

# *VERBAL ADVANTAGE*

## *Level V*

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## Verbal Advantage Level Five

*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."*

**N.B.** Level Five begins with an overview of the subject of pronunciation. Following is a summary of some of the main points - three things you can do, starting now, that will improve your speech:

- (1) pay closer attention to how other people speak;
- (2) make sure to check the pronunciation of every word you look up in the dictionary; and
- (3) learn how to interpret diacritical marks-the symbols dictionaries use to indicate pronunciation.

(The discussion covers the macron, **breve**, **schwa**, **dieresis**, and **circumflex**, as well as stress or accent marks.)

Watch out for these common mispronunciations:

- **height** with *kite*, not HYTH (like *high plus -th*).
- **wash** Don't insert an R and say *wash*
- **mischievous** MIS-chuh-vus (three syllables), not mis-CHEE-vee-us (four syllables).
- **accurate** AK-yuh-rit, not AK-ur-it.
- **drowned** One syllable, rhyming with *sound*, not DROWN-did (two syllables).
- **idea** Say eye-DEE-uh, not eye-DEER.
- **irrelevant** Say i-REL-uh-vint, not i-REV-uh-lint.
- **jewelry** Say JOO-wuul-ree, not JOO-luh-ree.
- **theater** Say TREE-uh-tur, not thee-AY-tur.
- **nuclear** Say NOO-klee-ur, not NOO-kyuh-lur.
- **admirable** Say ADmirable, not adMIRable.
- **formidable** Say FORMidable, not forMIDable.
- **comparable** Say COMparable, not comPAIRable.
- **impotent** Say IM-puh-tent, not im-POH-tent.
- **disparate** Say DIS-puh-rit, not dis-PAR-it.
- **gondola** Say GON-duh-luh, not gahn-DOH-luh.

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- **influence** Say INfluence, not inFLUence.
- **superfluous** Say soo-PURF-loo-us, not soo-pur-FLOO-us

Take care to eschew (avoid, shun) these two bad habits:

- (1) Don't invent your own pronunciations or guess how a word is pronounced.
- (2) Don't blindly imitate other people's pronunciation. When in doubt, go to the dictionary.

### 1. VOLUBLE (VAHL-yuh-buul)

Talkative, talking much and easily, characterized by a great and continuous flow of words.

**Synonyms:** *long-winded, glib* (Level 3, Word 8), *garrulous* (Level 4, Word 8), *loquacious, verbose* (Level 2, Word 30), *effusive*.

**Antonyms:** *reticent, terse* (Level 3, Word 3), *laconic* (Level 3, Word 18), *taciturn*.

### 2. COMMISERATE (kuh-MIZ-uh-rayt)

To sympathize, feel or express sympathy, show sorrow or pity for.

**Synonym:** *condole*.

**Usage tip:** *Commiserate* is often followed by with: "They commiserated with her."

### 3. DILEMMA (di-LEM-uh)

A predicament; specifically, a predicament in which one must choose between equally undesirable alternatives.

**Synonyms:** *quandary* (Level 3, Word 27), *quagmire*.

**Usage tip:** *Dilemma* is often used today of any difficult problem or troublesome situation, but many good writers and speakers object to that as loose usage. Strictly speaking, *dilemma* should be used only of situations in which one faces a choice between equally undesirable alternatives. Officials often face the *dilemma* of either voting for what their constituents want and going against their conscience, or voting their conscience and losing the support of their constituents.

### 4. TRANSITORY (TRAM-si-tor-ee or TRAN-zī-for-ee)

Passing, temporary, fleeting, not permanent or enduring.

**Synonyms:** *transient* (Level 2, Word 31), *ephemeral* (Level 4, Word 12), *evanescent*.

**Etymology and related words:** *Transitory, transient, transit, and transition* all come from the Latin *transire*, to go or pass over.

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### 5. PHILANTHROPIC (FIL-an-THRAHP-ik)

Charitable, benevolent, humane; motivated by or done out of a desire to help or improve the welfare of others.

**Corresponding noun:** *philanthropy*.

**Etymology and related words:** *Philanthropy* and *philanthropic* both come from the Greek *philein*, to love (as in *philosophy*, literally "love of wisdom," and *philharmonic*, literally "loving or devoted to music"), and *anthropos*, man (as in *anthropology*, the study of mankind, of human customs, habits, and traditions, and *anthropomorphic*, shaped like or resembling a man or human being).

**N.B.** This discussion distinguishes the words *philanthropic*, *humanitarian*, *altruistic*, and *charitable*, all of which mean "helping others."

### 6. LETHARGY (LETH-ur-jee)

Lack of energy, sluggishness, dullness; an abnormally dull, drowsy, inactive condition or state of mind.

**Synonyms:** *apathy, stupor, torpor, somnolence, lassitude, languor, stupefaction*.

**Corresponding adjective:** *lethargic*.

### 7. EXONERATE (eg-ZAHN-uh-rayt)

To free from blame; free from a charge or the imputation of guilt; declare blameless or innocent.

**Synonyms:** *acquit, absolve, exculpate* (ek-SKUHLpayt or EKS-kul-payt).

**Etymology:** *Exonerate* combines the Latin *ex-*, out, with *onus*, a burden; in modern usage, removing the burden of guilt.

### 8. PUGNACIOUS (puhg-NAY-shus)

Given to fighting, combative, quarrelsome, ready and willing to fight.

**Synonyms:** *contentious, belligerent, bellicose*.

**Antonyms:** *peaceable, clement* (Level 2, Word 43), *amicable*.

**Etymology:** *Pugnacious* comes from the Latin *pugnare*, to box, fight with the fists, ready to put up his dukes.

### 9. CONTRITION (kun-TRISH-in)

Remorse, penitence, repentance, deep and devastating sorrow for one's sins or for something one has done wrong.

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### 10. ABROGATE (AB-ruh-gayt)

To abolish by legal or authoritative action or decree.

**Synonyms:** *cancel, revoke, repeal, annul, nullify, rescind* (Level 3, Word 31).

### 11. OFFICIOUS (uh-FISH-us)

Meddlesome, nosy, intrusive, interfering, prying; specifically, offering unwanted advice or unnecessary services, especially in a highhanded, overbearing way.

**Related word:** *quidnunc* (KWID-nungk), a busybody, nosy person.

### 12. INTRACTABLE (in-TRAK-tuh-buul)

Hard to manage or control, stubborn, unruly.

**Antonyms:** *obedient, compliant, malleable* (Level 2, Word 29), *docile, tractable*.

**Etymology and related words:** The antonyms *tractable* and *intractable*, and the familiar words *traction* and *tractor*, come from the Latin *tractare*, to drag around, haul; also, to manage, control.

### 13. ALTRUISM (AL-troo-iz'm)

Selflessness, unselfish concern for the welfare of others.

**Antonym:** egoism, self-centeredness; specifically, the doctrine that self-interest is the proper goal of the individual.

**Usage tip:** Egoism is distinguished from egotism, which denotes extreme self-involvement, excessive reference to oneself in speech or writing.

**Corresponding noun:** altruist, a person who puts the needs of others and of society first.

### 14. ACCOLADE (ak-uh-LAYD, but see tip below)

An award; sign of respect or esteem; expression of praise; mark of acknowledgment; anything done or given as a token of appreciation or approval.

**Etymology:** Accolade comes from the Latin *accollare*, to embrace, which comes in turn from *ad-*, meaning "to," and *collum*, the neck, the source of the word collar. Originally, an accolade was an embrace, specifically the ritual embrace used in conferring knighthood.

**Pronunciation tip:** Accolade may also acceptably be pronounced AK-uh-layd, ak-uh-LAHD, and AKuh-lahd.

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### 15. VERNACULAR (vur-NAK-yuh-lur)

The native language of a people; especially, the common, everyday, informal language of ordinary people.

**Corresponding adjective:** *vernacular*, of or pertaining to the common, everyday language of ordinary people; also, native as opposed to foreign.

**Related expression:** "In the vernacular" means in ordinary and unpretentious language.

**N.B.** The vernacular comprises all language that is common and informal, any word or expression that ordinary people use-whether it is considered bad or good, acceptable or improper.

### 16. JUDICIOUS (joo-DISH-us)

Wise and careful, having or showing sound judgment.

**Synonyms:** *sensible, levelheaded, prudent* (Level 1, Word 47), *discreet*.

**Antonyms:** *thoughtless, foolhardy, impetuous, temerarious*.

**Etymology and related words:** From the Latin *judex*, a judge, and *judicare*, to judge, pass judgment, we inherit the words *judge, judgment, judicial, judiciary*, and *judicious*.

**Spelling tip:** *Judge* has an E at the end, but in American English there is no E in the middle of the word *judgment* (the British spell it *judgement*).

### 17. CHRYSALIS (KRIS-uh-lis)

(1) The pupa of a butterfly; the stage during which the insect is enclosed in a case or cocoon.

(2) A sheltered and undeveloped state or stage of being.

### 18. GENTEEL (jen-TEEL)

Refined, polite, well-bred, sophisticated; elegantly stylish or fashionable; pertaining or belonging to high society.

**Usage tip:** In current usage *genteel* often suggests an excessive or affected refinement.

### 19. JOVIAL (JOH-vee-ul)

Merry, full of good humor, hearty and fun-loving, jolly.

**Synonyms:** *sociable, jolly, convivial* (Level 5, Word 46).

**Etymology:** *Jovial* comes from the name Jove (also Jupiter), the chief deity in Roman mythology, called Zeus by the ancient Greeks. Jove was renowned for his love of feasting and merriment.

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### 20. SUBTERFUGE (SUHB-tur-fyooj)

A deception, trick, underhanded scheme.

**Synonyms:** *stratagem, artifice, ruse* (rhymes with *fuse* and *choose*).

**Usage tip:** *Subterfuge* applies to any secret or illicit plan or activity designed to conceal a motive, escape blame, or avoid something unpleasant.

**Pronunciation tip:** Don't soften the G and say SUHB-tur-fyoozh. The *fuge* should rhyme with *huge*.

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**N.B.** At this point in the program there is a discussion of the formation of English plurals for certain problematic words derived from Latin and Greek, such as *octopus*, and whether to use a singular or plural verb with the words *media*, *data*, and *bacteria*.

**Pronunciation tip:** The word *process* is pronounced PRAH-ses (the pronunciation PROHses is British), and the plural *processes* should be pronounced PRAH-ses-siz, not PRAH-ses-seez.

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### 21. EBULLIENCE (i-BUHL-yints or i-BUUL-yints)

Lively enthusiasm, high spirits, bubbly excitement.

**Synonyms:** *exuberance, exhilaration, effervescence*.

**Etymology and related words:** The Latin *ebullire*, to boil, bubble, is the source of the English words *ebullition*, *ebullient*, and *ebullience*.

**Pronunciation tip:** In the words *ebullience* and *ebullient*, the second syllable, *-bul-*, may be pronounced either like *bul-* in *bulk* or in *bull*.

### 22. IMPERVIOUS (im-PUR-vee-us)

Impenetrable, incapable of being entered or passed through; hence, unable to be moved or affected by something.

**Synonyms:** *impassable, impermeable, opaque*.

**Antonyms:** *penetrable, passable, accessible, permeable, translucent, diaphanous*.

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### 23. REMONSTRATE (ruh-MAHN-strayt)

To object, protest, reprove, rebuke, argue or plead against.

**Synonym:** *expostulate*

### 24. EFFACE (i-FAYS)

(1) To rub out, wipe out, erase.

(2) To withdraw from notice, make oneself inconspicuous.

**Synonyms:** *obliterate, expunge.*

**Usage tip:** Take care to distinguish *efface* and *deface*, to spoil the appearance of, ruin, disfigure,

### 25. CHIMERA (ky-MEER-uh, also ki-MEER-uh)

A foolish fancy, fantastic notion or idea, figment of the imagination.

**Synonyms:** *whimsy, crotchet, maggot, caprice.*

**Etymology:** In Greek mythology, the Chimera was a fire-breathing monster with the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent. In modern usage *chimera* may refer to that fabulous creature or to any absurd and fabulous creation of the mind.

**Corresponding adjective:** *chimerical*, imaginary, fantastic, preposterous, absurd.

### 26. INCORRIGIBLE (in-KOR-ij-uh-buul)

(1) Bad beyond correction or reform, hopeless, irreformable.

**Synonyms:** *irredeemable, irreclaimable, unrepentant, inveterate, unregenerate.*

(2) Unruly, unmanageable, difficult to control.

**Synonyms:** *obstinate* (Level 1, word 34), willful, *intractable*.

**Antonym:** *corrigible*, capable of being corrected, amended, or reformed.

### 27. JUXTAPOSE (juks-tuh-POHZ)

To place side by side or close together, especially so as to compare or contrast.

**Etymology and related words:** *Juxtapose* comes from the Latin *juxta*, near, close by, and *ponere*, to put, place, the source also of *position* and *posit* (PAH-zit), to put forward as true, set down as a fact.

**Corresponding noun:** *juxtaposition*.



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### 28. CONVERSANT (kun-VUR-sint)

Familiar, acquainted, well-informed or well-versed.

**Etymology and related words:** *Conversant* comes from the Latin *conversari*, to associate with, the source also of *converse* and *conversation*.

**N.B.** This discussion distinguishes the synonyms *conversant* and *versed*.

### 29. ESOTERIC (ES-q-TER-ik)

Intended for or designed to be understood only by a select group, known only by a few people; hence, not public, secret, confidential.

**Synonyms:** *mysterious, impenetrable, inscrutable* (Level 3, Word 48), *cryptic, abstruse, arcane, recondite* (REK-un-dyt).

**Antonyms:** *plain, apparent, accessible, manifest, discernible* (Level 3, Word 32), *lucid* (Level 3, Word 45), *perspicuous*. The direct antonym is *exoteric*.

### 30. AUSPICIOUS (aw-SPISH-us)

Favorable, fortunate; marked by favorable circumstances or good fortune; conducive to success; boding well.

**Synonym:** propitious.

**Etymology:** Latin *auspiciu*, the act of predicting the future by observing the flight of birds (from *avis*, bird, and *specere*, to look at, observe)

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**N.B.** At this point in the program there is a discussion of the word *unique*.

**Interesting words noted:** *rhinolalia* (RY-nuh-LAY-lee-uh), an abnormally strong nasal tone in a person's speech; *echolalia* (EK-uh-LAY-lee-uh), the habit of repeating what other people say.

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### 31. ITINERANT (eye-TIN-ur-int)

Wandering, traveling about, moving from place to place, especially to perform work.

**Synonyms:** *migratory, wayfaring, vagrant, nomadic, ambulatory, peripatetic* (Level 9, Word 47).

**Etymology and related words:** *Itinerant* and *itinerary* come from the Late Latin verb *itinerari*, to travel, go on a journey. An *itinerary* is a route or course taken on a journey, especially a detailed plan or list of places to visit while traveling.

**Corresponding noun:** *Itinerant*, an itinerant person, a wanderer, wayfarer, someone who travels from place to place.

**Usage tip:** *Itinerary* and *agenda* are not synonymous. An *agenda* is a list of things to be done or dealt with, especially a list of items to be addressed in a meeting. An *itinerary* is a list of places to go, a detailed plan for a journey.

**N.B.** This discussion distinguishes the words *itinerant, nomadic, vagrant*, and *ambulatory* all of which mean moving or traveling about.

### 32. CULL (KUHL, rhymes with gull)

To pick out, select from various sources, gather, collect.

**Etymology and related words:** Cull comes from the Latin *colligere*, to gather, the source also of *collect* and *collection*.

**N.B.** This discussion distinguishes the verbs cull and *glean*.

### 33. PROMULGATE (pruh-MUHL-gayt or PRAHM-ul-gayt)

To make known, publish, proclaim, make public in an official manner.

**Synonyms:** *announce, advertise, broadcast, disseminate, bruit* (like *brute*). All these words suggest bringing something to the attention of the public, making it widely known.

**Corresponding nouns:** *promulgation*, the act of making something public or widely known; *promulgator*, a person who makes something widely known, who proclaims or publicizes it.

**Etymology and usage:** *Promulgate* comes from the Latin *promulgare*, to publish, proclaim. The word applies chiefly to making something known in a formal or official way.

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### 34. GRATUITOUS (gruh-T(Y)OO-i-tus)

(1) Free; given without charge or obligation.

(2) Without legitimate cause or reason; uncalled for, unjustified, baseless, unwarranted.

**Etymology and related words:** *Gratuitous* comes from the Latin *gratuitus*, meaning not paid for, unprovoked, or spontaneous. From the same source come *gratis* (rhymes with *lattice*), free, without charge, and *gratuity*, a gift or favor given in return for a service.

**Usage tip:** This discussion concludes with an admonition to avoid the redundant phrases "free gift" (all gifts are free) and "toll-free 800 number" (all 800 numbers are tollfree), and to drop the unnecessary *for* in the illogical phrase "for free." (You get something either *free* or *for nothing*, not *for free*.)

**Interesting word:** *joculism* (as defined by William Safire, language columnist for *The New York Times*), "a word or phrase intended to be an amusing error that is taken up as accurate by the unwary."

### 35. NOMENCLATURE (NOH-men-KLAY-chur)

A system of names, especially a system of names used in a science, art, or branch of knowledge.

**Etymology and related word:** *Nomenclature* combines the Latin *nomen*, name, with *calare*, to call. From the same source comes *nomenclator* (NOH-men-KLAY-tur), originally (in ancient Rome) an attendant who informed candidates for office of the names of the persons they met; in modern usage, a person who assigns names in scientific classification.

### 36. DROLL (rhymes with *coal* and *hole*)

Amusing, humorous, comical; especially, funny or witty in an odd or outrageous way.

**Synonyms:** *ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, waggish.*

**Antonyms:** *sober, sedate, staid* (rhymes with *fade*), *austere* (Level 3, Word 17).

**Corresponding noun:** *drollery.*

### 37. INSATIABLE (in-SAY-shuh-buul)

Greedy, hungry, unable to be satisfied or appeased.

**Synonyms:** *ravenous, voracious, unquenchable, unappeasable.*

**Antonym:** *satiable*, capable of being satisfied.

**Etymology and related words:** From the Latin *satis*, enough, sufficient, English has inherited the words *insatiable*, *satiable*, *satisfy*, and *satiate*, to satisfy completely or somewhat to excess; and *satiety*, a state of excessive gratification, satisfaction beyond what one normally desires.

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### 38. BEGUILE (bi-GYL, rhymes with *a smile*)

(1) To deceive, delude, or mislead.

**Synonyms:** *dupe, gull, hoodwink, swindle, bamboozle, ensnare, cozen* (pronounced like *cousin*).

(2) To charm, amuse, or delight.

**Synonyms:** *enchant, enrapture, enthrall, ensorcel* (en-SOR-sul).

**Etymology:** The prefix *be-* at the beginning of the verb *to beguile* is an intensifier meaning "completely, thoroughly," as in *besmirch, befuddle, and beware*. The word *guile* (craftiness, deceit, treacherous cunning) comes through Old French probably from an Old English word meaning sorcery or divination.

### 39. VINDICTIVE (vin-DIK-tiv)

Seeking or wanting revenge, vengeful, characterized by a desire to get even.

**N.B.** This discussion distinguishes the synonyms *vengeful* and *vindictive*.

**Related word:** *retribution*, repayment in the form of punishment in return for a wrong.

### 40. REplete (ri-PLEET)

Fully or richly supplied, well-stocked, chock-full, filled to capacity.

**Synonyms:** *stuffed, crammed, gorged, abounding, brimming, teeming, laden, surfeited*.

**Etymology and related words:** *Replete* comes from the Latin *replere*, to refill, fill again, from *re*again, and *plere*, to fill. From the Latin *plere* and the adjective *plenus*, full, come the English words *plenty, plentiful, plenitude*, an abundance, ample amount, and *plenary* (PLEE-nuh-ree), full or complete in all respects.

**N.B.** This discussion distinguishes the words *replete* and *fraught*.

**Usage tip:** *Replete* and *complete* are not synonymous or interchangeable. *Complete* means lacking nothing, having all necessary elements, ingredients, or parts: a *complete* set of encyclopedias. *Replete* means well-stocked, fully or richly supplied: a river *replete* with fish.

### 41. PRECLUDE (pri-KLOOD)

To prevent, make impossible, exclude or shut off all possibility of something happening.

**Synonyms:** *avert, obviate, forestall*.

**Antonyms:** *incite, instigate, engender*.

**Etymology:** Latin *prae-*, before, and *claudere*, to shut, close up.

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### 42. CASTIGATE (KAS-ti-gayt)

To punish or criticize severely.

**Synonyms:** *chasten, chastise, rebuke, reprimand, reprove, censure* (Level 3, Word 28).

**Antonyms:** *approve, reward, praise, commend, laud, extol, eulogize*.

**N.B.** This discussion distinguishes the verbs to *castigate*, to *chasten*, and to *chastise* (the corresponding noun, *chastisement*, may be pronounced either CHAS-tiz-mint or chas-TYZ-mint.)

**Corresponding noun:** *castigation*.

### 43. COLLOQUIAL (kuh-LOH-kwee-ul)

Conversational; pertaining to, characteristic of, or used in spoken language; hence, informal, casual, natural.

**Etymology and related words:** Colloquial comes from the Latin loqui, to speak, converse—the source also of loquacious, extremely talkative, a synonym of garrulous (Level 4, Word 8); colloquy (KAHLuh-kwee), a conversation—specifically, a formal or intellectual discussion; and colloquium (kuh-LOHkwee-um), a conference or meeting for discussion.

**Corresponding noun:** colloquialism, a colloquial expression; a bit of vernacular language; a word or phrase used in common, everyday, informal speech.

**Dictionary usage tip:** When you see the abbreviation coll. or colloq. in a dictionary, it means colloquial, appropriate to or characteristic of informal speech.

**Colloquial usage tip:** Avoid the expression "I could care less"; instead say "I could not care less." If you can care less, that means you still have some caring left in you; if you cannot care less, then you do not care at all.

**N.B.** This discussion concludes with an exploration of the nature of colloquial speech and colloquialisms.

### 44. OBFUSCATE (uhb-FUHS-kayt or AHB-fuh-skayt)

To make obscure, cloud over, darken, make unclear or indistinct.

**Synonyms:** *confuse, complicate, muddle, bewilder, shroud, eclipse, adumbrate* (ad-UHMbrayt or AD-uhm-brayt).

**Antonyms:** *expose, unveil, clarify, elucidate*.

**Corresponding noun:** *obfuscation*.

**Etymology:** Latin *obfuscare*, to darken.

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### 45. **FACILE** (FAS'l, rhymes with *castle*)

Easy, easily done; performed or achieved in an easy, effortless way; working or acting in a smooth, free, and unrestrained manner.

**Synonyms:** *quick, ready, fluent, nimble, dexterous, expert, adroit* (Level 3, Word 41).

**Antonyms:** *difficult, awkward, unwieldy, laborious, irksome, obstinate* (Level 1, Word 34), *onerous* (Level 4, Word 13), *intractable* (Level 5, Word 12), *refractory* (ri-FRAK-tuh-ree).

**Etymology and related words:** *facile, facility, and facilitate* all come through the Latin *facilis*, easy to do, from *facere*, to make or do.

### 46. **CONVIVIAL** (kun-VIV-ee-ul)

Sociable, merry, festive.

**Synonyms:** *jovial* (Level 5, Word 19), *genial, companionable, affable, gregarious*.

**Antonyms:** *unsociable, reserved, solitary, aloof*.

**Etymology:** Latin *convivium*, a feast, banquet, from *con-*, meaning "together," and *vivere*, to live. By derivation *convivial* means gathering together to eat, drink, and be merry.

### 47. **ESCHEW** (es-CHOO)

To avoid, shun, abstain from; keep away from something harmful, wrong, or distasteful.

**Usage tip:** *Eschew* has nothing to do with chewing-for which the fancy synonym is *mastication*.

### 48. **PRODIGIOUS** (pruh-DIJ-us)

Enormous, huge, tremendous, immense; extraordinary in size, extent, force, or degree.

**Synonyms:** *mammoth, monumental, colossal, gargantuan, elephantine* (EL-uh-FAN-tin, EL-uh-FAN-teen, or EL-uh-FAN-tyn, in order of preference), *herculean* (hur-KYOO-lee-in or HUR-kyoo-LEE-in), *Brobdingnagian* (BRAHB-ding-NAG-ee-in; antonym: *Lilliputian*). The last four synonyms listed are discussed in detail.

**Etymology and related word:** Latin *prodigiosus*, strange, wonderful, marvelous, from *prodigium*, an omen, portent, sign. From the same source comes *prodigy*, a person of marvelous talent or wonderful ability.

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### 49. IDIOSYNCRASY (ID-ee-oh-SIN-kruh-see)

A peculiarity; distinctive characteristic of a person or group; an identifying trait or mannerism.

**N.B.** This lesson distinguished the synonyms *idiosyncrasy*, *eccentricity*, and *quirk*, which designate behavior that is peculiar or distinctive.

**Corresponding adjective:** *idiosyncratic*, peculiar, distinctive, odd.

### 50. APPROBATION (AP-roh-BAY-shin)

Approval, acceptance; especially, official approval or authorization.

Synonyms: *commendation*, *endorsement*, *sanction*, *ratification*, *acclamation*.

**Antonyms:** *rejection*, *opposition*, *disapprobation*, *renunciation*, *repudiation*, *disavowal*, *abjuration*.

**Etymology:** Latin *approbare*, to approve.