

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

Part 1

head

/h d/ noun the part of the body containing the brain, eyes, ears, nose, and mouth
She patted the dog on the head.

road

/roʊd/ noun a hard flat surface for vehicles, people, and animals to travel on
In the spring the road was full of potholes.

seat

/si:t/ noun something (such as a chair) that you sit on
The bicycle seat was uncomfortable.

glove

/gl v/ noun a covering for the hand that has separate parts for each finger
Jim's dog had chewed up his leather glove.

leaf

/li:f/ noun one of the flat and typically green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or twig
We watched as the last leaf on the tree fell.

glue

/glu:/ noun a substance used to stick things tightly together
Bill needed glue to repair the chair.

move

/mu:v/ verb to cause (something or someone) to go from one place or position to another
Dad moved the TV to a bigger room.

curl

/k l/ verb to twist or form (something) into a round or curved shape
The boy would usually curl the spaghetti around his fork.

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dove

/ˈd v/ noun a small wild bird that is related to pigeons

The dove is often used as the symbol of peace.

each

/i:t / adjective every one of two or more people or things considered separately

A rope was tied to each end of the boat.

edge

/ˈɛdʒ/ noun the line or part where an object or area begins or ends

Don't stand too close to the edge of the cliff.

none

/n n/ pronoun not any of a group of people or things

I went for another cookie, but there was none left.

else

/ˈ ɪs/ adverb in a different or additional manner or place

We decided to go somewhere else for dinner.

lose

/ˈlu:z/ verb to be unable to find (something or someone)

Did you lose your keys again?

year

/ji / noun a unit of time that is equal to 12 months or 365 or sometimes 366 days

I haven't seen my cousin in a year.

faith

/feɪ / noun strong belief or trust in someone or something

Our faith in the government was badly shaken.

guess

/g s/ verb to form an opinion or give an answer about something when you do not know much or anything about it

Can you guess how many people were there?

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feast

/ˈfi:st/ noun a special meal with large amounts of food and drink

The family provided a feast after the wedding.

dead

/d d/ adjective no longer alive or living

Ted removed the dead branches from the tree.

false

/f :ls/ adjective not real or genuine

John had to get used to eating with his new false teeth.

soup

/su:p/ noun a food made by cooking vegetables, meat, or fish in a large amount of liquid.

Jane had a bowl of chicken soup for lunch.

suit

/su:t/ noun a set of clothes that usually consists of a jacket and a skirt or pair of pants that are made out of the same material

Tim's job requires him to wear a suit each day.

paint

/peɪnt/ noun a liquid that dries to form a thin colored layer when it is spread on a surface

It took two gallons of paint to cover the walls.

own

/oʊn/ verb to legally possess (something)

We hope to own a home someday.

learn

/l n/ verb to gain knowledge or skill by studying, practicing, being taught, or experiencing something

The teenager was eager to learn how to drive.

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urge

/ˈɜːrʃ/ noun a strong need or desire to have or do something

He felt an urge for some candy.

soak

/ˈsoʊk/ verb to put (something) in a liquid for a period of time

Soak the beans in water overnight.

monk

/ˈm ɪŋk/ noun a member of a religious community of men who usually promise to remain poor, unmarried, and separated from the rest of society

A bearded monk in a black robe welcomed us to the monastery.

graph

/ˈgræf/, British */ˈgr :f/* noun a drawing that uses a series of dots, lines, etc., to show changes.

The graph showed the temperature changes during the month.

guide

/ˈgaɪd/ noun a person who leads or directs other people on a journey

We hired a guide for a tour of the city.

ouch

/aʊt / interjection used to express sudden pain

Ouch! That hurts.

health

/ˈh ɪ / noun the overall condition of someone's body or mind

My parents are in excellent health.

gown

/ˈgaʊn/ noun a long, formal dress that a woman wears especially during a special event

Sally bought a gorgeous gown for the prom.

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loaf

/ˈloʊf/ noun an amount of bread that has been baked in a long, round, or square shape

Our family consumes a loaf of bread every day.

switch

/ˈswɪt / verb to make a change from one thing to another

She wanted to switch to another telephone service.

pawn

/p :n/ noun one of the eight small pieces that have the least value in the game of chess

The player lost a pawn to a knight.

itch

/ɪt / verb to have or produce an unpleasant feeling on your skin or inside your mouth, nose, etc. that makes you want to scratch

His eyes began to itch because of his allergies.

quart

/kwo t/ noun a unit of liquid measurement equal to two U.S. pints or 0.946 liters

We use about a quart of milk for cereals each day.

raid

/reɪd/ noun a surprise attack on an enemy by soldiers or other military forces

The commander ordered a raid against the fortress.

fault

/f :lt/ noun responsibility for a problem, mistake, bad situation, etc.

Jared said that the accident was not his fault.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

hype

/ˈhaɪp/ noun talk or writing that is intended to make people excited about or interested in something or someone

The new movie got a lot of promotional hype.

ooze

/ˈuːz/ verb to flow out slowly

Butter and syrup ooze over the pancakes.

judge

/dʒʌdʒ/ verb to form an opinion about (something or someone) after careful thought

Do not judge people by their appearance.

view

/ˈvjuː/ noun the things that can be seen from a particular place

Our new house has a view of the lake.

launch

/ˈlɔːnt / verb to send or shoot (something, such as a rocket) into the air or water or into outer space

When will the space agency launch another satellite?

grease

/ˈɡriːs/ noun an oily substance

The car's axles needed grease.

noun

/ˈnaʊn/ noun a word that is the name of something (such as a person, animal, place, thing, quality, idea, or action)

We had to underline the noun in each sentence.

zeal

/ˈziːl/ noun a strong feeling of interest and enthusiasm that makes someone very eager or determined to do something

The politician was known for his zeal for reform.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

knee

/ˈni:/ noun the joint that bends at the middle of your leg

Martha fell and injured her knee.

laugh

/ˈlæf/, British /ˈlɪ :f/ verb to show that you are happy or that you think something is funny by smiling and making a sound from your throat

People laugh at his jokes.

height

/ˈhaɪt/ noun a measurement of how tall a person or thing is

What is the height of the building?

calm

/ˈk :m/ adjective not angry, upset, excited, etc.

The teacher advised the students to remain calm after the fire alarm went off.

knife

/naɪf/ noun a usually sharp blade attached to a handle that is used for cutting or as a weapon

Each dinner guest gets two forks, a knife, and a spoon.

lynx

/lɪŋks/ noun a large wild cat of North America

The lynx has a short stubby tail.

eighth

/ˈeɪt / adjective occupying the number eight position in a series

Her son is in the eighth grade.

moan

/ˈmoʊn/ verb to make a long, low sound because of pain, unhappiness, or physical pleasure

The wounded soldiers moan in pain.

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lamb

/ˈlæm/ noun a young sheep

She's as gentle as a lamb.

strength

/ˈstr ɪŋk / noun the quality or state of being physically strong

He did not have the strength to lift the box.

though

/ˈðoʊ/ conj. despite the fact that

She was in good health, though a bit overweight.

dumb

/d m/ adjective not showing or having good judgment or intelligence : stupid

How can you watch that dumb TV show?

myth

/ˈmɪ / noun an idea or story that is believed by many people but that is not true

That money brings happiness is an enduring myth.

debt

/d t/ noun an amount of money that you owe to a person, bank, company, etc

Maria was worried about her credit-card debt.

nymph

/ˈnɪmf/ noun a spirit in the shape of a young woman who lives in mountains, forests, meadows, and water

In Greek myth, the nymph Daphne was turned into a laurel tree.

oath

/oʊ / noun a formal and serious promise to tell the truth or to do something

They were required to take an oath of loyalty.

hoax

/ˈhoʊks/ noun an act that is meant to trick or deceive people

The bomb threat proved to be a hoax.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

knit

/ˈnɪt/ noun to make (a piece of clothing) from yarn or thread by using long needles or a special machine

Sara decided to knit me a sweater for my birthday.

once

/'wʌns/ adverb one time only

We go to the movies about once a month.

gorge

/'gɔːrʒ/ noun a deep, narrow area between hills or mountains

The hikers followed the trail along the top of the gorge.

ghost

/'gəʊst/ noun the soul of a dead person thought of as appearing to living people

It is said that a ghost haunts that house.

jinx

/'dʒɪŋks/ noun someone or something that causes bad luck

The player blamed his poor performance on a jinx.

numb

/'nʌm/ adjective unable to feel anything in a particular part of your body because of cold, injury, etc.

My fingers were numb from the cold.

oust

/'aʊst/ verb to cause or force (someone or something) to leave a position of power, a competition, etc.

The rebels planned to oust the dictator from power.

calf

/'kæf/, British /'kɔːf/ noun a very young cow

The calf did not stray far from its mother.

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flaunt

/ˈfl :nt/ verb to show (something) in a very open way so that other people will notice

She liked to flaunt her wealth by wearing expensive jewelry.

knob

/ˈn :b/ noun a round switch on a television, radio, etc.

Turn the knob to change the volume of the sound.

bomb

/ˈb :m/ noun a device that is designed to explode in order to injure or kill people or to damage or destroy property

A bomb destroyed the 15-ton truck.

sigh

/ˈsaɪ/ verb to take in and let out a long, loud breath in a way that shows you are bored, disappointed, relieved, etc.

Many students sigh with relief as they see their grades.

gnat

/ˈnæt/ noun a small fly that bites people and animals

A gnat kept flying around my ear.

doubt

/ˈdaʊt/ verb to believe that (something) may not be true or is unlikely

I doubt my parents will let me go to the party.

sign

/saɪn/ noun a piece of paper, wood, etc., with words or pictures on it that gives information about something

There's a stop sign at the next intersection.

hymn

/ˈhɪm/ noun a religious song

The congregation sang a hymn of praise.

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soot

/ˈsoʊt/ noun a black powder that is formed when something (such as wood or coal) is burned

Candle-burning is a source of soot in the home.

tease

/ˈtiːz/ verb to laugh at and criticize (someone) in a way that is either friendly and playful or cruel and unkind

His brothers tease him about being short.

tomb

/ˈtuːm/ noun a building or chamber above or below the ground in which a dead body is kept

King Tut's tomb contained many valuable artifacts.

gnaw

/ˈn ː/ verb to bite or chew (something) repeatedly

Dogs like to gnaw on bones.

whale

/ˈweɪl/ noun an often very large animal that lives in the ocean and that is a mammal rather than a fish

We were able to see a whale from our fishing boat.

crypt

/ˈkrɪpt/ noun a room under a church in which people are buried after they have died

The late bishop was buried in the crypt under the cathedral.

cruise

/ˈkruːz/ noun a journey on a boat or ship to a number of places as a vacation

Her parents went on a cruise to Bermuda..

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bright

/ˈbraɪt/ adjective producing a lot of light

He needed a bright light for his work.

seize

/ˈsiːz/ verb to get or take (something) in a forceful, sudden, or violent way

The woman said that a man tried to seize her purse.

sketch

/ˈskɛtʃ / noun a quick, rough drawing that shows the main features of an object or scene

He made a sketch of the state capitol.

waltz

/ˈwɔːltz/ noun a dance in which a couple moves in a regular series of three steps

Many people enjoy dancing a waltz.

limb

/lɪm/ noun a leg or arm

As a result of wounds, the soldier lost a limb.

yield

/jiːld/ verb to produce or provide (something, such as a plant or crop)

Each year the apple trees yield an abundant harvest.

lynch

/lɪntʃ / verb to kill (someone) illegally as punishment for a crime

The angry mob wanted to lynch the accused killer.

wren

/rɛn/ noun a small bird with brown feathers and a short tail that points upward

Ellen spotted a wren feasting on some insects.

cyst

/sɪst/ noun a growth filled with liquid that forms in or on your body

The doctor removed the cyst from Irma's neck.

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morgue

/ˈmoʊg/ noun a place where the bodies of dead people are kept until they are buried or cremated

The police will try to identify the body in the morgue.

chic

/ˈtʃiːk/ adjective following the current fashion or style : fashionable

Gloria was known for her chic clothes.

sphinx

/ˈsfɪŋks/ noun a creature with the body of a lion and the head of a person

The large statue is in the shape of a sphinx.

useful

/ˈjuːsfəl/ adjective capable of being put to use for a purpose.

The map proved useful on our trip to New York.

animal

/ˈænəməl/ noun a living being that differs from a plant typically in being able to move about, in not having cell walls made of cellulose, and in depending on plants and other animals as sources of food.

A mule can be a very stubborn animal.

dinosaur

/ˈdaɪnəˌsoʊ / noun any of a group of extinct mostly land-dwelling reptiles that lived millions of years ago.

The museum exhibited the skeleton of a huge dinosaur.

airplane

/ˈeɪˌpleɪn/ noun an aircraft with a fixed wing that is heavier than air, driven by a propeller or a jet engine, and supported by the action of the air against its wings.

Dave's first ride in an airplane was to Disney World.

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snowflake

/ˈsnəʊfleɪk/ noun a snow crystal : a small mass of snow crystals.

Gail liked the sweater with an image of a snowflake on the front.

uniform

/'ju:nə,fo:m/ noun special clothing worn by members of a particular group.

As a security guard, Bill had to wear a special uniform.

staircase

/'steɪk,keɪs/ noun a flight of stairs with their supporting structure and railings.

An ornate staircase led customers upstairs to the bedding department.

giraffe

/dʒə'reɪf/, British /dʒə'rɜ:f/ noun a spotted mammal of Africa that has a long neck and chews the cud.

The giraffe bent down to eat the fruit in Rita's hand.

carrot

/'kerət/ noun the long orange edible root of a garden plant.

Marie sliced the carrot for the salad.

eagle

/'i:ɡəl/ noun any of several large birds of prey noted for keen sight and powerful flight.

The eagle built its nest on a mountain ledge.

sandwich

/'sænd,wɪt/, British /'sæn,wɪdʒ/ noun two or more slices of bread or a split roll with a filling or spread.

Sam made a ham and cheese sandwich.

toad

/'təʊd/ noun a tailless leaping amphibian that has rough skin and usually lives on land.

To survive in winter, a toad buries itself in the soil below the frost line.

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troll

/ˈtrɒl/ noun a dwarf or giant of folklore living in caves or hills.

For her birthday, Sonja received a book about a mischievous troll.

bounce

/baʊns/ verb to spring back or up after hitting a surface.

Terry watched the thrown ball bounce into the street.

float

/flaʊt/ verb to rest on the surface of a liquid.

The cork will float on the water.

jungle

/ˈdʒʌŋɡəl/ noun a large area of land usually in a tropical region covered with a thick tangled growth of plants.

The military unit spent a month learning how to survive in the jungle.

railroad

/ˈreɪlˌroʊd/ noun a permanent road that has parallel steel rails that make a track for cars.

The railroad extended from one coast to the other.

balloon

/bəˈlu:n/ noun a toy consisting of a rubber bag that can be blown up with air or gas.

When the balloon hit the ceiling, it burst.

hospital

/ˈhɒspɪtl/ noun a place where the sick and injured are cared for.

The accident victim was taken to a local hospital.

tornado

/toʊˈneɪdɒ/ noun a violent whirling wind accompanied by a cloud that is shaped like a funnel and moves overland in a narrow path.

The tornado destroyed the mobile homes in its path.

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unicorn

/ˈjuːnəˌkɔ n/ noun an imaginary animal that looks like a horse with one horn in the middle of the forehead.

Zoe's toy unicorn makes a noise when its horn is squeezed.

squash

/ˈskw : / noun the fruit of any of several plants related to the gourds that is cooked as a vegetable or used for animal feed.

At Thanksgiving Grace served squash and potatoes with the turkey.

address

/əˈdr s/ noun the place where a person can usually be reached.

Penny asked her mother for her uncle's address.

lonely

/ˈloʊnli/ adjective longing for companions.

The movie was about a lonely nine-year-old boy and his dog.

thirsty

/ˈ sti/ adjective feeling dryness in the mouth and throat that accompanies a need for liquids.

While watching the movie's desert scenes, Mike became very thirsty.

gorilla

/gəˈrɪlə/ noun a very large ape of the forests of central Africa that lives mostly on the ground.

The zoo is going to increase the outdoor space for its gorilla.

sentence

/ˈs ntəns/ noun a group of words that makes a statement, asks a question, or expresses a command, wish, or exclamation.

A sentence always begins with a capital letter.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

chicken

/ˈtʃɪkɪn/ noun the common domestic fowl especially when young.

Peg cooked the egg that her chicken laid.

taxicab

/'tæksɪkæb/ noun an automobile that carries passengers for a fare usually determined by the distance traveled.

We rode in a taxicab from the airport to the hotel.

lightning

/'laɪtnɪŋ/ noun the flashing of light caused by the passing of electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth.

When the lightning started, the golfers headed for home.

fireplace

/'faɪ ,pleɪs/ noun a structure with a hearth on which an open fire can be built for heating or especially outdoors for cooking.

The skiers came into the lodge and sat near the fireplace.

storehouse

/'sto ,haʊs/ noun a building for storing goods.

Trucks transported goods from the storehouse to the local markets.

kitchen

/'kɪt ən/ noun a room in which cooking is done.

Joan asked her family to stay out of the kitchen while she was preparing the meal.

costume

/'kɔːstju:m/, British /'kɒstju:m/ noun special or fancy dress (as for wear on the stage or at a masquerade).

George bought a new costume for the Halloween party.

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terrible

/ˈterəbəl/ adjective causing great fear.

Dan woke up crying from a terrible nightmare.

starlight

/ˈstɑːlaɪt/ noun the light given by the stars.

Night-vision goggles enable soldiers to see when only starlight is available.

hamburger

/ˈhæm,bɜːɡ / noun a sandwich made of a patty of ground beef on a split bun.

Ryan's hamburger also contained lettuce and pickles.

building

/ˈbɪldɪŋ/ noun a permanent structure built as a dwelling, shelter, or a place for human activities or for storage.

The company moved into its new building.

umpire

/ˈ ʌmpaɪ / noun a sports official who rules on plays.

Fans yelled at the umpire, but he didn't take it personally.

vacation

/veɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun a period spent away from home or business in travel or amusement.

Josh thought he needed a vacation from schoolwork.

tadpole

/ˈtæd,pəʊl/ noun the larva of a frog or toad that has a long tail, breathes with gills, and lives in water.

When a tadpole changes into a toad, it loses its tail.

horseshoe

/ˈhoʊ s, uː/ noun a protective iron plate that is nailed to the rim of a horse's hoof.

Kate found a rusty horseshoe in the abandoned stable.

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library

/ˈlaɪbrəri/, British ˈlaɪbrəri/ noun a place where especially literary or reference materials are kept for use but not for sale.

Tony borrowed some videos from the library.

understood

/ˌnd ˈstʊd/ verb got the meaning of.

The teacher asked if the class understood how to do long division.

elephant

/ˈ ɛləfənt/ noun a huge thickset mammal with the nose drawn out into a long trunk and two large curved tusks.

The piano keys were made from the tusks of an elephant.

surprise

/s ˈpraɪz/ verb to cause to feel wonder or amazement because of being unexpected.

The players decided to surprise their coach with a gift.

different

/ˈdɪfrənt/ adjective not of the same kind.

Dad wanted something different for dinner, so he took the family out to eat.

spacecraft

/ˈspeɪs,kɹæft/, British ˈspeɪs,kɹ :ft/ noun a vehicle for travel beyond the earth's atmosphere.

The engineer talked about the challenges of building a spacecraft.

weakness

/ˈwi:knəs/ noun lack of strength.

Sam's doctor suggested physical therapy to treat his muscle weakness.

healthy

/h ɪ i/ adjective aiding or building up health.

Exercise is necessary for a healthy body.

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quarter

/ˈkwɔ t / noun one of four equal parts into which something can be divided.

Mom saved a quarter of the pie for Dad.

sparrow

/ˈspɛrɒ/ noun a small brownish bird related to the finches.

The children watched the sparrow splashing in the birdbath.

pumpkin

/p ɪmpkən/ noun a large round orange or yellow fruit related to the squash that is used as a vegetable or as feed for farm animals.

Pat carved a face in the large pumpkin.

valentine

/ˈvælən,tɑɪn/ noun a greeting card or gift sent or given on Saint Valentine's day.

Joe sent a valentine to every girl in his class.

usually

/ˈju: əwəli/ adverb commonly, ordinarily.

After doing his homework, Don usually plays his video games.

roughly

/r ɪli/ adverb in a harsh or violent manner.

The boy was warned not to treat his pet roughly.

frighten

/ˈfraɪtŋ/ verb to drive away or out by making afraid.

The scarecrow was put up to frighten the crows away from the crops.

dolphin

/d ɔlfən/ noun a small whale with teeth and a long nose.

At the aquarium a dolphin thrilled the audience with its performances.

lullaby

/l ɪləbaɪ/ noun a song for helping babies to sleep.

Mary cradled her baby and sang a soothing lullaby.

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thought

/ˈtɔːt/ verb had as an opinion or belief.

Emily thought that her brother was selfish.

horizon

/həˈraɪzən/ noun the line where the earth or sea seems to meet the sky.

We sat on the beach watching the sun sink below the horizon.

talkative

/t ˈkætɪv/ adjective fond of talking.

Our talkative school bus driver described what school was like in his youth.

whisper

/ˈwɪsp / noun a low soft way of speaking that can be heard only by persons who are near.

"I don't want to hear even a whisper," the teacher warned as we began the test.

sword

/ˈso d/ noun a weapon having a long blade usually with a sharp point and edge.

The museum displayed a 300-year old samurai sword.

gerbil /ˈdʒɜːbəl/ noun a small Old World leaping desert rodent.

Jeff brought his pet gerbil to school for show-and-tell.

strength

/ˈstr ɪŋk / noun the quality of being strong.

A good athlete must have strength, stamina, and determination.

tightrope

/taɪtˌroʊp/ noun a rope or wire stretched tight on which an acrobat performs.

The crowd hushed as they watched the acrobat balance himself on the tightrope.

blizzard

/ˈblɪz d/ noun a long heavy snowstorm.

Traffic slowed to a standstill during the blizzard.

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crocodile

/ˈkr :kə,dajəl/ noun a very large animal related to the alligator that crawls on short legs about tropical marshes and rivers.

The skin of a crocodile is used to make handbags and shoes .

subtract

/səb'trækt/ verb to take away (as from one part or number from another).

Barbara was asked to subtract 34 from 68.

toughen

/t fən/ verb to make or become tough.

Hikers toughen their legs and lungs by mountain climbing.

beauty

/ˈbju:ti/ noun the qualities of a person or thing that give pleasure to the senses or to the mind.

Steve described the Grand Canyon as a place of great beauty.

canoe

/kə'nu:/ noun a long light narrow boat with sharp ends and curved sides usually driven by paddles.

The scouts paddled their canoe across the lake.

trapeze

/træ'pi:z/ noun a short horizontal bar hung from two parallel ropes and used by acrobats.

The orangutan entertained the zoo's visitors by swinging on a trapeze.

substitute

/s bstə,tu:t/, British /'s bstə,tju:t/ noun a person or thing that takes the place or function of another.

When our teacher was sick, a substitute took over her classes.

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triangle

/ˈtraɪ.æŋɡəl/ noun a figure that has three sides and three angles.

The town park is in the shape of a triangle.

cough

/ˈkɔːf/ verb to force air from the lungs with a sharp short noise.

When Naomi's mother heard her cough so much, she called the doctor.

wallop

/ˈwɔːləp/ verb to beat thoroughly : trounce.

After a slow start, our hockey team went on to wallop the opposition.

woodchuck

/ˈwʊd.tʃk/ noun a reddish brown rodent that hibernates : a groundhog.

The woodchuck, or groundhog, as it is sometimes called, gets a lot of attention on February 2.

cougar

/ˈkuːg / noun a large yellowish brown North American wild animal related to the domestic cat.

The park ranger identified the tracks as those of a cougar.

whistle

/ˈwɪsəl/ verb to make a shrill sound by forcing the breath through the teeth or lips.

Greg's friends teased him because he couldn't whistle very well.

typhoon

/taɪˈfuːn/ noun a tropical cyclone in the region of the Philippines or the China Sea.

The typhoon caused floods and landslides throughout the island.

shriek

/ˈriːk/ noun a sharp shrill cry.

Dorothy let out a shriek when she saw the mouse.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

weird

/ˈwi d/ adjective very unusual : strange.

The principal asked Earl to explain his weird behavior in class.

stomach

/ˈst mək/ noun the pouch into which food goes after it leaves the mouth and has passed down the throat.

Kyle complained about pain in his stomach.

midnight

/ˈmɪd,naɪt/ noun twelve o'clock at night.

Harry worked on his science project until midnight.

pineapple

/ˈpaɪ,næpəl/ noun a large juicy heavy fruit of a tropical plant that has long stiff leaves with spiny margins.

Slices of pineapple were served with the ham.

octopus

/ˈ :ktə,pʊs/ noun a marine animal with no shell that has a rounded body with eight long flexible arms about its base which have sucking disks able to seize and hold things.

The children were amazed to see the octopus open the jar with its tentacles.

meteor

/ˈmi:tɪj / noun one of the small pieces of matter in the solar system that enter the earth's atmosphere where friction may cause them to glow and form a streak of light.

A meteor that survives the fall to earth is called a meteorite.

wreck

/ˈr k/ verb to damage or destroy by breaking up.

When Phil asked to borrow his father's car, he promised not to wreck it.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

Nickname

/ˈnɪk,neɪm/ noun a usually descriptive name given in addition to the one belonging to an individual.

Claude always went by the nickname "Butch."

penguin

/ˈp ɪŋwən/ noun a seabird that cannot fly, has very short legs, and is found in the cold regions of the southern hemisphere.

Cathy had a picture of a penguin looking at its reflection in the water.

pollution

/pəˈluː ən/ noun the action of polluting or the state of being polluted.

The government enacted laws to reduce environmental pollution.

permission

/p ɪˈmɪʃən/ noun the consent of a person in authority.

Rob asked for the principal's permission to start a chess club.

wrench

/r nt / noun a tool for holding, twisting, or turning (as nuts and bolts).

Bill searched for the proper wrench for installing the new sink faucets.

palace

/ˈpæləs/ noun the home of a ruler.

The palace was surrounded by high walls.

weasel

/ˈwiːzəl/ noun a small slender active animal related to the minks that feeds on small birds and animals.

The zoologist said that the weasel is intelligent, fearless, and very strong for its size.

ache

/eɪk/ noun a dull continuous pain.

As Martha finished vacuuming, she felt an ache in her back.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

gopher

/ˈɡoʊf / noun a burrowing animal that is about the size of a rat and has strong claws on the forefeet and very large outside cheek pouches.

The gopher is considered a pest by farmers because it does much damage to gardens and alfalfa fields.

peaceful

/ˈpiːsfəl/ adjective untroubled by conflict, agitation, or commotion.

Jack and Pam wanted a peaceful vacation on a Caribbean island.

champion

/t æmpijən/ noun the winner of first place in a competition.

The speller lasted 15 rounds to become the national champion.

wisdom

/ˈwɪzdəm/ noun knowledge and the ability to use it to help oneself or others.

The players learned to work together and to pay attention to the wisdom of the coaches.

discipline

/ˈdɪsəplən/ noun strict training that corrects or strengthens.

The military emphasizes discipline in its training programs.

opposite

/ˈɔːpəzət/ adjective being at the other end, side, or corner.

Near the library, but on the opposite side of the street, is one of the city's finest restaurants.

laughable

/ˈlæfəbəl/, British /l ːfəbəl/ adjective causing or likely to cause laughter.

Grandpa was never at a loss for a laughable story.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

heighten

/ˈhaɪtən/ verb to make greater : increase.

The upcoming final exam may heighten student anxieties.

curious

/ˈkjʊrɪəs/ adjective eager to learn : given to seeking information.

Readers are curious as to what is ultimately going to happen to Harry Potter.

ambulance

/ˈæmbjʊləns/ noun a vehicle meant to carry sick or injured persons.

The motorist pulled over to let the ambulance go by.

scissors

/ˈsɪz z/ noun a cutting instrument with two cutting blades fastened together so that the sharp edges slide against each other.

Judy usually uses scissors to cut out coupons from the newspaper.

ordinary

/ˈɔːdəˌneri/, British /ˈɔːdəˌnəri/ adjective to be expected : normal, usual.

The heroic rescuer said that he was just an ordinary man who did what was needed.

engineer

/ˌɛnʒɪˈniər / noun a person who runs or has charge of an engine or of machinery or technical equipment.

The driver of a locomotive is called an engineer.

humility

/hjuˈmɪləti/ noun the quality of being not bold or proud.

It took humility for the boy to admit his mistakes.

protector

/prəˈtɛktər / noun a person or thing that protects or is intended to protect.

An armed protector was stationed at every entrance to the bank.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

tiresome

/ˈtaɪ səm/ adjective likely to tire one because of length or dullness : boring.

The senator's speech was tiresome and yawn-inducing.

wasteful

/ˈweɪstfəl/ adjective spending or using in a careless or foolish way.

The Congressional committee suggested ways to reduce wasteful spending.

calendar

/ˈkælənd / noun a chart showing the days, weeks, and months of the year.

Important historical events are usually noted on the calendar.

excitement

/ɪkˈsaɪtmənt/ noun the state of being excited : something that excites or stirs up.

Alex said that the only excitement in his life was playing video games.

aspirin

/ˈæspərən/ noun a white drug used to relieve pain and fever.

When Virginia felt a headache coming on, she took some aspirin.

confidence

/k :nfədəns/ noun a feeling of trust or belief.

Eric had great confidence in his doctor.

consonant

/k :nsənənt/ noun a letter in the English alphabet other than a, e, i, o, or u.

The letter "t" is a frequently used consonant in English.

hypnotize

/ˈhɪpnəˌtaɪz/ verb to affect by producing a state like sleep in which a person in this state will respond to suggestions made by the hypnotist.

Bob asked his therapist to hypnotize him into giving up smoking.

marriage

/ˈmerɪdʒ/ noun the act of getting married.

Joan wanted to put off marriage until she finished college.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

nourishment

/ˈn ɹɪʃmənt/ noun something (as food) that causes one to grow or live in a healthy state.

Blood vessels carry nourishment to all parts of the body.

radiator

/ˈreɪdi,eɪt / noun a device to heat air (as in a room) or to cool an object (as an automobile engine).

Jack's car radiator started to leak.

shrubbery

/ˈ r bəri/ noun a group or planting of shrubs.

Gary spotted a garter snake in the shrubbery by the back door.

widespread

/ˈwaɪdˈspr d/ adjective widely scattered.

Because of the movie's widespread appeal, the theater showed it several times a day.

patriotic

/ˌpeɪtriː ˌtɪk/, British /ˌpætriˈɒtɪk/ adjective having or showing love of one's country.

The town sponsored a patriotic concert on the Fourth of July.

competition

/ˌk ˌmpəˈtɪʃən/ noun a contest between rivals.

The competition for class president was intense.

instructor

/ɪnˈstr kt / noun a teacher.

Ben's father is a biology instructor at the local college.

lubricate

/ˈluːbrəkeɪt/ verb to apply oil or grease to.

Fred finally decided to lubricate the squeaky screen door.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

drudgery

/ˈdrʌdʒəri/ noun hard or dull work.

Tyler considered raking leaves monotonous drudgery.

nincompoop

/ˈnɪŋkəmˌpuːp/ noun a person without good sense or judgment : a fool.

The actor won an Emmy for playing a pompous nincompoop in the sitcom.

composition

/ˌkɒmpəˈzɪʃən/ noun a short piece of writing done as a school exercise.

The class was assigned to write a composition on their favorite pastime.

machinery

/məˈɪːnəri/ noun machines in general or as a working unit.

The factory's machinery is controlled mostly by computers.

interference

/ˌɪntərˈfɪərəns/ noun the act or process of taking a part in the concerns of others.

The environmentalist warned of the consequences of human interference with nature.

malicious

/məˈlɪʃəs/ adjective doing mean things for pleasure.

The malicious bully was suspended from school.

original

/əˈrɪdʒənəl/ adjective of or relating to the origin or beginning.

The original name of New York City was New Amsterdam.

intelligent

/ɪnˈtɛlədʒənt/ adjective having or showing the ability to learn or understand.

The teacher described the pupil as intelligent but a bit lazy academically.

orphanage

/ˈɒrfənɪdʒ/ noun an institution for the care of children whose parents are dead.

The townspeople collected toys and sent them to the local orphanage.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

muscular

/ˈm skjəl / adjective having well-developed muscles.

The president was protected by muscular bodyguards.

expedition

/, kspəˈdɪʃən/ noun a journey for a particular purpose (as for exploring).

Scientists were sent on an expedition to Antarctica to study the penguins there.

believable

/bəˈli:vəbəl/ adjective possible to believe.

A good writer creates believable characters.

foliage

/ˈfoʊliʒIʃ/ noun the leaves of a plant.

Every autumn the area's colorful foliage attracts tourists.

exhaust

/ɪgˈz :st/ noun the gas that escapes from an engine.

Automobile exhaust is a major source of air pollution.

glutton

/ˈgl tŋ/ noun a person or animal that overeats.

The glutton regularly eats at the all-you-can-eat buffet.

parachute

/ˈperə, u:t/ noun a folding device of light material shaped like an umbrella and

used for making a safe jump or drop from an airplane.

Medical supplies were dropped to the earthquake victims by parachute.

dynamic

/daɪˈnæmɪk/ adjective full of energy : forceful.

Kyle proved to be the basketball team's most dynamic player.

efficient

/ɪˈfɪʃənt/ adjective capable of bringing about a desired result with little waste.

The staff was trained to work in an efficient timesaving manner.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

halibut

/ˈhæləbət/ noun a very large flatfish much used for food.

The halibut was coated with batter, deep-fried, and served with chips.

ignorance

/ˈɪgnərəns/ noun the state of having little or no knowledge.

The commentator maintained that prejudice is a product of ignorance.

optimistic

/, ɔptəˈmɪstɪk/ adjective expecting everything to come out all right.

The band is optimistic about the success of its new album.

pistachio

/pəˈstæ ɪjoʊ/ noun the green edible seed of a small tree related to the sumacs.

Mark counted every pistachio in his dish of ice cream.

aquarium

/əˈkwɛrɪjəm/ noun a container as a tank or bowl in which living water animals or water plants are kept.

The fish in Sheila's aquarium include mollies, tetras, and guppies.

preparation

/,pr ɪpəˈreɪʃən/ noun the act of making ready beforehand or for some special reason.

Lauren reviewed her notes in preparation for the math test.

recognize

/r ɪˈkɪɡnəɪz/ verb to know and remember upon seeing.

At his class reunion Bob almost didn't recognize some classmates because they had changed so much.

restaurant

/r ɪˈstɔːr ˌnt/ noun a public eating place.

The restaurant offered a brunch every Sunday.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

transparent

/træns'perənt/ adjective clear enough or thin enough to be seen through.

The lens of the eye is a transparent structure that focuses light.

pronounce

/prə'naʊns/ verb to use the voice to make the sounds of.

How do you pronounce "apricot"?

incredible

/ɪn'kr dəbəl/ adjective too strange or unlikely to be believed.

It seems incredible that no one has built bungalows along this gorgeous beach.

trampoline

/ˌtræmpə'li:n/ noun a canvas sheet or web supported by springs in a metal frame used for springing and landing in acrobatic tumbling.

The trampoline has allowed children to bounce higher and longer than ever before.

governor

/'g vɹ / noun a person who governs and especially the elected head of a state of the United States.

The governor announced that he would not seek reelection.

disguise

/də'skaɪz/ noun clothing put on to hide one's true identity or to imitate another's.

Roy attended the party in a pirate's disguise.

achievement

/ə't i:vmənt/ noun something accomplished especially by great effort.

The principal congratulated the honor roll students on their achievement.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

foreign

/ˈfɔrən/ adjective located outside of a place or country and especially outside of one's country.

Spending a year in a foreign country is a good way to learn another language.

rebellion

/rɪˈbɪljən/ noun open opposition to authority.

The rebellion turned into civil war, which led to the overthrow of the government.

upholstery

/, pˈhʊʊlstəri/ noun materials used to make a soft covering for a seat.

For the den, Dad wanted a sofa with dark brown leather upholstery.

atmosphere

/ˈætməˌsfi / noun the gas surrounding a celestial body.

The volcano pumped a huge plume of gas, steam, and ash into the atmosphere.

cafeteria

/,kæfəˈtɪrɪjə/ noun a restaurant where the customers serve themselves or are served at a counter but carry their own food to their tables.

Students had no time to dillydally in the school cafeteria.

cemetery

/s məˌteri/, British /s mətri/ noun a place where dead people are buried.

The local unit of veterans visits the cemetery on Memorial Day.

juvenile

/ˈdʒuːvənəjəl/ adjective of, relating to, or characteristic of children or young people.

Mandy thought that her sister's books were too juvenile for her.

coleslaw

/ˈkoʊlˌsl / noun a salad made of sliced or shredded raw cabbage.

The fried chicken was served with coleslaw.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

lacrosse

/lə'krɔ:s/ noun a ball game using a long-handled stick with a shallow net for catching, throwing, or carrying the ball.

In lacrosse Jerry was an outstanding attackman.

citizenship

/'sɪtəzən,ʃɪp/ noun the state of being a person who owes loyalty to a government and is protected by it.

Voting is one of the privileges of citizenship.

leisurely

/'li:li/, British /'lɛli/ adjective not hurried.

The couple next door like to take leisurely strolls with their dog.

description

/dɪ'skrɪpən/ noun an account of something especially of a kind that presents a picture to a person who reads or hears it.

The police asked the victim to give them a description of her assailant.

emphasize

/'mfə,saɪz/ verb to give special force or importance to.

Group assignments promote social skills and emphasize teamwork.

reservoir

/'rɛzə,vwɔ:/ noun a place where something (as water) is kept in store for future use.

No swimming or boating was allowed in the reservoir.

exaggerate

/'ɪg'zædʒə'reɪt/ verb to enlarge or increase beyond the normal.

Stage actors tend to exaggerate their reactions and gestures.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

bulletin

/ˈbʊlətən/ noun a short public notice usually coming from an informed or official source.

The TV bulletin announced the closing of schools due to the snowstorm.

tortoise

/ˈtɔː tɔɪs/ noun any of a family of turtles that live on land.

A tortoise may take about five hours to walk one mile.

innocent

/ˈɪnəsənt/ adjective free from guilt or blame.

The law presumes a citizen innocent until proven guilty.

vegetable

/ˈvɛtəbəl/ noun a plant or plant part grown for use as human food and usually eaten with the main part of a meal.

Sarah serves at least one vegetable with every meal.

suspicious

/səˈspɪʃəs/ adjective likely to suspect or distrust.

The villagers were deeply suspicious of outsiders.

toboggan

/təˈbɔːgən/ noun a long light sled made without runners and curved up at the front.

Our toboggan picked up speed as it slid down the steep hill.

chandelier

/ˌtʃændəˈli / noun a lighting fixture with several branches that usually hangs from the ceiling.

A huge crystal chandelier brightened the ballroom.

courageous

/kəˈreɪʃəs/ adjective having or showing courage.

The boy's courageous father rescued him from the quicksand.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

immediately

/ɪ'mi:dijətli/ adverb right away.

When the teacher asked the question, Angela immediately raised her hand.

manufacture

/ˌmænjə'fækt / verb to make from raw materials by hand or machinery.

The auto industry is being encouraged to manufacture more fuel-efficient cars.

rehearse

/rɪ'h s/ verb to practice in private in preparation for a public performance.

The cast members have been meeting every night to rehearse the school play.

pursuit

/p 'su:t/, British /pə'sju:t/ noun the act of following after in order to catch or destroy.

A police car sped down the highway in pursuit of the robbers.

moccasin

/m :kəsən/ noun a soft shoe with no heel and the sole and sides made of one piece.

Charlotte said that the moccasin felt very comfortable on her foot.

fascination

/fæsə'neɪt/ noun the state of being greatly attracted.

Since he was given a telescope, Matt has had a fascination with constellations.

broccoli

/'br :kəli/ noun an open branching form of cauliflower whose green stalks and clustered flower buds are used as a vegetable.

Eileen usually serves broccoli with a cheese sauce.

vengeance

/'v ɪdʒəns/ noun punishment given in return for an injury or offense.

The gang sought vengeance for the attack on one of its members.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

personnel

/ˌp ɜː'n l/ noun a body of persons usually employed (as in a factory, office, or organization).

The agency bought new computers for all its sales personnel.

mayonnaise

/'meɪjə,neɪz/ noun a dressing made of egg yolks, vegetable oils, and vinegar or lemon juice.

Ryan likes plenty of mayonnaise in his chicken sandwiches.

technician

/t k'nɪʃən/ noun a specialist in the technical details of a subject or occupation.

We had to take our computer to a technician to be repaired.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

Part 2

dale

/ˈdeɪl/ *noun* valley

the beautiful hills and dales of our county

duet

/duˈt, Brit djuˈt/ *noun* a piece of music that is performed by two singers or musicians

They sang the duet beautifully.

fowl

/ˈfau l/ *noun* a bird (such as a chicken) that is raised for food

raising domestic fowl

gait

/ˈgeɪt/ *noun* a particular way of walking

He has an awkward gait.

digit

/ˈdɪdʒət/ *noun* a written symbol for any of the numbers 0 to 9

a three-digit number like 507

ghoul

/ˈgu l/ *noun* an evil creature in frightening stories that robs graves and eats dead bodies

an evil creature in frightening stories that robs graves and eats dead bodies

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

knoll

/ˈnoʊl/ *noun* a small hill

a grassy knoll

mourn

/ˈmoʊn/ *verb* to feel or show great sadness because someone has died

When he dies, people throughout the world will mourn.

otter

/ˈɒtər/ *noun* an animal that has dark brown fur and webbed feet with claws and that eats fish

an animal that has dark brown fur and webbed feet with claws and that eats fish

shirk

/ˈʃɜrk/ *verb* to avoid doing something that you are supposed to do

He's too conscientious to shirk his duty/responsibility.

tiara

/tiˈerə, Brit tiˈrə/ *noun* a crown worn by the pope

a crown worn by the pope

acidic

/ˈsɪdɪk/ *adj* having a very sour or sharp taste

an acidic sauce/wine

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

adroit

/ 'droɪt/ *adj* very clever or skillful

an adroit negotiator

astute

/ 'stu:t, Brit 'stju:t/ *adj* having or showing an ability to notice and understand things clearly : mentally sharp or clever

He is an astute observer of the current political scene.

attach

/ 'tætʃ/ *verb* to fasten or join one thing to another

I've attached an application to the brochure for you.

attend

/ 'tɛnd/ *verb* to go to and be present at (an event, meeting, etc.)

My husband and I will both attend the banquet.

awe

/ ' / *noun* a strong feeling of fear or respect and also wonder

It was a sight that filled me with awe and reverence.

beware

/bɪ'we / *verb* to be careful : to act in a way that shows you know that there may be danger or trouble

A ghostly voice cried "Beware!"

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

bonnet

/ˈbɒn ət/ noun a hat that ties under the chin Bonnets were worn by women in the past but are now only worn by babies.

a hat that ties under the chin Bonnets were worn by women in the past but are now only worn by babies.

deceit

/dɪˈsi:t/ noun dishonest behavior : behavior that is meant to fool or trick someone

He achieved his goals through lies and (a web of) deceit.

detect

/dɪˈtɛkt/ verb to discover or notice the presence of (something that is hidden or hard to see, hear, taste, etc.)

The test is used to detect the presence of alcohol in the blood.

docile

/ˈdɒsəl, Brit ˈdɒsəl/ adj easily taught, led, or controlled

His students were docile and eager to learn.

enmity

ˈɛnmɪti/ noun a very deep unfriendly feeling

There's a long history of enmity between them.

falcon

ˈfælkən, ˈfɪlkən/ noun a type of hawk that can fly very fast and is sometimes trained to hunt

a type of hawk that can fly very fast and is sometimes trained to hunt

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

galaxy

/ˈɡæl ksi/ noun any one of the very large groups of stars that make up the universe

the formation of galaxies

galley

/ˈɡæli/ noun the kitchen of a ship or airplane

the kitchen of a ship or airplane

ignore

/ɪɡˈno / verb to refuse to show that you hear or see (something or someone)

She tried to ignore him but he wouldn't leave her alone.

juggle

/ˈdʒʌg l/ verb to keep several objects in motion in the air at the same time by repeatedly throwing and catching them

He is learning to juggle.

jungle

/ˈdʒʌŋ g l/ noun a tropical forest where plants and trees grow very thickly

a dense jungle

lunacy

/ˈlu n si/ noun extreme foolishness

Quitting her job was an act of sheer/pure lunacy.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

meteor

/ˈmi tiː / noun a piece of rock or metal that burns and glows brightly in the sky as it falls from outer space into the Earth's atmosphere

a meteor shower

mousse

/ˈmu s/ noun a cold and sweet food made with whipped cream or egg whites and usually fruit or chocolate

chocolate mousse

oracle

/ˈor k l/ noun a person (such as a priestess) through whom a god was believed to speak

consulting an oracle

raptor

/ˈræpt / noun a bird (such as an eagle or hawk) that kills and eats other animals for food : bird of prey

a bird (such as an eagle or hawk) that kills and eats other animals for food : bird of prey

ravage

/ˈrævɪdʒ/ verb to damage or harm (something) very badly

The enemy ravaged the village.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

salary

/ˈsæl ri/ noun an amount of money that an employee is paid each year A salary is divided into equal amounts that are paid to a person usually once every two weeks or once every month.

She was offered a salary of \$50,000 a year.

solemn

/s ɪ m/ adj very serious or formal in manner, behavior, or expression

a solemn occasion/moment

thrall

/ˈ r ɪ/ noun in a state of being controlled or strongly influenced by someone or something

He was completely in thrall to her.

urbane

/, ˈbeɪn/ adj polite and confident

an urbane diplomat

utopia

/j ˈto piː / noun an imaginary place in which the government, laws, and social conditions are perfect

The town's founders wanted to create a Christian utopia.

anguish

/ˈæŋɡwɪʃ/ noun extreme suffering, grief, or pain

tears/cries of anguish

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

buzzard

/'b z d/ noun a kind of large bird that eats animals that are already dead
a kind of large bird that eats animals that are already dead

cavalry

/'kæv Iri/ noun the part of an army that in the past had soldiers who rode horses and that now has soldiers who ride in vehicles or helicopters
Cavalry is used to perform reconnaissance.

conceal

/k n'si l/ verb to hide (something or someone) from sight
The sunglasses conceal her eyes.

cottage

/'k tɪdʒ/ noun a small house especially in the country
We rented a cottage for the weekend.

deficit

/'d f s t/ noun an amount (such as an amount of money) that is less than the amount that is needed
The government is facing a deficit of \$3 billion.

devious

/'di vij s/ adj willing to lie and trick people in order to get what is wanted
a dishonest and devious politician

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

exigent

/ˈksədʒənt/ *adj* requiring immediate attention : needing to be dealt with

immediately

exigent circumstances

furtive

/f ɪv/ *adj* done in a quiet and secret way to avoid being noticed

He cast a furtive glance in our direction.

gallery

/ˈgæl ri/ *noun* a room or building in which people look at paintings, sculptures, etc.

an art gallery

gourmet

/ˈgu ˌmeɪ, gu ˈmeɪ/ *noun* a person who enjoys and knows a lot about good food and wine

a person who enjoys and knows a lot about good food and wine

habitat

/ˈhæb ˌtæt/ *noun* the place or type of place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows

a creature's natural habitat

immense

/ɪˈm ns/ *adj* very great in size or amount

He inherited an immense fortune.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

immerse

/ɪ'm ɪ s/ *verb* to put (something) in a liquid so that all parts are completely covered
Immerse the fabric completely in the dye.

languid

/ˈlæ ŋ w ɪ d/ *adj* showing or having very little strength, energy, or activity
a long, languid sigh

microbe

/ˈmaɪ,kroʊ b/ *noun* an extremely small living thing that can only be seen with a microscope : microorganism
a disease-causing microbe

migrate

/ˈmaɪ,ɡreɪt/ *verb* to move from one country or place to live or work in another
He migrates from New York to Florida each winter.

noxious

/ˈn ɒ k s/ *adj* harmful to living things : toxic
noxious fumes/waste

passage

/ˈpæsiɪdʒ/ *noun* a long, narrow space that connects one place to another
They escaped through a secret underground passage.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

rampart

/ˈræm.p ɪ t/ noun a tall, thick stone or dirt wall that is built around a castle, town, etc., to protect it from attacks

The city's ramparts crumbled long ago.

usual

noun what happens or is done most of the time

"What have you been doing lately?" "Oh, you know. The usual."

blossom

/ˈbl ɒ s ə m/ noun a flower especially of a fruit tree

Her hair smelled of apple/cherry/orange blossoms.

concern

/k ɒ n's ə n/ noun a feeling of worry usually shared by many people

They have expressed/voiced concern about the cost of the project.

affair

/ ˈfe ɪ / noun work or activities done for a purpose : commercial, professional, public, or personal business

The group conducts its affairs in private.

ceiling

/ˈsi ɪ ɪ / noun the inside surface at the top of a room

The house has low ceilings.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

palace

/ˈpæl s/ noun the official home of a king, queen, president, etc.

the royal/imperial/presidential palace

bundle

/ˈb ʌ nd l/ noun a group of things that are fastened, tied, or wrapped together

He arrived with several bundles under his arms.

aim

/ˈeɪm/ verb to point (a weapon) at a target

He aimed the gun carefully before shooting.

soothe

/ˈsu {eth}/ verb to cause (someone) to be calmer, less angry, etc.

She played music to soothe the baby.

jury

/ˈdʒə-ri/ noun a group of people who are members of the public and are chosen to make a decision in a legal case

The jury failed to reach a verdict.

league

/ˈli g/ noun a group of sports teams that play against each other

a softball/bowling league

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

excuse

/ɪk'skju z/ *verb* to forgive someone for making a mistake, doing something wrong, etc.,

Please excuse my clumsiness.

sleet

/sli t/ *noun* frozen or partly frozen rain

The snow turned to sleet and made driving very dangerous.

rough

/r f/ *adj* having a surface that is not even

rough tree bark

knot

/n t/ *noun* a part that forms when you tie a piece of rope, string, fabric, etc., to itself or to something else

She tied the rope in a knot.

confusion

/k n'fju Ń n/ *noun* a situation in which people are uncertain about what to do or are unable to understand something clearly

The detour caused much confusion.

capable

/'keɪp ə b l/ *adj* able to do something : having the qualities or abilities that are needed to do something

a new train capable of (reaching) very high speeds

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

exhaustion

/ɪg'z stʃən/ *noun* the state of being extremely tired : the state of being exhausted
physical/nervous exhaustion

bubble

/'b b l/ *noun* a tiny, round ball of air or gas inside a liquid
They saw air bubbles in the water.

steak

/'steɪk/ *noun* a thick, flat piece of meat and especially beef
I grilled a steak for dinner.

behind

/bɪ'hɑɪnd/ *adv* in or toward the back
look behind

candle

/'kændl/ *noun* wax that has been formed into a stick or another shape and has a string in the middle that can be burned
wax that has been formed into a stick or another shape and has a string in the middle that can be burned

November

/no 'v mb / *noun* the 11th month of the year
in (early/middle/mid-/late) November

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

Japanese

/ˌdʒæp 'ni z/ *noun* the people of Japan : Japanese people
the customs of the Japanese

stereo

/ˈsteriɒ / *noun* a piece of electronic equipment that plays the radio, CDs, etc., and that uses two speakers for the sound
a piece of electronic equipment that plays the radio, CDs, etc., and that uses two speakers for the sound

sneak

/ˈsni k/ *verb* to move quietly and secretly in order to avoid being noticed
They tried to sneak into the movie without paying.

Portuguese

/ˌpɔːtʃə'gi z/ *adj* of or relating to Portugal, its people, or their language
Portuguese customs/food

apply

/ 'plai/ *verb* to ask formally for something (such as a job, admission to a school, a loan, etc.) usually in writing
For further information, apply to the address below.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

video

/ˈvɪdɪjo / *noun* a movie, television show, event, etc., that has been recorded onto a videocassette, DVD, etc., so that it can be watched on a television or computer screen

We're going to rent a couple of videos to watch this weekend.

because

/bɪˈk z, bɪˈkʌz/ conj for the reason that

I ran because I was afraid.

memory

/ˈm m ri/ noun the power or process of remembering what has been learned

He began to lose his memory as he grew older.

brood

/ˈbru d/ noun a group of young birds (such as chickens) that were all born at the same time

a hen and her brood of chicks

giant

/ˈdʒaɪ nt/ adj very large : much larger or more powerful than normal

a giant photograph/machine/wrestler

comb

/ˈko m/ noun a flat piece of plastic or metal with a row of thin teeth that is used for making hair neat

a flat piece of plastic or metal with a row of thin teeth that is used for making hair neat

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

cloak

/'kloʊ k/ noun a thing that hides or covers someone or something

The soldiers began their attack under the cloak of darkness.

maple

/'meɪp l/ noun a type of tree that grows in northern parts of the world and has hard wood often used in making furniture

The maple leaf is an emblem of Canada.

difference

/'dɪfərəns/ noun the quality that makes one person or thing unlike another

She knows the difference between right and wrong.

dollar

/'dɒlə / noun a basic unit of money in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and other countries that is equal to 100 cents

The shirt costs 20 dollars.

December

/'diːsəmbər / noun the 12th and last month of the year

Her birthday is in late December.

due

/'duː , Brit 'dju / adj required or expected to happen : expected to be in a particular place at a particular time

When is the assignment due?

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

close

/'klo z/ verb to move (a door, window, etc.) so that things cannot pass through an opening : shut

Please close the door.

flight

/'flaɪt/ noun the act of flying : the act of moving through the air by the use of wings
the flight of a bee

lettuce

/'l t s/ noun a plant that has large leaves that are eaten especially in salads
a head of lettuce

field

/'fi ld/ noun an open area of land without trees or buildings
He gazed out across the fields.

soak

/'so k/ verb to put (something) in a liquid for a period of time
Soak the beans overnight (in water).

spare

/'spe / adj kept as something extra that can be used if it is needed
a spare pair of gloves

furthest

/'f {eth} st/ adv to or at the greatest distance in space or time : farthest
The best table is furthest from the kitchen.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

package

/ˈpækɪdʒ/ noun a box or large envelope that is sent or delivered usually through the mail or by another delivery service

The mail carrier left the package on the front steps.

energy

/ˈnɜːdʒi/ noun ability to be active : the physical or mental strength that allows you to do things

The kids are always so full of energy.

mellow

/ˈm lo / adj pleasantly rich, full, or soft : not harsh, bright, or irritating

The painting captures the mellow light of a summer evening.

unpleasant

/, nˈpl ʒnt/ adj not pleasant or enjoyable : causing discomfort or pain

I stopped taking the drug because of its unpleasant side effects.

doubt

/ˈda t/ verb to be uncertain about (something) : to believe that (something) may not be true or is unlikely

She began to doubt everything he said.

article

/ˈ ɚˌtɪkəl/ noun a piece of writing about a particular subject that is included in a magazine, newspaper, etc.

a magazine/newspaper article

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

thief

/ ' i f/ noun a person who steals something

a car thief

accuse

/ ' kju z/ verb to blame (someone) for something wrong or illegal : to say that someone is guilty of a fault or crime

He was unjustly accused.

knock

/ ' n k/ verb to hit something (such as a door) with the knuckles of your hand or with a hard object (such as a knocker) in order to get people's attention

I heard someone knocking (at the door).

doctor

/ ' d kt / noun The abbreviation Dr. is usually used in writing when doctor is being used as a title for a specific person.

I have an appointment with Dr. Brown.

peak

/ ' pi k/ noun the pointed top of a mountain

a line of rocky peaks

beautiful

/ ' bju tɪf / adj having beauty: very attractive in a physical way

a beautiful young woman

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

dread

/ˈdr d/ *verb* to fear something that will or might happen

He can't swim and dreads going in the water.

cafeteria

/ˌkæf ˈtɪrɪj / *noun* a place (such as a restaurant or a room in a school) where people get food at a counter and carry it to a table for eating

a school cafeteria

dictionary

/ˈdɪk ˌnɛrɪ, Brit ˈdɪk nri/ *noun* a reference book that contains words listed in alphabetical order and that gives information about the words' meanings, forms, pronunciations, etc.

an English dictionary

excess

/ɪkˈs s, ˈ k,s s/ *noun* an amount that is more than the usual or necessary amount

They were equipped with an excess of provisions.

academy

/ ˈkæd mi/ *noun* a school that provides training in special subjects or skills

a military/naval academy

hostage

/h ˈstɪdʒ/ *noun* a person who is captured by someone who demands that certain things be done before the captured person is freed

The terrorists demanded a plane and a pilot in exchange for the hostages.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

wise

/ˈwaɪz/ adj having or showing wisdom or knowledge usually from learning or experiencing many things

a wise old woman

Teutonic

/tuˈtɒnɪk, Brit tjuˈtʊnɪk/ adj thought to be typical of German people

a Teutonic commitment to hard work

accolade

/ˈæk ˌleɪd/ noun an award or an expression of praise

There is no higher accolade at this school than an honorary degree.

achiever

/ˈtʃiːvər/ noun a person who achieves success : a successful person

Both of his brothers are achievers.

applause

/ˈplɔːz/ noun a show of approval or appreciation at a play, speech, sporting event, etc., in which people strike their hands together over and over

He accepted the award to thunderous applause.

artistry

/ˈɑːtɪstri/ noun artistic ability or skill

We admired the singer's artistry.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

astonish

/ 'st ɪ nɪʃ/ *verb* to cause a feeling of great wonder or surprise in (someone)

The garden astonishes anyone who sees it.

carousel

/,kæ r 's l / *noun* merry-go-round 1

He loves to ride on the carousel at the park.

cellular

/s ɪ l j l / *adj* of, relating to, or made of the cells of living things

Researchers are observing the course of the disease at the cellular level.

conquest

/k ɒ ŋkwɛst/ *noun* the act of taking control of a country, city, etc., through the use of force

tales of the ancient army's conquests

consumer

/k ɒ n'su m , Brit k ɒ n'sju m / *noun* a person who buys goods and services

Many consumers are still not comfortable making purchases on the Internet.

cupboard

/k ʌ b d/ *noun* a piece of furniture used for storage that has doors and contains shelves

a jelly cupboard

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

defiance

/dɪˈfaɪ ns/ *noun* a refusal to obey something or someone : the act of defying someone or something

acts of defiance

deranged

/dɪˈreɪndʒd/ *adj* unable to think or act in a normal or logical way especially because of severe mental illness : crazy or insane

The actor was being followed by a (mentally) deranged fan.

derision

/dɪˈrɪʒ n/ *noun* the feeling that people express when they criticize and laugh at someone or something in an insulting way

yells of derision

emphatic

/ɪmˈfætɪk/ *adj* said or done in a forceful or definite way

Her answer was an emphatic "Yes!"

emulsion

/ɪˈm l n/ *noun* a mixture of liquids In an emulsion, small drops of one liquid are mixed throughout another liquid.

an emulsion of oil in water

escalate

/ɪ sk ˌleɪt/ *verb* to become worse or to make (something) worse or more severe

The conflict has escalated into an all-out war.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

fluoride

/ˈfloʊraɪd/ noun a chemical that is sometimes added to drinking water and toothpaste to help keep teeth healthy

a chemical that is sometimes added to drinking water and toothpaste to help keep teeth healthy

foretell

/foʊˈtɛl/ verb to describe (something) before it happens : predict

We cannot foretell the future.

gigabyte

/ˈɡɪɡˌbaɪt/ noun a unit of computer information equal to 1,073,741,824 bytes

a six-gigabyte hard drive

gracious

/ˈɡreɪʃəs/ adj very polite in a way that shows respect

It was very gracious of him to offer us a place to stay.

humanity

/hjuˈmæn ɪti/ noun the quality or state of being human

They were joined together by their (common) humanity.

humidity

/hjuˈmɪd ɪti/ noun moisture in the air

the humidity of the region

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

ideology

/ˌaɪdɪˈ lədʒi/ *noun* the set of ideas and beliefs of a group or political party
progressive/liberal/conservative ideologies

imprison

/ɪmˈprɪzən/ *verb* to put (someone) in prison
He was imprisoned for murder.

jettison

/ˈdʒet s n/ *verb* to drop (something) from a moving ship, airplane, etc.
The captain gave orders to jettison the cargo.

keystone

/ˈki ,sto n/ *noun* a large stone at the top of an arch that locks the other stones in place
a large stone at the top of an arch that locks the other stones in place

lambskin

/ˈlæm,skɪn/ *noun* the skin of a lamb
gloves made of lambskin

lethargy

/l ɜːdʒi/ *noun* a lack of energy or a lack of interest in doing things : a lethargic feeling or state
Symptoms of the disease include loss of appetite and lethargy.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

minor

/ˈmaɪn / *adj* not very important or valuable

a minor artist/author/celebrity

pedal

/ˈp ɒ l/ *noun* a flat piece of metal, rubber, etc., that you push with your foot to make a machine move, work, or stop

a bike's pedals

prolific

/pr ˈlɪfɪk/ *adj* producing a large amount of something

a prolific author

radiance

/ˈreɪdɪj ns/ *noun* a quality of brightness and happiness that can be seen on a person's face

She had a youthful radiance about her.

readjust

/ˌri j ˈdʒʌst/ *verb* to change in order to work or do better in a new situation : to get used to a new situation or change

It takes time to readjust after a loved one dies.

reticent

/r ɪ s n̩t/ *adj* not willing to tell people about things

a quiet, reticent person

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

rhetoric

/r t rɪk/ noun language that is intended to influence people and that may not be honest or reasonable

absolutist/activist/racist rhetoric

rhyme

/raɪm/ noun one of two or more words or phrases that end in the same sounds

She used "moon" as a rhyme for "June."

sapphire

/ˈsæˌfaj / noun a clear, usually deep blue jewel

a clear, usually deep blue jewel

strategy

/ˈstrætədʒi/ noun a careful plan or method for achieving a particular goal usually over a long period of time

They are proposing a new strategy for treating the disease with a combination of medications.

suffrage

/s frɪdʒ/ noun the right to vote in an election

women who fought for suffrage

theology

/ iˈ lədʒi/ noun the study of religious faith, practice, and experience : the study of God and God's relation to the world

He has an interest in theology and pastoral work.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

thumb

/ˈ θ m/ *noun* the short, thick finger on the side of your hand
a little girl sucking her thumb

Slavic

/ˈ sl ɪ v ɪ k/ *noun* a group of related languages that includes Russian, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, etc.
a group of related languages that includes Russian, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, etc.

audacious

/ ˈ deɪ f ə s/ *adj* very confident and daring : very bold and surprising or shocking
They have audacious plans for the new school.

ballot

/ˈ b æ l t/ *noun* a ticket or piece of paper used to vote in an election
a paper ballot

boulevard

/ˈ b ɪ , v ɔ d/ *noun* a wide and usually important street that often has trees, grass, or flowers planted down its center or along its sides
walking down the boulevard

clearance

/ˈ klɪr ns/ *noun* an official decision saying that someone has permission to do something
You'll have to get clearance from management to go ahead with the project.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

cocoon

/k 'ku ni / *verb* to cover or protect (someone or something) completely

We were comfortably cocooned in our sleeping bags.

commander

/k 'mænd / *noun* a person who is in charge of a group of people

the platoon/battalion commander

compliant

/k m'plaj nt/ *adj* willing to do whatever you are asked or ordered to do : ready and willing to comply

I asked him for a favor, and he was compliant.

congenial

/k n'dʒi nij / *adj* suitable or appropriate

The town is a congenial place for raising children.

decree

/dɪ'kri / *noun* an official order given by a person with power or by a government

The President issued a decree making the day a national holiday.

deficient

/dɪ'fɪʃənt/ *adj* not having enough of something that is important or necessary

a nutritionally deficient diet

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

dichotomy

/daɪˈkɒtəmi/ *noun* a difference between two opposite things : a division into two opposite groups

Her essay discusses the dichotomy between good and evil in the author's novels.

digest

/daɪˈdʒɛst/ *verb* to change (food that you have eaten) by a biological process into simpler forms that can be used by the body

He has trouble digesting certain foods.

dilute

/daɪˈluːt/ *verb* to make (a liquid) thinner or less strong by adding water or another liquid

You can dilute the medicine with water.

energetic

/ˌɛnɪˈdʒɛtɪk/ *adj* having or showing a lot of energy

She has an energetic personality.

excise

/ˈɛksaɪz/ *noun* a tax on certain things that are made, sold, or used within a country

an excise imposed on a number of goods

heartbeat

/ˈhɜːtbiːt/ *noun* the action or sound of the heart as it pumps blood

The patient had a rapid heartbeat.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

hierarchy

/ˈhɑːj ˌr ˌki/ *noun* a group that controls an organization and is divided into different levels

The church hierarchy faced resistance to some of their/its decisions.

indelible

/ɪnˈdɪ b l/ *adj* impossible to remove or forget

Her performance made an indelible impression on me.

intervene

/ˌɪnt ˈvi n/ *verb* to come or occur between two times or events

Twenty years intervened between their first and last meetings.

mirror

/ˈmɪr / *noun* a piece of glass that reflects images

She saw her reflection in the mirror.

misguided

/ˌmɪsˈgaɪd d/ *adj* having wrong or improper goals or values

She's been getting a lot of bad advice from misguided friends.

monastery

/ˈm ɒ n ˌsteri, Brit ˈm ɒ n ˌstri/ *noun* a place where monks live and work together

a Catholic/Buddhist monastery

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

orphan

/ˈɒ f n/ *noun* a child whose parents are dead

He was left an orphan when his parents died in a car accident.

parody

/ˈpə r di/ *noun* a piece of writing, music, etc., that imitates the style of someone or something else in an amusing way

a political parody

patrol

/p ˈtro l/ *noun* the act of walking or going around or through an area, building, etc., in order to make sure that it is safe : the act of patrolling an area

The guard makes a patrol of the building every hour.

precedent

/ˈpr ɛ d nt/ *noun* a similar action or event that happened at an earlier time

There are no precedents for these events.

quotation

/kwo ˈteɪʃən/ *noun* something that a person says or writes that is repeated or used by someone else in another piece of writing or a speech

literary/illustrative quotations

rectitude

/ˈr kt ɪ tu d, Brit ˈr kt ɪ ju d/ *noun* the quality of being honest and morally correct

No one questioned his moral rectitude.

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

sedentary

/ˈsɛd.ən.təri, Brit ˈsɛd.ntri/ *adj* doing or involving a lot of sitting : not doing or involving much physical activity

Editing the dictionary is a sedentary job.

smudge

/ˈsmʌdʒ/ *noun* a dirty mark, spot, streak, etc.

His hand left a grimy smudge on the wall.

strenuous

/ˈstrɛn.jʊ.wəl/ *adj* requiring or showing great energy and effort

Avoid all strenuous exercise until the sprain heals.

suffocate

/sɪˈfʊ.keɪt/ *verb* to die because you are unable to breathe

Don't put that pillow over her face--she could suffocate.

suspicion

/sɪˈspɪʃ.ən/ *noun* a feeling that someone is possibly guilty of a crime or of doing something wrong

Her strange behavior has aroused suspicion.

Anglophone

/ˈæŋ.gləˈfoʊ.n/ *adj* having English as the main language

the city's Anglophone population

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

absolution

/,æbs 'lu n/ *noun* the act of forgiving someone for having done something wrong or sinful : the act of absolving someone or the state of being absolved

He asked the priest to give/grant him absolution for his sins.

aficionado

/ ,ɪfɪj 'n do / *noun* a person who likes and knows a lot about something
an aficionado of poetry

amphibious

/æm'fɪbɪj s/ *adj* able to live both on land and in water

amphibious plants/animals

antiseptic

/,ænt 's ptɪk/ *noun* a substance that prevents infection in a wound by killing bacteria

Clean the affected area with an antiseptic.

artificial

/,ɑːtə'fɪʃl/ *adj* not natural or real : made, produced, or done to seem like something natural

artificial lighting/plants

bronchitis

/br n'kaɪtəs/ *noun* an illness in which your bronchial tubes become sore or damaged and you cough a lot

acute/chronic bronchitis

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

butcher

/ˈbʊtʃə/ noun someone who cuts and sells meat in a shop
someone who cuts and sells meat in a shop

capability

/ˌkeɪpəˈbɪlɪti/ noun the ability to do something
The device has the capability of recording two television channels at once.

competitor

/kəmˈpiːtətɪ/ noun someone who is trying to win or do better than all others especially in business or sports : someone who is competing
We offer better rates than our competitors.

consecrate

/kənˈsekreɪt/ verb to officially make (something, such as a place or building) holy through a special religious ceremony
The church was consecrated in 1856.

fatigue

/fəˈtiːɡ/ noun the state of being very tired : extreme weariness
We were overcome by fatigue after the long journey.

filibuster

/ˈfɪlɪˌbʌstɪ/ noun an effort to prevent action in a legislature (such as the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives) by making a long speech or series of speeches
They engaged in a filibuster that lasted for over a week.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

houseguest

/ˈhɑː s,ɡ ɪst/ noun a person who visits and usually stays in someone's home overnight

We have houseguests this weekend.

impediment

/ɪmˈpɪ d m ənt/ noun something that makes it difficult to do or complete something : something that interferes with movement or progress

There were no legal impediments to the deal.

incense

/ˈɪn, s əns/ noun a substance that is used often in religious ceremonies to produce a strong and pleasant smell when it is burned

a substance that is used often in religious ceremonies to produce a strong and pleasant smell when it is burned

infallible

/ɪnˈfæɪ b əl/ adj not capable of being wrong or making mistakes : not fallible

I never claimed to be infallible.

primary

/'praɪ,meri, Brit 'praɪm ri/ adj most important : main

our primary objective/goal

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

process

/ˈprɒsɪs, Brit ˈprəʊsɪs/ noun a series of actions that produce something or that lead to a particular result

costly manufacturing processes

reciprocal

/rɪˈsɪprəkəl/ adj used to describe a relationship in which two people or groups agree to do something similar for each other, to allow each other to have the same rights, etc.

a reciprocal trade agreement between two countries

resistance

/rɪˈzɪstəns/ noun refusal to accept something new or different

She sensed resistance from some of the staff regarding the changes in policy.

retrospect

/rɪˈtrɒspɛkt/ noun when thinking about the past or something that happened in the past

In retrospect, I made the right decision.

sufficient

/səˈfɪʃənt/ adj having or providing as much as is needed : enough

A brisk walk is sufficient to raise your heart rate.

unknown

/,nˈnoʊn/ adj not known

a disease of unknown cause/origin

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

Olympian

/ 'lɪmpɪj n/ *noun* an athlete who competes in the Olympics
modern Olympians

buttress

/ 'b tr s/ *noun* a structure built against a wall in order to support or strengthen it
a structure built against a wall in order to support or strengthen it

caffeinated

/ 'kæf ,neɪt d/ *adj* containing caffeine
caffeinated beverages

detrimental

/ ,d tr 'm ntl/ *adj* causing damage or injury
The detrimental effects of overeating are well known.

disquiet

/ dɪs 'kwaj t/ *verb* to make (someone) worried or nervous
We were disquieted by the news.

disseminate

/ dɪ 's m ,neɪt/ *verb* to cause (something, such as information) to go to many people
The Internet allows us to disseminate information/news/ideas faster.

2009 Practice Word List **** Reference purposes only ****

fugitive

/ˈfju dʒətɪv/ noun a person who is running away to avoid being captured

They discovered that the slave was a fugitive.

legislature

/ˈlɛdʒəˌsleɪtʃə/ noun a group of people with the power to make or change laws

Our legislature passed a law requiring people to wear safety belts.

mischievous

/ˈmɪstʃəv s/ adj causing or tending to cause annoyance or minor harm or damage

a mischievous puppy/child

parallel

/ˈpær ˌl ɪ/ adj used to describe lines, paths, etc., that are the same distance apart along their whole length and do not touch at any point

parallel train tracks

penitent

/ˈpɛn ɪ t nt/ adj feeling or showing sorrow and regret because you have done something wrong

a penitent sinner

penultimate

/pɪˈn ɪ l ɪ m t ɪ/ adj occurring immediately before the last one : next to the last

the penultimate chapter of the book

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singular

/ˈsɪŋɡl̩ | / *adj* showing or indicating no more than one thing

In the phrase "his car is red," the word "car" is a singular noun.

solitary

/ˈsɒləˌtəri, Brit ˈsʊlətri/ *adj* without anyone or anything else : not involving or including anyone or anything else

a solitary traveler

acceleration

/ˌɪkˌsɛləˈreɪʃən/ *noun* the act or process of moving faster or happening more quickly : the act or process of accelerating

The car delivers quick/rapid acceleration.

assistant

/ˈæsɪst̩ nt/ *noun* a person who helps someone

a person who helps someone

barricade

/ˈbærɪˌkeɪd/ *noun* a temporary wall, fence, or similar structure that is built to prevent people from entering a place or area

The enemy broke through the barricade.

demonstrable

/dɪˈmɒnstrəbəl/ *adj* able to be proven or shown : possible to demonstrate

There is no demonstrable evidence that the treatment is effective.

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parachute

/ˈpær ʃu t/ *noun* a piece of equipment usually made of cloth that is fastened to people or things and that allows them to fall slowly and land safely after they have jumped or been dropped from an aircraft

The pilot was wearing a parachute.

principal

/ˈprɪns ɪ p l/ *adj* most important : chief

Vegetables are the principal ingredients in this soup.

volunteer

/ˌv ɒ lənˈtiə-/ *noun* a person who does work without getting paid to do it

The school was built by volunteers.

steady

/ˈst di/ *adj* not shaking or moving : held firmly in one place or position

She used a tripod to keep the camera steady.

mawkish

/ˈm ɔː kɪʃ/ *adj* sad or romantic in a foolish or exaggerated way

a mawkish love story

desperate

/d ɪ s p eɪ t/ *adj* very sad and upset because of having little or no hope : feeling or showing despair

The collapse of her business had made her desperate.

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trait

/ˈtreɪt, Brit 'treɪ/ noun a quality that makes one person or thing different from another

Humility is an admirable trait.

mystical

/ˈmɪstɪk l/ adj having a spiritual meaning that is difficult to see or understand

He has a mystical union/relationship with God.

oval

/ˈo v l/ adj having the shape of an egg : shaped like a circle that is longer than it is wide

an oval mirror

demagogue

/ˈd m ˌg ɡ/ noun a political leader who tries to get support by making false claims and promises and using arguments based on emotion rather than reason

His opponent called him a bigoted demagogue.

quirk

/ˈkw k/ noun an unusual habit or way of behaving

Everyone has their little quirks.

competitive

/k mˈp t ɪv/ adj of or relating to a situation in which people or groups are trying to win a contest or be more successful than others : relating to or involving competition

competitive sports

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flail

/ˈfleɪl/ verb to move or swing your arms or legs in a wild and uncontrolled way

They were flailing their arms to drive away the insects.

employee

/ɪmˈplɔɪˈi , ɪmˈplɔɪˌi / noun a person who works for another person or for a company for wages or a salary

A good boss listens to his employees.

odious

/ˈoʊ dij s/ adj causing hatred or strong dislike

It was one of the most odious crimes of recent history.

vault

/ˈvɔlt/ noun an arched structure that forms a ceiling or roof

They gazed up at the vault of the cathedral.

visage

/ˈvɪzɪdʒ/ noun a person's face

his smiling visage

recur

/rɪˈk / verb to happen or appear again : to occur again

There is only a slight chance that the disease will recur.

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antique

/æn'ti k/ *adj* belonging to an earlier period, style, or fashion : old and often valuable

antique furniture

creole

/'kri ,o / *adj* relating to people who are Creoles or to their language

Creole music

legible

/'ledʒəb / *adj* capable of being read : clear enough to be read

legible handwriting

knighthood

/'naɪt,h d/ *noun* the rank or title of a knight

The Queen awarded a knighthood to the famous actor.

carouse

/k 'ra z/ *verb* to drink alcohol, make noise, and have fun with other people

My brother and his friends went out carousing last night.

honeycombed

/'h ni,kə md/ *adj* having many holes or open spaces

The car bumper includes a special honeycombed plastic.

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laurel

/ˈlɔːr l/ *noun* an evergreen tree or bush with shiny pointed leaves

laurel leaves

default

/dɪˈf ɪl/ *noun* used to describe something that happens or is done when nothing else has been done or can be done

No one else wanted the job, so he became the club's president by default.

chemical

/ˈk ɪm ɪk l/ *adj* of or relating to chemistry

a chemical analysis

capacity

/k ɪ ˈp æ s ɪ t i/ *noun* the ability to hold or contain people or things

The restaurant has a large seating capacity.

adjacent

/ ˈ dʒ eɪ ʃ n t / *adj* close or near : sharing a border, wall, or point

The other group is meeting in the adjacent room.

impugn

/ɪmˈpju n/ *verb* to criticize (a person's character, intentions, etc.) by suggesting that someone is not honest and should not to be trusted

He impugned his rival's character.

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vale

/ˈveɪl/ noun valley

hills and vales

pleasure

/ˈpl ɛ̃ / noun a feeling of happiness, enjoyment, or satisfaction : a pleasant or pleasing feeling

I paint for the pure pleasure of it.

regime

/reɪˈʒi m/ noun a form of government

a socialist/Communist/military regime

premiere

/prɪˈmi , Brit ˈpr mi / noun the first time a film, play, television show, etc., is shown or performed

The movie will have its premiere next week.

cleave

/ˈkli v/ verb to split (something) by hitting it with something heavy and sharp

The ax easily cleaves the log.

parcel

ˈp s l/ noun a section or area of land

Several 10-acre parcels (of land) are available.

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lure

/ˈlu / verb to cause or persuade (a person or an animal) to go somewhere or to do something by offering some pleasure or gain

advertisers trying to lure a younger audience to their products

pony

/ˈpo ni/ noun a small horse

He rode a pony.

sacred

/ˈseɪkr d/ adj worthy of religious worship : very holy

a sacred shrine

censor

/ˈs ns / noun a person who examines books, movies, letters, etc., and removes things that are considered to be offensive, immoral, harmful to society, etc.

Government censors deleted all references to the protest.

prophet

/ˈpr f t/ noun a member of some religions (such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam) who delivers messages that are believed to have come from God

the Old Testament prophets

cavalier

/ˌkæv ˈli / adj having or showing no concern for something that is important or serious

They are too cavalier in their treatment of others.

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ancestor

/ˈæn,s st / noun a person who was in someone's family in past times : one of the people from whom a person is descended

My ancestors came to America during the 1800s.

deceitful

/dɪ'si tf / adj not honest : making or trying to make someone believe something that is not true

a scheming, deceitful person

aplomb

/ 'pl m/ noun confidence and skill shown especially in a difficult situation

He showed great aplomb in dealing with the reporters.

salvage

/ˈsælvɪdʒ/ noun the act of saving something (such as a building, a ship, or cargo) that is in danger of being completely destroyed

The ship was beyond salvage.

riddance

/ˈrɪdn̩s/ noun used to say that you are glad that someone is leaving or that something has gone

"Did you hear? Jack is leaving for a new job." "Well, good riddance (to him)! We'll be better off without him!"

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streaky

/ˈstri ki/ adj having or showing streaks

streaky windows

flair

/ˈfle / noun a natural ability to do something

He has a flair for storytelling.

coerce

/ko ˈ s/ verb to make (someone) do something by using force or threats

He was coerced into signing the confession.

allude

/ ˈlu d/ verb to speak of or mention (something or someone) in an indirect way

I'm interested in hearing more about the technology you alluded to a minute ago.

economy

/ɪˈk n mi/ noun the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region

The war altered the country's economy.

hypnotism

/ˈhipn ɪz m/ noun the act or practice of putting people into a state of hypnosis

a psychologist who employs hypnotism to treat his patients

2009 Practice Word List ****Reference purposes only****

bestow

/bɪ'stoʊ / *verb* to give (something) as a gift or honor

The university bestowed on/upon her an honorary degree.

deposit

/dɪ'pɒzɪt / *verb* to put (money) in a bank account

Your paycheck will be automatically deposited into your account.

ascension

/ə'senʃən / *noun* the act of rising or ascending

the ascension of a balloon

recycle

/rɪ'saɪkəl / *verb* to make something new from (something that has been used before)

The company recycles plastic.

Martian

'mɑːtɪən / *adj* of or relating to the planet Mars

the Martian landscape

regal

'riːɡəl / *adj* of, relating to, or suitable for a king or queen

He has a regal bearing.

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rotary

/ˈroʊ t ri/ *adj* turning around a central point like a wheel

a rotary blade

plantain

/ˈplæntɪn/ *noun* a greenish fruit that comes from a kind of banana plant and is eaten after it has been cooked

a fried plantain

electricity

/ɪ, l kˈtrɪs ti/ *noun* a form of energy that is carried through wires and is used to operate machines, lights, etc.

Electricity can be dangerous.

waistline

/ˈweɪst, laɪn/ *noun* the distance around the narrowest part of your waist

The diet claims it will reduce your waistline in just four weeks.

conversational

/ˌkɔːnvəˈseɪʃənl/ *adj* relating to or suggesting informal talk : relating to or suggesting conversation

conversational skills

desirable

/dɪˈzaɪr ə b l/ *adj* having good or pleasing qualities : worth having or getting

The house is in a highly desirable location/neighborhood.

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ghost

/ˈɡoʊ st/ noun the soul of a dead person thought of as living in an unseen world or as appearing to living people

a house haunted by ghosts

cacao

/kə ˈkɑː / noun the dried seeds of a tropical tree that are used to make cocoa and chocolate

a farmer who grows cacao

whirl

/ˈwɜːr l/ verb to move or go in a circle or curve especially with force or speed

The cars were whirling around the track.

streaming

/'stri:mɪ / adj playing continuously as data is sent to a computer over the Internet

streaming audio/media/video

solace

/'sɒl ɪ s/ noun someone or something that gives a feeling of comfort to a person who is sad, depressed, etc. : a source of comfort

Her presence was a great solace for/to me.

sweetie

/'swi:ti/ noun a person you love very much

My sweetie and I will be at the party.

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murmur

/ˈm m / *noun* a low sound made when many people are speaking
a murmur of voices

gown

/ˈgɑ n/ *noun* a long, formal dress that a woman wears especially during a special event
The bride wore a lovely lace wedding gown.

appoint

/ ˈpɔɪnt/ *verb* to choose (someone) to have a particular job : to give (someone) a position or duty
The President appointed him (as) Secretary of Education.

despise

/dɪˈspaɪz/ *verb* to dislike (something or someone) very much
He despises pop music.

reminisce

/r m ˈnɪs/ *verb* to talk, think, or write about things that happened in the past
He reminisced with old buddies at his high school reunion.

illiterate

/ɪˈlɪt r t/ *adj* not knowing how to read or write
an illiterate person

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foreknowledge

/ˌfoʊˈnɪdʒ/ *noun* knowledge of something before it happens or exists

He denied any foreknowledge of the crime.

spry

/ˈspraɪ/ *adj* full of life and energy

She's 64 and still as spry as she was at 30.

enormity

/ɪˈnɒr m ti/ *noun* a shocking, evil, or immoral act

the enormities of war

weatherproof

/w {eth} ˌpru f/ *adj* not able to be changed or damaged by the effects of the sun, wind, rain, etc.

The material is weatherproof and will not rot from moisture.

crochet

/kroʊˈeɪ/ *noun* a method of making cloth or clothing by using a needle with a hook at the end to form and weave loops in a thread

She learned basic crochet stitches from her mother.

logical

/lɒˈdʒɪkəl/ *adj* agreeing with the rules of logic : sensible or reasonable

a logical argument/conclusion/decision

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cache

/ˈkæ / noun a group of things that have been hidden in a secret place because they are illegal or have been stolen

a weapons cache used by terrorists

scourge

/ˈsk ɔː / noun someone or something that causes a great amount of trouble or suffering

a city ravaged by the scourge of unemployment/poverty

genre

/ˈɛnr / noun a particular type or category of literature or art

a literary/film/musical genre

ascertain

/ˌæ s ˈteɪn / verb to learn or find out (something, such as information or the truth)

They were unable to ascertain the cause of the fire.

channel

/ˈtʃænl / noun a television or radio station

The TV program airs at 8:00 p.m. on Channel 5.

fastening

/ˈfæʃnɪŋ , Brit ˈfɑːʃnɪŋ / noun something that fastens one thing to another thing

a coat with button and loop fastenings

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fulsome

/ˈfʊlsəm/ *adj* expressing something (such as praise or thanks) in a very enthusiastic or emotional way

They were fulsome in their praise of her efforts.

farce

/ˈfɑːs/ *noun* a funny play or movie about ridiculous situations and events

a funny play or movie about ridiculous situations and events

intercept

/ˌɪntəˈsept/ *verb* to stop and take someone or something that is going from one place to another place before that person or thing gets there

Detectives have been intercepting her mail.

knave

/ˈneɪv/ *noun* a dishonest man

fools and knaves

efficient

/ɪˈfɪʃənt/ *adj* capable of producing desired results without wasting materials, time, or energy

an efficient worker

jowl

/ˈdʒɔːl/ *noun* loose flesh on the cheeks, lower jaw, or throat

a man with heavy jowls

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plumage

/ˈpl ɪmɪdʒ/ noun the feathers that cover the body of a bird

The peacock has colorful plumage.

fiendish

/ˈfi ɪndɪʃ/ adj very evil or cruel

a fiendish murderer

architect

/ˈ ækəˌtɛkt/ noun a person who designs buildings

a famous architect

horrendous

/h ˈr ɒnd əs/ adj very bad or unpleasant : horrible

horrendous crimes

splurge

/ˈsplɜːdʒ/ verb to spend more money than usual on something for yourself

You should let yourself splurge once in a while.

climate

/ˈklaɪm t/ noun a region with particular weather patterns or conditions

living in a cold/dry/mild/hot climate

liverwurst

/ˈlɪv ˌw ɜːst/ noun a type of soft sausage made chiefly of cooked liver

a pound of liverwurst

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hypothesis

/ˌhaɪˈpɒsɪs/ *noun* an idea or theory that is not proven but that leads to further study or discussion

Other chemists rejected his hypothesis.

martial

/ˈmɜːrɪəl/ *adj* of or relating to war or soldiers

martial music

psyche

/ˈsaɪki/ *noun* the soul, mind, or personality of a person or group

some hidden corner within your psyche

variety

/vəˈraɪəti/ *noun* a number or collection of different things or people

The talks covered a wide variety of topics.

surge

/ˈsɜːdʒ/ *verb* to move very quickly and suddenly in a particular direction

We all surged toward the door.