

Level G – Vocabulary Unit 8

allege	(v.) claim without proof	According to the police, the woman alleges that her husband was responsible for the fire.
arrant	(adj.) complete, utter, downright (used for emphasizing how bad someone or something is)	Siddhartha found ordinary life to be made up of arrant nonsense.
badinage	(n.) playful conversation ; discussion with a lot of jokes and clever comments	The play was nothing more than a group of witty people engaging in badinage for two hours.
conciliate	(v.) make calm; win over	The President tried to conciliate his opponents rather than fight or defy them.
countermand	(v.) command to cancel a previous command	The first order of action from John when he took control of the committee was to countermand all the previous orders of the ousted leader.
echelon	(n.) level or rank	Some in the upper echelon of society haven't even noticed that the economy has been hurting.
exacerbate	(v.) to make worse	The rising oil prices will no doubt exacerbate the economic problems in this country.
fatuous	(adj.) very stupid ; unreal	Dan is infamous for making fatuous comments and proving he doesn't give much thought to what he says before he says it.
irrefutable	(adj.) impossible to deny or prove wrong	It is an irrefutable fact that electronic devices are necessary in schools.
juggernaut	(n.) large, unstoppable force or power that crushes whatever is in its way	Apple and Microsoft are the two juggernauts in the computer business.
lackadaisical	(adj.) showing no interest or enthusiasm	The student's lackadaisical approach to his homework is causing his grade to drop.
litany	(n.) long list of things that someone talks about	Anytime the teacher talks to me about my writing she offers me a litany of problems that I have to correct.
macabre	(adj.) gruesome or frightening, usually involving death	Edgar Allan Poe is a master of writing macabre stories of murder and madness.
paucity	(n.) lack ; few in number	Recently, there has been a paucity of foreign languages offered at the high school level.
portend	(v.) predict or foreshadow; give warning of	The dark clouds and distant thunder portended a severe storm coming our way.
raze	(v.) demolish ; destroy to the ground	Rather than buying a new house, my dad decided to have our house razed and have a new one built in its place.
recant	(v.) take back a statement made earlier	One of the victims recanted her testimony and said that the boys did not do anything to her.
saturate	(v.) soak, fill, or load to capacity	The housing market is struggling because it is saturated with foreclosures and short sales.
saturnine	(adj.) gloomy, bitter, and overly serious	Although Jim was typically cheerful, after he lost his wife, he has become saturnine and unpleasant to be around.
slough	(v.) to shed , get rid of (skin);	1. Mark is always able to slough off any bad press