

VOCABULARY
WORKSHOP LEVEL G
UNIT 1



acquisitive

- (adj.) able to get and retain ideas or information; concerned with acquiring wealth or property, greedy
- Because of his **acquisitive** nature and his love of music, Jose had a huge collection of vinyl records and over 3000 songs in itunes.

arrogate

- (v.) to claim or take without right, lay claim to, seize
- The ambitious noblemen will put the young king under house arrest and **arrogate** royal privileges to themselves.

banal

- (adj.) hackneyed, trite, commonplace; boring because it contains nothing new and lacks originality
- Synonyms: corny, unoriginal, bland, dull, boring, stale, stupid, insipid
- Because the movie's plot was **banal**, we knew exactly how the film would end.

belabor

- (v.) to work on excessively, to thrash soundly;
- Synonyms: overwork
- Don't **belabor** the point; I got it the first time!

carping

- (adj.) tending to find fault, especially in a petty, nasty, or hairsplitting way; (n.) petty nagging criticism
- (adj.) His **carping** mother was constantly nagging at Andrew to get his shaggy hair cut.
- (n.) Constant **carping** by his parents did not help him improve his grades.

coherent

- (adj.) holding or sticking together; making a logical whole; comprehensible, meaningful
- The old man's story was not **coherent**; he rambled on about several irrelevant subjects.

congeal

- (v.) to change from liquid to solid, thicken; to make inflexible or rigid
- If you do not wash your dishes right away, the food on them will **congeal**.

emulate

- (v.) to imitate with the intent of equaling or surpassing the model

Synonyms: copy, mimic

- Most beginning writers try to **emulate** a great writer and later develop their own individual styles.

encomium

- (n.) a formal expression of praise, a lavish tribute
- On Veterans Day, the President delivered a heartfelt **encomium** to those who died for their country.

eschew

- (v.) to avoid, shun, keep away from
- Tierra's feelings were hurt when the popular girls decided to **eschew** her.

germane

- (adj.) relevant, appropriate, fitting
- Bringing up examples from the past is not **germane** to the present discussion.

insatiable

- (adj.) so great or demanding as not to be satisfied
- Many students have an **insatiable** appetite for texting that causes them to get poor grades.

intransigent

- (adj.) refusing to compromise, irreconcilable
- When it came to their willingness to extend my curfew, my parents were **intransigent** and would not budge.

invidious

- (adj.) offensive, hateful, tending to cause bitterness and resentment
- Teachers should avoid making **invidious** comparisons between their students.

largesse

- (adj.) generosity in giving; lavish or bountiful contributions
- The university was the fortunate beneficiary of the **largesse** of many of its graduates.

reconnaissance

- (n.) a survey made for military purposes; any kind of preliminary inspection or examination
- Synonym: scouting expedition
- The field officer required a thorough **reconnaissance** before ordering any troop movements.

substantiate

- (v.) to establish by evidence, prove; to give concrete or substantial form to.
- Synonym: verify, confirm
- In a research paper, citations help to **substantiate** the evidence used to support claims.

taciturn

- (adj.) habitually quiet or silent; inclined to talk very little.
- Synonym: quiet
- The **taciturn** student rarely said a word.

temporize

- (v.) to stall or act evasively in order to gain time, avoid a confrontation, or postpone a decision; to compromise.
- Synonym: procrastinate
- Hoping to be asked by someone more popular, she decided to **temporize** when the new student invited her to the prom, saying she needed her parents' permission before accepting.

tenable

- (adj.) capable of being held or defended
- Synonym: defensible
- After some digging, she learned that her suspicions of him were quite **tenable**.