

**Confidence-In-Context Coaching**  
**Lesson 3 Workbook**

## **A. Words for the Good Times**

We at Ultimate Vocabulary want to make sure you're comfortable using these powerful words in context, no matter where you are. So – let's go to a party! You might use these next five words to describe the scene when a large group of people are having a good time: ribald, cacophony, milieu, eclectic, plethora.

### ***Your words for good times in a large group of people explained***

The first word we'll look at is "**ribald**". This adjective means "vulgar, but in a humorous way." It can be applied to off-color jokes, or to the person who tells them. Another word for ribald is "bawdy."

**Example:** "The stand-up comic was known for his ribald jokes about his girlfriend."

If the jokes are a little too vulgar or insulting, the audience might respond with a cacophony of boos and catcalls. "**Cacophony**" means a loud confusion of sound, where the level or type of noise – or both – are unpleasant. Usually there are so many different sounds at once that no single part is easy to distinguish.

**Example:** "I don't really like most modern jazz; all I hear is a cacophony of notes with no real melody or rhythm."

A nightclub is one milieu where you might hear a cacophony of sounds as well as ribald jokes. "**Milieu**" means "environment" or "surroundings." This word refers to both physical and metaphysical space. Here are two examples:

**Example 1:** "A rose garden is the perfect milieu for a wedding."

**Example 2:** "Her years in the political milieu have made her comfortable with people in all walks of life."

Some people are only comfortable around people who are very similar, while others prefer a more eclectic group of friends. "**Eclectic**" means "from a variety of sources." If you're at a nightclub with a very creative DJ, you'll hear an eclectic blend of music.

**Example:** “Her wardrobe was an eclectic mix of vintage lace and 70’s polyester, and a different pair of shoes for every day of the year.”

365 pairs of shoes is more than most people usually own – it’s a plethora of shoes.

“**Plethora**” means “more than enough.” It refers to a large number in general, but specifically means an amount in excess of what is necessary.

**Example:** “There was a plethora of choices at the dessert table; there were sixteen different pies, and too many tarts and confections to count.”

## B. Words in a Calm Environment

If learning all of these new vocabulary words has you feeling nervous and tense, don’t worry. This section covers five words that will calm you down: accord, pragmatic, transcend, panacea, and catharsis.

### *Your words in a calm environment explained*

We believe that learning how to use these Ultimate Vocabulary words in daily conversation will give your career a boost. You must agree, because you’re listening to this CD. So we both agree: we are in accord. “**Accord**” means agreement or harmony. This noun can refer to specific agreement on an issue, or a general like-mindedness.

**Example:** “Faced with a potentially devastating flood risk, the city officials quickly reached an accord on which riverbanks needed the most reinforcement.”

In larger cities, the officials often each represent their own districts, and argue about issues while trying to get the most benefit for their communities. But in a crisis situation, political fights are set aside for a more pragmatic policy of working together. “**Pragmatic**” means realistic or practical. Someone who is pragmatic is down-to-earth, and focuses on the essentials of a problem without getting bogged down in unnecessary detail.

**Example:** “Realizing that not all of the library’s books could be moved to the new facility, the libraries took the pragmatic approach of first moving only the books that had been checked out in the last five years.”

Some librarians would argue that the older, perhaps more valuable books should be first on the list. Others might say that the best thing to do would be to expand the books on tape collection, because more people are listening to books or downloading them. There might not be a panacea for all of the problems a modern library faces. A “**panacea**” is a solution or remedy, something that cures all problems.

**Example:** “Some people say that gene therapy and designer drugs are the panacea that will solve the problem of AIDS and other diseases.”

In order to get a true understanding of a problem like the AIDS crisis, you need to be able to transcend the political and ideological issues that surround it. To “**transcend**” means to rise above or go beyond. You might have heard of “transcendental meditation,” where people try to go outside of their earthbound minds and become a part of a larger consciousness. To transcend means to be able to cross boundaries, or remove them by rising above them.

**Example:** “Yo-Yo Ma’s ‘Silk Road’ project transcends cultural boundaries by unifying people through their shared musical history.”

Shared experience can also unify people, especially if the event is stressful or frightening. Even watching the event second-hand can cause us to experience the same strong emotions. We can get so wrapped up in a movie about doomed lovers that we feel their sadness like it’s our own. And if someone’s in their own broken relationship, watching the movie might bring on all of the tears they’ve been keeping inside. That’s a “**catharsis**” – a release of emotions that is triggered by a vicarious experience of something that someone else is going through, but that touches you in some way as well.

**Example:** “The therapist would show the ex-soldiers movies like “Platoon” and “In Country,” hoping to bring on a catharsis that would help them work through their experiences in combat.”

## C. Interesting Words Beginning with “U”

This section is all about “U” – words that begin with the letter U, that is: unctuous, unconscionable, uniform, ubiquitous, utilitarian.

### *Your interesting words beginning with “u” explained*

If you read a lot of cooking magazines, you might find a food described as having an “**unctuous** mouth feel” or “**unctuous** texture.” It means that the food coats the tongue with a smooth, almost oily layer of flavor. When the word applies to food, it’s a good thing. It’s not a good thing when applied to a person. Someone with a smooth, oily manner is usually not to be trusted. To speak in an unctuous fashion means to be overly but insincerely polite and flattering or ingratiating. You might call a person who speaks like that “smarmy.”

**Example:** “The shop clerk tried to make more sales with his unctuous treatment of the customers, but all except the most fatuous saw right through him.”

Some people will stop at nothing to get what they want, whether it’s a record sales day or a position of power. They can justify the most unconscionable acts by telling themselves it’s for the greater good. “**Unconscionable**” means, literally, “without a conscience,” is lacking in a moral sense. A synonym for unconscionable is “unscrupulous.”

**Example:** “The thief showed an unconscionable lack of feeling when he took not only jewelry but also old family photographs from the people at the nursing home.”

People who work at a nursing home often wear uniforms that make them look alike. That’s what “**uniform**” means, after all: the same, without variation. A well-mixed cake batter has a uniform consistency – there are no lumps in it, all ingredients are blended together, and a spoonful taken from anywhere in the bowl will be exactly like any other.

**Example:** “Those coffee shops do well because they train their servers to make the coffee drinks to a uniform level of quality, no matter where the store is located.”

You know the coffee shops we mean. They’re everywhere: in airports, on street corners, in shopping centers, in libraries and museums. They’re ubiquitous. “**Ubiquitous**” means omnipresent or pervasive; in other words, found everywhere.

**Example:** “The advertisements for that new car are ubiquitous; I even saw one in the community center’s monthly flyer.”

It seems like every new car that comes out has some fancy feature added to it, like a satellite radio system or six extra cup-holders. Do they even make cheap utilitarian cars any more? “**Utilitarian**” means practical and functional, without anything that doesn’t contribute to that functionality. Six extra cup-holders in a car will not make the car run more smoothly.

**Example:** “IKEA is famous for its selection of utilitarian home furnishings, like unfinished wood shelving you assemble at home yourself.”

### D. Words That Define Attitude

We’re going to extremes with this set of four words that describe opposites, and one word that’s right in the middle. The words are adamant, compliant, intransigent, amenable, and equitable.

#### *Your words that define attitude explained*

Our first word is “**adamant**,” meaning inflexible or unyielding. Someone who is determined and will not move from their position or change their opinion is adamant.

**Example:** “The head of the school was adamant in his belief that boys and girls should eat meals at separate tables.”

In contrast to someone who remains adamant, a person who is compliant will allow their position to change under pressure from others. “**Compliant**” means “willing to comply.” Synonyms of compliant are “submissive” and “yielding.”

**Example:** “The new worker was so afraid of losing his job that he was compliant even with the supervisor’s most outrageous demands.”

Back to the other end of the spectrum, we have the word “**intransigent**,” meaning stubborn and unwilling to compromise. It’s similar to “adamant,” but has the additional

sense that the person is perhaps being inflexible just to be stubborn or contrary, and not for any firmly-held belief.

**Example:** “Although Jamie had already won the arguments over child custody and support payments, she remained intransigent in her insistence that her ex-husband also pay for all of the school uniforms.”

If you’re in a legal battle, it’s helpful if both sides can make some compromises to bring the matter to a resolution. If you’re willing to compromise, you’re amenable. “**Amenable**” means “open to persuasion.” It doesn’t necessarily mean you change your opinion about something, but that you’re willing to go along with the other person to avoid conflict, reach a conclusion, or in some other way keep things moving forward.

**Example:** “There are many movies I’d like to see this weekend, but I’m amenable to any suggestions or preferences you might have.”

After all that swinging from one extreme to the other, let’s finish with a word that’s right in the middle. “**Equitable**” means fair, just, and impartial.

**Example:** “The judge ruled that the owners of the failed business had to make an equitable division of the remaining money in the bank account.”

## E. Words Describing the Nature of Things

The five words in this section can be used to describe the nature of things: where they are, what they are, and how they relate to each other. These words are comprise, circumscribe, contiguous, proliferate, and latent.

### *Your words describing the nature of things explained*

When talking about the nature of something, one of the first questions might be “what is it made of?” A car, for example, is made of many different parts and pieces, like the wheels and engine. We can say a car is comprised of these parts. To “**comprise**” means to be made of, to contain, or to include.

**Example:** “The panel will comprise members of each university department.”

In the previous example, the panel will be made up of people from within the university system, but no members of the public. The panel is circumscribed and allows academic participants only. To “**circumscribe**” means to limit or restrict. Its literal meaning is “to draw a line around” – that is, to create a boundary containing one thing inside and keeping others out.

**Example:** “The novices’ activities were very circumscribed during the first two weeks of their enrolment, during which they were allowed no contact with the outside world.”

A boundary or restriction keeps things apart. When there are no boundaries, those things can be connected. “**Contiguous**” means connected, touching, or adjacent, without any break.

**Example:** “Although the atlas shows lines dividing the countries at their borders, when you’re walking across the land, it’s a contiguous whole, and the borders seem irrelevant.”

Borders serve to define spaces, and to keep things in or out. But some things are harder to contain, like ideas, or diseases, or invasive species of plants or animals. They proliferate without paying any attention to the borders we create between our countries. To “**proliferate**” means to spread rapidly, or to increase.

**Example:** “The wild rabbit was introduced into Australia in the 1850s to provide hunting sport, but no-one expected the population to proliferate as much as it did, and rabbits quickly became pests in many areas of the country.”

When something proliferates, it’s often quite obvious. By contrast, something “**latent**” is hidden. It exists, but is concealed. For example, an illness can be latent until something triggers it. One type of diabetes can exist without harm unless a virus affects the person’s pancreas, and the latent disease becomes active. “Latent” means present but hidden, ready to come out of hiding if the circumstances are right.

**Example:** “We didn’t realize Jane was so musical until a neighbor gave us their old piano; her latent talent emerged once she started playing, and now she’s a soloist with the local orchestra.”



## F. Inspiring Words

The five words in this section might inspire you to look ahead and aspire to reach your goals. The words are propitious, virtuoso, auspicious, zenith, and prestigious.

### *Your inspiring words explained*

All the signs point towards your success now that you're learning how to use these Ultimate Vocabulary words. And the first two words in this section refer to favorable circumstances: auspicious and propitious. They both mean favorable, advantageous, boding well, a good omen. Usually, you'll use "**auspicious**" when you want to communicate the sense that the advantage or good fortune is due to an outside influence. The Latin root originally referred to divination, the art of reading signs in the natural world to decipher the will of the gods.

**Example:** "It seemed auspicious that all of the traffic lights were green as she drove to her job interview."

"**Propitious**" has the same root as "propel" and the same meaning of "moving forward." It also refers to a favorable or advantageous situation. Something that is propitious moves you forward toward your goals; something auspicious smoothes the path in front of you.

**Example:** "The captain of the Australian yacht took advantage of the propitious winds to increase his lead in the race."

The America's Cup yacht race is the most prestigious sailing event in the world.

"**Prestigious**" means "having a good reputation" and "held in high esteem." The word also has the meaning of something that has influence because of its high position, and that the influence and esteem will spread to those who are connected to it.

**Example:** "Many students apply to prestigious universities such as Harvard or Yale so that they will have an impressive curriculum vitae to show future employers."

Your curriculum vitae is place to list your skills and accomplishments. Someone who is highly skilled at something is called a "**virtuoso**." This word is often used to refer to artists and musicians, but there are virtuoso computer programmers and chefs as well. You're considered a virtuoso if you have mastered a skill beyond mere capability and into the realm of brilliance. You're a whiz, a genius, a wizard, a superstar.



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**Example:** “Virtuoso violinist Itzhak Perlman is known for his performances of the Brahms trio sonatas.”

Itzhak Perlman is still active in performance and teaching, and has not reached the zenith of his career. A “**zenith**” is the highest point. If you’re speaking of something measured in terms of time, it’s the culmination of that timeline. You’ll also hear the word used in astronomy: the zenith is the point directly above any particular location on Earth, from the perspective of someone standing on the ground looking straight overhead.

**Example:** “Investment in internet start-ups during the dot-com craze reached its zenith in the late 1990s, when a new business was going public every few days.”

## Tests for Reinforcing What You Have Learnt

### A. Words for the Good Times

#### Test Sentences

Are you ready to rock 'n' roll with your new vocabulary words? Listen to these five sentences, and fill in the correct word in each space.

1. I tried to turn down the sound on the television, but this new remote has a \_\_\_\_\_ of buttons, and I couldn't find the volume control.
2. She had an \_\_\_\_\_ collection of art prints hanging on her walls, including reproductions of the "Mona Lisa" and several works by Jackson Pollock.
3. I enjoy taking pictures of people, and someplace like a shopping center is a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ for candid photographs.
4. The young musicians were very enthusiastic, but their attempt at playing Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" only resulted in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Make sure that the tour guide you hire to lead the next trip isn't as \_\_\_\_\_ as the last one; we're going to be advertising the trip as a family vacation opportunity.

#### Answers:

1. I tried to turn down the sound on the television, but this new remote has a **plethora** of buttons, and I couldn't find the volume control

*There were so many buttons that I couldn't tell which ones did what. "Plethora" means an excess of something, more than is necessary to do the job.*

2. Elsa had an **eclectic** collection of art prints hanging on her walls, including reproductions of the "Mona Lisa" and several works by Jackson Pollock.

*Leonardo da Vinci painted the "Mona Lisa" in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Italy; Jackson Pollock's work was famous four hundred years later. These artists have very different styles, and Elsa has collected their works and others from around the*

*world. Her collection is eclectic – that is, it’s a variety of paintings from many sources. “Eclectic” means “having a mix or variety of things.”*

3. I enjoy taking pictures of people, and someplace like a shopping center is a perfect **milieu** to for candid photographs.

*In a shopping center, you’ll be surrounded by many different people, and it’s easy to take candid photographs because most people will be too occupied with their errands to notice their surroundings. A “milieu” is an environment or the surroundings.*

4. The young musicians were very enthusiastic, but their attempt at playing Mozart’s “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik” only resulted in **cacophony**.

*The children had only been playing their instruments for a few years, and the music was too difficult for them to play well. They weren’t playing in tune, and they weren’t playing together, so all they were doing was making a loud and unpleasant noise. A “cacophony” is an unpleasant confusion of sound.*

5. Make sure that the tour guide you hire to lead the next trip isn’t as **ribald** as the last one; we’re going to be advertising the trip as a family vacation opportunity.

*It’s probably not appropriate for a tour guide to make vulgar jokes in front of young children. “Ribald” means bawdy, off-color, humorously vulgar.*

You’ll have a **plethora** of opportunities to use your new vocabulary words, no matter what **milieu** you find yourself in. We hope you’ve enjoyed learning this **eclectic** set of five Ultimate Vocabulary words:

- plethora
- ribald
- cacophony
- eclectic
- milieu

## B. Words in a Calm Environment

### Test Sentences

Expanding your vocabulary will help you win any war of words. Get ready to fight for the right answer now, and fill in the correct word in each sentence.

1. Her background in history helped her \_\_\_\_\_ the local politics and focus on solving the underlying ethnic issues that had existed for centuries.
2. Many people don't like to exercise and eat healthy foods; instead, they buy diet books and pills, hoping to find a \_\_\_\_\_ for their weight problem.
3. Officials from the space programs in China, Russia, and the U.S. are trying to come to an \_\_\_\_\_ on the priorities for the next phase of the International Space Station.
4. I started crying while watching "Atonement," a \_\_\_\_\_ that helped relieve some of the pain I felt when my girlfriend left me.
5. He doesn't spend time trying to get exotic flowers to blossom; he's a \_\_\_\_\_ gardener who focuses on growing fruits and vegetables suited to the climate where he lives.

### Answers:

1. Her background in history helped her **transcend** the local politics and focus on solving the underlying ethnic issues that had existed for centuries.

*Local politics created barriers between people that hid the deeper problems of long-standing ethnic tension and conflict. She was able to rise above those barriers because of her understanding of the region's history. "Transcend" means to rise above, or go beyond.*

2. Many people don't like to exercise and eat healthy foods; instead, they buy diet books and pills, hoping to find a **panacea** for their weight problem.

*It would be so much easier if we could eat whatever we want, then take a pill to keep us in perfect health and cure all of our health problems. A "panacea" is a cure-all or remedy.*

3. Officials from the space programs in China, Russian, and the U.S. are trying to come to an **accord** on the priorities for the next phase of the International Space Station.

*Every country involved in a big project like the ISS will have its own list of priorities, but in order to make progress, the countries will have to agree on some things. An “accord” is an agreement or state of harmony.*

4. I started crying while watching “Atonement,” a **catharsis** that helped relieve some of the pain I felt when my girlfriend left me.

*Watching the emotional crises of the people in the movie made me feel the same emotions, and that helped me release the tension I was feeling about my own emotional pain. A “catharsis” is a release of tension or strong emotions through a vicarious experience, such as watching a movie where people are going through similar emotions.*

5. He doesn’t spend time trying to get exotic flowers to blossom; he’s a **pragmatic** gardener who focuses on growing fruits and vegetables suited to the climate where he lives.

*If you live in Norway, it’s not practical to spend all of your time trying to get banana trees to grow in your garden. “Pragmatic” means practical, realistic, and down-to-earth.*

Using these Ultimate Vocabulary words correctly in context will help you **transcend** any barriers to your advancement, both personally and professionally. While an expanded vocabulary isn’t a **panacea** for all of your problems, we hope you’re planning to practice the five new words you just learned:

- catharsis
- panacea
- accord
- transcend
- pragmatic

## C. Interesting Words Beginning with “U”

### Test Sentences:

Are you hungry to learn more words and expand your vocabulary? Test your skills with these five sentences, and fill in the missing word in each.

1. Cruise ships often employ professional escorts to dance with the single guests, but the best escorts know they don't have to always ply the guests with \_\_\_\_\_ flattery.
2. Stealing money from the charity box at the local church is an \_\_\_\_\_ act.
3. In their matching outfits and with their hair styled the same way, the triplets confused people with their \_\_\_\_\_ appearance, as it was hard to tell which child was which.
4. In this era of cheap and easy-to-use communication equipment, the cell phone is \_\_\_\_\_, found in small villages in India as well as corporate boardrooms in London.
5. She changes jobs and cities so often that she has eliminated everything but the most \_\_\_\_\_ of household items from her belongings.

### Answers:

1. Cruise ships often employ professional escorts to dance with the single guests, but the best escorts know they don't have to always ply the guests with **unctuous** flattery.

*The escorts want to make sure that the guests feel good about themselves, but there's a difference between complimenting someone's hairstyle or dress, and insisting that they're absolutely the most beautiful woman in the room. "Unctuous" means ingratiating, fulsome, smarmy; flattery that's over the top and delivered with a too-smooth manner that makes it seem insincere.*

2. Stealing money from the charity box at the local church is an **unconscionable** act.

*It's unscrupulous to steal from people who have even less than you do – not that it's right to steal from anyone, mind you! "Unconscionable" means lacking in morals, or unscrupulous.*

3. In their matching outfits and with their hair styled the same way, the triplets confused people with their **uniform** appearance, as it was hard to tell which child was which.

*Identical twins or triplets sometimes enjoy dressing and acting the same way, to keep people guessing which is which. "Uniform" means the same, without variation.*

4. In this era of cheap and easy-to-use communication equipment, the cell phone is **ubiquitous**, found in small villages in India as well as corporate boardrooms in London.

*There are cell phones in use all over the world, and can be found even in the most remote locations, thanks to satellite technology. Something that is found everywhere is "ubiquitous."*

5. She changes jobs and cities so often that she has eliminated everything but the most **utilitarian** of household items from her belongings.

*A person who moves house a lot probably doesn't want to be bothered with a lot of extra things that they don't use very often. "Utilitarian" means practical and functional, not just for show.*

We're done with this section on words that start with "U" and we hope "U" will enjoy using these words in your next conversation:

- unctuous
- unconscionable
- uniform
- ubiquitous
- utilitarian

## D. Words That Define Attitude

### **Test Sentences:**

By practicing these vocabulary words, you'll find using them to be smooth sailing. Test your skills now by filling in the right word in each sentence.



1. The director is very easy-going; I'm sure he'll be \_\_\_\_\_ to any changes you need to make in the program.
2. Strict vegetarians are \_\_\_\_\_ in their refusal to eat any meat, though some will accept eggs and dairy products, since these are produced without killing the animals involved.
3. There's only one television in the house, but my roommates and I looked at the program listings and came up with an \_\_\_\_\_ schedule that lets us all watch our favorite shows.
4. Children can be stubborn, but in general they're used to taking direction from adults, and will be \_\_\_\_\_ and do what you say.
5. Even though it's getting cold outside, some students are \_\_\_\_\_ about complying with the dress code and won't give up their shorts and t-shirts.

### Answers:

1. The director is very easy-going; I'm sure he'll be **amenable** to any changes you need to make in the program.

*An easy-going person is willing to go along with things. "Amenable" means open to persuasion, willing to go along.*

2. Strict vegetarians are **adamant** in their refusal to eat any meat, though some will accept eggs and dairy products, since these are produced without killing the animals involved.

*Whether it's for moral, religious, or health reasons, a strict vegetarian is determined to avoid meat. Someone who is determined, inflexible, and unyielding on a point is adamant. If it's your personal opinion that vegetarianism is silly and pointless, you might also think that such a person is being intransigent in their refusal to eat meat.*

3. There's only one television in the house, but my roommates and I looked at the program listings and came up with an **equitable** schedule that lets us all watch our favorite shows.

*When resources are limited, it's sometimes difficult to make sure everyone gets their fair share. "Equitable" means fair and just, something that's decided impartially to be of benefit to all.*

4. Children can be stubborn, but in general they're used to taking direction from adults, and we be **compliant** and do what you say.

*"Compliant" means submissive and yielding, and willing to comply.*

5. Even though it's getting cold outside, some students are **intransigent** about complying with the dress code and won't give up their shorts and t-shirts.

*People who continue to wear short dresses and sleeveless shirts when the weather's cold and rainy are probably pretty stubborn. "Intransigent" means stubborn and unwilling to compromise.*

We're **adamant** in our belief that if you're **amenable** to making these changes in your vocabulary, you'll see an improvement in your communication skills in short order.

Practice using these five new Ultimate Vocabulary words in your next conversation:

- intransigent
- compliant
- equitable
- adamant
- amenable

## E. Words Describing the Nature of Things

### **Test Sentences:**

Practice these new vocabulary words by fitting them into the correct spots in the next five sentences.

1. Cirque du Soleil is a troupe \_\_\_\_\_ of acrobats, contortionists, and clowns, but it doesn't have any acts involving trained animals like elephants or horses.
2. When my son gets into trouble at school, I punish him by \_\_\_\_\_ his activities and do not let him watch television or use the computer for games.

3. The United States is made up of forty-eight \_\_\_\_\_ states and two others that are not connected: Alaska and Hawai'i.
4. Mint plants are very invasive; if you want to have some in your garden, keep them in a container or they will \_\_\_\_\_ into every available space.
5. When I'm at home alone, I often succumb to my \_\_\_\_\_ tendency towards laziness, and don't do the dishes for days.

## Answers:

1. Cirque du Soleil is a troupe **comprised** of acrobats, contortionists, and clowns, but it doesn't have any acts involving trained animals like elephants or horses.

*The circus troupe contains a variety of performers. To "comprise" means to contain or include, to consist of or be made of.*

2. When my son gets into trouble at school, I punish him by **circumscribing** his activities and do not let him watch television or use the computer for games.

*My son is restricted, or limited, in what he can do. To "circumscribe" means to limit or restrict, or to place a boundary around something.*

3. The United States is made up of forty-eight **contiguous** states and two others that are not connected: Alaska and Hawai'i.

*The "lower 48", as the residents of Alaska call them, are states that are all connected, with at least one border touching another state. When things are connected and touching, they are "contiguous."*

4. Mint plants are very invasive; if you want to have some in your garden, keep them in a container or they will **proliferate** into every available space.

*Mint spreads rapidly by sending out underground shoots in all directions. "Proliferate" means to increase or spread rapidly.*

5. When I'm at home alone, I often succumb to my **latent** tendency towards laziness, and don't do the dishes for days.

*When I'm living with a roommate, I do my best to keep the house clean and share the dishwashing duties, but left to myself, I'm most likely to put off such chores. I can fight the tendency to laziness if there's someone else in the house, but it's always there. Something that is present but hidden is "latent" – it exists, but is kept concealed.*

Bring out your **latent** vocabulary skills by using these powerful vocabulary words in daily conversation:

- comprise
- circumscribe
- contiguous
- proliferate
- latent

## F. Inspiring Words

### ***Test Sentences:***

Practicing these Ultimate Vocabulary words every day is a **propitious** first step in gaining confidence in using them in context. Before you know it, you'll be a **virtuoso** of vocabulary. But first, test your skills by filling in the correct word in each sentence.

1. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that this apartment's former tenants decided to move out just after I accepted a new job in this city; I don't think I could have found a nicer spot to live.
2. She felt that getting the fourth Michelin star was the \_\_\_\_\_ of her career as a chef, and decided to close her restaurant the next year, rather than risking a slide backwards in ratings.
3. Michael hired a lawyer from a very \_\_\_\_\_ firm, because he wants to make sure that he wins this case.
4. Having the exchange rates for the U.S. dollar go down against European currencies has been \_\_\_\_\_ for Londoners who want to pick up high-fashion shoes and clothes at bargain prices.
5. Pat makes some of the best cheese I've ever tasted – she's a \_\_\_\_\_ with milk and cultures.

## Answers:

1. It was **auspicious** that this apartment's former tenants decided to move out on the same day I accepted a new job in this city; I don't think I could have found a nicer spot to live.

*A lucky coincidence made the apartment available just as I needed a new place to live. Something that is fortunate and favorable, that is a good omen, is auspicious, especially if it comes by through luck or chance.*

2. She felt that getting the fourth Michelin star was the **zenith** of her career as a chef, and decided to close her restaurant the next year, rather than risking a slide backwards in ratings.

*Four Michelin stars is just about the best a restaurant can hope for, and this chef thought that it was better to end on a high note than take the chance that one of the stars might be taken away in the future. A zenith is the highest point, peak, or culmination of events.*

3. Michael hired a lawyer from a very **prestigious** firm, because he wants to make sure that he wins this case.

*The firm has an excellent reputation, and is highly esteemed. "Prestigious" means esteemed, having a good reputation, and wielding influence because of that reputation.*

4. Having the exchange rates for the U.S. dollar go down against European currencies has been **propitious** for Londoners who want to pick up high-fashion shoes and clothes at bargain prices.

*The fall of the dollar has made the purchasing power of the British pound much stronger, and Londoners are flying to New York on weekend shopping sprees. "Propitious" means advantageous, favorable, leading to success.*

5. Pat makes some of the best cheese I've ever tasted – she's a **virtuoso** with milk and cultures.



## Confidence-*In*-Context

*Pat knows how to expertly mix cultures and age cheeses, and her cheeses are much better than most of the ones on the market these days. A virtuoso is a master at her craft.*

You haven't reached the **zenith** of your vocabulary skills yet! Keep moving higher by using these powerful words in your conversations:

- virtuoso
- propitious
- zenith
- prestigious
- auspicious