

Level G – Vocabulary Unit 8

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| 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 |