



## Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**callow**  
kal' ō*adj.* Young and inexperienced; immature.  
The student was too **callow** to know he was being fooled.**contemporary**  
kən tem' pər er' ē*n.* A person living during the same period as another.  
Martha Jane Canary, known as "Calamity Jane," and Annie Oakley were **contemporaries**.*adj.* Existing or occurring at the same time.  
The rise in fuel costs was **contemporary** with the demand for alternative fuels.**cynical**  
sin' i kəl*adj.* Doubtful of the sincerity of others' motives; skeptical.  
People become **cynical** about diet programs when lost weight is soon regained.**cynic** *n.*  
Even though many clients have lied to her, Katharine, a public defender, has not become a **cynic**.**despot**  
des' pət*n.* A ruler with absolute power or tyrannical control over a group of people.  
In the late 1970s and early 1980s, thousands fled Haiti seeking refuge from the **despot** Jean Claude Duvalier.**despotic** *adj.*  
The Declaration of Independence of the United States asserts the government's right to overthrow a **despotic** ruler.**enunciate**  
ə nun' sē āt'*v.* 1. To pronounce clearly.  
In speech class we learn to **enunciate** our words.  
2. To state; to announce.  
The president **enunciated** his objectives for the coming year in his State of the Union address to Congress.**impediment**  
im ped' ə mənt*n.* Anything that gets in the way; an obstacle.  
After the hurricane, fallen trees were **impediments** to traffic in our neighborhood.**impoverish**  
im pāv' ə r ish*v.* 1. To make poor.  
Uncontrolled gambling can **impoverish** a person.  
2. To take away.  
Continual overfarming **impoverishes** the soil.  
**impoverished** *adj.*  
The Peace Corps is an agency of the United States government that sends volunteers to improve living standards in **impoverished** areas of the world.



**indolent** *adj.* Indulging in ease; avoiding exertion; lazy.  
in' də lənt Being in the torrid heat of the tropical sun makes one feel **indolent**.

**indolence** *n.*  
His failure to reach his goal certainly cannot be attributed to **indolence**.

**sagacious** *adj.* Showing sound judgment; wise.  
sə gā' shəs My grandmother's **sagacious** advice has guided me many times over the years.

**sagacity** *n.*  
I was amazed when she questioned the **sagacity** of my plan to climb the mountain.

**secular** *adj.* Worldly; not connected with a church or religion.  
sek' yə lər The choir included a few **secular** songs in the memorial service.

**speculate** *v.* 1. To think about or make guesses.  
spek' yōō lāt' As we waited, we **speculated** about whether he'd keep his promise and show up.  
2. To engage in a risky business venture.  
She lost a great deal of money when she **speculated** in the stock market last year.

**strife** *n.* Conflict or struggle.  
strīf The **strife** between the two families has existed for a few years now.

**venerate** *v.* To show great respect for.  
ven' ə r āt Asian cultures **venerate** their ancestors long after they have died.

**voracious** *adj.* 1. Ravenous; desiring and eating a large amount of food.  
vô rā' shəs We arrived back from our hike with **voracious** appetites.  
2. Greatly eager.  
Simon has been a **voracious** reader since childhood.

**wane** *v.* To get smaller, dimmer, or weaker; to near an end.  
wān When interest in sitcoms **waned**, the television networks switched to reality shows.

## 5A

### Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. A **voracious** creature is very hungry.

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