

Vocabulary
Workshop Level
G Unit 4

atrophy

- (n.) the wasting away of a body organ or tissue; any progressive decline or failure; (v.) to waste away
- Synonyms: (v.) wither; (n.) deterioration
- After being bedridden for six months, my muscles were **atrophied** so I couldn't walk unassisted.
- The study found more physically fit people had less brain **atrophy**.

bastion

- (n.) a fortified place, stronghold
- Synonyms: rampart, bulwark, citadel, parapet
- America is perceived as a **bastion** of freedom.

concord

- (n.) a state of agreement, harmony, unanimity; a treaty, pact, covenant
- Cats and dogs live in **concord** at my house. They even share the same bed.

consummate

- (adj.) complete or perfect in the highest degree; (v.) to bring to a state of completion or perfection.
- Synonyms: (adj.) masterful; (v.) clinch, conclude
- Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican are works of **consummate** artistry.

disarray

- (n.) disorder, confusion; (v.) to throw into disorder.
- Synonyms: (n.) disorganization; (v.) dishevel, mess up
- The burgled apartment was in a state of **disarray**.
- If you leave the window open, a breeze may **disarray** the papers on your desk.

exigency

- (n. often pl.) urgency, pressure, urgent demand; an emergency
- Synonyms: requirement, crisis
- The patient was losing blood so rapidly that it was **exigent** to stop the source of the bleeding..

flotsam

- (n.) floating debris; homeless, impoverished people.
- Synonyms: floating wreckage
- After the two ships collided, the survivors clung to various pieces of **flotsam** and hoped for rescue.

frenetic

- (adj.) frenzied, highly agitated
- Synonyms: frantic, overwrought
- After a week of working at a **frenetic** pace, she was ready for Saturday.

glean

- (v.) to gather bit by bit; to gather small quantities of grain left in a field by reapers.
- Synonyms: collect, cull, pick up
- You could **glean** some useful information if you listened more carefully.

grouse

- (n.) a type of game bird; a complaint (v.) to complain, grumble
- Synonyms: gripe
- Many of the town's residents **grouse** about their tax bills.

incarcerate

- (v.)to imprison, confine, jail
- Synonyms: intern
- They will **incarcerate** the convicted felon at the state penitentiary.

incumbent

- (adj.) obligatory, required; (n.) one who holds a specific office at the time spoken of.
- Synonyms: (adj.) mandatory, necessary
- Voting is a duty **incumbent** on all Americans who value a democratic government.
- The **incumbent** candidate has the advantage when running for reelection but does not have a guarantee of victory.

jocular

- (adj.) humorous, jesting, jolly, joking.
- Synonyms: witty
- Her **jocular** personality always made the customers smile.
- You could tell by his serious tone of voice that he wasn't in a **jocular** mood.

ludicrous

- (adj.) ridiculous, laughable, absurd.
- Synonyms: preposterous
- Her comment was so **ludicrous** that we finally realized she was joking.

mordant

- (adj.) biting or caustic in thought, manner, or style; sharply or bitterly harsh.
- Synonyms: sardonic
- Sometimes her **mordant** sense of humor rubbed people the wrong way.

nettle

- (n.) prickly or stinging plant; (v.) to arouse displeasure, impatience, or anger; to vex or irritate severely.
- Synonyms: peeve, annoy
- The principal was **nettled** by the student's disrespectful behavior.

pecuniary

- (adj.) consisting of or measured in money; of or related to money
- Synonyms: monetary, financial
- The couple was forced by **pecuniary** considerations to sell their large homes and buy a smaller one.

pusillanimous

- (adj.) contemptibly cowardly or mean-spirited
- Synonyms: craven, lily-livered
- It is often said that bullies, when tested, are the most **pusillanimous** people of all.

recumbent

- (adj.) in a reclining position, lying down, in the posture of one sleeping or resting.
- Synonym: prone, prostrate, supine
- The tired toddlers were **recumbent** on the couch after playing all afternoon in the yard.

stratagem

- (n.) a scheme to outwit or deceive an opponent or to gain an end.
- Synonyms: ruse, trick, ploy, subterfuge.
- The defense attorney used a clever **stratagem** to curry sympathy for her client.