

VERBAL ADVANTAGE

Level IV

By Charles Harrington Elster

Verbal Advantage Level Four

With Pronunciations, Synonyms, Antonyms and Related Information Listed in Order of Presentation, by Level and Number. The abbreviation N.B. stands for the Latin nota bene and means "note well, take good note of."

1. PROVIDENT (PRAH-vi-dint)

Thrifty, economical, saving or providing for future needs.

Synonyms: *prudent* (Level 1, Word 47), *frugal* (Level 2, Word 35).

Related word: *provide*.

2. IMPUTE (im-PYOOT)

To charge or attribute, especially with a fault or misconduct, lay the responsibility or blame upon, ascribe, assign.

Usage tip: The verb to *credit* has a favorable connotation. The verbs to *assign* and to *ascribe* are neutral. The verb to *impute* often has a negative connotation: "We usually *ascribe* good, but *impute* evil" (Samuel Johnson).

Corresponding noun: *imputation*, a charge or accusation.

3. ASTUTE (uh-ST(Y)OOT)

Shrewd, clever, perceptive, discerning, acute, keenly aware, quick-witted.

Synonyms: *sagacious*, *perspicacious*, *sapient* (SAY-pee-int).

4. NEOPHYTE (NEE-uh-fyt)

A beginner, novice, amateur, tyro; specifically, a new member of or convert to a religion.

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the words *tyro*, *amateur*, *dilettante*, *novice*, and *neophyte*.

5. ENIGMA (i-NIG-muh)

A mystery, puzzle, riddle; perplexing problem; something or someone hard to understand or explain; anything baffling, inexplicable, or inscrutable.

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6. CREDENCE (KREE-dĭns)

Belief, acceptance, especially belief in a published report or acceptance of another's opinion or testimony.

Related words: *credence*, *creed*, *credible*, and *credulous* all come from the Latin *credere*, to believe.

Usage tip: *Credence* is often used with the verbs to *give* or *lend*.

7. VENERATE (VEN-uh-rayt)

To respect deeply, revere, regard with awe and adoration.

Corresponding adjective: *venerable*, worthy of veneration, of being venerated. *Venerable* is often used of something or someone old or long-established.

8. GARRULOUS (GAR-uh-lŭs, also GAR-yuh-lŭs)

Talkative, especially in a rambling, annoying, pointless, or long-winded way.

Synonyms: verbose (Level 2, Word 30), loquacious, voluble (Level 5, Word 1), and prolix (Level 9, Word 1).

Antonyms: reserved, reticent, taciturn (Level 3, Word 2), laconic (Level 3, Word 18).

Etymology: Garrulous comes from the Latin *garrere*, to chatter, babble, talk in a rambling and tiresome way (literally, "to chatter like a jaybird").

9. TRENCHANT (TREN-chent)

Keen, penetrating, vigorously effective, sharp and to the point.

Synonyms: forceful, acute, incisive.

10. AUTONOMOUS (aw-TAHN-uh-mŭs)

Independent, self-governing, not under the control of something or someone else.

Etymology and related words: The Greek *autos*, self, is the source of the English combining form *auto-*, self, which appears in many words, including autobiography, autograph, automobile, automatic, and autocracy, rule by one self or one person hence, dictatorship, tyranny, despotism.

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11. PANACEA (PAN-uh-SEE-uh)

A cure-all, universal antidote, remedy for all diseases and difficulties.

Etymology and related words: The English prefix *pan-* (from Greek), means "all." This prefix appears in front of a number of useful English words, including *panorama*, *pantheism*, and *pantheon*.

Usage tip: The common expression "a panacea for all ills" is redundant. *Panacea* by itself means a cure for all ills, a universal remedy.

12. EPHEMERAL (e-FEM-ur-ul)

Short-lived, passing, fleeting, lasting for a short time.

Synonyms: *transitory*, *evanescent*, *fugitive*, *fugacious*. For more on these words, review the discussion of *transient* (Level 2, Word 31).

Usage tip: The common expression "daily journal" is redundant, for by derivation *journal* (from the French *jour*, day) means something written or published each day.

13. ONEROUS (AHN-ur-us)

Burdensome, troublesome, oppressive, hard to bear, difficult to accomplish or endure.

Related word: *onus* (OH-nus, rhymes with *bonus*), a burden, obligation, especially a disagreeable responsibility.

14. LAITY (LAY-i-tee)

Nonprofessionals, laypeople collectively, all the people outside of a given profession or specialized field; specifically, all who do not belong to the clergy, religious worshipers in general.

Corresponding adjective: *lay*, nonprofessional, not belonging to a particular profession; specifically, not a member of the clergy.

15. PUNGENT (PUN-jint)

Sharp, penetrating, biting, acrid, caustic.

Etymology and usage: *Pungent* comes from the same Latin source as *poignant* and *expunge*—the Latin *pungere*, to pierce, prick. *Pungent* may refer to that which is sharp to the sense of taste or smell or to that which penetrates the mind or emotions.

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16. PROSAIC (proh-ZAY-ik)

Dull, ordinary, uninteresting, unimaginative.

Synonyms: *commonplace, humdrum, tedious, dry, stale, mediocre, matter-of-fact, insipid, pedestrian, vapid, jejune* (Level 10, Word 1).

17. CHARLATAN (SHAR-luh-tin)

A fake, quack, impostor, fraud, humbug; specifically, a person who pretends to have a special skill or knowledge.

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the words *charlatan* and *mountebank*, which are close in meaning.

Memory aid: In *The Wizard of Oz*, the Wizard is a classic example of a charlatan.

18. PERFUNCTORY (pur-FUNGK-tuh-ree)

Mechanical, routine, listless; done merely as a duty; performed in an indifferent, halfhearted, superficial, and often careless way, without interest or enthusiasm.

19. MORASS (muh-RAS or maw-RAS)

Literally, a swamp, marsh, bog; figuratively, some-thing that traps, confines, or confuses, a sticky situation or troublesome state of affairs.

20. SOPHISTRY (SAH-fis-tree)

Deceptive reasoning, subtle and misleading argument.

Related word: *sophisticated*.

Corresponding adjective: sophistic or sophistical

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What Is Usage?

N.B. At this point in the program, there is a discussion of the concept of usage, which explores the creeds of permissivism and purism, defines the terms *prescriptive* and *descriptive*, points out what a dictionary does and doesn't tell you, and makes a case for a compromise between the ideological extremes of "Humpty Dumpty" and "Miss Thistlebottom."

Useful word: *lexicographer* (LEKS-i-KAHG-ruh-fur), a person who writes or edits a dictionary.

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21. PROLIFIC (proh-LIF-ik)

Fruitful, fertile, productive.

Antonyms: *unproductive, barren, sterile, impotent, effete.*

22. MUNDANE (muhn-DAYN)

Of the world, worldly, earthly, material as distinguished from spiritual.

Synonyms: *terrestrial, temporal, secular, sublunary* (suhb-LOO-nuh-ree).

Antonyms: *lofty, heavenly, sublime, celestial, ethereal, extraterrestrial.*

Usage tip: Some usage experts object to the use of *mundane* as a synonym of ordinary, humdrum, commonplace, banal, unimaginative, and prosaic. In strict usage, *mundane* is reserved for things that are worldly as opposed to heavenly, material as opposed to spiritual, secular as opposed to religious.

23. MYRIAD (MIR-ee-id)

Countless, innumerable, infinite, consisting of a great or indefinite number.

Corresponding noun: *myriad*, a great or indefinite number.

24. DISSIDENT (DIS-uh-dint)

Disagreeing, disaffected, dissenting, nonconformist.

Etymology: *Dissident* comes from the Latin *dis-*, apart, and *sedere*, to sit, and by derivation means to sit apart; hence, to withdraw one's approval or belief, disagree.

Corresponding noun: *dissident*, a person who disagrees with a prevailing opinion, method, or doctrine.

25. LAUDABLE (LAW-duh-buul)

Praiseworthy, commendable, worthy of approval or admiration.

Synonyms: *meritorious, estimable.*

Antonyms: *contemptible, deplorable, ignominious.*

Corresponding verb: *laud*, to praise, commend, extol (ek-STOHL).

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26. INIMITABLE (in-IM-i-tuh-buul)

Unable to be imitated, copied, or reproduced; beyond compare.

Synonyms: *matchless, unrivaled, peerless, unparalleled, surpassing.*

Etymology tip: The prefix *in-* often means "in" or "into," as in the words *inhale*, to breathe in; *ingrain*, to rub in, fix in the mind; and *ingress*, the way in, the entrance. However, it is just as often privative (PRIV-uh-tiv), meaning it deprives or takes away the meaning of the word to which it is affixed. Like the prefix *un-*, the prefix *in-* often means "not," as in the words *informal*, not formal; *inaudible*, not audible, unable to be heard; and *injustice*, something that is not fair or just. *Inimitable* combines this privative prefix *in-* with the somewhat unusual word *imitable*, able to be imitated, to mean "not able to be imitated."

27. JADED (JAY-did)

Worn out, tired, fatigued, weary, exhausted.

Related words and usage tip: One meaning of the noun *jade* is a worn-out or broken-down horse, a nag. The verb to *jade* means to be or become like a worn-out or broken-down horse. The adjective *jaded* means like that broken-down horse; specifically, worn out from overwork or overindulgence.

28. MYOPIC (my-AHP-ik)

Short-sighted; not able to see the long-range picture; having a narrow or circumscribed view; lacking discernment, foresight, or perspective.

Synonyms: *narrowminded, purblind, obtuse.*

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the adjectives *purblind*, *obtuse*, and *myopic*.

Antonyms: *broadminded, liberal, tolerant, catholic, latitudinarian*

Corresponding noun: *myopia* (my-OH-pee-uh), nearsightedness.

29. DEMONSTRABLE (di-MAHN-struh-buul)

(1) Capable of being demonstrated, able to be proved.

(2) Obvious, apparent, self-evident.

Corresponding verb: *demonstrate.*

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30. CALLOW (KAL-oh)

Immature, inexperienced, unsophisticated, green, naive, lacking experience in and knowledge of the world.

N.B. *Callow* was formerly used of very young birds to mean without feathers, unfledged. Today *callow* and the word *fledgling* are used of persons, behavior, or things that are immature or inexperienced. A *fledgling* is a young bird that has just acquired its feathers and is learning to fly. From that original sense *fledgling* has come to refer either to a young and inexperienced person or to some thing that is just getting off the ground, as a *fledgling* enterprise.

Callow suggests an immaturity or inexperience manifested by a lack of sophistication. Because *callow* means immature, it sometimes also suggests childishness or foolishness. Synonyms of *callow* in this unfavorable sense include *juvenile*, *sophomoric*, and *puerile* (PYOOR-ul or PYOO-ur-ul).

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At this point in the program there is a "Word to the Wise" called "Just Between Us, This One's for You and Me," which covers the proper and improper use of the nominative personal pronoun *I* and the objective personal pronoun *me*.

Wrong: This is a good investment for you and *I*.

Right: This is a good investment for you and *me*.

Wrong: Let's keep this information just between you and *I*.

Right: Let's keep this information just between you and *me*.

Rule of thumb: Whenever something is *between* someone else and you, or *for* someone else and you, say *me*, not *I*: "There's no difference *between* you and *me*." Or try this little trick: Eliminate the other people in the sentence and see how it sounds. If you're about to say "It's for him and *I*," take out the "him" and you'll hear that "it's for *I*" sounds wrong, which it is.

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31. ACQUIESCE (ak-wee-ES)

To agree without protest, accept without argument or resistance, give in quietly.

Synonyms: *consent*, *comply*, *submit*, *assent*, *accede*.

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the verbs to *assent*, *accede*, and *acquiesce*.

Corresponding noun: *acquiescence* (AK-wee-**ES**-ins), passive agreement, quiet acceptance.

Usage tip: *Acquiesce* is sometimes followed by the preposition *in*, as to *acquiesce in* a decision.

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32. PONTIFICATE (pahn-TIF-i-kayt)

To speak in a pompous and overbearing way; make pretentious or categorical statements; express one's opinion as though it were an official, authoritative decree.

Corresponding noun: *pontification* (pahn-TIF-iKAY-shin).

Related words: *pontiff*, the Roman Catholic pope, also known as the Bishop of Rome. The pontiff issues official decrees on church doctrine called *papal bulls*. To these decrees the pontiff affixes a seal called a *bull* (BUUL-uh).

Additional useful word: *dogmatic* (dawg-MATik), means opinionated, dictatorial, expressing an opinion as if it were fact.

33. DELETERIOUS (DEL-i-TEER-ee-us)

Harmful, destructive, injurious, detrimental; especially, harmful to health or well-being.

Synonyms: *ruinous, noxious, pernicious, malignant*.

Antonyms: *healthful, advantageous, wholesome, salutary* (SAL-yuh-ter-ee).

34. AMBIVALENT

Uncertain, indecisive; having conflicting feelings or desires; simultaneously drawn in opposite directions; attracted to and repulsed by something at the same time.

Corresponding noun: *ambivalence*, a state of uncertainty or indecisiveness.

Etymology tip and related words: One meaning of the combining form *ambi-* is "both," as in the words *ambidextrous*, skilled with both hands, and *ambivert*, a person who is both *introverted*, innerdirected, and *extroverted*, outer-directed. The word *ambivalent* combines *ambi-*, both, with the Latin *valere*, to be strong, to mean literally "having strong feelings both ways"; hence, uncertain, indecisive.

35. PENSIVE (rhymes with *intensive*)

Thoughtful, absorbed in thought, especially in a deep, dreamy, or melancholy way.

Synonyms: *reflective, meditative, wistful, contemplative* (kuhn-TEM-pluh-tiv).

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the words *pensive*, *contemplative*, and *wistful*.

Etymology: *Pensive* comes ultimately from the Latin *pensare*, to ponder, consider, weigh in the mind. When you are *pensive*, you are thinking deeply about something, pondering it, weighing it in your mind.

Corresponding noun: *pensiveness*.

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36. IMPROMPTU (im-PRAHMP-t(y)oo)

Made up or done on the spur of the moment, uttered or performed without preparation, improvised for the occasion.

Synonyms: *offhand, spontaneous, extemporaneous* (see *extemporize*, Level 3, Word 15).

Usage: *Impromptu* may apply either to spontaneous expression or activity: an *impromptu* speech; an *impromptu* party

37. CONJECTURE (kuhn-JEK-chur)

To guess; especially, to make an educated guess; to form an opinion or make a judgment based on insufficient evidence.

Synonyms: *suppose, imagine, suspect, presume.*

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the verbs to *guess, speculate, surmise*, and *conjecture*, all of which mean to form an opinion or reach a conclusion based upon uncertain or insufficient evidence.

Corresponding noun: *conjecture*, an educated guess, an assumption or conclusion based on insufficient evidence.

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38. SURREPTITIOUS (SUH- or SUR-rip-TISH-us)

Stealthy; characterized by secrecy and caution; done, made, obtained, or enjoyed in a secret and often sly or shifty manner, so as to avoid notice.

Synonyms: *crafty, furtive, covert, underhand, clandestine* (Level 2, Word 6).

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the adjectives *stealthy, furtive, clandestine, covert,* and *surreptitious*, all of which mean secret, hidden from the knowledge or view of others.

Antonyms: *evident, unconcealed, overt, aboveboard, manifest.*

Etymology and usage: *Surreptitious* comes from the Latin verb *surripere*, to snatch, pilfer, take away or withdraw secretly. By derivation *surreptitious* means snatched while no one is looking, and in modern usage the word combines the deliberate, cautious secrecy suggested by *stealthy* with the crafty, evasive secrecy suggested by *furtive*.

Pronunciation tip: The traditional pronunciation of *covert* is KUH-vurt (like *cover* with a *t* at the end). Until the 1960s, KUH-vurt was the only pronunciation recognized by dictionaries. Since then the variant KOH-vurt has become so popular that several dictionaries now list it first. Dictionaries still list KUH-vurt and many older educated speakers prefer it out of respect for the word's tradition, which dates back to the 14th century. Another popular variant, koh-VURT, is often not listed at all (and is best avoided).

Those who prefer to say KOH-vurt are not wrong; that pronunciation is now fully standard (meaning "acceptable"). On the other hand, if you are not afraid to distinguish yourself as a cultivated speaker at the risk of raising a few eyebrows, then consider using the traditional pronunciation, KUH-vurt.

39. EXEMPLARY (eg-ZEM-pluh-ree)

Worthy of imitation, praiseworthy, commendable, serving as a model of excellence, appropriateness, or correctness.

Synonyms: *ideal, admirable, meritorious, estimable, laudable* (Level 4, Word 25).

Antonyms: *shameful, disreputable, contemptible, deplorable, ignominious, odious, heinous* (HAY-nus).

Etymology: *Exemplary* comes from the same Latin source as the word *example*. By derivation, something *exemplary* sets an example, and is therefore worthy of imitation.

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40. IMPECCABLE (im-PEK-uh-buul)

(1) Perfect, faultless, flawless; free from faults or imperfections.

(2) Unable to do wrong, incapable of sin.

Synonyms: *unimpeachable, irreproachable.*

Antonyms: *reprehensible, censurable, culpable.*

N.B. This discussion distinguishes the words *impeccable, immaculate, and infallible.*

Etymology: *Impeccable* combines the privative prefix *in-*, meaning "not," with the Latin *peccare*, to make a mistake, do wrong, blunder, sin. By derivation, *impeccable* means not able to make a mistake, incapable of sinning or doing wrong; hence, perfect, faultless.

N.B. When the prefix *in-* is attached to a word beginning with the letter B, P, or M, the N changes to an M: *imbalanced* means not balanced; *impossible* means not possible; and *immutable* means not *mutable*, not changeable, fixed. When the prefix *in-* appears before a word beginning with L or R, the N changes to an L or an R: *illogical* means not logical; *irreproachable* means not reproachable, without fault or blame. These alterations in the spelling of the prefix *in-* have occurred to make these and dozens of other analogous words easier to pronounce.

Additional useful words: *fallible* (FAL-i-buul), capable of error or likely to be wrong; *macula* (MAK-yuh-luh), a spot or stain, specifically a blemish on the skin or a sunspot; *maculate* (MAK-yuh-lit), stained, blemished, impure, corrupt; *peccadillo* (PEK-uh-DIL-oh), a small sin, minor fault or flaw; *peccant* (PEK-int), guilty, sinful, culpable; and *peccable* (PEK-uh-buul), liable to sin or do wrong.

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N.B. At this point in the program there is a "Word to the Wise" on commonly mispronounced words. This discussion covers the preferred pronunciations for the following words:

- *respite*: RES-pit, not ruh-SPYT. (*Respite* means "an interval of rest or relief; a lull, hiatus.")
- *program*: PROH-gram, not PROH-grum.

Take care not to slur the second syllable, -gram.

- *influence*, not *influnce*
- *affluent*, not *affluent*
- *superfluous*, not *superfluos*
- *preferable*, not *preferable*
- *comparable*, not *compairable*
- *formidable*, not *formidable*
- *integral*, not *integral*

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- *hospitable*, not *hospitable*
- *applicable*, not *applicable*
- *exquisite*, not *exquisite*
- *err*: Traditionally, UR (rhymes with *sir*); now commonly AIR (rhymes with *hair*).
- *negotiate*, *negotiation*: nĕ-GOH-shee-ayt, nĕ-GOH-shee-AY-shĭn. The third syllable in these words should be pronounced -*shee*-, not -*see*-.
- controversial: KAHN-truh-VUR-shuul, not KAHN-truh-VUR-see-ul. The word should have four (not five) syllables, with the final syllable pronounced -*shuul* (rhymes with *pull*).
- *species*: SPEE-sheez, not SPEE-seez.

The discussion of pronunciation is followed by a look at these commonly confused words:

imply, infer

To *imply* is to suggest, hint, indicate indirectly. To *infer* means to deduce, conclude, draw a conclusion. Someone who *implies* throws out a hint, a suggestion; someone who *infers* catches that suggestion and makes a conclusion, deduction.

disinterested, uninterested

The words are not synonymous or interchangeable. *Uninterested* means not interested, unconcerned. *Disinterested* means impartial, unbiased, not influenced by selfish motives: a *disinterested* judge.

anxious, eager

Take care not to use *anxious* when you mean *eager*. *Anxious* means full of anxiety, worried, nervous, concerned. *Eager* means showing keen interest or impatient desire.

Wrong: "Mike is *anxious* to see the new movie"; "Amanda was *anxious* to get a promotion."

Right: "Mike is *eager* to see the new movie, but *anxious* about whether he'll be able to get a good seat"; "Amanda was *eager* to get a promotion, but *anxious* about handling the greater responsibility of the job."

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41. ATTEST (uh-TEST)

(1) To affirm to be true, genuine, or correct; certify or authenticate officially; stand as proof or evidence of.

(2) To bear witness to, give testimony.

Etymology and related words: Attest comes from the Latin *ad*, to, and *testari*, to bear witness, and ultimately from *testis*, a witness, the source also of the words *testify*; *testimony*; *testimonial*; *testator* (TES-tay-tur), a person who has made a valid will; and *intestate* (in-TES-tayt), not having made a legal will.

42. COPIOUS (KOH-pee-us)

Abundant, plentiful, large in amount or number.

Synonyms: ample, bountiful, profuse.

Antonyms: scanty, meager, sparse, paltry.

Etymology and related word: Copious comes from the Latin *copia*, abundance, plenty, the source also of the English word *cornucopia*, a horn of plenty, hence, any overflowing stock or supply.

43. FALLACIOUS (fuh-LAY-shus)

False, misleading, deceptive, invalid, based on a fallacy.

Synonyms: *erroneous*, *spurious*, *untenable*, *illusory*, *sophistical*.

Related words: A *fallacy* is a false or misleading idea or statement, an argument that violates the laws of reasoning. *Sophistry* (Level 4, Word 20) refers to reasoning that deliberately uses *fallacies* (misleading arguments) to confuse or deceive.

Etymology: *Fallacy* and *fallacious* come from the Latin *fallere*, to deceive, lead astray.

44. STOIC (STOH-ik)

Showing no feelings, unemotional, unaffected by pleasure or pain, bearing pain or suffering without complaint.

Synonyms: *impassive*, *dispassionate*, *indifferent*, *apathetic*, *placid*, *languid*, *phlegmatic*, *imperturbable*.

Antonyms: *ardent*, *vehement*, *zealous*, *fervid*, *fervent* (Level 3, Word 24).

Corresponding noun: *stoicism*, indifference to pleasure or pain.

Etymology: *Stoic* and *stoicism* come from the Greek *stoa*, a porch or covered walkway - specifically, the famous Painted Porch in ancient Athens where the philosophical doctrine of Stoicism was born.

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45. RECRIMINATION (ri-KRIM-i-NAY-shin)

A countercharge or counter accusation.

Etymology: *Recreation* combines the prefix *re-*, which means "back" or "again," with the Latin verb *criminari*, to accuse, bring a charge against, and means literally to accuse in return, accuse again.

Corresponding noun: *recreation*, to bring a countercharge against, denounce in return.

Corresponding adjective: *recreative* or *recreatory*.

46. AFFINITY (uh-FIN-i-tee)

(1) Close resemblance or relationship; a strong likeness, similarity, or connection.

Synonyms: *kinship, correspondence, compatibility, consanguinity*.

(2) A natural attraction to, or liking for, a person or thing.

Synonyms: *penchant* (Level 3, Word 9), *propensity, proclivity*.

47. VOLATILE (VAHL-uh-tuul)

(1) Changeable, unstable, inconstant, likely to change or shift rapidly and unpredictably.

Synonyms: *fickle, flighty, capricious* (Level 1, Word 11), *erratic, protean, mercurial*.

Antonyms: *stable, fixed, steadfast, invariable, immutable, quiescent* (Level 3, Word 22).

N.B. Volatile, which entered English in the early 1600s, has a volatile history, full of many shifts and changes in meaning. The word may also mean:

(a) evaporating quickly, easily vaporized;

(b) fleeting, vanishing swiftly, transient, ephemeral;

(c) lighthearted, lively and carefree, whimsical, prone to flights of fancy;

(d) explosive, likely to erupt into violence.

Etymology and related word: Volatile comes from the Latin *volare*, to fly, and its original meaning was "flying" or "having the power to fly." Today volatile is rarely used in this sense, and instead we have the word *volant* (VOH-lint), from the same Latin *volare*, to fly. *Volant* means flying, able to fly, or quick, nimble, agile.

Memory and usage tip: Remember that in all of its senses volatile describes that which can swiftly fly away from one condition or mood into another.

Corresponding noun: *volatility*.

Pronunciation tip: The pronunciation VAH-luh-tyl (-tyl like *tile*) is British.

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48. SQUALID (SKWAH-lid)

Dirty and run-down as a result of poverty or neglect, foul or filthy from lack of care, wretched, miserable, degraded.

Synonyms: *seedy, unkempt, dilapidated, slovenly* (see also *abject*, Level 5, Word 50).

Antonyms: *unsullied, immaculate, pristine.*

Corresponding noun: *squalor*, filthiness, foulness, degradation; a wretched, miserable condition resulting from poverty or neglect.

N.B. This discussion distinguishes between the adjectives *squalid* and *sordid*.

49. EXPEDITE (EKS-puh-dyt)

To speed up, hasten, facilitate, accelerate the progress of, handle or perform quickly and efficiently.

Antonyms: *delay, postpone, hinder, retard, slacken, protract* (Level 3, Word 25).

Etymology: *Expedite* comes from the Latin verb *expedire*, to set free, disentangle, get ready for action.

50. ABJECT (AB-jekt or ab-JEKT)

Degraded, brought low in condition or status; hence, lacking self-respect, contemptible, wretched.

Synonyms: *debased, despicable, ignoble, groveling, servile, squalid* (Level 4, Word 48).

Antonyms: *noble, dignified, lofty, majestic, eminent, illustrious.*

Corresponding noun: *abjection*, a degraded, wretched, contemptible state.

Etymology: In Middle English *abject* meant "outcast." The word comes ultimately from the Latin *ab*, meaning "away" or "off," and the verb *jacere*, to throw, and means literally "thrown away, cast off."

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N.B. Level Four ends with a discussion of the acceptability of the use of *done* to mean *finished*, *completed*, as in "I'm just trying to get the job done," concluding on the basis of overwhelming linguistic evidence that this usage is informal but not incorrect.

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