

Level G – Vocabulary Unit 5

acuity	(n.) sharpness , clearness (esp. of mind or vision)	Although this animal’s visual acuity is about ten times worse than our own, their sense of smell is about forty times stronger.
delineate	(v.) to describe or outline	The goal of his lecture today was to delineate the conventions of an epic.
depraved	(adj.) wicked; morally corrupt	Many are protesting the new video game in which you are able to play a depraved character who steals and murders.
enervate	(v.) weaken	Dedicating money to charter schools and vouchers for private schools will enervate the public schools even more.
esoteric	(adj.) understood only by a chosen few	Dan’s esoteric joke was understood only by his few friends.
fecund	(adj.) extremely productive ; fertile	Stephen King has fecund imagination that allows him to write new stories all the time.
fiat	(n.) command; order	The boss issued a fiat that everyone has to work Saturdays.
figment	(adj.) something made up; fictitious	It was merely a figment of our imaginations that the teacher told us that we would all earn As.
garner	(v.) to get; gather; collect	The President is speaking on television tonight in an attempt to garner support for the new health care bill.
hallow	(v.) to make holy; to bless	The President hallowed ground zero after the attacks on 9/11.
idiosyncrasy	(n.) unique behavior or characteristic	One of the teacher’s many idiosyncrasies is he plays with his beard while he talks.
ignominy	(n.) great shame , disgrace, humiliation	The impeached governor left politics in ignominy .
mundane	(adj.) ordinary, commonplace, banal	His conversations range from mundane topics—movies and bike riding—to topics of literature and religion.
nuance	(n.) barely noticeable difference; hard-to-grasp detail	Poetry seems easy to read, but one can spend a lot of time trying to understand every nuance of every word.
overweening	(adj.) overconfident; arrogant	The downfall of the governor was his overweening arrogance that made him think he could get away with anything.
penchant	(n.) taste; strong liking	Dan has a strong penchant for arguing with people; he looks for opportunities everywhere.
reputed	(adj., part.) widely believed; reported	The police arrested the reputed gang leader yesterday.
sophistry	(n.) reasoning that seems believable but is actually misleading	The argument that the current president is responsible for the current economic problems is nothing but sophistry . The crash happened at the end of the last president’s term.
sumptuous	(adj.) expensive; magnificent	Julie showed up to prom in a sumptuous dress purchased directly from a designer in France.
ubiquitous	(adj.) existing everywhere	Smart phones are ubiquitous these days. You can’t go anywhere without seeing someone tapping the screen of their phones.