WEEK 1: (20 words)
abase (v.) to humiliate, degrade
abate (v.) to reduce, lessen
abdicate (v.) to give up a position, usually one of leadership
aberration (n.) something that differs from the norm
abet (v.) to aid, help, encourage
abeyance (n.) state of not happening or not being used at present
abhor (v.) to hate, detest
abridge 1. (v.) to cut down, shorten 2. (adj.) shortened
abscond (v.) to sneak away and hide
abstain (v.) to freely choose not to commit an action
abstemious (adj.) not doing things which give you pleasure
abstruse (adj.) hard to comprehend
accost (v.) to confront verbally
acerbic (adj.) biting, bitter in tone or taste
adroit (adj.) skillful, dexterous
adulation (n.) great admiration or praise for someone, usually when it is more than what is deserved
adverse (adj.) antagonistic, unfavorable, dangerous
aesthetic (adj.) artistic, related to the appreciation of beauty
affable (adj.) pleasant, easy to talk to, friendly
affinity (n.) spontaneous feeling of closeness
**WEEK 2: (20 words)**

altruistic (adj.) desire to help other people, even if it results in disadvantage for yourself

ameliorate (v.) to improve

amicable (adj.) friendly

ambivalent (adj.) having opposing feelings

anachronistic (adj.) being out of correct chronological order

analogous (adj.) similar to, so that an analogy can be drawn

antiquated (adj.) old, out of date

arbitrary (adj.) based on factors that appear random

arcane (adj.) obscure, secret, known only by a few

arid (adj.) excessively dry

assiduous (adj.) hard-working, diligent

asylum 1. (n.) a place of refuge, protection, a sanctuary 2. (n.) an institution in which the insane are kept

banal (adj.) dull, commonplace

benevolent (adj.) marked by goodness or doing good

benign (adj.) favorable, not threatening, mild

bequeath (v.) to pass on, give

beseech (v.) to beg, plead, implore

bias (n.) a tendency, inclination, prejudice

boisterous (adj.) loud and full of energy

bombastic (adj.) excessively confident, pompous
WEEK 3: (10 words and review)
brazen (adj.) excessively bold, brash
brevity (n.) speaking in a few words or lasting only a short time
brusque (adj.) short, abrupt, dismissive
bucolic (adj.) of or pertaining to an idyllic, rural life
buttress 1. (v.) to support, hold up 2. (n.) something that offers support
cajole (v.) to urge, coax
calibrate (v.) to set, standardize
callous (adj.) harsh, cold, unfeeling
camaraderie (n.) brotherhood, jovial unity
candor (n.) honesty, frankness
**WEEK 4: (20 words)**

canny (adj.) shrewd, careful

capacious (adj.) very spacious

capitulate (v.) to surrender

capricious (adj.) subject to whim, fickle

catalyze (v.) to charge, inspire

cavort (v.) to leap about, behave boisterously

caucistic (adj.) bitter, biting, acidic

censure 1. (n.) harsh criticism 2. (v.) to rebuke formally

clide (v.) to voice disapproval

circuitous (adj.) roundabout

clairvoyant (adj.) able to perceive things that normal people cannot

clemency (n.) mercy

cognizant (adj.) aware, mindful

conciliatory (adj.) friendly, agreeable

conflagration (n.) a great, destructive fire; a large and violent event

conformist (n.) one who behaves the same as others

copious (adj.) profuse, abundant

contentious (adj.) having a tendency to quarrel or dispute

credulity (n.) readiness to believe

cupidity (n.) greed or a strong desire
WEEK 5: (20 words)
culpable (adj.) deserving blame
cursory (adj.) brief to the point of being superficial
curtail (v.) to lessen, reduce
dearth (n.) a lack, scarcity
decorous (adj.) socially proper, appropriate
defamatory (adj.) harmful toward another’s reputation
deferious (adj.) harmful
demagogue (n.) a leader who appeals to a people’s prejudices
demure (adj.) quiet, modest, reserved
despondent (adj.) feeling depressed, discouraged, hopeless
diaphanous (adj.) light, airy, transparent
didactic 1. (adj.) intended to instruct 2. (adj.) overly moralistic
digress (v.) to deviate away from the main topic
disavow (v.) to deny knowledge of or responsibility for
discursive (adj.) rambling, lacking order
disdain 1. (v.) to scorn, hold in low esteem 2. (n.) scorn, low esteem
disparage (v.) to criticize or speak ill of
disseminate (v.) to spread widely
dissonance (n.) lack of harmony or consistency
diverge (v.) to follow a different direction
WEEK 6: (10 words and review)
docile (adj.) easily taught or trained
dogmatic (adj.) aggressively and arrogantly certain about unproved principles
dullard (n.) an insensitive person
duplicity (n.) crafty dishonesty
duress (n.) hardship, threat
ebullient (adj.) extremely lively, enthusiastic
edict (n.) an order, decree
efficacious (adj.) effective
effrontery (n.) impudence, nerve, insolence
elicit (v.) to bring forth, draw out, evoke
WEEK 7: (20 words)
emaciated (adj.) very thin, enfeebled looking
empathy (n.) sensitivity to another’s feelings as if they were one’s own
emulate (v.) to imitate
enervate (v.) to weaken, exhaust
enigmatic (adj.) mystifying, cryptic
enmity (n.) ill will, hatred, hostility
ensconce (v.) to settle securely or snugly, to cover, hide securely
ephemeral (adj.) short-lived, fleeting
epistolary (adj.) relating to or contained in letters
equivocal (adj.) ambiguous, uncertain, undecided
eradicate (v.) to get rid of completely, destroy something bad
erudite (adj.) learned
esoteric (adj.) understood by only a select few
evanescent (adj.) fleeting, momentary
evolve (v.) to develop gradually
exemplary (adj.) good enough to be copied by other people
exorbitant (adj.) excessive
expunge (v.) to obliterate, eradicate
extenuate (v.) to underestimate, to make a fault seem less serious
extricate (v.) to disentangle
WEEK 8: (20 words)

facetious (adj.) not meant to be taken seriously or literally
fallacious (adj.) incorrect, misleading
fastidious (adj.) meticulous, demanding, having high and often unattainable standards
felicitous 1. (adj.) well suited, apt 2. (adj.) delightful, pleasing
flaccid (adj.) limp, not firm or strong
florid (adj.) flowery, ornate
flout (v.) to disregard or disobey openly
forbearance (n.) patience, restraint, toleration
fortitude (n.) strength, guts
fortuitous (adj.) happening by chance, often lucky or fortunate
foster (v.) to stimulate, promote, encourage
fraught (adj.) (usually used with “with”) filled or accompanied with
frugal (adj.) thrifty, economical
furtive (adj.) secretive, sly
garish (adj.) gaudy, in bad taste
garrulous (adj.) talkative, wordy
genial (adj.) friendly, affable
grandiloquence (n.) lofty, pompous language
gratuitous (adj.) uncalled for, unwarranted
gregarious (adj.) drawn to the company of others, sociable
WEEK 9: (10 words and review)
guile (n.) deceitful, cunning, sly behavior

hackneyed (adj.) unoriginal, trite

harangue 1. (n.) a ranting speech 2. (v.) to give such a speech

haughty (adj.) disdainfully proud

hedonist (n.) one who believes pleasure should be the primary pursuit of humans

hypothesis (n.) an idea or explanation for something that is based on facts, but has not been proven

iconoclast (n.) one who attacks common beliefs or institutions

idiosyncratic (adj.) peculiar to one person; highly individualized

illicit (adj.) forbidden, not permitted

impetuous (adj.) rash; hastily done
WEEK 10: (20 words)

impute (v.) to ascribe, blame

inane (adj.) silly and meaningless

inebriated(adj.) the state of having too much, usually alcohol

ineffable (adj.) unspeakable, incapable of being expressed through words

inexorable (adj.) incapable of being persuaded or placated

innocuous (adj.) harmless, inoffensive

insolent (adj.) rude, arrogant, overbearing

intrepid (adj.) brave in the face of danger

irascible (adj.) easily angered

jubilant (adj.) extremely joyful, happy

juxtaposition (n.) the act of placing two things next to each other for implicit comparison

lackadaisical (adj.) showing little enthusiasm and effort

laconic (adj.) terse in speech or writing

lament (v.) to express sadness and feeling sorry about something

languid (adj.) sluggish from fatigue or weakness

larceny (n.) obtaining another’s property by theft or trickery

laudatory (adj.) expressing admiration or praise

levity (n.) humor or lack of seriousness, especially during a serious occasion

lobbyist (n.) someone who tries to persuade a politician or official group to do something

lugubrious (adj.) mournful, dismal, or gloomy
WEEK 11: NOVEMBER 4 (20 words)
luminous (adj.) brightly shining
lurid (adj.) ghastly, sensational
magnanimous (adj.) noble, generous
marred (v.) to spoil something, making it less perfect or less enjoyable
mawkish (adj.) characterized by sick sentimentality
mitigate (v.) to make less violent, alleviate
mundane (adj.) concerned with the world rather than with heaven, commonplace
multifarious (adj.) having great diversity or variety
munificence (n.) generosity in giving
myriad (adj.) consisting of a very great number
nefarious (adj.) heinously villainous
neophyte (n.) someone who is young or inexperienced
nonchalant (adj.) having a lack of concern, indifference
novice (n.) a beginner, someone without training or experience
nuance (n.) a slight variation in meaning, tone, expression
obfuscate (v.) to render incomprehensible
obstinate (adj.) not yielding easily, stubborn
opulent (adj.) characterized by rich abundance verging on ostentation
oration (n.) a speech delivered in a formal or ceremonious manner
oscillate (v.) to sway from one side to the other

**WEEK 12: (10 words and review)**
ostentatious (adj.) excessively showy, glitzy

ostracism (n.) exclusion from a group

pallid (adj.) lacking color

panacea (n.) a remedy for all ills or difficulties

paradigm (n.) an example that is a perfect pattern or model

parched (adj.) dried out because of too much heat, lacking hydration

paucity (adj.) small in quantity

perfidious (adj.) disloyal, unfaithful

perturbed (adj.) worried

penultimate (adj.) next to last
WEEK 13: (20 words)
phlegmatic (adj.) uninterested, unresponsive
piety (n.) strong belief in a religion that is shown in the way someone lives
placate (v.) to ease the anger of, soothe
polemic (n.) an aggressive argument against a specific opinion portent
potent (adj.) very powerful, forceful
pragmatic (adj.) practical
precocious (adj.) advanced, developing ahead of time
primeval (adj.) original, ancient
proclivity (n.) a strong inclination toward something
propensity (n.) an inclination, preference
prosaic (adj.) plain, lacking liveliness
prosperity (n.) the state of being successful and having a lot of money
provocative (adj.) causing though about interesting subjects
prudence (n.) cautious, circumspect
punitive (adj.) involving punishment
querulous (adj.) whiny, complaining
quixotic (adj.) idealistic, impractical
quotidian (adj.) daily
rancor (n.) deep, bitter resentment
raucous (adj.) loud, boisterous
WEEK 14: (20 words)
raze (v.) to demolish, level
reclusive (adj.) solitary, shunning society
reconcile 1. (v.) to return to harmony 2. (v.) to make consistent with existing ideas
rectitude (n.) uprightness, extreme morality
relegate 1. (v.) to assign to the proper place 2. (v.) to assign to an inferior place
reprehensible (adj.) deserving rebuke
reproach (v.) to scold, disapprove
rescind (v.) to take back, repeal
respite (n.) a break, rest
revere (v.) to esteem, show deference, venerate
rife (adj.) abundant
ruminate (v.) to contemplate, reflect
sacrosanct (adj.) holy, something that should not be criticized
sagacity (n.) shrewdness, soundness of perspective
sanguine (adj.) optimistic, cheery
sardonic (adj.) characterized by bitter or scornful derision, mocking
scurrilous (adj.) vulgar, coarse
semblance (n.) outward aspect or appearance
solipsistic (adj.) believing that oneself is all that exists
sophomoric (adj.) immature, uninformed
WEEK 15: (10 words and review)
soluble (adj.) able to dissolve
spurious (adj.) false but designed to seem plausible
stoic (adj.) unaffected by passion or feeling
stupify (v.) to astonish, make insensible
submissive (adj.) easily yielding to authority
superfluous (adj.) exceeding what is necessary
surfeit (n.) an overabundant supply or indulgence
surreptitious (adj.) stealthy
susceptible (adj.) easily influenced by something
sycophant (n.) one who flatters for self-gain
WEEK 16: (20 words)
taciturn (adj.) not inclined to talk
tactful (adj.) careful not to say or do anything that could upset someone
temerity (n.) audacity, recklessness
tenuous (adj.) having little substance or strength
timid (adj.) timid, fearful
transgress (v.) to violate, go over a limit
transient (adj.) passing through briefly; passing into and out of existence
tremulous (adj.) fearful
trenchant (adj.) effective, articulate, clear-cut
trite (adj.) not original, overused
truncate (v.) to shorten by cutting off
turpitude (n.) depravity, moral corruption
ubiquitous (adj.) existing everywhere, widespread
unequivocal (adj.) total, or expressed in a clear and certain way
upbraid (v.) to criticize or scold severely
usurp (v.) to seize by force, take possession of without right
utilitarian (adj.) relating to or aiming at usefulness
vacillate (v.) to fluctuate, hesitate
vehemently (adv.) marked by intense force or emotion
venerable (adj.) deserving of respect because of age or achievement
WEEK 17: (20 words and review)

veracity (n.) truthfulness, accuracy

verbose (adj.) wordy, impaired by wordiness

vex (v.) to confuse or annoy

vicarious (adj.) experiencing through another

vindicate (v.) to avenge; to free from allegation; to set free

virulent (adj.) actively poisonous, violently or spitefully hostile

vivacious (adj.) lively, sprightly

vocation (n.) the work in which someone is employed, profession

vociferous (adj.) loud, boisterous

volatile (adj.) likely to change suddenly and unexpectedly or suddenly become violent or angry

voluble (adj.) speaking a lot with confidence and enthusiasm

vicissitude (n.) event that occurs by chance

wanton (adj.) undisciplined, lewd, lustful

wary (adj.) watchful, being on one’s guard against danger

whimsical (adj.) fanciful, full of whims

winsome (adj.) charming, pleasing

yoke (v.) to join, link

zealous (adj.) fervent, filled with eagerness in pursuit of something

zenith (n.) the highest point, culminating point

zeephyr (n.) a gentle breeze
List of Prefixes

- ante: before
- anti: against
- auto: self
- bene: good, well
- chron: time
- circum: around
- con, com: with, together
- contra, counter: against
- cred: to believe
- dict: to speak
- dis: not
- equi: equal
- ex, e: out, away
- flu, flux: flow
- hyper: above, over
- in, im: not
- inter: between
- mal: bad
- multi: many
- neo: new
- omni: all
- per: through
- sanct: holy
- scrib, script: to write
- spect: to look
- tract: to drag, to draw
- trans: across
- vert: to turn