**den**-duhm)

noun a thing to be added; an addition:

She wouldn't sign the contract until the addendum had been included.

administration

(say uhd-min-uhs-**tray**-shuhn)

noun the people that run a business or government:

The Rugby League administration is keen to increase the popularity of the sport.

alliance

(say uh-**luy**-uhns)

noun an agreement to work together, especially an agreement between countries:

The two countries formed a trade alliance.

apprentice

(say uh-**pren**-tuhs)

noun someone who is learning a trade:

Geoff was an apprentice in the electrical trades.

arbitrate

(say **ah**-buh-trayt)

verb to decide or settle a matter for others, often a disagreement or a dispute:

They were forced to have a judge arbitrate the matter.

bursary

(say **ber**-suh-ree)

noun money given to a student to help pay for school fees, textbooks, uniforms and other expenses:

Megan was offered a bursary to help her pay her school fees.

campaign

(say kam-**payn**)

noun any planned series of actions with a particular purpose:

She joined a campaign to stop whaling.

cede

(say seed)

verb When someone **cedes** something, they give it away by making a solemn written promise:

Under the treaty, the country that lost the war had to cede some of its territory to its neighbours.

civilian

(say suh-**vil**-yuhn)

noun someone who is not a member of the armed forces:

He was now a civilian after twenty years in the air force.

commissioner

(say kuh-**mish**-uh-nuh)

noun someone who is a member of an official commission:

The commissioner of the sports league awarded the team's trophy.

community

(say kuh-**myooh**-nuh-tee)

noun a group of people who live in one area, have the same government, and often share a common history or culture:

He is a well-known member of our local community.

confederacy

(say kuhn-**fed**-uh-ruh-see *or* kuhn-**fed**-ruh-see)

noun (plural **confederacies**)

a group of people or countries joined together for a common purpose:

The southern states formed a confederacy in order to oppose the northern states.

conscription

(say kuhn-**skrip**-shuhn)

noun compulsory enrolment in the armed forces:

The introduction of conscription was unpopular with many during the Vietnam War.

constituent

(say kon-**stich**-yooh-uhnt)

noun in politics, a person who lives in a constituency or electorate and who votes in an election:

As a constituent, my signature counted on the petition.

coronation

(say kor-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the ceremony at which a person becomes king or queen:

The press were eager to get as many photos at the coronation of the Prince as possible.

corporation

(say kaw-puh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun a business or other united group of people:

My sister works for an multinational corporation.

demography

(say duh-**mog**-gruh-fee)

noun the science of population statistics, as of births, deaths, diseases, marriages, and so on:

Many trends can be learned from the demography of a community.

demonstrator

(say **dem**-uhn-stray-tuh)

noun someone who takes part in a public demonstration:

A demonstrator was arrested at the rally.

depreciation

(say duh-pree-see-**ay**-shuhn)

noun a lowering in the value of goods or property:

I could claim the depreciation of my computer on my tax return.

deregulation

(say dee-reg-yuh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun the removal of regulations that restrict certain types of activity in the market with the intention of increasing efficiency by permitting free competition:

The deregulation of Australia's dairy industry took place in the year 2000.

diplomacy

(say duh-**ploh**-muh-see)

noun skill in managing relations between nations or people:

Joe's diplomacy made him an excellent mediator.

education

(say ej-uh-**kay**-shuhn)

noun Your **education** is the learning you do at school or university or places like that:

A full education involves a lot more than just reading books.

electorate

(say uh-**lek**-tuh-ruht)

noun the area of a country, or the people in the area, which a member of parliament represents:

The boundary of our electorate has changed so we have a different member of parliament.

expenditure

(say uhk-**spen**-duh-chuh)

noun the amount of money spent:

The military consumes over five per cent of the government's total expenditure.

globalism

(say **gloh**-buh-liz-uhm)

noun the pursuit of globalisation:

They are convinced that the future lies in globalism rather than in the pursuit of national interests.

legislation

(say lej-uhs-**lay**-shuhn)

noun a law or all the laws made:

Parliament sat until after midnight to debate the controversial legislation.

manufacture

(say man-yuh-**fak**-chuh)

verb To **manufacture** something is to make it with machines in a factory:

A company has been formed to manufacture the new hearing aids.

memorandum

(say mem-uh-**ran**-duhm)

noun a note made of something to remember:

The manager sent a memorandum to all staff about the new computer system.

metropolis

(say muh-**trop**-uh-luhs)

noun a large city, not necessarily the capital, in a country, state, or region:

He grew up on a farm near Dubbo and now lives in the metropolis of São Paulo.

monarchy

(say **mon**-uh-kee)

noun a country with a sovereign such as king, queen or emperor:

Japan is a monarchy with an emperor.

moratorium

(say mo-ruh-**taw**-ree-uhm)

noun a temporary cessation:

The government put a moratorium on the sale of the toy until its safety could be established.

multicultural

(say mul-tee-**kul**-chuh-ruhl)

adjective having to do with a society which contains several large groups of people of different cultures or ethnic backgrounds:

Our class is quite multicultural with students from Europe, Asia and Africa.

municipality

(say myooh-nuh-suh-**pal**-uh-tee)

noun a district which has its own local government:

We have some good parks in our municipality.

ombudsman

(say **om**-buhdz-muhn)

noun an official appointed to investigate complaints by citizens against the government:

The ombudsman has a great responsibility to the community.

refugee

(say ref-yooh-**jee**)

noun someone who needs shelter or protection from danger or trouble:

He came to Australia as a refugee from the harsh regime in his country.

secretariat

(say sek-ruh-**tair**-ree-uht)

noun the officials or office entrusted with keeping records and carrying out secretarial duties, especially for an international organisation, government, and so on:

The federal secretariat of the union is based in Melbourne.

sociology

(say soh-see-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the study of the development and organisation of human society:

He wanted to study sociology or psychology at university.

sovereign

(say **sov**-ruhn)

noun a king or queen:

The young prince would one day be the sovereign of the country.

treasurer

(say **trezh**-uh-ruh)

noun someone in charge of the money belonging to a company, club or city:

She was elected treasurer at the annual general meeting.

unionist

(say **yooh**-nyuh-nuhst)

noun a member of a trade union:

She was a good worker and an uncompromising unionist.

Senior Civil Level 5

affidavit

(say af-uh-**day**-vuht)

noun in law, a written statement which may be used as a substitute for evidence in court:

She was asked to provide an affidavit describing the events leading up to the accident.

amalgamate

(say uh-**mal**-guh-mayt)

verb to join together:

The two companies decided to amalgamate and move to a new location.

arbitration

(say ah-buh-**tray**-shuhn)

noun the settling of a disagreement by someone chosen to find a solution:

The neighbours could not resolve their dispute, so they were ordered to go through arbitration to have the matter settled.

aristocracy

(say a-ruh-**stok**-ruh-see)

noun in some societies, the people of highest rank:

In Europe, the aristocracy once ruled the so-called 'lower' classes.

armistice

(say **ah**-muh-stuhs)

noun a temporary agreement between countries at war to stop fighting so they can talk about peace:

The World War I armistice was signed in 1918.

bipartisan

(say buy-**pah**-tuh-zuhn or buy-**pah**-tuh-zan)

adjective supported by two (otherwise opposing) parties, especially political parties:

There was bipartisan support for the new law, because both sides of parliament agreed that it would benefit those with disabilities.

cenotaph

(say **sen**-uh-tahf)

noun a structure built in memory of those killed in war:

They laid a wreath at the cenotaph to show their respect for the fallen soldiers.

coalition

(say koh-uh-**lish**-uhn)

noun a combination of two or more political parties with similar goals:

The coalition presented a united front in their approach to free trade.

fascism

(say **fash**-iz-uhm)

noun a government system with strong centralised power, which permits no opposition:

Fascism is a system of government which gave rise to dictatorships last century.

gerrymander

(say **je**-ree-man-duh)

noun in politics, an arrangement of the political divisions of an electorate so as to give one party an unfair advantage in elections:

The electoral backlash overcame the gerrymander which had kept the party in power for a decade.

humanitarian

(say hyooh-man-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

adjective concerned with helping people who live in bad conditions or are suffering:

She works with a charity providing humanitarian aid in Africa.

inaugural

(say in-**awg**-yuh-ruhl)

adjective having to do with a formal beginning:

The president's inaugural speech was a great success.

jurisdiction

(say joooh-ruhs-**dik**-shuhn)

noun If a person or legal body has **jurisdiction** in a particular matter, they have the authority to make a judgement about it:

The industrial court does not have jurisdiction to decide on that kind of dispute.

kibbutz

(say kib-**oots**)

noun (plural **kibbutzim**)

an Israeli farming settlement whose management, work and products are shared:

He spent six months on a kibbutz not far from Jerusalem.

lineage

(say **lin**-ee-ij)

noun descent from a line of ancestors:

Tom's aunt thinks her family is of royal lineage.

negotiation

(say nuh-goh-shee-**ay**-shuhn or nuh-goh-see-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the discussion and arrangement of some kind of agreement:

The workers and their employer settled the dispute by negotiation.

pacifist

(say **pas**-uh-fuhst)

noun someone who opposes all war or violence:

My mother is a pacifist who is very active in the anti-war movement.

philanthropy

(say fuh-**lan**-thruh-pee)

noun love of humankind, especially shown in deeds of giving to charity, and so on:

His philanthropy had saved the lives of countless children.

prejudice

(say **prej**-uh-duhs)

noun an opinion unfairly formed beforehand, without reason or proof:

The decision didn't seem fair and showed a prejudice on the part of the judge.

prospectus

(say pruh-**spek**-tuhs)

noun a statement or pamphlet which advertises something new or gives more details about things like a school, university or commercial company:

After reading the latest prospectus, they decided to invest their money in the company.

recession

(say ruh-**ses**-uhn)

noun a time when business affairs in a nation are bad:

It's hard to get a job during a recession.

reconciliation

(say rek-uhn-sil-ee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the achievement of harmony between people or groups:

In her speech the prime minister said that our goal should be reconciliation.

secede

(say suh-**seed**)

verb to withdraw from an association:

The club threatened to secede from the federation.

suffragette

(say suf-ruh-**jet**)

noun one of an association of women in the early 20th century who agitated for the right of women to vote:

Her great-grandmother was a suffragette who was passionate about a woman's right to vote.

superannuation

(say sooh-puh-ran-yooh-**ay**-shuhn)

noun a pension or allowance paid to a person, especially someone who has retired from work:

It's important to plan your superannuation, so that you have money to live on when you retire.

symposium

(say sim-**poh**-zee-uhm)

noun a meeting for discussion:

The major topic at the symposium is healthcare needs for the future.

tribunal

(say truy-**byooh**-nuhl)

noun a court of justice or a place where judgements are made:

The military tribunal will decide if the soldiers are guilty.

unconstitutional

(say un-kon-stuh-**tyooh**-shuhn-uhl)

adjective contrary to a constitution, such as that of a country:

The High Court found that the law passed by the state was unconstitutional.

Senior Civil Level 6

adolescence

(say ad-uh-**less**-uhns)

noun the time before becoming an adult:

Adolescence can be a confusing time.

appropriation

(say uh-proh-pree-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the act of setting something apart for some specific purpose or use:

There was an appropriation of funds for setting up more schools in disadvantaged areas.

autocracy

(say aw-**tok**-ruh-see)

noun the government or power of a ruler who has uncontrolled or unlimited authority over others:

The people hated the autocracy under which they lived but were not sufficiently organised to rebel.

bureaucracy

(say byooh-**rok**-ruh-see)

noun the rules and procedures, some of which may be very complicated or seem unnecessary, for the way things must be done in large organisations or government offices:

The students were fed up with the bureaucracy at their university.

caucus

(say **kaw**-kuhs)

noun a meeting of the members of parliament belonging to a particular political party:

The first federal Labor caucus met in Melbourne in 1901.

commemorate

(say kuh-**mem**-uh-rayt)

verb When we **commemorate** someone or something, we keep their memory alive:

They discussed ideas about how to commemorate those killed in the train crash.

consortium

(say kuhn-**saw**-tee-uhm)

noun an association of organisations formed to carry out some special operation needing large amounts of money:

A consortium of businesses and government was formed to construct the new Inter-Oceanic Nicaragua Canal.

cosmopolitan

(say koz-muh-**pol**-uh-tuhn)

adjective having people or customs from many parts of the world:

The conference attracted a cosmopolitan audience.

curriculum

(say kuh-**rik**-yuh-luhm)

noun a set of courses of study:

The art curriculum includes a segment on photography.

ecotourism

(say ee-koh-**toouh**-riz-uhm)

noun tourism that takes visitors to places of ecological significance:

Ecotourism has become quite a popular industry, now that more people are concerned about their effect on the environment.

protectorate

(say pruh-**tek**-tuh-ruht)

noun a country protected and controlled by another stronger state:

Zimbabwe was once a protectorate of Britain.

thoroughfare

(say **thu**-ruh-fair)

noun a public road or way through a place:

The main thoroughfare follows the river through the city.

Senior Civil Level 7

echelon

(say **esh**-uh-lon)

noun a level of command:

The upper echelon of the administration selected the site for the new stadium.

inauguration

(say in-awg-yuh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun induction into office at a formal ceremony:

The inauguration of the president was a very grand event, watched by millions around the world.

quorum

(say **kwaw**-ruhm)

noun the number of people that have to be at a meeting before decisions can be made:

The committee can't vote until there is a quorum of ten members present.

subpoena

(say suh-**pee**-nuh)

noun a legal document ordering a person to appear in court, usually as a witness:

She was served with a subpoena and had to give evidence in court.

Senior Environment Level 2

autumn

(say **aw**-tuhm)

noun the season of the year following summer, when the weather gets cooler and the leaves of some trees change colour and start to fall off:

The trees in the park near our house turn yellow and orange in autumn.

blossom

(say **bloss**-uhm)

noun the flower of a plant, especially of a fruit tree:

The blossom of an orange tree smells really sweet.

bushfire

(say **boosh**-fuy-uh)

noun a big fire in the bush or forest:

Several houses were destroyed before the firefighters could control the bushfire.

climate

(say **kluy**-muht)

noun the usual weather of a particular place:

The climate in Australia is generally quite warm and sunny.

compost

(say **kom**-post)

noun a mixture of things like vegetable scraps and leaves, left to rot and then used to fertilise the soil:

We dug some compost into the ground before we planted our vegetable garden.

flora

(say **flaw**-ruh)

noun the plants of a particular area:

The flora of Australia includes the wattle tree.

greenhouse

(say **green**-hows)

noun a building, chiefly of glass, for the cultivation or protection of plants:

We grow lettuces in the greenhouse all year long.

landfill

(say **land**-fil)

noun material as garbage, building refuse, etc., deposited under layers of earth to raise the level of the site:

After collection, most household rubbish is put into the ground as landfill.

monsoon

(say mon-**soohn**)

noun a season of strong winds and heavy rain in some southern Asian countries:

We were in India during the monsoon and the weather was very wild and wet.

planet

(say **plan**-uht)

noun any of the large bodies in space revolving around the sun or around any star:

Astronauts have landed on the moon but no-one has yet stood on another planet.

wetlands

(say **wet**-landz)

plural noun an area in which the soil is frequently or permanently under water, as a swamp, marsh, etc.:

Hundreds of birds arrived to make their homes in the wetlands.

wildlife

(say **wuyld**-luyf)

noun animals, birds and insects living in their natural surroundings:

You must always be careful not to endanger wildlife.

Senior Environment Level 3

arable

(say **a**-ruh-buhl)

adjective suitable for growing crops:

Only half of the property was arable -- the rest was thick bush.

arboreal

(say ah-**baw**-ree-uhl)

adjective having to do with, or living in trees:

Koalas are arboreal animals, so are more comfortable up a tree than on the ground.

atmosphere

(say **at**-muhs-fear)

noun the air that surrounds the earth:

The burning of some fuels can result in the pollution of the atmosphere.

banksia

(say **bangk**-see-uh)

noun an Australian shrub or tree with hard jagged leaves and spikes of tiny, coloured flowers:

The banksia outside my window attracts beautiful parrots.

crevice

(say **krev**-uhs)

noun a crack forming an opening:

The branch was wedged in a crevice between two boulders.

drought

(say drowt)

noun a long period of dry weather:

The drought had lasted for months and there was no food left for the livestock.

ecology

(say uh-**kol**-uh-jee)

noun the balanced relationship between living things and their environment:

The arctic regions have a very fragile ecology.

emission

(say uh-**mish**-uhn or ee-**mish**-uhn)

noun that which is emitted; discharge; emanation:

The emission of chemicals from the factory caused a lot of pollution.

erosion

(say uh-**roh**-zhuhn)

noun the process of being worn away by the weather, such as by the wind or by the flow of water:

Planting trees can help stop soil erosion because the roots hold the soil together.

escarpment

(say uhs-**kahp**-muhnt)

noun a long, cliff-like ridge of rock:

We could see the rugged mountain escarpment from the aeroplane.

foliage

(say **foh**-lee-ij)

noun the leaves of a plant:

In autumn, the foliage of some trees turns orange and red.

invertebrate

(say in-**ver**-tuh-bruht)

adjective An **invertebrate** animal does not have a backbone:

A worm is an invertebrate animal.

lantana

(say lan-**tah**-nuh)

noun a flowering plant which has become a weed in warm, wet parts of Australia:

They spent the weekend removing lantana from bushland.

marsupial

(say mah-**sooh**-pee-uhl or mah-**syoo**-pee-uhl)

noun a mammal such as a kangaroo which keeps its young in a pouch for a few months after birth:

The kangaroo is a marsupial and so are the wallaby, the koala and the possum.

mollusc

(say **mol**-uhsk)

noun an animal with a soft body in a hard shell:

A snail is a mollusc, and so is an oyster.

monotreme

(say **mon**-uh-treem)

noun an egg-laying mammal:

The only examples of a monotreme are the platypus and the echidna.

ozone

(say **oh**-zohn)

noun a form of oxygen with three atoms to the molecule, having a peculiar smell:

The ozone layer in the atmosphere protects us from the sun's radiation.

prairie

(say **prair**-ree)

noun a flat, grassy, treeless plain, especially in America and Canada:

We saw a documentary about the animals living on a Canadian prairie.

quokka

(say **kwok**-uh)

noun a small wallaby, just larger than a cat, with rounded ears and a short face:

The quokka is only found on a small island off the western coast of Australia.

recycle

(say ree-**suy**-kuhl)

verb To **recycle** things that have already been used is to process them or change them in some way so that they can be used again:

Our council now has a scheme to recycle most glass and plastic bottles.

species

(say **spee**-seez)

noun one of the groups into which animals and plants are divided according to their characteristics:

Chimpanzees are a species of monkey.

steppe

(say step)

noun a large plain, especially one without trees:

The Russian film opened with a sweeping view over the vast, treeless steppe.

tectonic

(say tek-**ton**-ik)

adjective having to do with the structure and movement of the earth's crust:

The continents of the earth are moving on tectonic plates.

typhoon

(say tuy-**fohn**)

noun a violent storm like a cyclone or hurricane:

The typhoon ripped across the island, destroying everything in its path.

Senior Environment Level 4

acacia

(say uh-**kay**-shuh or uh-**kay**-see-uh)

noun a wattle tree:

In Australia, we usually refer to the acacia as a wattle tree.

agriculture

(say **ag**-ruh-kul-chuh)

noun farming:

The dry slopes were unsuitable for agriculture.

alluvial

(say uh-**looh**-vee-uhl)

adjective relating to sand or mud which has been washed down by a river:

The miners found gold in the alluvial mud.

avalanche

(say **av**-uh-lansh or **av**-uh-lahnsh)

noun a large mass of snow sliding or falling suddenly down a mountain slope:

Twelve people were rescued from the snow after the avalanche.

barramundi

(say ba-ruh-**mun**-dee)

noun a large silver-grey fish which is good to eat:

We caught a huge barramundi when we went fishing in Darwin.

biodegradable

(say buy-oh-duh-**gray**-duh-buhl)

adjective A **biodegradable** chemical or substance is one that can be broken down by the sun or bacteria into products which are not harmful to the environment:

We buy biodegradable soap powder to minimise its effect on the environment.

biodiversity

(say buy-oh-duh-**ver**-suh-tee)

noun a diversity of species of plants and animals:

The rise in temperature is a threat to coastal biodiversity.

bombora

(say bom-**baw**-ruh)

noun a reef of rocks below the surface of the sea:

We like to surf the waves caused by the bombora.

cassowary

(say **kass**-uh-wuh-ree)

noun a flightless Australasian bird:

The cassowary is almost as large as the ostrich.

cicada

(say suh-**kah**-duh or suh-**kay**-duh)

noun a large flying insect which is found in trees and which makes a loud noise in hot weather:

We found the shell of a cicada on a tree trunk.

cockerel

(say **kok**-uh-ruhl or **kok**-ruhl)

noun a young domestic cock:

The rooster was not intimidated by the young cockerel.

conservation

(say kon-suh-**vay**-shuhn)

noun the protection of natural areas, plants and animals, as well as buildings and objects of historical interest:

This political party is concerned about the conservation of our natural environment.

constellation

(say kon-stuh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun a group of stars:

The Southern Cross is the most widely known constellation in the southern hemisphere.

deciduous

(say duh-**sid**-yoooh-uhs)

adjective Trees which are **deciduous** lose their leaves every year:

Deciduous trees can look a little bare in winter.

defoliate

(say duh-**foh**-lee-ayt)

verb To **defoliate** a plant is to take off all its leaves:

The farmer had to spray his wheat fields to make sure the locusts would not defoliate the entire crop.

desalination

(say dee-sal-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the removal of salt from sea water so that it becomes suitable for drinking or for irrigation:

Desalination is one of the ways to make sea water drinkable.

eclipse

(say uh-**klips** or ee-**klips**)

noun A solar **eclipse** is the darkness that comes when the moon is between the sun and the earth and blocks the sun's light:

You must never look at the sun during an eclipse.

equatorial

(say ek-wuh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

adjective relating to or near the equator:

We are studying equatorial rainforests this term.

eucalypt

(say **yoooh**-kuh-lipt)

noun a gum tree:

The wood of a eucalypt is the best wood for a camp fire.

fissure

(say **fish**-uh)

noun a crack or split:

The earthquake caused a fissure in the cliff.

germinate

(say **jerm**-uh-nayt)

verb To **germinate** is to begin to grow or develop:

The seeds will take at least fourteen days to germinate.

hemisphere

(say **hem**-uhs-fear)

noun half of a round shape, such as the earth:

When it's summer in the northern hemisphere it's winter in the southern hemisphere.

igneous

(say **ig**-nee-uhs)

adjective An **igneous** rock is formed from volcanic activity:

Basalt is an igneous rock.

kookaburra

(say **kook**-uh-bu-ruh)

noun an Australian bird of the kingfisher family whose call sounds like human laughter:

The kookaburra flew down and grabbed the worm in its beak.

meteorite

(say **mee**-tee-uh-ruyt)

noun a mass of stone or metal that has reached the earth from outer space:

Tiny fragments of the meteorite can still be found where it smashed into the earth thousands of years ago.

monolith

(say **mon**-uh-lith)

noun a single, huge rock:

Uluru in the centre of Australia is the largest monolith in the world.

oasis

(say oh-**ay**-suhs)

noun An **oasis** is a place in a desert where there is water and plants:

They were relieved to come across an oasis as they were running low on water.

organism

(say **aw**-guh-niz-uhm)

noun any form of animal or plant life:

She saw the tiny organism under the microscope.

perennial

(say puh-**ren**-ee-uhl)

adjective A **perennial** plant has a life cycle of more than two years:

She planted a row of perennial shrubs along the fence.

phalanger

(say fuh-**lan**-juh)

noun an Australian marsupial which lives in trees and which has a tail that can wrap around branches:

The brush-tailed possum is a type of phalanger.

predatory

(say **pred**-uh-tuh-ree or **pred**-uh-tree)

adjective A **predatory** animal hunts other animals for food:

A predatory bird soared high above the plain looking for prey.

reservoir

(say **rez**-uh-vwah)

noun a place where water is stored:

Because of the drought, the level of water in the reservoir is extremely low.

rhinoceros

(say ruy-**noss**-uh-ruhs)

noun a large, thick-skinned animal of Africa and Asia, with one or two horns on its nose:

A rhinoceros can be a very dangerous animal if it gets angry.

sanctuary

(say **sang**-chuh-ree)

noun a place of safety:

The injured wallaby was taken to a wildlife sanctuary.

sierra

(say see-**air**-ruh)

noun a chain of hills or mountains with jagged tops:

From a distance, the peaks of the mountains in the sierra looked like the edge of a saw.

spinifex

(say **spin**-uh-feks)

noun a kind of spiny grass:

The property abounded in spinifex and stunted saltbush.

tarantula

(say tuh-**ran**-chuh-luh)

noun a large, furry spider of mostly tropical areas:

She opened her eyes and saw a huge tarantula, with eight long hairy legs.

vegetation

(say vej-uh-**tay**-shuhn)

noun the whole plant life of a particular area:

Much of the vegetation was cleared for grazing animals.

waratah

(say wo-ruh-**tah**)

noun an Australian shrub with large red flowers:

The waratah is the floral emblem of New South Wales.

Senior Environment Level 5

acreage

(say **ay**-kuh-rij)

noun land consisting of a number of acres, especially in a rural area:

They bought some acreage about an hour from the city.

agapanthus

(say ag-uh-**pan**-thuhs)

noun a type of plant with big, round, blue or white flowers:

The agapanthus is often used as a border plant, along driveways and fences.

alcheringa

(say al-chuh-**ring**-guh)

noun (in Aboriginal mythology) the Dreaming; the time in which the earth received its present form and in which the patterns and cycles of life and nature were initiated:

Many stories in Aboriginal mythology revolve around alcheringa, the time when the earth was formed.

amethyst

(say **am**-uh-thuhst)

noun a purple-coloured precious stone:

The purple amethyst in her ring flashed as she played the piano.

arachnid

(say uh-**rak**-nid)

noun one of a group of animals that includes spiders and scorpions:

An arachnid has eight legs.

chasm

(say **kaz**-uhm)

noun a deep hole or opening in the ground:

The earthquake left a large chasm in the earth's surface.

crevasse

(say kruh-**vass**)

noun a deep crack in a glacier or river of ice:

The glacier was enormous and we could see a large vertical crevasse slicing it down the middle.

crustacean

(say kruss-**tay**-shuhn)

noun a type of animal with a hard shell instead of a skeleton, such as a crab, usually living in water:

Krill is a tiny shrimp-like crustacean vital in the food chain.

dahlia

(say **dayl**-yuh)

noun a type of plant, native to Mexico and Central America, widely cultivated for its showy flowers:

Grandpa won first prize at the flower show with a huge red dahlia bloom.

deforestation

(say dee-fo-ruhs-**tay**-shuhn)

noun the permanent removal of forests or trees from a large area:

Extensive deforestation has a disastrous effect on the environment.

equinox

(say **ee**k-wuh-noks or **ek**-wuh-noks)

noun the time when the sun is directly over the earth's equator, making night and day all over the earth of equal length:

There is one equinox in March and another in September.

hermaphrodite

(say her-**maf**-ruh-duyt)

noun a person, animal or flower with both male and female reproductive organs:

This plant is a hermaphrodite -- it has both male and female reproductive organs.

hibiscus

(say huy-**biss**-kuhs)

noun a large brightly coloured flower which grows on a tropical shrub:

I like to wear a hibiscus in my hair in summer.

kikuyu

(say kuy-**kooh**-yoooh)

noun a type of grass:

Many people sow kikuyu to make lawns in their gardens.

lucerne

(say **looh**-suhn)

noun a plant used to feed animals:

The cows love to be let into the paddock to graze on lucerne.

maelstrom

(say **mayl**-struhm)

noun a large whirlpool:

In the past, many ships were wrecked in the maelstrom off the coast.

megafauna

(say **meg**-uh-faw-nuh)

noun the largest animals existing in a particular region or in a particular geological period:

Australia's prehistoric megafauna included a giant wombat-like creature.

oleander

(say ol-ee-**an**-duh)

noun a pink or white flowering shrub with dark green leaves:

The oleander is a pretty plant, but it is poisonous.

pasturage

(say **pahs**-chuh-rij)

noun grazing ground:

The farmer had enough pasturage to sustain a herd of five hundred cattle.

protea

(say **proh**-tee-uh)

noun a South African shrub with large showy flowers:

The flowers of the protea look very striking in a flower arrangement.

sirocco

(say suh-**rok**-oh)

noun a hot, oppressive wind:

The hot winds of the sirocco made our trip to southern Italy uncomfortable.

slough

(say sluf)

verb to shed or throw off, as a snake does to its skin:

Their homework was to find out if some types of snakes slough their skin more frequently than others.

stalactite

(say **stal**-uhk-tuyt)

noun a deposit formed by dripping water, which hangs from the roof of a limestone cave:

While we were exploring the cave, I hit my head on a stalactite.

sustainable

(say suh-**stayn**-uh-buhl)

adjective designed or developed to have the capacity to continue operating perpetually, by avoiding adverse effects on the natural environment and depletion of natural resources:

The development of sustainable agriculture is important for our environment.

sycamore

(say **sik**-uh-maw)

noun a shady tree sometimes grown for its wood:

The children ate their lunch in the shade of the sycamore.

terrarium

(say tuh-**rair**-ree-uhm)

noun a closed glass container in which moisture-loving plants are grown:

We have a terrarium in our classroom as part of our study of rainforest plants.

tyrannosaurus

(say tuh-ran-uh-**saw**-ruhs)

noun a great meat-eating dinosaur which walked upright on its powerful back limbs:

The tyrannosaurus was probably the most vicious of the dinosaurs.

wildebeest

(say **wil**-duh-beest)

noun an African antelope:

We saw a wildebeest during a safari in Africa.

Senior Environment Level 6

amphibian

(say am-**fib**-ee-uhn)

noun an animal that begins life in the water and lives on land as an adult:

A frog is an example of an amphibian.

angophora

(say ang-**gof**-uh-ruh)

noun an Australian tree related to the eucalypt, with gnarled pinkish branches and creamy-white flowers:

The huge angophora in the playground is covered in white blossoms all summer.

archipelago

(say ah-kuh-**pel**-uh-goh)

noun a group of islands in a sea:

Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 13,000 islands.

chameleon

(say kuh-**mee**-lee-uhn or shuh-**mee**-lee-uhn)

noun a lizard that can change its skin colour to blend into its surroundings:

The chameleon on the rock was completely invisible until it moved.

chrysalis

(say **kris**-uh-luhs)

noun the form that a butterfly or moth takes when changing from a grub to its adult form:

We found a chrysalis in the garden and watched it every day until a beautiful butterfly emerged.

grevillea

(say gruh-**vil**-ee-uh)

noun an Australian shrub with spiky, brightly coloured flowers:

They decided to grow a grevillea to attract native birds.

hydrangea

(say huy-**drayn**-juh)

noun a shrub which has large blue or pink flowers and loses its leaves in winter:

My grandmother had a blue hydrangea by the front steps.

macaque

(say muh-**kahk**)

noun a type of Asian monkey with pouched cheeks, a dog-like muzzle and usually short tail:

The monkey we saw in the rainforest of Borneo was a macaque.

precipitation

(say pruh-sip-uh-**tay**-shuhn)

noun water that falls from the sky, whether as rain, snow or hail:

Parts of Australia may experience no precipitation for years at a time.

scavenger

(say **skav**-uhn-juh)

noun an animal which eats flesh from dead animals:

The hyena is a scavenger and has strong jaws for crushing bones.

stratosphere

(say **strat**-uhs-fear)

noun a region of the atmosphere high above the earth's surface:

Only a few specialised aircraft are designed to fly in the stratosphere.

thylacine

(say **thuy**-luh-seen)

noun a wolf-like marsupial of Tasmania, tan-coloured, with black stripes across the back, now thought to be extinct:

The thylacine is also known as the Tasmanian tiger.

Senior Environment Level 7

acanthocephalan

(say uh-kan-thoh-**sef**-uh-luhn)

noun a parasitic worm having a proboscis covered with recurved hooks and a hollow body without digestive tract, found in the intestine of vertebrates:

The flatworm, roundworm and acanthocephalan are all types of worms.

rhododendron

(say roh-duh-**den**-druhn)

noun a large evergreen shrub with pink, purple or white flowers:

The rhododendron in our front garden is covered with huge pink flowers.

sphagnum

(say **sfag**-nuhm)

noun any of the bog mosses found chiefly in temperate areas of high rainfall and little sun:

Stunted ferns and spongy sphagnum covered the wet ground in the middle of the forest.

zephyr

(say **zef**-uh)

noun a gentle breeze:

The soft evening zephyr formed ripples on the surface of the pond.

Senior Health Level 2

athlete

(say **ath**-leet)

noun someone who trains and competes in some kind of sport, especially running or jumping events:

Paul is an excellent athlete and wants to compete in the Olympic Games.

fever

(say **fee**-vuh)

noun an unusually high body temperature caused by illness:

She had a fever for three days and had to stay at home.

germ

(say jerm)

noun a very tiny living thing which causes disease:

If you really want to see a germ, you will have to look through a microscope.

glasses

(say **glah**-suhz)

noun **glasses** are something you wear over your eyes to help you see more clearly:

Dad needs to wear glasses when he is reading.

gym

(say jim)

noun a building or room containing equipment for exercising:

She goes to the gym every afternoon because she wants to keep fit.

helmet

(say **hel**-muht)

noun a special hat that protects your head:

You must wear a helmet when you ride a bike.

patient

(say **pay**-shuhnt)

noun someone who is being treated by a doctor or is in a hospital:

The doctor had to check on one last patient before he could leave for the night.

salad

(say **sal**-uhd)

noun a food made up of raw vegetables such as greens, tomatoes, and celery:

A light salad is just the thing for lunch in summer.

sneeze

(say sneez)

verb When you **sneeze**, air blows noisily out of your mouth and nose:

Hiding quietly behind the chair, I had a terrible urge to sneeze.

sprain

(say sprayn)

verb If you **sprain** a joint in your body, you twist or bend it accidentally so that it swells and bruises:

If you trip over, you could sprain your ankle.

tablet

(say **tab**-luht)

noun a small, flat, solid piece of medicine or soap:

We have to give the dog a tablet every day for her diabetes.

toothpaste

(say **tooth**-payst)

noun **toothpaste** is a soft substance that you brush on your teeth to clean them:

I like the taste of this new toothpaste.

Senior Health Level 3

ailment

(say **ayl**-muhnt)

noun an illness:

She has a serious ailment and needs ongoing treatment.

athletics

(say ath-**let**-iks)

noun events that take place on a track, such as running and hurdling, javelin throwing and the high jump:

The athletics at the Olympic Games are exciting to watch, particularly the running and hurdling.

calorie

(say **kal**-uh-ree)

noun a measurement of the energy value of food:

Counting every calorie is a really boring way to diet.

cleanse

(say klenz)

verb When you **cleanse** something, you make it clean or pure:

The nurse started to cleanse the wound with a mild antiseptic.

disease

(say duh-**zeez**)

noun a sickness which can affect a part or all of any living thing:

Many Tasmanian devils have been affected by a serious disease which is threatening their survival.

endemic

(say en-**dem**-ik)

adjective If a disease is **endemic**, it is generally found in a particular place:

Malaria is endemic in many tropical countries.

epidemic

(say ep-uh-**dem**-ik)

noun a lot of cases of an illness in a short period of time:

Before vaccinations, an epidemic of flu could kill thousands of people.

exercise

(say **eks**-uh-suyz)

noun an activity of the body or mind to train or improve it:

Walking is good exercise.

gangrene

(say **gang**-green)

noun the rotting of flesh on the body caused by the blood supply being cut off:

My grandfather suffered gangrene during the war and lost his left leg.

happiness

(say **hap**-ee-nuhs)

noun the state of being happy or contented:

The thought of travelling overseas filled Jack with happiness.

immunology

(say im-yooh-**nol**-uh-jee)

noun the science that deals with protection from diseases:

Immunology is an important branch of science that deals with protection from diseases.

mentality

(say men-**tal**-uh-tee)

noun outlook or frame of mind:

His parochial mentality was perhaps due to his never having travelled.

morale

(say muh-**rahl**)

noun confidence in yourself:

His morale was very low after he lost his job.

multivitamin

(say mul-tee-**vuy**-tuh-muhn)

noun a pill or tonic containing a number of different vitamins:

The doctor recommended taking a multivitamin each day, along with eating more fresh food.

muscle

(say **mus**-uhl)

noun A **muscle** is one of the pieces of flesh attached to the bones in your body that helps to make your body move:

He could feel the muscle in his arm flex when he lifted the weight.

nutrition

(say nyoooh-**trish**-uhn)

noun eating or eating habits:

Good nutrition is vital to athletes.

obesity

(say oh-**bee**-suh-tee)

adjective a medical condition in which excess body fat affects the health of the individual, often leading to heart disease and diabetes:

Rates of obesity are increasing in Australia.

preservative

(say pruh-**zerv**-uh-tiv)

noun a chemical substance that prevents something, such as food, from going bad:

This fruit juice only contains one type of preservative.

prognosis

(say prog-**noh**-suhs)

noun a doctor's opinion on how a disease will develop:

She was very relieved when the doctor gave her a good prognosis.

protein

(say **proh**-teen)

noun a substance found in foods such as meat and cheese, which is important to our health:

Meat, fish and eggs are all good sources of protein.

recuperate

(say ruh-**kooh**-puh-rayt)

verb If you **recuperate**, you recover from sickness or exhaustion:

It did not take her long to recuperate from the virus because she was so fit.

stamina

(say **stam**-uh-nuh)

noun physical power or strength, especially to fight off tiredness or sickness:

She will need enormous stamina to keep up the burning pace of the marathon.

tetanus

(say **tet**-nuhs or **tet**-uh-nuhs)

noun an infectious, often deadly disease, which causes extreme stiffness of the muscles of the jaw and other parts of the body:

These days, most people in Australia are immunised against tetanus, so it is not very common.

therapy

(say **the**-ruh-pee)

noun healing treatment for a physical or mental problem:

The boy has been referred to a clinic for speech therapy.

Senior Health Level 4

allergy

(say **al**-uh-jee)

noun an unusual sensitivity to things that are normally harmless, like pollen, dust and certain foods:

Some people have an allergy to wattle.

ambulance

(say **am**-byuh-luhns)

noun a vehicle which is specially equipped to carry sick or injured people and which is driven by experts in first aid:

An ambulance took her to hospital when she fell out of the tree and hurt her back.

anatomy

(say uh-**nat**-uh-mee)

noun the structure of the body of a human, animal or plant:

The anatomy of a llama is very similar to that of an alpaca, guanaco and vicuña.

anxiety

(say ang-**zuy**-uh-tee)

noun feelings of worry or fear:

I had a feeling of anxiety before my music exam.

arthritis

(say ah-**thruy**-tuhs)

noun a disease that causes swelling and pain in the joints of the body:

My grandfather has difficulty writing because of his arthritis.

bathe

(say baydh)

verb to wash clean:

Bathe your sore eye in this salty water.

casualty

(say **kazh**-yooh-uhl-tee)

noun someone hurt or killed in an accident or war:

The only casualty of the accident was taken to hospital in an ambulance.

cholera

(say **kol**-uh-ruh)

noun an infectious tropical disease of the digestive system which can cause death:

Many people died of cholera in the epidemic.

concussion

(say kuhn-**kush**-uhn)

noun an injury of the brain or spine caused by a blow:

He suffered concussion from the fall.

decongestant

(say dee-kon-**jess**-tuhnt)

noun a drug that helps clear your nose when it is blocked or your chest if you have a cough:

I went to the chemist to buy a decongestant to help clear my nose.

dermatitis

(say der-muh-**tuy**-tuhs)

noun dryness and redness of the skin which is itchy or painful:

Her dermatitis was so bad she had to wear gloves all the time.

diagnosable

(say duy-uhg-**nohz**-uh-buhl)

adjective able to be diagnosed:

Not all medical conditions of babies are diagnosable at birth.

digestion

(say duy-**jes**-chuhn)

noun the act of or process by which you digest food:

Eating your food slowly helps the process of digestion.

disinfectant

(say dis-uhn-**fek**-tuhnt)

noun any chemical substance which kills germs:

The vet sprays the examining table with disinfectant after each patient.

dispensary

(say dis-**pen**-suh-ree or dis-**pen**-sree)

noun the part of a chemist's shop or hospital where medicines are made up and given out:

The chemist brought my prescription out of the dispensary.

epilepsy

(say **ep**-uh-lep-see)

noun an illness which produces fits of unconsciousness and uncontrollable movements of the body:

She has a mild form of epilepsy which is controlled well with medication.

glandular

(say **glan**-juh-luh)

adjective relating to a gland:

Glandular fever is an illness which is quite common among teenagers.

gregarious

(say gruh-**gair**-ree-uhs)

adjective fond of the company of other people:

She has a gregarious nature and loves meeting new people.

gymnasium

(say jim-**nay**-zee-uhm)

noun a building or room specially equipped for gymnastics and sport:

The gymnasium has a lot of different equipment such as running machines and climbing ropes.

hepatitis

(say hep-uh-**tuy**-tuhs)

noun a disease of the liver:

Hepatitis can make you sick for a long time.

humorous

(say **hyooh**-muh-ruhs)

adjective If something is **humorous**, it is funny:

We thought it was humorous when my little brother said that a caterpillar was a worm in a fur coat.

hygienic

(say huy-**jeen**-ik)

adjective clean and sanitary:

It is important to have a hygienic kitchen.

indigestion

(say in-duh-**jess**-chuhn)

noun pain in the stomach caused by difficulty in digesting food:

I got indigestion from eating too much fried food too quickly.

inflammation

(say in-fluh-**may**-shuhn)

noun a red, painful, and often swollen area on the body, caused by an infection:

The inflammation around his knee prevented him from surfing for a month.

intravenous

(say in-truh-**vee**-nuhs)

adjective An **intravenous** medicine is given directly into the blood, through a needle put in a vein:

The patient is being given an intravenous antibiotic.

locum

(say **loh**-kuhm)

noun a temporary stand-in for a doctor, lawyer, etc.:

He was employed for three weeks as a locum while the resident doctor took holidays.

malnutrition

(say mal-nyooh-**trish**-uhn)

noun illness caused by not having enough food:

Malnutrition affects millions of people around the world.

medicine

(say **med**-uh-suhn or **med**-suhn)

noun a substance used in treating sickness:

Take some cough medicine and you'll feel better.

obstetrics

(say ob-**stet**-riks or uhb-**stet**-riks)

noun the type of medical practice that is concerned with caring for pregnant women before, during and after the birth of their babies:

My aunt works in obstetrics so she knows a lot about babies and caring for them.

orthodontics

(say aw-thuh-**don**-tikhs)

noun the branch of dentistry concerned with straightening teeth or correcting irregularities of the jaw:

Tomorrow she'll see a specialist in orthodontics to get braces put on her teeth.

prosthesis

(say pros-**thee**-suhs or pruhhs-**thee**-suhs)

noun an artificial body part:

No-one could tell that part of his leg was a prosthesis.

pulmonary

(say **pul**-muhn-ree or **pull**-muhn-ree)

adjective having to do with the lungs:

The pulmonary artery takes blood from the lungs to the body.

quinine

(say **kw**in-een or kwuh-**neen**)

noun a bitter medicine used to treat malaria:

Until recent times quinine was the only treatment for malaria.

respirator

(say **ress**-puh-ray-tuh)

noun a device worn over the nose and mouth, to supply oxygen to prevent the breathing in of harmful substances:

The firefighter was wearing a respirator when he entered the burning building.

salmonella

(say sal-muh-**nel**-uh)

noun a type of bacterium causing sickness in humans and animals, by food contamination:

Tests found the presence of salmonella in the food which had caused the food poisoning.

sanitary

(say **san**-uh-tree)

adjective having to do with cleanliness or care in preventing disease:

All procedures at the hospital must be sanitary, or germs will quickly spread.

seizure

(say **seezh**-uh)

noun a sudden attack of disease:

She had a seizure while on holidays and was rushed to hospital.

stethoscope

(say **steth**-uh-skohp)

noun an instrument used by doctors to listen to the sounds made by the heart and lungs:

The doctor placed the stethoscope on my back and listened while I took a deep breath.

syndrome

(say **sin**-drohm)

noun in medicine, a particular group of signs or a type of behaviour that shows that a disease or a condition exists:

Doctors have identified a new syndrome affecting inner-city dwellers.

vaccine

(say vak-**seen**)

noun a type of medication which helps you develop immunity to a disease:

Scientists have developed a pneumonia vaccine, which is particularly helpful in winter for elderly people.

Senior Health Level 5

acupuncture

(say **ak**-uh-pungk-chuh or **ak**-yuh-pungk-chuh)

noun a Chinese type of medicine which treats illness or pain by sticking needles into certain parts of the body:

The team doctor used acupuncture to treat some of the players' aches and pains.

amnesia

(say am-**neezh**-uh or am-**nee**-zee-uh)

noun loss of memory:

Because of his amnesia, he no longer remembers where he lived.

analgesic

(say an-uhl-**jee**-zik)

noun a medicine that removes or lessens pain:

She took an analgesic and soon her headache improved.

antiseptic

(say an-tuh-**sep**-tik)

noun a chemical used to kill germs that produce disease:

We cleaned the cut with antiseptic before putting a bandage on it.

asthma

(say **ass**-muh)

noun a breathing disorder which causes difficulty in breathing, coughing and a feeling of tightness in the chest:

She found that swimming helped her breathing and she had fewer attacks of asthma.

cannula

(say **kan**-yuh-luh)

noun a metal tube for insertion into the body, used to keep a passage open, to draw off fluid, or to introduce medication:

The nurse had to insert a cannula to attach the drip.

carbohydrate

(say kah-buh-**huy**-drayt)

noun a chemical compound containing oxygen, hydrogen and carbon:

Foods high in carbohydrate include fruits, sweets, soft drinks, breads, pastas, and cereals.

chiropractor

(say **kuy**-ruh-prak-tuh)

noun someone trained to treat back pain and other types of illness by massaging and adjusting the spine:

The footballer's back felt much better after a few sessions with the chiropractor.

chloroform

(say **klo**-ruh-fawm)

noun a colourless liquid, which used to be used as an anaesthetic:

In the past, chloroform was used so that people could have pain-free operations.

consciousness

(say **kon**-shuhs-nuhs)

noun mental awareness:

She regained consciousness when the anaesthetic wore off.

contagious

(say kuhn-**tay**-juhs)

adjective easily spread from one person to another:

Measles is contagious, but most people in Australia are vaccinated against it.

convalesce

(say kon-vuh-less)

verb If someone is **convalescing**, they are growing stronger after an illness:

They took her to the mountains so she could convalesce in the cool, clean air.

emulsion

(say uh-mul-shuhn)

noun a milk-like mixture, often rather oily:

The naturopath made up a special emulsion for her to rub on the affected areas.

extrasensory

(say eks-truh-sen-suh-ree)

adjective outside the normal senses:

He had what appeared to be an extrasensory ability to predict what people were thinking.

geriatrics

(say je-ree-at-riks)

noun the medical care of old people:

Looking after his grandmother while she was ill inspired him to specialise in geriatrics when he became a doctor.

hypothermia

(say huy-puh-ther-mee-uh)

noun an abnormally low body temperature:

The two children were found in the snow, suffering from hypothermia.

neuralgia

(say nyoooh-ral-juh)

noun a pain along a nerve:

The sharp pains from her neuralgia were getting worse.

panacea

(say pan-uh-see-uh)

noun a remedy for all diseases:

My mother says that rest and vitamin C is the best panacea.

physician

(say fuh-zish-uhn)

noun a medical doctor, especially one who does not do surgery:

The physician examined the boy's painful leg.

placebo

(say pluh-see-boh)

noun a substance which has no medicinal content but which a patient believes to be a medicine:

One half of the experimental group was given a placebo instead of the test medication but were not told of this.

psychoanalyst

(say suy-koh-an-uh-luhst)

noun someone who tries to help people with mental problems by examining their unconscious mind:

She consulted a psychoanalyst about her extreme anxiety.

regurgitate

(say ruh-ger-juh-tayt)

verb to bring back food into the mouth (of birds; in order to feed their young):

The Cape hunting dog is one of the only mammals to regurgitate food for its young.

rheumatic

(say rooh-**mat**-ik)

adjective having to do with rheumatism, a condition which causes your joints to ache:

He had a rheumatic condition which caused pain in his neck and shoulders.

subcutaneous

(say sub-kyooh-**tay**-nee-uhs)

adjective situated or lying under the skin:

The swelling was caused by a subcutaneous cyst which had become infected.

symptom

(say **simp**-tuhm)

noun something that shows that you have a disease or illness of some kind:

A high temperature is a symptom of the flu.

therapeutic

(say the-ruh-**pyooh**-tik)

adjective relating to the treatment of disease or pain:

The physiotherapist used therapeutic massage to treat the gymnast's sore back.

vaccinate

(say **vak**-suh-nayt)

verb to give a vaccine to in order to prevent illness:

We had to vaccinate against hepatitis before travelling overseas.

venomous

(say **ven**-uh-muhs)

adjective inflicting a poisonous bite or sting:

The bite from the venomous snake made me very sick.

Senior Health Level 6

cartilage

(say **kah**-tuh-lij)

noun a firm elastic tissue found in various parts of the body:

The basketball player was in a lot of pain when he tore the cartilage in his knee.

cholesterol

(say kuh-**less**-tuh-rol)

noun a substance found in the body and some foods:

A high level of cholesterol in the blood can increase the risk of heart disease.

conjunctivitis

(say kuhn-jungk-tuh-**vuy**-tuhs)

noun a painful disease of the very fine membrane that covers and protects the inside of the eyelid and the surface of the eye, causing redness and swelling:

Conjunctivitis is sometimes called 'pink eye' because it causes redness and swelling of the eye.

diagnostician

(say duy-uhg-nos-**tish**-uhn)

noun an expert in making diagnoses:

The doctor consulted a specialist diagnostician to find out what was wrong with the sick man.

epiglottis

(say ep-ee-**glot**-uhs)

noun a thin piece of cartilage that covers the opening to the larynx during swallowing:

The epiglottis prevents food and drink from going down your windpipe.

gastroenteritis

(say gas-troh-en-tuh-**ruy**-tuhs)

noun inflammation of the stomach and the intestines:

His gastroenteritis became so severe that he was badly dehydrated.

inoculation

(say in-**ok**-yuh-lay-shuhn)

noun an injection which gives a very mild form of a disease in order to protect from that same disease later:

He had to have an inoculation for typhoid before he could go overseas.

osteoarthritis

(say **os**-tee-oh-ahth-ruy-tuhs)

noun a degenerative type of chronic arthritis:

The doctor prescribed vitamin supplements to help with his osteoarthritis.

pneumonia

(say nyoooh-**mohn**-yuh)

noun a serious illness caused by an inflammation of the lungs which makes it difficult to breathe:

The chest infection grew a lot worse and turned into pneumonia.

quarantine

(say **kwo**-ruhn-teen)

noun the separating of people or animals from others for a certain period of time to make certain they don't spread a disease to others:

Animals coming into Australia have to be kept in quarantine to prevent the spread of diseases.

tonsillitis

(say ton-suh-**luy**-tuhs)

noun an illness in which the tonsils become infected and painful:

She had bad tonsillitis and couldn't speak.

tympanum

(say **tim**-puh-nuhm or tim-**pah**-nuhm)

noun the inside part of the ear, known as the middle ear:

An ear surgeon will perform the delicate operation to repair his tympanum.

Senior Health Level 7

cerebellum

(say se-ruh-**bel**-uhm)

noun the back part of the brain, controlling voluntary movements, posture, and balance:

We are studying the part of the brain called the cerebellum in our anatomy class.

eczema

(say **ek**-suh-muh or **eks**-muh)

noun an itchy or painful rash in which the skin becomes red and flaky:

I always get eczema on my knees during winter.

psoriasis

(say suh-**ruy**-uh-suhs)

noun a skin disease marked by scaly patches:

Psoriasis is a very itchy and uncomfortable skin condition.

staphylococcus

(say staf-uh-luh-**kok**-uhs)

noun any of a certain group of bacteria causing a wide variety of diseases:

Some forms of the bacteria staphylococcus can cause serious illness.

Senior Science Level 2

atom

(say **at**-uhm)

noun the smallest part that an element can be divided into and still keep its special qualities or take part in a chemical reaction:

An atom is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons.

battery

(say **bat**-uh-ree or **bat**-ree)

noun a container which stores electricity:

I couldn't find the right battery for the torch.

binary

(say **buy**-nuh-ree)

adjective consisting of, or involving two numbers, usually 0 and 1:

A simple binary system is at the basis of how most modern computers work.

broadcast

(say **brawd**-kahst)

verb To broadcast a program or message is to send it out by radio or television:

The news is broadcast at 7 p.m. each evening.

computer

(say kuhm-**pyooh**-tuh)

noun an electronic machine which stores and gives out information, and does calculations very quickly, according to a set of instructions called a program:

Our new computer allows us to access the internet very quickly.

friction

(say **frik**-shuhn)

noun the rubbing of two surfaces against each other:

The friction of two stones being rubbed together can produce a spark.

gravity

(say **grav**-uh-tee)

noun **gravity** is the strong force that pulls things or that makes them fall towards the earth:

If it wasn't for gravity, we would all be floating around.

router

(say **rowt**-uh)

noun a device which provides connection between computers in a network and controls the network areas that each can access:

We had to follow the instructions to set up the router.

theory

(say **thear**-ree)

noun a suggested explanation with little or no basis in fact:

They had to undertake a lot of research before their theory could be proved.

transmit

(say trans-**mit**)

verb To **transmit** a signal or message to a place, is to send it there by means of electronic equipment:

They plan to transmit the game live from the playing ground.

upload

(say **up**-loh-d)

verb To **upload** data is to transfer or copy it from a computer to a larger system, such as from a personal computer to a network:

After you upload the material from your computer, the rest of the class will be able to use it.

wireless

(say **wuy**-uh-luhs)

adjective not using telephone lines, cables, etc.:

Wireless technology allows people to access the internet even when they are outside.

Senior Science Level 3

avatar

(say **av**-uh-tah)

noun the representation of a person in virtual reality on a computer screen:

In some video games each player is represented on the screen by an avatar.

cosmonaut

(say **koz**-muh-nawt)

noun a person trained as a pilot, to take part in the flight of a spacecraft:

The cosmonaut prepared the spacecraft for its return to Earth.

device

(say duh-**vice**)

noun something which has been invented for a particular purpose:

This device, called a pedometer, counts each step you take.

dissect

(say duh-**sekt** or duy-**sekt**)

verb to cut something up carefully to examine it:

In our science class we watched the teacher dissect a sheep's brain to show us how it worked.

engineer

(say en-juh-**near**)

noun someone who is trained to design and build things and to use machinery:

His father is an engineer who designs roads and bridges.

formula

(say **faw**-myuh-luh)

noun in chemistry, the representation of the atoms in a molecule by symbols:

The formula for ordinary salt is NaCl.

gene

(say jeen)

noun one of the units in the body which is responsible for passing on characteristics, like eye colour, from parents to their children:

I have inherited the gene for red hair from my mother.

hyperlink

(say **huy**-puh-lingk)

noun (in computers) a link from one document to another:

I clicked on the hyperlink to get to the next page.

inertia

(say in-**er**-shuh)

noun the tendency of something to continue to stay still or keep moving in the same direction:

In our physics class we learnt that inertia is the force that makes an object stay still until it is moved or keep moving until it is stopped.

kilohertz

(say **kil**-uh-herts)

noun a unit of frequency equal to 1000 hertz; used to express radiofrequency:

The radiofrequency is 300 kilohertz.

kinetic

(say kuh-**net**-ik)

adjective having to do with movement:

We use kinetic energy when we move.

machinery

(say muh-**sheen**-uh-ree)

noun machines in general:

Machinery has made our lives easier.

methodology

(say meth-uh-**dol**-uh-jee)

noun the science of method, especially a branch of logic dealing with the logical principles underlying the organisation of the various special sciences, and the conduct of scientific enquiry:

The success of the experiment was helped by a sound methodology.

microscope

(say **muy**-kruh-skohp)

noun an instrument used for looking at extremely tiny things that you normally cannot see:

We examined a mosquito under the microscope.

molecule

(say **mol**-uh-kyoohl)

noun the smallest unit or particle into which something can be divided without changing its features:

A molecule of water is made up of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen.

narrowcast

(say **na**-roh-kahst)

verb (t) to transmit (data) to a limited number of recipients as in cable television where only subscribers' receivers can take the signal:

We didn't see the program because it was narrowcast on a pay-TV station only.

nucleus

(say **nyooh**-klee-uhs)

noun in biology, the central part of a living cell:

When the doctor examined the blood under the microscope he found that the nucleus of each cell was damaged.

procedure

(say pruh-**see**-juh)

noun writing or speaking which tells how to do or make something step by step:

The procedure for our science experiment was written clearly on the whiteboard.

prototype

(say **proh**-tuh-tuyp)

noun the original or the model of something which is later copied:

The prototype of this racing car is in a motor museum.

research

(say ruh-**serch** or **ree**-serch)

noun the process of studying something deeply and doing tests to find out more about it:

One day, medical research might discover a cure for colds.

specimen

(say **spess**-uh-muhn)

noun a single thing or part taken as being typical of a whole group or mass:

We found a very good starfish specimen in a shallow rock pool.

supersonic

(say sooh-puh-**son**-ik)

adjective If an aircraft is **supersonic**, it travels faster than sound travels:

He would like to be a pilot and fly supersonic jets.

theorem

(say **thear**-ruhm)

noun a statement containing something to be proved in mathematics:

Our maths teacher showed us two different ways to prove the theorem.

voltage

(say **vol**-tij)

noun electromotive force or potential expressed in volts:

There was a sign by the power station warning people to keep away because of high voltage.

Senior Science Level 4

absorption

(say uhb-**sawp**-shuhn or uhb-**zawp**-shuhn)

noun the act, process or result of absorbing:

The absorption of nutrients into the body is a complicated process.

ampere

(say **am**-pair)

noun a unit of electric current:

Electricians usually shorten the word `ampere' to `amp'.

amplitude

(say **amp**-luh-choohd)

noun in physics, the distance or range from the maximum or minimum point of a wave pattern to the middle point:

We could measure the changes in amplitude from looking at the graph.

analyst

(say **an**-uh-luhst)

noun someone who analyses or who is skilled in analysis:

We had to engage a computer analyst to sort out our network problems.

antenna

(say an-**ten**-uh)

noun a wire or rod that you put up to receive radio or television signals:

I had to adjust the antenna on the radio to receive a good signal.

apparatus

(say ap-uh-**rah**-tuhs)

noun a collection of tools or machines used for a particular purpose:

We set up the apparatus for the experiment.

appliance

(say uh-**pluy**-uhns)

noun a tool which has a motor worked by electricity:

The best appliance in the kitchen is the dishwasher.

astronomy

(say uh-**stron**-uh-mee)

noun the scientific study of the sun, moon, stars and planets:

When you study astronomy, you learn things like how long it takes light from the sun to reach different planets.

aviation

(say ay-vee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the science or act of flying in an aircraft:

The air force had an exhibition on the history of aviation.

barometer

(say buh-**rom**-uh-tuh)

noun an instrument that measures air pressure, used to help work out what changes in the weather can be expected:

The barometer is falling which means we are in for bad weather.

chemistry

(say **kem**-uh-stree)

noun the science of what substances are made of and the ways they react with each other:

My father studied chemistry and physics at university.

circuitry

(say **ser**-kuh-tree)

noun a system of electrical circuits:

The toaster stopped working because of a problem in the circuitry.

combustion

(say kuhm-**bus**-chuhn)

noun the process of burning:

The heater worked on a process of slow combustion.

conductivity

(say kon-duk-**tiv**-uh-tee)

noun the ability of a substance to conduct heat, electricity or sound:

Copper is commonly used for electrical wiring because it has a high conductivity.

conductor

(say kuhn-**duk**-tuh)

noun something that easily conducts heat, electricity or sound:

Metal is a good conductor of heat.

contraption

(say kuhn-**trap**-shuhn)

noun a complicated device or piece of machinery:

They pulled the contraption apart to try and see how it worked.

cyberspace

(say **suy**-buh-space)

noun the internet:

She spent hours at the computer lost in cyberspace.

diffusion

(say duh-**fyoo**h-zhuhn)

noun the filling of any space by a fluid, or the mixing of fluids due to the way their particles or molecules move freely:

We experimented with diffusion by mixing different types of liquids together.

electricity

(say uh-lek-**triss**-uh-tee)

noun a form of energy which can be used for heating, lighting, driving a motor, and other things:

We had no electricity in our house because a tree fell across the wires.

evaporation

(say uh-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn or ee-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun the act or process of water turning to vapour:

Evaporation increases as the temperature increases.

frequency

(say **free**-kwuhn-see)

noun the rate of movements in a sound wave:

What is the frequency of your favourite radio station?

hypothesis

(say huy-**poth**-uh-suhs)

noun an idea put forward as a useful starting point for a discussion or scientific investigation:

The scientist proposed the hypothesis that the earth was much older than commonly thought.

magnetism

(say **mag**-nuh-tiz-uhm)

noun typical qualities of magnets:

We learned lots about magnetism by moving the poles of the magnets around.

magnification

(say mag-nuh-fuh-**kay**-shuhn)

noun the act or result of magnifying:

Under the microscope, the magnification of the cockroach made it look like a prehistoric monster.

mechanism

(say **mek**-uhn-iz-uhm)

noun a piece of machinery:

The mechanism which controls the temperature in the fridge is broken.

microprocessor

(say muy-kroh-**proh**-ses-uh)

noun the most important electronic chip in a computer:

A computer would not be able to work without a microprocessor.

observatory

(say uhb-**zerv**-uh-tree)

noun a building equipped with powerful telescopes for looking at the stars, planets and weather patterns:

It is great to visit an observatory when there is a comet in the sky.

probability

(say prob-uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

noun the relative frequency of the occurrence of an event as measured by the ratio of the number of cases or alternatives favourable to the event to the total number of cases or alternatives:

The data showed that the probability of another earthquake was high.

programming

(say **proh**-gram-ing)

noun the writing of instructions in a computer language which will cause a computer to perform a particular operation:

My sister is studying programming because she loves working with computers.

projectile

(say pruh-**jek**-tuyl)

noun something thrown or fired with great force:

We scattered as projectile after projectile was thrown over the fence by the kids next door.

reactor

(say ree-**ak**-tuh)

noun a machine which produces nuclear energy:

Australia's first nuclear reactor was shut down at the beginning of 2007 to make way for a new one.

satellite

(say **sat**-uh-luyt)

noun an object sent into orbit around the earth or around another planet to send information back to earth:

The satellite transmitted images of Mercury's surface back to Earth.

schematic

(say skee-**mat**-ik or skuh-**mat**-ik)

adjective relating to a plan, diagram, or scheme:

Schematic diagrams are used in instruction manuals to help customers understand how to use their appliances.

simulator

(say **sim**-yuh-lay-tuh)

noun a device used in training or experiments that simulates movement or flight:

Pilots begin their training on a simulator before actually flying a plane.

simulcast

(say **sim**-uhl-kahst)

noun a program broadcast on both television and radio at the same time:

The concert was to be presented as a simulcast on television and radio before the end of the year.

statistics

(say stuh-**tis**-tik)

plural noun the science which deals with the collection, ordering, and use of information in the form of numbers and amounts:

Statistics show that more boys are born than girls.

thermometer

(say thuh-**mom**-uh-tuh)

noun an instrument for measuring temperature:

The doctor took my temperature with a thermometer.

transmitter

(say trans-**mit**-uh)

noun the part of a radio system which produces and changes the radio waves and sends them out to the aerial:

The radio transmitter was out of order.

ultraviolet

(say ul-truh-**vuy**-uh-luht)

adjective beyond the violet end of the light spectrum:

The ultraviolet light rays from the sun can burn you.

virtual

(say **ver**-chooh-uhl)

adjective of or relating to an environment, object, etc., which exists only as a computer representation, as opposed to a physical existence:

My university course is undertaken in a virtual classroom because I live so far away.

Senior Science Level 5

acceleration

(say ak-sel-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun the act of increasing speed:

A racing car needs to have powerful acceleration.

aerodynamic

(say air-roh-duy-**nam**-ik)

adjective able to travel through the air; designed for air travel:

The aircraft's aerodynamic design enabled it to break the sound barrier.

alkali

(say **al**-kuh-luy)

noun a chemical that reduces the effect of acid:

In science today we learned that soap is an alkali.

alphanumeric

(say al-fuh-nyooh-**me**-rik)

adjective consisting of both letters and numerals:

My password is alphanumeric: ABC986.

centrifugal

(say sen-**trif**-uh-guhl or sen-truh-**fyoo**-guh)

adjective moving outwards from the centre:

Centrifugal force is what keeps water in a bucket when you swing it over your head.

chromosome

(say **kroh**-muh-sohm or **kroh**-muh-zohm)

noun a tiny threadlike body found in the nucleus of all living cells, which carries the genetic codes for the characteristics of the organism:

Down syndrome occurs when a person has an extra chromosome or one chromosome has an extra part.

equilibrium

(say eek-wuh-**lib**-ree-uhm or ek-wuh-**lib**-ree-uhm)

noun equal balance:

The two children managed to keep the seesaw in equilibrium.

extrapolate

(say ek-**strap**-uh-layt)

verb to make a guess about something you don't know using the things you do know as a basis:

You can extrapolate from this survey that about one in twenty people won't vote at all.

gasification

(say gas-uh-fuh-**kay**-shuhn)

noun the process of converting a substance into gas:

Coal gasification is a way of reducing the pollution caused by the burning of coal.

horizontal

(say ho-ruh-**zon**-tuhl)

adjective parallel, or in line, with the horizon, as opposed to vertical:

He had to leap over a horizontal bar a metre from the ground.

hypothetical

(say huy-puh-**thet**-i-kuhl)

adjective assumed by hypothesis; supposed:

The interviewee was given the hypothetical scenario of a mission to colonise Mars, and asked to nominate a crew.

oxygenate

(say **ok**-suh-juh-nayt)

verb to treat or combine with oxygen:

The therapist said that the exercises would help to oxygenate the blood.

percentile

(say puh-**sen**-tuyl)

noun a group equalling one hundredth of a set of statistics:

It was her dream to be in the top percentile in maths.

pneumatic

(say nyoooh-**mat**-ik)

adjective worked by air or air pressure:

The invention of the pneumatic tyre made car travel much more comfortable.

quadrilateral

(say kwod-ruh-**lat**-ruhl)

noun a closed, plane figure with four sides:

A parallelogram is an example of a quadrilateral.

seismograph

(say **suyz**-muh-graf)

noun an instrument for measuring and recording vibrations within the earth, such as earthquakes:

At the museum, we were shown how a seismograph measures the strength of an earthquake.

statistician

(say stat-uh-**stish**-uhn)

noun someone who compiles statistics:

A statistician analysed the tide recordings from the past twenty years.

stereophonic

(say ste-ree-uh-**fon**-ik)

adjective using two channels and two speakers to transmit and broadcast sound:

Joshua listened to his digital music player with stereophonic headphones.

symbiotic

(say sim-buy-**ot**-ik)

adjective relating to a relationship between two living things that is advantageous or necessary to both:

In some symbiotic relationships one organism cannot survive without the other.

synthesis

(say **sin**-thuh-suhs)

noun the mixing together of parts into a whole:

The synthesis of all the different seeds created a stunning garden of flowers.

technician

(say tek-**nish**-uhn)

noun someone skilled in the technical aspects of something:

We called a technician when the photocopier broke down.

temperature

(say **tem**-pruh-chuh)

noun a measure of the degree of heat or cold of something or someone:

The temperature of the solution rose to boiling point.

thermodynamics

(say ther-moh-duy-**nam**-iks)

noun the science concerned with the relationship between heat and mechanical energy:

Thermodynamics is a branch of science studied at university.

titanium

(say tuy-**tay**-nee-uhm)

noun a dark grey metal used to remove oxygen and nitrogen from steel and to toughen it:

Titanium can make steel extremely strong.

trajectory

(say truh-**jek**-tuh-ree)

the curve described by a projectile in its flight:

The crowd watched the trajectory of the cricket ball until it went over the fence and they lost sight of it.

unidimensional

(say yoooh-nee-duh-**men**-shuhn-uhl)

adjective having a single dimension:

We learned in maths today that a line is unidimensional.

vitreous

(say **vit**-ree-uhs)

adjective resembling glass in transparency, brittleness and hardness:

This bowl is covered in a vitreous coating.

Senior Science Level 6

algorithm

(say **al**-guh-ridh-uhm)

noun a procedure for solving a particular mathematical problem in a finite number of steps:

The programmer worked out the algorithm for solving the problem.

ammonia

(say uh-**mohn**-yuh or uh-**moh**-nee-uh)

noun a strong-smelling gas, often dissolved in water to make a liquid which may be used for cleaning:

We put some ammonia in a bucket of water to clean the bathroom.

beryllium

(say buh-**ril**-ee-uhm)

noun a steel-grey, hard, metallic element:

Beryllium is a metallic element often used in springs because it is so hard and light.

centrifuge

(say **sen**-truh-fyoohj or **sen**-truh-fyoohzh)

noun a machine used to separate two substances by spinning them around very fast in a rotating container:

A centrifuge is used to separate serum from blood.

fluorescence

(say floouh-**res**-uhns or fluh-**res**-uhns)

noun the ability that certain substances have to give out light when exposed to radiation or a stream of high energy particles, such as electrons:

Scientists in Antarctica measure fluorescence to detect stress in plants caused by pollutants.

formaldehyde

(say faw-**mal**-duh-huyd)

noun a chemical substance used as a disinfectant and preservative:

Formaldehyde is a chemical used in the manufacture of resins and plastics.

geochemistry

(say jee-oh-**kem**-uh-stree)

noun the science dealing with the chemical changes in, and the composition of, the earth, particularly its crust:

My cousin is studying geochemistry at university.

laboratory

(say luh-**bo**-ruh-tree)

noun a building or room for doing scientific tests or for making chemicals or medicines:

The mad scientist worked in his laboratory all night.

meteorology

(say mee-tee-uh-**rol**-uh-jee)

noun the study of weather and climate:

He studied meteorology because he was interested in the physics of weather patterns.

photosynthesis

(say foh-toh-**sin**-thuh-suhs)

noun the making of carbohydrates by plants from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of light and chlorophyll (the green colouring in plants):

The process of photosynthesis is necessary for life.

physicist

(say **fiz**-uh-suhst)

noun a person trained in physics and its methods:

She wanted to be a physicist and study space.

surveillance

(say suh-**vay**-luhns)

noun a watch kept over someone, especially someone who is suspected of doing something wrong:

The police have had him under surveillance for several weeks.

Senior Science Level 7

carburettor

(say kah-byuh-**ret**-uh)

noun a device in an engine for mixing a volatile fuel with air in order to form an explosive gas:

The mechanic said it would cost \$800 to fix the problem with the carburettor.

ichthyology

(say ik-thee-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the branch of zoology that deals with fish:

He wants to study ichthyology because he is very interested in marine life.

isosceles

(say uy-**so**ss-uh-leez)

adjective An **isosceles** triangle has two equal sides:

Our maths teacher asked us to draw an isosceles triangle.

logarithm

(say **log**-uh-rith-uhm)

noun a mathematical term relating to multiplication:

Knowing how to calculate a logarithm can make working with large numbers easier.