

Unit 8

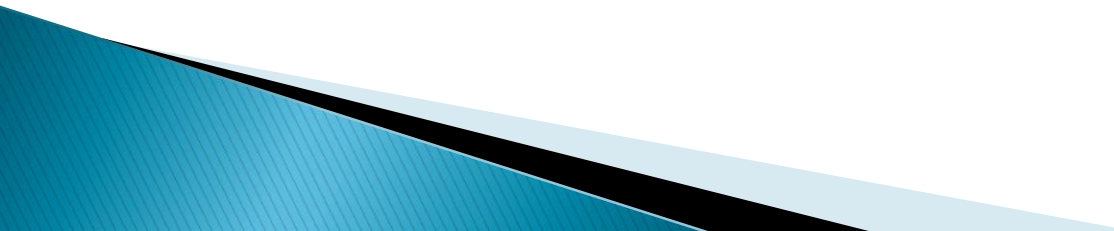
Level G

Allege- v.

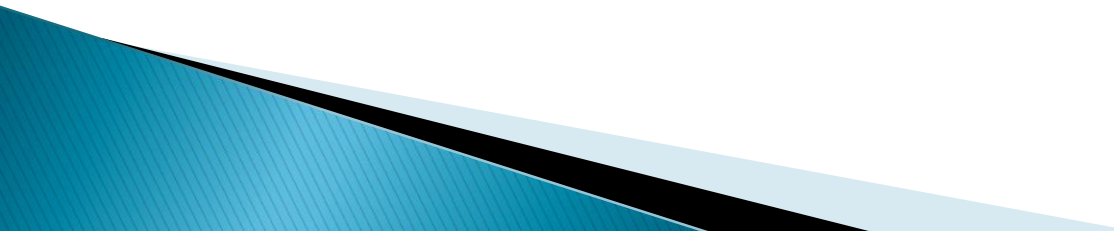
- ▶ To assert without proof or confirmation
 - ▶ Synonyms: claim, contend
 - ▶ Antonyms: prove, deny
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- ▶ The newspaper tabloid alleged that the movie star and the director were having creative differences.

Arrant– adj.

- ▶ Thoroughgoing, out-and-out; shameless, blatant
 - ▶ Synonyms: egregious, unmitigated

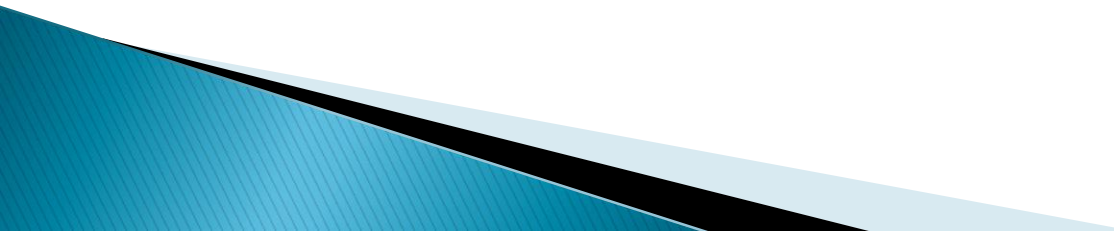
 - ▶ In Shakespeare's tragedy the audience sees clearly that Iago is an arrant scoundrel, but Othello is blind to his treachery.
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Badinage– n.

- ▶ Light and playful conversation
 - ▶ Synonyms: banter, persiflage, repartee
 - ▶ Antonyms: sermon
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- ▶ I enjoy the delightful badinage between stars like Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn in 1940s movies.
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Conciliate– v.

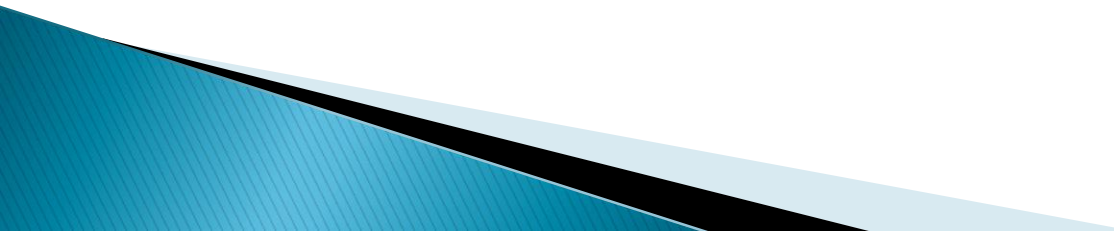
- ▶ To overcome the distrust of, win over; to appease, pacify; to reconcile, make consistent.
 - ▶ Synonyms: placate, mollify, propitiate
 - ▶ Antonyms: antagonize, alienate, estrange

 - ▶ Because of the weakness of our army, we had to try to conciliate the enemy.
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Countermand- v.

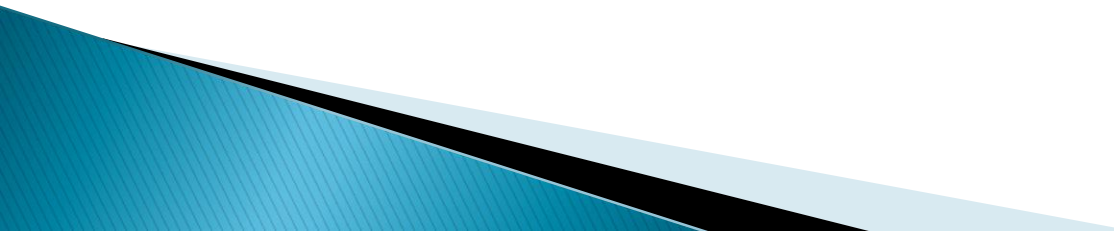
- ▶ To cancel or reverse one order or command with another that is contrary to the first
 - ▶ Synonyms: recall, revoke
 - ▶ Antonyms: reaffirm, reassert
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- ▶ Today's directive clearly countermanded all previous instructions on how to exit the building in case of fire.

Echelon– n.

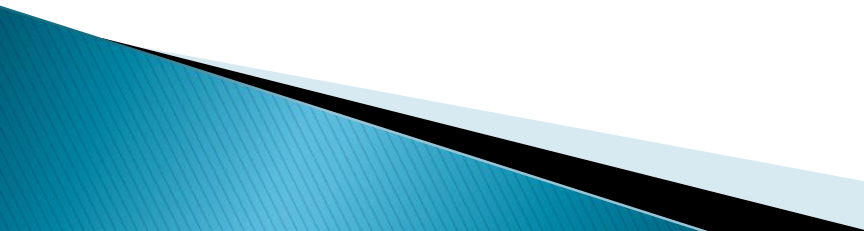
- ▶ One of a series of grades in an organization or field of activity; an organized military unit; a steplike formation or arrangement
 - ▶ Synonyms: level, rank
 - ▶ Although the civil servant began in the lower echelon of government service, he rose quickly through the ranks.
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Exacerbate– v.

- ▶ To make more violent, severe, bitter, or painful
 - ▶ Synonyms: aggravate, intensify, worsen
 - ▶ Antonyms: alleviate, mitigate, ameliorate

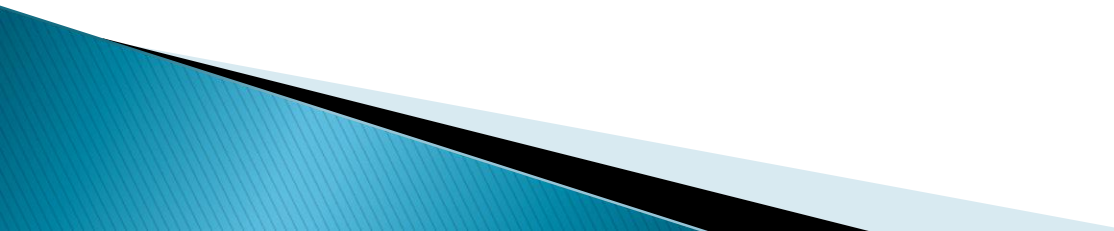
 - ▶ Shouting and name-calling are sure to exacerbate any quarrel.
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Fatuous– adj.

- ▶ Stupid or foolish in a self-satisfied way
 - ▶ Synonyms: silly, vapid, inane, doltish, vacuous
 - ▶ Antonyms: sensible, intelligent, perceptive, bright
 - ▶ In order to discredit the candidate, the columnist quoted some of his more fatuous, self-serving remarks.
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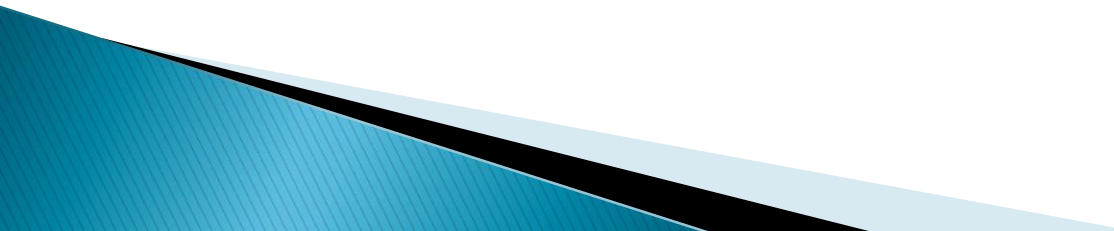
Irrefutable– adj.

- ▶ Impossible to disapprove; beyond argument
 - ▶ Synonyms: indisputable, incontrovertible, undeniable
 - ▶ Antonyms: disputable, indefensible, untenable

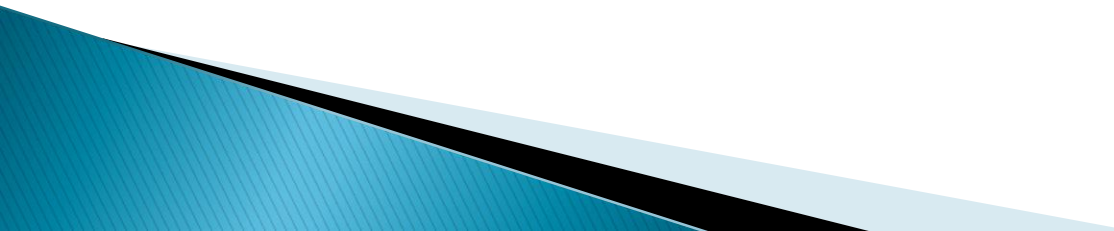
 - ▶ The jury felt the prosecution presented them with irrefutable evidence of the defendant's guilt.
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Juggernaut- n.

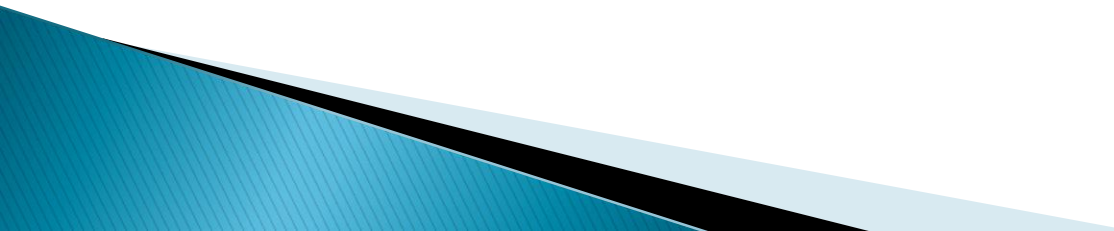
- ▶ A massive and inescapable force or object that crushes whatever is in its path

 - ▶ Any population that has experienced the juggernaut of war firsthand will not easily forget its destructive power.
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Lackadaisical- adj.

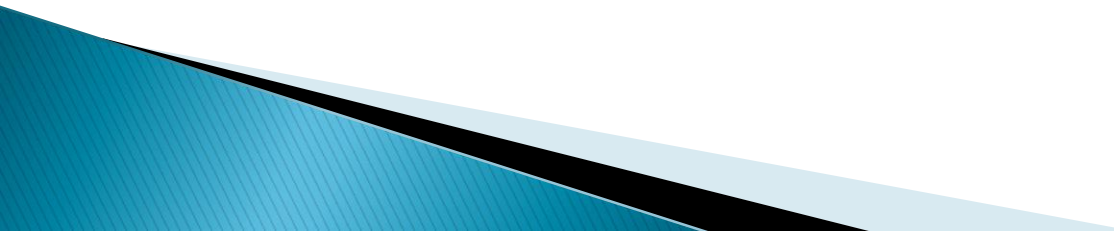
- ▶ Lacking spirit or interest, halfhearted
 - ▶ Synonyms: listless, indolent, indifferent, lax
 - ▶ Antonyms: energetic, vigorous, wholehearted
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- ▶ The team's performance in the late innings was lackadaisical because they were so far ahead.
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Litany– n.

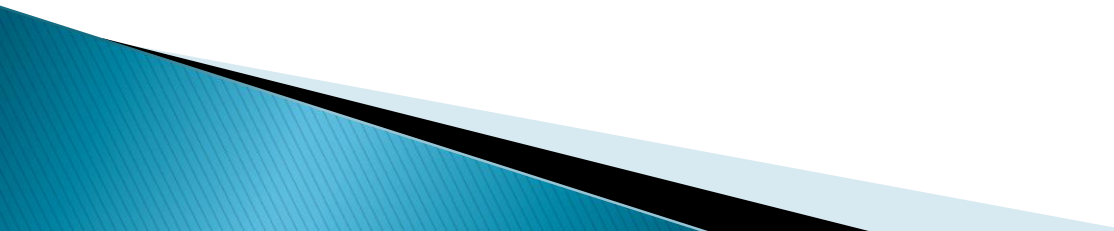
- ▶ A prayer consisting of short appeals to God recited by the leader alternating with responses from the congregation; any repetitive chant; a long list
 - ▶ Synonyms: rigmarole, catalog, megillah
 - ▶ Whenever she talks about her childhood, she recites an interminable litany of grievances.
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Macabre– adj.

- ▶ Grisly, gruesome; horrible, distressing; having death as a subject
 - ▶ Synonyms: grotesque, grim, ghoulish

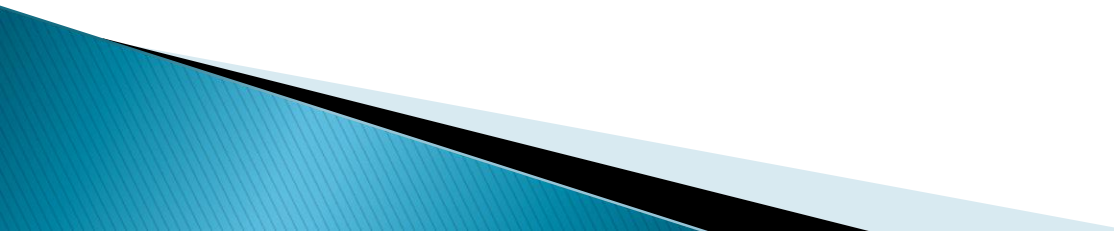
 - ▶ The continuing popularity of horror movies suggests that one way to score at the box office is to exploit the macabre.
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Paucity– n.

- ▶ An inadequate quantity, scarcity, dearth
 - ▶ Synonyms: lack
 - ▶ Antonyms: abundance, glut, plenitude, deluge
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- ▶ The senate campaign was marred by a dearth of original ideas.
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Portend– v.

- ▶ To indicate beforehand that something is about to happen; to give advance warning of
 - ▶ Synonyms: bode, foretell, foreshadow, suggest

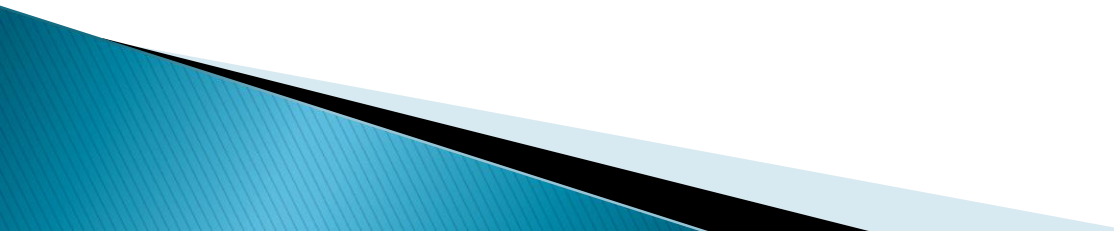
 - ▶ In Shakespeare's plays, disturbances in the heavens usually portend disaster or trouble in human affairs.
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Raze- v.

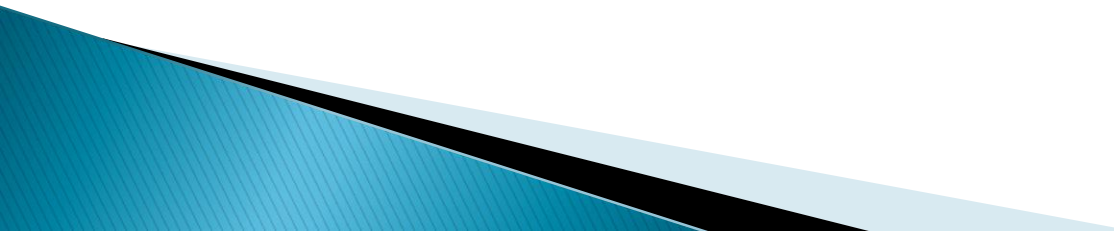
- ▶ To tear down, destroy completely; to cut or scrape off or out
 - ▶ Synonyms: pull down, demolish, shave off
 - ▶ Antonyms: build, construct, raise, erect
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- ▶ The town razed the old schoolhouse to make room for a larger, more modern school complex

Recant– v.

- ▶ To withdraw a statement or belief to which one has previously been committed, renounce, retract
 - ▶ Synonyms: repudiate, disavow
 - ▶ Antonyms: reaffirm, reassert

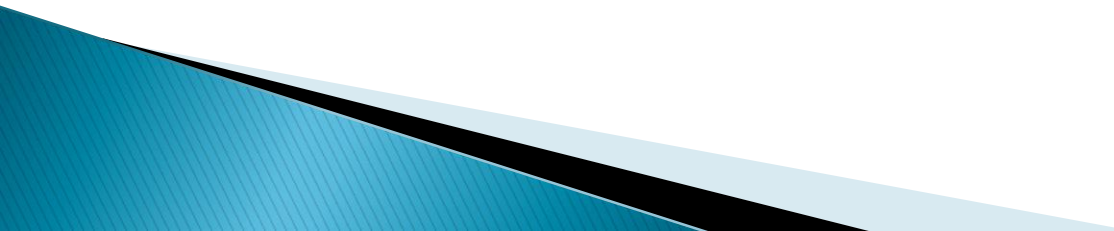
 - ▶ On the stand, the defendant recanted the guilty admissions she had made in her confession to the police.
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Saturate– v.

- ▶ To soak thoroughly, fill to capacity; to satisfy fully
 - ▶ Synonyms: permeate, drench, flood, imbue
 - ▶ Antonyms: Drain
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- ▶ A sponge that is saturated with water swells up but does not drip.
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Saturnine– adj.

- ▶ Of a gloomy or surly disposition; cold or sluggish in mood
 - ▶ Synonyms: sullen, morose
 - ▶ Antonyms: lighthearted, cheerful, vivacious

 - ▶ Ebenezer Scrooge, the main character of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, has a decidedly saturnine temperament.
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Slough– v., n.

- ▶ (v.) to cast off, discard; to get rid of something objectionable or unnecessary; to plod through as if through mud
- ▶ (n.) a mire; a state of depression
- ▶ Synonyms: (v.) shed, slog
- ▶ Antonyms: (v.) take on, acquire, assume

- ▶ At New Year's time, many people resolve to slough off bad habits and start living better, healthier lives.
- ▶ The advancing line of tanks became bogged down in slough.