

Unit 13

Vocabulary Introduction

Unit 13

- **Agitation:** (n.) a violent stirring or movement; noisy confusion, excitement; a stirring up of public enthusiasm
 - The _____ for campaign finance reform was gaining widespread support in Congress.
 - Synonyms: disquiet, uneasiness, upset
- **Blurt:** (v.) to say suddenly or without thinking
 - The detective was fairly certain that after hours of interrogation, the suspect would _____ out the truth.
 - Synonyms: blab, let slip
- **Chronological:** (adj.) arranged in order of time of occurrence
 - The importance of a time line is that it arranges historical events in _____ order.
 - Synonyms: in time sequence, consecutive
- **Counterfeit:** (n.) a face, facial expression; (v.) to tolerate or approve
 - The teacher's smiling _____ reassured us that the rehearsal was going well.
 - The new boss does not _____ lateness or absenteeism.
 - Synonyms: support, condone
- **Diminish:** (v.) to make or become smaller, reduce in size
 - It takes not time at all for a fad to _____ in popularity.
 - Synonyms: lessen, decrease, dwindle

Unit 13

- Enchant: (v.) to please greatly to charm, put under a magic spell
 - The singer proceeded to _____ the audience with her beautiful voice and engaging style.
 - Synonyms: delight, thrill, bewitch
- Fluctuate: (v.) to change continually; to move up and down.
 - Stock prices _____ daily.
 - Synonyms: waver, seesaw, oscillate
- Foster: (v.) to bring up, give care to; to promote, encourage; (adj.) in the same family but not related by birth.
 - The American ambassador worked to _____ positive relations with the newly formed republic.
 - It is important for _____ children to be placed with loving families.
 - Synonyms: support, nurture, cultivate
- Grovel: (v.) to humble oneself, act in a fearful and servile way; to lie face downward; to indulge in something base or unworthy
 - Afraid of punishment, the Roman slave began to _____ at the feet of the emperor
 - Synonyms: crouch, cower, cringe, wallow
- Handicraft: (n.) work done by hand; a trade requiring hand skill
 - Making apple-head dolls is a _____ still enjoyed in the Arkansas River valley, among other places.
 - Synonyms: Handiwork, manual art

Unit 13

- **Hilarious:** (adj.) extremely funny, causing loud amusement
 - The comedian told a _____ story that had the audience laughing hysterically.
 - Synonyms: highly amusing, side-splitting
- **Ignite:** (v.) to set on fire, cause to burn; to heat up, excite
 - We used lighter fluid to _____ the charcoal in the outdoor grill.
- **Magnitude:** (n.) the great size or importance of something
 - At first, the _____ of the task seemed to be overwhelming for a group as small as ours.
 - Synonyms: extent, immensity, enormity.
- **Massive:** (adj.) large and heavy; great in size or scope.
 - A _____ boulder still blocks the entrance of the secret cave.
 - Synonyms: bulky, huge, immense, monumental
- **Maternal:** (adj.) of or like a mother
 - The kittens' mother took her _____ responsibilities very seriously.
 - Synonyms: Motherly, protective, sympathetic

Unit 13

- **Pall:** (v.) to lose in interest, attraction, or effectiveness; to become tiresome; (n.) a dark covering, something that conceals
 - The archaeologist's optimism began to _____ when the first excavation yielded only pieces of pottery.
 - News of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor cast a _____ over the nation on December 7, 1941.
- **Reputable:** (adj.) well thought of, having a good reputation
 - A list of _____ lawyers is available through the local bar association.
 - Synonyms: reliable, respectable, trustworthy
- **Revere:** (v.) to love and respect deeply, honor greatly
 - The elderly teacher was _____ by a whole generation of students.
 - Synonyms: admire, esteem, cherish
- **Saga:** (n.) a narrative of heroic exploits; a log, detailed account
 - Although written in Old English, Beowulf is very much like a Norse _____ in that it details the colorful deeds of a legendary hero.
 - Synonyms: heroic tale, epic, chronicle
- **Stodgy:** (adj.) dull, boring; old fashioned, hidebound; lumpy, thick
 - The _____ politician showed little inclination to listen to the speeches of junior senators.
 - Synonyms: stuffy, tiresome, blah