

Level G – Vocabulary Unit 4

atrophy	(n. & v.) wasting away (especially of a body part).	Dan has withered away from spinal muscle atrophy .
bastion	(n.) a place that provides safety and protection	College might be one of the last bastion of free thinking.
concord	(n.) agreement; harmony	Siblings need to learn how to live together in concord .
consummate	(adj.) complete or perfect in every detail; (v.) to complete	Dan is a consummate chess player who has gone undefeated for years.
disarray	(n.) disorder; confusion	John's dorm room was in such disarray that we thought that someone broke in and vandalized the place.
exigency	(adj.) an urgent, pressing situation; emergency	The mayor is responding to the exigency of the new problem of layoffs.
flotsam	(n.) 1. floating garbage , especially from a shipwreck; 2. useless or unimportant items	The passengers grabbed hold of flotsam in an attempt to survive the boat crash.
frenetic	(adj.) wildly excited or active	This teacher makes his students work at a frenetic pace. We constantly have to do something.
glean	(v.) to learn or discover little by little	I've read this document twice so far and I have only been able to glean from it that I need to buy more material.
grouse	(v.) complain	The students always grouse when they are asked to write a paper.
incarcerate	(v.) imprison ; put into jail	The governor was finally incarcerated for misusing his office for personal gains.
incumbent	1. (adj.) required; 2. (n.) official who holds an office	Because we are all exposed to this chemical, it makes it incumbent upon us to study it
jocular	(adj.) humorous, joking	This teacher is often in a jocular mood and jokes with his students.
ludicrous	(adj.) ridiculous; idiotic; absurd	We are not going to do this teacher's ludicrous assignment of writing a fifteen-page paper.
mordant	(adj.) sarcastic; biting; bitterly harsh	Dorothy Parker was known for her mordant sayings that made everyone laugh except for the person who was the target of the comments.
nettle	(n.) stinging plant; (v.) irritate; annoy Idiom: <i>grasp the nettle</i>	I have to wear gloves when pulling nettles from my yard.
pecuniary	(adj.) relating to money	For pecuniary reasons I was forced to rent for several more years.
pusillanimous	(adj.) cowardly	I was too pusillanimous to speak up for myself.
recumbent	(adj.) lying down; reclining	After a difficult day, Mark was recumbent on his Lazy Boy chair.
stratagem	(n.) trick or plan for deceiving	When Atticus asked Bob Ewell to sign his name, it was nothing but a stratagem to get Bob Ewell to prove to the court that he is left handed.