

# Vocabulary Introduction

Unit 12

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- Abound: (v.) to be plentiful, be filled
  - Lush fruit trees \_\_\_\_\_ in the orchards of Central California.
    - Synonyms: burst with, overflow with, teem with
- Braggart: (n.) a boaster; (adj.) boastful in a loud, annoying way.
  - There seems to be a \_\_\_\_\_ in every family, who boasts about his or her achievements and worth.
  - Greek Mythology is filled with \_\_\_\_\_ gods and heroes who take more than a little pride in their deeds and skills.
    - Synonyms: bigmouth, blowhard
- Cache: (n.) a hiding place; something hidden or stored
  - We found a \_\_\_\_\_ of canned food hidden under the stairs in the cellar.
    - Synonyms: stockpile, hoard, store
- Clarification: (n.) the act of making clear or understandable, an explanation
  - Reporters asked for a \_\_\_\_\_ of the politician's statement so that they could accurately report her position.
    - Synonyms: Elucidation, explication

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- Despondent: (adj.) sad, without hope, discouraged
  - The doctor was \_\_\_\_\_ over the loss of his patient and dear friend.
    - Synonyms: dejected, depressed, forlorn
- Embezzle: (v.) to steal property entrusted to one's care
  - The senator's aide lost his job when he was caught trying to \_\_\_\_\_ campaign funds.
    - Synonyms: swindle, defraud
- Heartrending: (adj.) causing mental pain or grief
  - The survivor told a \_\_\_\_\_ story about the shipwreck and the days she spent alone on the island.
    - Synonyms: Moving, sad, heartbreaking, poignant
- Leisurely: (adj.) unhurried, taking plenty of time; (adv.) in an easygoing or unhurried way.
  - My parents enjoy taking a \_\_\_\_\_ stroll through the park on Sunday afternoon.
  - We ate \_\_\_\_\_ and spent hours talking about old times.
    - Synonyms: slow, relaxed

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## Lethargic (adj.) unnaturally sleepy; dull, slow moving; indifferent

- The twins often become \_\_\_\_\_ after eating a large meal at their grandmother's house.
  - Synonyms: lazy, sluggish, listless
- Malady: (n.) a sickness, illness, disease, disorder
  - Rheumatic fever, usually a childhood \_\_\_\_\_, can cause permanent damage to the heart.
    - Synonyms: ailment, indisposition
- Mellow: (adj.) ripe, well-matured; soft, sweet, and rich; gentle, pleasant; (V.) to become gentle and sweet
  - Hawaii is known for its \_\_\_\_\_ fruit, all of which is soft, sweet, ripe, and juicy.
  - Mom continued to hope that her upstart brother would \_\_\_\_\_ with age and experience.
    - Synonyms: dulcet, creamy
- Nomadic: (adj.) wandering, moving about from place to place
  - Many groups in the desert live a \_\_\_\_\_ life, moving about in search of water and grazing land.
    - Synonyms: roving, roaming, vagrant, migratory, itinerant.

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- Piecemeal: (adj.) one piece at a time; (adv.) gradually
  - The committee's \_\_\_\_\_ approach to the problem was taking more time and money than the school board could afford.
  - Patchwork quilts are sewn \_\_\_\_\_
    - Synonyms: (adv.) bit by bit
- Quest: (n.) a search, hunt; (v.) to search, seek, ask
  - In \_\_\_\_\_ of a safe water route to the Pacific, Lewis and Clark journeyed more than three thousand miles.
  - Diplomats \_\_\_\_\_ for peaceful solutions to global problems.
    - Synonyms: (n.) pursuit, venture
- Random (adj.) by chance, not planned or prearranged; irregular
  - According to a \_\_\_\_\_ sampling of voters, Proposition 10 seems to be the most important issue on the ballot.
    - Synonyms: haphazard, arbitrary
- Rant (v.) to speak wildly and noisily; (n.) lout, violent talk
  - When the speaker began to \_\_\_\_\_ like a rabble-rouser, the crowd shouted him down.
  - Listening to the \_\_\_\_\_ of that radio personality makes me want to give up on talk shows.
    - Synonyms: rave, fume, spout, harangue

# Unit 12

- Reinforce: (v.) to make stronger with new materials or support
  - They used steel beams to \_\_\_\_\_ the structure of the building.
    - Synonyms: strengthen, bolster, prop up, support
- Seclusion: (n.) isolation from others, solitude
  - Some actors choose to live in \_\_\_\_\_ away from the prying eyes of journalists.
    - Synonyms: aloneness, solitariness
- Status: (n.) a person's condition or position in the eyes of the law; relative rank or standing, especially in society; prestige
  - Winning the prestigious book award boosted the young writer's literary \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Synonyms: situation, recognition
- Turmoil: (n.) a state of great confusion or disorder; mental strain or agitation
  - For many years after the Civil War, the South remained a society in \_\_\_\_\_
    - Synonyms: upheaval, tumult, chaos