Confidence-In-Context Coaching

Lesson 5 Workbook

A. Words For Moving Forward With Your Vocabulary

You're expanding your horizons as you learn these ultimate vocabulary words and how to use them correctly. These next five words will keep you moving forward and will help you describe your journey: comprehensive, criterion, cognizant, trepidation, predilection.

Your words for moving forward with your vocabulary explained

One of the advantages of knowing – and knowing how to use – these ultimate vocabulary words is that you'll have the appropriate words for discussions on a wide range of topics. Your vocabulary will be comprehensive in scope. "**Comprehensive**" means: covering a wide range; being thorough; and including everything. Another synonym for comprehensive is "exhaustive" – you might use these two words together when describing an academic study or research project.

Example: "Before the committee made a decision, they asked the team leaders to each present a comprehensive report on the costs and benefits of their plans to rebuild the city's transit system."

A successful transit system should do three things: go places people need to go; get them there when they need to be there; and do this all on a reasonable budget, for the city and the riders. Each of these three points is a criterion that is used to measure the success of a transit system. A "**criterion**" is a standard by which something is measured or judged. You're probably more familiar with the plural of criterion, which is "criteria." One criterion, two criteria. Many people incorrectly use the plural form for both cases.

Example: "Knowing the difference between the singular form of a noun and its plural form, and using them correctly, is a criterion for evaluating your progress in learning a language."

Once you realize that many words have singular and plural forms, you'll notice when other people use them incorrectly. "**Cognizant**" means noticing something, or being aware of something.

Example: "I didn't really pay attention to the ingredient listings on food until I was diagnosed with coeliac disease, but now I'm cognizant of the fact that most packaged food has gluten in it."

Anyone with food allergies knows that going out to eat in restaurants, or even over to a friend's house, can be difficult, especially if the allergy is to something as common as wheat. If you're afraid you might get ill and hesitate to accept invitations to dinner, you're experiencing trepidation. "**Trepidation**" means fear or hesitation, apprehension or concern.

Example: "Although John said that Kathy was an excellent cook, I felt a bit of trepidation when I arrived for dinner and saw smoke pouring out of the kitchen."

Some people enjoy cooking more than others do. And when you enjoy doing something, you have a tendency to do it more often. "**Predilection**" means liking or having a tendency towards.

Example: "Jim frequently invited me to join him at the movies, but as he had a predilection for the more violent action films, I would usually decline."

B. Words For Your Vocabulary Arsenal

You might struggle sometimes to learn how to use vocabulary in context, but don't give up the fight! You'll prevail soon – and the next five words will help you describe the battle: precision, arsenal, augment, draconian, acquiesce.

Your vocabulary arsenal words explained

One of the most important lessons to learn about using these ultimate vocabulary words is ***when*** to use them. Using exactly the right word at exactly the right time will make the maximum impact. You'll learn to use words with precision. "**Precision**" means "exactness" – being precise, or to the point.

Example: "I like wearing my grandfather's wristwatch, but it can't match the precision of my digital timer, so that's what I use for work."

You'll soon have a collection of words that you can use in any situation. Your vocabulary will be a powerful tool in your arsenal, and will help you win arguments and prevail in debates. An "**arsenal**" is a collection, usually of weapons, but also of anything used as a weapon. Words can be very effective weapons, when used correctly.

Example: "The ruins of the castle were overgrown with moss, but we could see where they had stored their arsenal of cannonballs and gunpowder."

Diligent practice of these vocabulary words will augment your ability to use them correctly. To "**augment**" means to increase. You can augment the sound coming from a stereo by adding bass and treble boosters.

Example: "With the general public's growing resistance to the war, the only way the ruling party could augment the size of the army was by instituting a draft."

When the leaders of a country decide on war, but the people disagree, those leaders may resort to draconian measures like a forced draft to achieve their goals. "**Draconian**" means harsh or rigid. The word comes from the name of an ancient Greek senator, Draco,

who lived in Athens in the 7th century BCE, and who was famous for his laws that punished people severely for very minor crimes.

Example: "Singapore's laws may seem draconian, punishing people with jail time for littering or chewing gum, but they certainly keep the streets clean."

Even if you think an anti-gum-chewing rule is silly, you'd have to acquiesce to that rule if you wanted to live in Singapore. "**Acquiesce**" is a verb meaning give in, comply, or agree to. Use this word when you want to make clear that this agreement is not necessarily by choice. When you acquiesce to something, you're saying that you'll go along with it, even if you previously opposed it, or continue to oppose it on a philosophical if not actual basis.

Example: "The receptionist did not want to let me wait for you in your hotel room, and it took a half and hour's argument, plus a call to your father, before he would acquiesce and let me in."

C. Words About Teaching and Education

We're glad you're continuing your education with this Ultimate Vocabulary training course. Learning is a process that goes on throughout our lives, and we find lessons and teachers everywhere. The five words in this lesson can all be used when talking about teaching and education: mentor, cerebral, monograph, admonish, edify.

Your words about teaching and education explained

Many people remember one or two influential teachers from their childhood – people who were counselors and advisors, sharing their wisdom. These childhood mentors can have a long-term impact. "**Mentor**" is a noun meaning counselor or teacher. These days, it's likely that you'll also hear this word as a verb. "Mentoring" is something often done in the workplace, when experienced staff help junior employees.

Example: "It was my first job in a law office and I was very nervous about getting something wrong, but the senior legal assistant acted as my mentor for a few months, answering all of my questions and helping me prepare the documents."

As a mentor, you can provide guidance to someone at the office, help a child learn social skills after school, or work with a student to prepare her thesis – mentoring is as much about the practical as the cerebral. "**Cerebral**" means intellectual, or focused on the activity of the brain.

Example: "Leah liked to play outside no matter how bad the weather was, but Morgan preferred the more cerebral exercise of solving puzzles and reading books and essays."

If you're attending university and working with your mentor to prepare your thesis, you'll be doing research into what others have written about the topic you've chosen. You may find several monographs on the topic by other scholars. A "**monograph**" is a long essay on a single topic, usually very cerebral in nature; that is, rather than being a casual discussion, it will be a well-documented, intellectual look at the topic. Or at least you hope it will be, so you can use it as a reference!

Example: "She was interested in learning more about the history of the Middle East, so I recommended two monographs on the Persian Empire in the 6th century by Dandamayev and Babayan."

Reading what other people have written about a topic is a good way to learn more about it. Monographs and research papers will instruct you on a topic and improve your understanding. "**Edify**" is a verb that means to instruct or improve intellectually; you may be familiar with the result, which is "edification." The word comes from the Latin word "edificare" meaning "to build" – think of the word "edifice", or building. These bits of knowledge you gain are building your intellectual strengths.

Example: "The school bus was delayed for several hours in traffic in front of the Parliament building, and Jane decided to use the time to edify the students on the different branches of government and how they worked."

Knowing how a government works is important, and if students are educated in the process, they'll be better at making good decisions when they're old enough to vote. Unfortunately, many don't get this education, or just don't care to learn it. Teachers can admonish students when they don't know the answers to simple questions about politics, but it may take more than that to get them to learn. To "**admonish**" means to warn someone that they have done or said something wrong, using serious but kind words. It's not angry yelling, but instead a gentle but insistent identification of a perceived fault in their actions or attitudes.

Example: "The modern grammar school does not use corporal punishment to discipline their students, but instead will admonish them privately, pointing out the ways in which their behaviour affects all of the other children in the class."

D. Words For Describing Things Relating To Groups

Are you a social person? Do you like to be part of a group, or do you stand apart from the crowd? It's human nature to want to belong to a larger community, and we're all part of some subset no matter what, whether because of where we come from or what we like to do. The five words in this section might help you describe things relating to groups: terminology, demographic, sporadic, incongruous, ostracize.

Your words relating to groups explained

Sociology is the study of people and groups, and researchers in that field have their own set of words related to sociology, like homogenising, assimilationist, or dialectical. But don't worry – we won't be giving you these arcane words. Instead, here's a word to describe them: terminology. "**Terminology**" means a set of specialized words specific to an area of study. These words are usually not commonly used outside of that area – for example, you probably wouldn't use the word "igneous" unless you were talking about volcanic rocks or geology in general.

Example: "One of the reasons that legal systems can seem hard to understand is that not everyone knows the terminology used in law, and words like 'obligor' and 'pendency' are not in common use."

There are a lot of people in law, and in some places lawyers form a large segment of the population. A demographic study might find a correlation between the number of lawyers in a city and the size of the city. "**Demographic**" means "related to a group of people who share one or more characteristics." In this case, the common bond is their profession, but other demographic markers might be race, income, or gender.

Example: "Television advertisements are well-researched to appeal to the particular demographic group that watches a specific program."

Marketing that is targeted to one demographic group is usually more successful than random advertisement that hopes to interest people by chance. That's why you'll see ads for candy and toys aired regularly during children's shows, rather than in a sporadic fashion in the middle of a football game. "**Sporadic**" means random, without a pattern, happening only occasionally.

Example: "Henry came to the scheduled meetings only on sporadic occasions, and eventually we stopped inviting him to participate."

If you promise to be somewhere and then fail to show up, people may think of you as unreliable, or get angry with you. If they get angry enough, they might ostracize you. To "**ostracize**" means to cast out of a group, or exclude from a community.

Example: "Feelings about the recent political elections were so strong that I was afraid my friends would ostracize me if they found out that I had voted for the other party."

When you're the only person in a group who supports a certain politician, or the only meat-eater in a group of vegetarians, you might feel that you just don't fit in – that your presence is incongruous. "**Incongruous**" means "not similar," or not a match to what is around it or what is expected.

Example: "Even though it's well-known that studying dance will improve your agility and coordination, the star player from the local football team was still an incongruous sight in the middle of the ballet class."

E. Words For Talking About Music

This section's words will be music to your ears – or at least words you might use when you're talking about music. Get in tune with these five ultimate vocabulary words: mellifluous, strident, arduous, prodigy, and contemporary.

Your words for talking about music explained

The 18th –century playwright William Congreve said "Music hath charms to soothe a savage beast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak." Sweet and harmonious music can make you calmer and lift your spirits with its mellifluous tones. "**Mellifluous**" is an adjective that comes from the Latin words "mellitus" meaning "honey" and "fluus" meaning "flowing". A mellifluous voice is one that is sweet, smooth, and flowing.

Example: "Every time my young children had a hard time falling asleep, I would play a recording of Cecila Bartolli singing Italian lullabies, and her mellifluous voice would lull them to sleep quickly."

The opposite of mellifluous is "**strident**", meaning loud or piercing, and harsh in tone. You might use a strident voice when you're shouting at someone. Depending on your tastes, you might like experimental jazz, but think that punk rock is nothing but strident noise – but the punk rockers may consider your jazz to be equally unpleasant!

Example: "Although the carnival was extremely noisy, we could clearly hear the strident voice of the auctioneer at the animal pens as he sold off the sheep and cattle."

It takes a lot of practice to learn how to be an auctioneer. You've got to be able to speak very quickly and clearly, keep track of bids from anywhere in the audience, and gauge how much an item might sell for. You'll have to put a lot of energy and time into learning this sometimes arduous job. "**Arduous**" means something needing endurance, requiring an expenditure of energy and time. Some synonyms include demanding, strenuous, and exhausting.

Example: "The team spent seven days living off the land, and concluded their endurance testing with an arduous climb up the south face of the mountain."

Some things take a lot of practice to master, but you've probably heard of people who seem to require no practice at all, who are extremely talented, perhaps from a young age. You might describe such a person as a "**prodigy**." A prodigy is someone who excels at

doing something, and is often used in the term “child prodigy” to describe an amazing talent in a very young person.

Example: “Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a true musical prodigy: he began playing keyboard at age three and writing music at age five, and by the time he was fourteen years old, his operas were being performed to great success.”

Mozart lived in the last part of the 18th century, and occasionally worked with other contemporary composers such as Muzio Clementi and Joseph Haydn. “**Contemporary**” means “of the same time period.” If you're speaking of the present day, “contemporary” can be the same as “modern.” The opposite of contemporary can either be “anachronistic” - that is, not of the same time period – or “archaic,” meaning “not modern.”

Example: “I enjoy listening to The Beatles and Elvis Presley, but prefer contemporary groups like The Shins or Smashing Pumpkins.”

F. Words Describing Success

These ultimate vocabulary words will help you reach the pinnacle of success. This section's words will help you describe that success: substantive, eminent, ascendancy, ineffable, magnanimous.

Your words describing success explained

The knowledge of which words are appropriate to use in a given circumstance forms a substantive part of your ability to speak well to a variety of audiences. “**Substantive**” means making up a large part of something, or being present in quantity, having weight.

Example: “The counsel for the defence brought in enough witnesses that she was able to create a substantive argument for dismissing the case.”

A lawyer with a reputation for skillful and impartial advocacy might later be nominated to the judiciary, especially if she has made important contributions to the legal field. Many judges are eminent scholars in legal history and legislation. “**Eminent**” means distinguished, important, or great.

Example: “My grandfather was diagnosed with cancer of the bladder, but we were fortunate that the local university hospital had an eminent physician on staff who specialized in treatment for that type of cancer.”

When you're at the top of your field, you have a competitive edge over your rivals. Sports teams with unbeaten records dominate the game, and have supremacy over the rest of the field. Their ascendancy often gives them first pick of advertisers and media exposure. “**Ascendancy**” means being on top, being in control, or dominating others.

Example: "As the manufacturing centers continue to move to China and India, many economists are commenting on the ascendancy of these countries in the world political arena. They are beginning to overshadow the formerly robust American and European markets."

Sometimes things are so far ahead or above us that we find them impossible to describe. Have you ever been so happy – or so sad – that you couldn't put your feelings into words? "**Ineffable**" is a word that describes this lack of words. It means beyond words, unable to be expressed.

Example: "Her clothes were always well-fitting and attractive, but it was her confident and gracious manners that gave her an ineffable air of elegance and refinement."

Elegance and refinement are characteristics often attributed to royalty or nobility. A person who is truly noble expresses that nobility in how he or she treats other people. Someone who is generous, noble, understanding, and tolerant is said to be "**magnanimous**." This word comes from the Latin roots "magnus", meaning "great", and "animus", meaning "spirit." A magnanimous person has a good heart and a noble spirit.

Example: "The two top contenders in the decathlon were very closely matched, and when the Italian athlete finally won by just one-tenth of a point, he made the magnanimous gesture of inviting the second-place Spanish athlete to stand on the winner's podium with him."

Tests for Reinforcing What You Have Learnt

A. Words For Moving Forward With Your Vocabulary

Sit back, relax, and think about the five words you've just heard being used in context. Now listen to these next five sentences and fill in the correct word in each blank:

Test Sentences

1. We're so used to our standards of beauty being set by models and movie stars that it's hard to remember that physical appearance is not the only _____ by which we should judge people.
2. Before I left for my six-month trek through the Amazon jungle, I visited my doctor and had a _____ physical examination and a full complement of immunizations.
3. If young children are given juices and sugary cereals, as adults they will have a _____ for sugary foods.
4. I don't like riding my bicycle downtown because many car drivers aren't _____ of the marked bicycle lanes, and veer in front of me at traffic lights.
5. She was only given three days to practice the piece before the performance, and so joined the musicians on stage with much _____.

Answers:

1. We're so used to our standards of beauty being set by models and movie stars that it's hard to remember that physical appearance is not the only **criterion** by which we should judge people.

   A "criterion" is a standard or goal used when comparing or judging things. The criterion of movie-star beauty is one that most people won't be able to meet. Intelligence, compassion, and loyalty are three criteria that are more important, we think. And you'll notice that we refer to three "criteria" and <u>one</u> "criterion." Don't mix up the plural and singular forms of this useful noun.

2. Before I left for my six-month trek through the Amazon jungle, I visited my doctor and had a **comprehensive** physical examination and a full complement of immunizations.

   Going into a jungle poses the risk of exposure to a variety of diseases, pests, and dangers, and it's a good idea to have your doctor make sure that you have all of

your shots and are in tip-top shape. A comprehensive medical examination will cover everything. "Comprehensive" means being thorough, including everything.

3. If young children are given juices and sugary cereals, as adults they will have a **predilection** for sugary foods.

   If you're raised on one type of food, that's the food you'll have a tendency to keep eating when you're older. A "predilection" is a tendency towards or liking for something.

4. I don't like riding my bicycle downtown because many car drivers aren't **cognizant** of the marked bicycle lanes, and veer in front of me at traffic lights.

   It's sometimes hard for bicyclists to hold on to the right of way. Drivers just aren't aware of bicyclists as they are of other cars, especially in cities where they're not used to seeing bicycles on the street. "Cognizant" means "aware of."

5. She was only given three days to practice the piece before the performance, and so joined the musicians on stage with much **trepidation**.

   Unless you're a very skilled and very confident performer, if you feel like you haven't had enough time to practice, you'll probably be feeling somewhat scared and nervous when it's time to perform. "Trepidation" means fear, apprehension, or concern.

Once you've learned these ultimate vocabulary words, you'll no longer have any **trepidation** about using them in context:

- cognizant
- predilection
- criterion
- comprehensive
- trepidation

B. Words For Your Vocabulary Arsenal

Are you ready to add to your **arsenal** of powerful vocabulary words? Fill in the blanks in the next five sentences, and practice using these ultimate vocabulary words in context:

Test Sentences

1. The mark of a world-class figure skater is the _____ of his jumps, getting them perfectly in time with the music during his routines.
2. The advance scout didn't know what she might encounter in the woods, so she took a whole _____ of tools and weapons in her pack.
3. I have a full-time job during the week, but because I enjoy spending money on expensive food and entertainment, I need to _____ my income with a part-time job on the weekends.
4. My father was very strict with us when we were growing up, but he had gone to a boarding school where the rules were positively _____.
5. I really liked the restaurant, but it was easier to _____ to his demand that we find another spot than continue listening to his complaints about the food and the service.

Answers:

1. The mark of a world-class figure skater is the **precision** of his jumps, getting them perfectly in time with the music during his routines.

   It's fun to watch a figure skater do jumps and spins, but it's even more amazing when they time the jumps to the music playing for their Olympic routine. It takes a great deal of precision to make sure they're moving exactly on the beat. "Precision" means exactness.

2. The advance scout didn't know what she might encounter in the woods, so she took a whole **arsenal** of tools and weapons in her pack.

   If you want to be prepared for anything, you'll have a good supply of equipment available to you. An "arsenal" is a supply of weapons or tools. These tools could be military gear of guns or bombs; they could be practical engineering gear like hammers and wrenches; or they could be intangibles such as words. The children's rhyme "sticks and stones can break my bones but names can never hurt me" is not entirely true – you've probably been hurt by things people have said in the past. Well-chosen words can form an arsenal for offense or defense.

3. I have a full-time job during the week, but because I enjoy spending money on expensive food and entertainment, I need to **augment** my income with a part-time job on the weekends.

   Even if you have a good salary coming in, you might want to earn a little more sometimes, to have on hand for emergencies or entertainment. You'll need to increase the size of your bank account somehow. "Augment" means to increase in size, make larger, or supplement.

4. My father was very strict with us when we were growing up, but he had gone to a boarding school where the rules were positively **draconian**.

   Whether true or not, boarding schools have a reputation as places where very strict rules are enforced, and punishments are harsh for anyone breaking those rules. When rules are very severe and limiting, and punishments extreme, the rules are described as "draconian." Synonyms of draconian are "oppressive" and "harsh."

5. I really liked the restaurant, but it was easier to **acquiesce** to his demand that we find another spot than continue listening to his complaints about the food and the service.

   He wouldn't stop complaining, and although I disagreed, I decided I'd rather eat in another restaurant than listen to him any longer, so I went along with his demand to go to another venue. To "acquiesce" means to go along with something, but against your wishes.

Using words with **precision** will provide you with powerful tools to add to your **arsenal** of ultimate vocabulary words. We hope you've enjoyed learning these five new words:

- acquiesce
- precision
- arsenal
- draconian
- augment

C. Words About Teaching and Education

Knowing how and when to use these ultimate vocabulary words is like money in the bank – you'll profit from the proper use of powerful words in context. Practice now by listening to the next five sentences, and fill in the correct word in each:

Test Sentences:

1. The new waitress was very efficient and remembered even the most complicated orders, but the maitre d' had to _____ her about being overly talkative with the guests.

2. Many children who live in foster families need additional support and attention, and organizations like Big Brother/Big Sister provide them with a _____ who can spend time with them after school.
3. Eric had many misconceptions about vegetarianism, and I took some time to _____ him on the facts about eating a healthy, meat-free diet.
4. My brother would like to find friends at school who would share his interests, but the other students all seemed to spend their time discussing _____ topics, and he likes to go dancing now and then.
5. The library at the university is a valuable resource for anyone wanting to do research on British composers; it seems as if every professor who ever taught there wrote a _____ on their favorite musical genre.

Answers:

1. The new waitress was very efficient and remembered even the most complicated orders, but the maitre d' had to **admonish** her about being overly talkative with the guests.

   While most people enjoy a friendly conversation with their waiter, they're at a restaurant to eat and talk with their companions. A too-chatty waiter can interrupt the dinner conversation, and restaurant staff are usually reprimanded if they spend too much time trying to talk to the customers. "Admonish" means to reprimand, to point out faults, in a gentle but serious manner.

2. Many children who live in foster families need additional support and attention, and organizations like Big Brother/Big Sister provide them with a **mentor** who can spend time with them after school.

   Children need someone to look up to – someone who can share their experience and wisdom, and help them learn how to make choices and decisions as they grow. A "mentor" is a teacher or advisor.

3. Eric had many misconceptions about vegetarianism, and I took some time to **edify** him on the facts about eating a healthy, meat-free diet.

   "Edify" means to instruct someone to improve their intellectual and/or emotional understanding of an issue.

4. My brother would like to find friends at school who would share his interests, but the other students all seemed to spend their time discussing **cerebral** topics, and he likes to go dancing now and then.

   Even the most dedicated student can benefit from a little time away from the academic world. Sometimes it's nice to go on a hike with friends, swim in a lake, or

ride a bicycle. These physical pursuits can balance out the intellectual part of life – and keep a person healthy and energetic besides. "Cerebral" means intellectual, focused on the brain.

5. The library at the university is a valuable resource for anyone wanting to do research on British composers; it seems as if every professor who ever taught there wrote a **monograph** on their favorite musical genre.

   A "monograph" is a long essay, very intellectual in nature, usually well-researched and documented, about a single topic.

Learning how to use these ultimate vocabulary words in context will ensure that no-one will need to **admonish** you for speaking incorrectly. Take every opportunity to practice using these five new words:

- mentor
- monograph
- admonish
- cerebral
- edify

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D. Words For Describing Things Relating To Groups

Practice is just as important for vocabulary-building as it is for body-building. Make these lessons a regular part of your day, not just a **sporadic** exercise, and you'll soon be a success! Start now by listening to the next five sentences, and filling in the correct ultimate vocabulary word in its proper context:

Test Sentences:

1. In some religious faiths, when a person goes against the rules and breaks with the church, the leaders will _____ them and they will be cast out of the religious community.
2. When I started work at the television station, my first job was as a sports announcer; however, I didn't know anything about sport, and had to teach myself all of the _____.
3. Immigration into the United States has changed the _____ makeup of some of the states in the southwest, where the populations are now more than fifty percent Hispanic.
4. When I was living in Japan, I found it very hard to get over a feeling of being conspicuous in any crowd, especially in the rural mountain villages, where my blond hair was _____ among all of the dark-haired locals.

5. Older volcanoes such as Mount Vesuvius in Italy are dangerous because they are unpredictable, and their _____ eruptions are destructive to lives and property.

Answers:

1. In some religious faiths, when a person goes against the rules and breaks with the church, the leaders will **ostracize** them and they will be cast out of the religious community.

   While most churches these days will only ostracize a member if they have committed a serious offence, even the threat of being shunned by their fellow worshipers is often enough to keep people from breaking the rules. "Ostracize" means to shun, or exclude from a group.

2. When I started work at the television station, my first job was as a sports announcer; however, I didn't know anything about sport, and had to teach myself all of the **terminology**.

   If you're not a sports fan, some of the discussion can seem completely incomprehensible. For example, if you're not a cricket lover, the terms "googly" and "LBW" won't mean anything. They're part of the jargon used by cricket players and announcers. "Terminology" means jargon, a set of words or terms with a specific meaning in a particular area or field.

3. Immigration into the United States has changed the **demographic** makeup of some of the states in the southwest, where the populations are now more than fifty percent Hispanic.

   There are many ways of looking at a group of people, and one of them is by their ethnic background. "Demographic" refers to a group of people who share a certain common quality, whether it's the level of their education, their views on global climate change, or the color of their hair.

4. When I was living in Japan, I found it very hard to get over a feeling of being conspicuous in any crowd, especially in the rural mountain villages, where my blond hair was **incongruous** among all of the dark-haired locals.

   One black sheep in the middle of a flock of white sheep is incongruous. The black sheep's wool is not the same as the wool of the rest of the flock. "Incongruous" means not similar, not matching, or not fitting in.

5. Older volcanoes such as Mount Vesuvius in Italy are dangerous because they are unpredictable, and their **sporadic** eruptions are destructive to lives and property.

"Sporadic" means unpredictable and random, not occurring frequently, which is a good thing, when you're talking about volcanoes.

As you increase your knowledge of these ultimate vocabulary words, you'll find you have the **terminology** to use in any situation. Practice using these five words in context:

- sporadic
- ostracize
- terminology
- incongruous
- demographic

E. Words For Talking About Music

The more you practice using these powerful vocabulary words in context, the better you'll be at knowing when to use the right word in your daily conversations. Soon you'll be a grammatical **prodigy**! Start now with these five sentences, and fill in the blanks:

Test Sentences:

1. My sister worked at radio stations doing recordings for advertisements, and was in great demand due to her pleasant and _____ speaking voice.
2. Many cities have local ordinances that prohibit keeping roosters, because their _____ crowing would disturb the neighbors in the early mornings.
3. Cutting, stacking, and storing enough wood to last the winter is an _____ task, but it's the only way I'm able to live all year round at my mountain cabin.
4. Ellen knew that her niece would be a mathematics _____ because she learned how to add and subtract when she was only two years old.
5. The museum has moved all of their older paintings into temporary storage and is featuring an exhibit of _____ art, including works by Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin.

Answers:

1. My sister worked at radio stations doing recordings for advertisements, and was in great demand due to her pleasant and **mellifluous** speaking voice.

   Her voice was smooth and flowing, as sweet as honey, and pleasant to listen to. "Mellifluous" means sweet, smooth, and flowing, and is most often used to refer to the sound of a voice or of music.

2. Many cities have local ordinances that prohibit keeping roosters, because their **strident** crowing would disturb the neighbors in the early mornings.

   The loud, piercing crows of a rooster have long been the traditional alarm clock for people around the world – but it's not so popular in the middle of the town, these days. "Strident" is an adjective that refers to noise of any sort that is harsh in tone, loud, and unpleasant.

3. Cutting, stacking, and storing enough wood to last the winter is an **arduous** task, but it's the only way I'm able to live all year round at my mountain cabin.

   It takes a long time to lay in a winter's worth of wood, and the work is difficult and uses a lot of energy. When a job is demanding and strenuous, it can be called "arduous." Other words that mean the same thing are "fatiguing" and "exhausting."

4. Ellen knew that her niece would be a mathematics **prodigy** because she learned how to add and subtract when she was only two years old.

   A "prodigy" is a person who is very, very good at something. You'll often hear this word used to describe a young child who is unusually talented or gifted

5. The museum has moved all of their older paintings into temporary storage and is featuring an exhibit of **contemporary** art, including works by Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin.

   In this example, the word "contemporary" means "of this time period, in recent days, modern." The word means "of the same time period" but which time period that is depends on who is speaking and what they're referring to.

When you started learning these powerful vocabulary words, you might have thought you were beginning an **arduous** learning process, but the more you practice, the easier it will get. Try to find ways to use these five new words in your next conversation:

- prodigy
- contemporary
- arduous
- strident
- mellifluous

F. Words For Describing Success

Once you've won the battle to learn how to use all of these new vocabulary words in context, you'll find it easier to make them a substantive part of your daily conversations. Try using them now by putting the correct word in each of the following sentences:

Test Sentences:

1. When I asked my son who he'd like to invite to his birthday party, he showed a _____ spirit unusual for such a young child, and asked to invite all of his classmates, even the ones who bullied him after school.
2. Her cooking always had an _____ flavor of the Indian subcontinent, but I didn't understand why until she told me that she always added just a pinch of saffron to each of her dishes.
3. During the Industrial Revolution, Britain came to _____ in the global production of textiles, and added to their control of the market by taking over the import trade of cotton and silk from India and China.
4. He may be an _____ lecturer in philosophy, but I have no respect for his views on evolution, as he has repeatedly stated that he believes life on Earth was started by alien visitors.
5. When most people were spending long days working on the land to grow their own food, it was important that fats and carbohydrates made up a _____ portion of their diets, but these days, people don't expend enough energy to use the calories they consume, and just get fatter.

Answers:

1. When I asked my son who he'd like to invite to his birthday party, he showed a **magnanimous** spirit, unusual for such a young child, and asked to invite all of his classmates, even the ones who bullied him after school.
   It's often hard for children to forgive other children who are mean to them, but he showed his generosity and tolerant nature by including all of the children in his class, no matter how they treated him. "Magnanimous" means generous in spirit, large-hearted.
2. Her cooking always had an **ineffable** flavor of the Indian subcontinent, but I didn't understand why until she told me that she always added just a pinch of saffron to each of her dishes.
   Saffron is a very subtle seasoning when used in small amounts, and it would be hard to pick it out as an individual spice in a dish, and though it would contribute to the overall flavor you might not be able to say just what that flavor was. Something

that is present but impossible to describe in words is "ineffable."

3. During the Industrial Revolution, Britain came to **ascendancy** in the global production of textiles, and added to their control of the market by taking over the import trade of cotton and silk from India and China.
   "Ascendancy" means superiority or control, dominance or supremacy in a field or area.

4. He may be an **eminent** lecturer in philosophy, but I have no respect for his views on evolution, as he has repeatedly stated that he believes life on Earth was started by alien visitors.\
   Expertise in one field does not guarantee that you'll be as knowledgeable in another. "Eminent" means being important or noteworthy, often for particular expertise. Another word meaning eminent is "distinguished."

5. When most people were spending long days working on the land to grow their own food, it was important that fats and carbohydrates made up a **substantive** portion of their diets, but these days, people don't expend enough energy to use the calories they consume, and just get fatter.

   These days, people in the new on-line societies spend most of their time sitting at computers or at a desk. "Substantive" means a large portion of, or forming the essential part of something.

With such powerful vocabulary words under your control, you'll soon be known as a talented speaker and **eminent** orator. Practice these words as often as possible:

- magnanimous
- ineffable
- ascendancy
- eminent
- substantive