

Cambridge 7

Test 1, R 1: Let's go bats

Nocturnal:

An animal that is nocturnal is active at night_ happening at night.

- Alcohol may also contribute to nocturnal hypoxemia by causing narrowing of the upper airways.
- During their nocturnal forays, they can travel as far as 30 miles in their search for supper.

Scrape:

To remove something from a surface using the edge of a knife, a stick.

- I'll have to scrape the ice off the windscreen before we set off.
- We scraped our shoes on the doorstep to get the mud off them.

Manoeuvre:

A skilful or carefully planned action intended to gain an advantage of yourself.

- Each maneuver in their rearguard action has taken them further away from intuitive notions about that exciting enterprise referred to as science.
- She saw that Defies and Johannes were attempting the same maneuver.

Lantern:

A lamp that you can carry, consisting of a metal container with glass sides that surrounds a flame or light.

- And thus attired, each of us having a lantern in our hands, we went into the salt mine.
- This is because there are so many domes and the lantern of each is pierced with windows.

Searchlight:

A very bright electric light that turns in any direction, used for finding people, guarding places.

- At the perimeter of the base they were testing their searchlights for the oncoming night.
- Behind the huge mirrors and searchlights were buildings full of food and supplies.

Pinprick:

A very small area or DOT of something.

- A thousand pinpricks of scalding steam grew to knife-points and the knives twisted.
- More pinpricks of light were moving down there.

Bounce:

If light or sound bounces, it hits a surface and then moves quickly away from it.

- She tried to mail him several times but the message always bounced.
- Two boys stood on the corner bouncing basketballs.

Weird:

Very strange and unusual, and difficult to understand or explain.

- It's a weird feeling to go back to a place that you lived in a long time ago.

- The museum has a collection of the weirdest sculptures I've ever

seen.

Uncanny:

Very strange and difficult to explain.

- And he has this uncanny ability to synthesize concepts from a few isolated observations.
- He had an uncanny way of making me feel simple.

Dumb:

Stupid, unable to speak because of angry or surprise.

- He stared in dumb misery at the wreckage of the car.
- If we look dumb enough, someone's bound to come and help us out.

R 2: Making every drop count

Entwine:

To twist two things together or to wind one thing around another.

- A skilled historian is able to entwine his inventory material with evidence gathered from a variety of other sources.
- For helices to entwine together they must be of the same handedness, like the strands of a rope.

Dam:

A special wall built across a river or stream to stop the water from flowing, especially in order to make a lake or produce electricity.

- A high dam would end their migration, irrevocably.
- He was absolutely convinced that building a dam in Yosemite Valley was the proper thing to do.

Aqueduct:

A structure like a bridge that carries water across a river or valley.

- A miniature aqueduct led water from the spring into a well at the garth's Centre.
- After another island with half blocked off by Hampstead Wharf there are two aqueducts.

Spin:

To turn around and around very quickly.

- Spin the wheel of the bicycle to make sure that it is fastened correctly.
- I sat back and watched the ceiling fan spin above me.

Sanitation:

To protection of public health by removing and treating waste, dirty water.

- Everywhere there is a total lack of understanding about hygiene, antisepsis, and the importance of sanitation.
- He was assassinated the day after addressing a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis.

Quadruple:

To increase and become four times as big or as high, or to make something increase in this way → double , triple.

- After three weeks, the youngster has tripled or even quadrupled its weight.
- Between 1949 and 1950, he quadrupled the number of regular Vietminh battalions to one hundred and seventeen.

Reading passage

3:

Education psyche

Psyche:

Someone's mind, or their deepest feelings, which control their attitudes and behavior.

- First, you must expand your psyche to accommodate the bigger and better.
- I've pursued him down the disappearing paths of my own psyche.

Auditorium:

The part of a theatre where people sit when watching a play, concert.

- Rough terraces of seats were fashioned to serve as an auditorium.
- Few minutes late, I slipped into the half-full auditorium, spotted Sergei near the back, and sat beside him.

Fatigue:

Very great tiredness, exhaustion.

- Moreover, fatigue from untreated sleep apnea may lead to motor-vehicle accidents.
- But nobody who regularly uses the motorway can say they haven't been warned about the dangers of driver fatigue.

Baroque:

Relating to the much decorated style of art, music, building that was common in Europe in the 17th and early 18th centuries.

- Castrati made themselves eunuchs both for art's sake and for jobs in baroque Rome.
- He found old manuscripts and adapted or arranged them for groups performing ancient and baroque music

Ritual:

A ceremony that is always performed in the same way, in order to mark an important religious or social occasion.

- After an elaborate ritual, the boys are formally accepted into the tribe.
- The ritual is performed in order to thank the Sun Goddess for the rice harvest.

Emulate:

To do something or behave in the same way as someone else, especially because you admire them.

- Denis hung back, unsure whether he dared emulate his superior.
- Inventors like Edison, Westinghouse, and Bell were popular heroes, to be emulated by younger men.

Test 2, reading passage 1:

Why pagodas don't fall down

Flimsy:

Something that is flimsy is not strong or well-made, and will break easily.

- After all, he had little to go on - the evidence was too flimsy.
- In some spots, villagers were building cinder-block houses, a sturdy if ugly improvement over their flimsy bamboo shacks

Topple:

To become unsteady and then fall over, or to make something do this.

- Clinging to each other, Melanie laughing, they toppled in slow motion to the floor.
- They may indeed topple it, but not in the way he anticipated.

Pagoda:

A Buddhist TEMPLE (= religious building) that has several levels with a decorated roof at each level.

- He just went to the pagoda until he met someone who spoke his dialect.
- There is no dividing line between the pagoda and life outside.

Unscathed:

Not injured or harmed by something.

- Few retailers were left unscathed by the recession.
- The bullet grazed the side of his head, leaving him virtually unscathed.

Dampen:

To make something slightly wet.

- Demand for gasoline has been dampened by the recession.
- If you dampen your piece of paper before you start painting it will be easier to paint evenly.

Peg:

A short piece of wood, metal, or plastic that is attached to a wall or fits into a hole, used especially to hang things on or to fasten things together.

- Green in the chrome of the Harley, in the beach towel hung on a peg.
- His voice was nasal, to the extent that it sounded as if there was a clothes peg clipped on to his nose.

Wedge:

A piece of wood, metal that has one thick edge and one pointed edge and is used especially for keeping a door open or for splitting wood.

- Carefully cut a thin wedge out of the cake.
- Instead of driving a wedge between lovers, a child can expand and deepen that love

Brick:

A hard block of baked clay used for building walls, house.

- A sudden gust of rain dashed against the red bricks that were already stained in patches by water.

- Inside, the church has cream-washed walls, a brick floor and green painted pews.

Batter:

To hit someone or something many times, in a way that hurts or damage them.

- Each year, perhaps 4 million women are battered by their husbands.
- Teachers suspect that the child is being battered regularly by his parents.

Eaves:

The edges of a roof that stick out beyond the wall.

- Every house seemed to have at least one, sometimes several, of the distinctive mud-baked nests under its eaves.
- Grass was growing inside it, and hornets, birds, and spiders were living in the eaves.

Gushing:

Expressing praise, pleasure in a way that other people think is too strong.

- Heard in the context of his and Holly's gushing sympathy, it sounded very like the truth.
- With her bouffant hairdo, elaborate plumage, gushing charm and bright smile she is a caricature of a countess

Porcelain:

A hard shiny white substance that is used for making expensive plates, cups.

- Firemen and villagers formed a chain to ferry furniture and porcelain to safety.
- I held my breath and examined the exquisite little porcelain feathers and the pink and white porcelain crab-apple blossoms.

Tile:

A flat square piece of baked clay or other materials, used for covering walls, floors.

- But eventually he found one that was almost empty with tall arch windows and broken tiles about the floor.
- Just inside the big double entrance doors were hundreds of tiles which never seemed to be sold.

Craftsmen:

Someone who is very skilled at a particular craft.

- However, the similarity between these motifs is sufficiently close to suggest the work of the same craftsman.
- The original designs were made by highly skilled craftsmen.

Grasp:

To take and hold something firmly.

- Fame has come suddenly, and Peyton is finding it hard to grasp.
- Science lessons should be taught in a way that makes the material easier to grasp.

Tightrope:

A rope or wire high above the ground that someone walks along in a CIRCUS

- But he's been doing very well at it despite having to learn terrifying new skills, like walking a tightrope
- But Blondin had made the horizontal tightrope his own.

Jolt:

To move suddenly and roughly, or to make someone or something move in this way.

- Father Gannon added, his sudden pronged laughter jolting up her spine.
- He thought it was a twig breaking but then something jolted his memory.

Reading passage 2: The true cost of food

Collateral:

Property or other goods that you promise to give someone if you cannot pay back the money they lend you SYN security.

- If unsecured, no specific assets are pledged as collateral for the loan.
- The firm pledges its inventory as collateral for a short-term loan, but the lender has no physical control over the inventory.

Enervate:

To make you feel tired and weak

- Feeling at once enervated and threatened, the enterprise collectively hunkers into a defensive, self-protective posture.
- He seems at first laconic and enervated, loathe to put a sentence together aloud.

Onward:

Moving forward or continuing.

- Her thoughts were so jumbled that they could only drive her onward.
- They see a county with oodles of expendable income and not enough places to spend it.

Partridge:

A fat brown bird with a short tail which is shot for sport and food.

- For domestic partridge, invariably the choker partridge, plan on a one-pound bird per person.
- Small game birds such as quail, squab, and partridge are enhanced by this marinade.

Lapwing:

A small black and white European bird with raised feathers on its head.

- Look out for lapwing and redshank in particular.
- Look out for birds such as redshank and lapwing.

Hedgerow:

A line of bushes growing along the edge of a field or road.

- Continue and cross the field to gate, keep the hedgerow on the right.

- He made good use of every piece of newspaper that he could pick up and every convenient hedgerow!

Loch:

A lake or part of the sea partly enclosed by land in Scotland.

- A sizable saithe dangling from its beak indicates another meal for its young up on the hill loch beyond the village.
- But there are two differences: Morar has a tourist fringe and its loch is of fresh water.

Algae:

A very simple plant without stems or leaves that grows in or near water.

- Specific ways of checking individual groups of algae are discussed below.
- So the algae hang on as debilitating parasites rather than evolving towards benign cooperation.

Staggering:

Extremely great or surprising.

- The results of the survey were staggering - over half the children said that they went to school without any breakfast.
- Apparently, we spend a staggering £2.4 billion a year on food for our pets.

Pasture:

Land or a field that is covered with grass and is used for cattle, sheep to feed on.

- As Balfour talked, the men casually watched the infested pasture.
- In some areas woodland, waste or upland pasture was cleared and developed and new settlements established.

Arable:

Relating to growing crops.

- Each family is provided with 3.5 ha of land of which 1 ha is used for rain-fed arable crops.
- In consequence, enclosure of arable was now creating more social problems than it could solve.

Prop:

To support something by leaning it against something, or by putting something else under next to, or behind it.

- He propped his bicycle against the fence and ran inside.
- Duncan had left Myeloski propping up the bar, drinking his customary vodka and Budweiser chaser.

Viable:

Able to continue to live or to develop into a living thing.

- They are in favor of the program, but they want strong assurances that it is viable.
- Nuclear energy is the only viable alternative to coal or gas.

Reading passage 3:

Makete integrated rural transport project

Grinding:

Very difficult and unpleasant, and never seeming to improve.

- There is no visible grinding poverty and no antagonism towards tourists.
- A terrible grinding crunch struck at us like a solid barrier.

Arduous:

Involving a lot of strength and effort.

- A walking stick is good for balance in the water and on the arduous grades.
- The lives of peasants are dictated by the arduous and endless cycle of their crops.

Wheelbarrow:

A small CART with one wheel and two handles that you use outdoors to carry things, especially in the garden.

- I clambered on to the wheelbarrow, to pray for a healing miracle, laying aside my glasses and hat.
- I secured the locks on the wheelbarrow, crawled under canvas and wrote up the log and two letters.

Test 3, reading passage

1: Ant intelligence

Scrutiny:

Careful and thorough examination of someone or something.

- Closer scrutiny of the document revealed a number of interesting facts.
- Once you become famous your private life comes under public scrutiny.

Spark:

A quality of intelligence or energy that makes someone successful or fun to be with.

- A spark created by loose wires was the cause of the explosion.
- Jim is a really nice guy, but there's just no spark.

Chant:

To sing or say a religious song or prayer in a way that involves using only one note or TONE.

- We could hear monks chanting as we entered the monastery.
- He was there when the killers streamed down from the surrounding hills, chanting war cries.

Jingle:

To shake small metal things together so that they make a sound, or to make this sound.

- A herd of goats crossed the beach, the bells around their necks jingling cheerfully.
- The coins in his pocket jingled together noisily.

Slogan:

A short phrase that is easy to remember and is used in advertisements, or by politicians, organizations.

- They've come up with a new advertising slogan for the product.
- Young men risked their lives to daub buildings with anti-government slogans.

Fungus:

A simple type of plant that has no leaves or flowers and that grows on plants or other surfaces.

- A nightmare of wilt and mildew, of fungus and black spot.
- If the seed has protruded slightly above the sand during this growth a white fungus may be observed surrounding the area.

Aphid:

A type of small insect that feeds on the juices of plants.

- An hour and there was a speck of yellow on the horizon as tiny as an aphid.
- Ants often farm colonies of aphids on garden plants, feeding off their honeydew, while protecting the aphids from predators.

Herd:

To bring people together in a large group, especially roughly.

- Later yet we are herded down to the basement, told to crouch and to cover our heads with our arms.
- Observe people being herded like cattle through airports and theaters.

Nest:

A place where insects or small animals live.

- About as pleasant to come across as a nest of vipers.
- Individuals could invest in stocks and bonds themselves, creating their own retirement nest eggs.

Forage:

To go around searching for food or other supplies.

- Writers who need a good title have often foraged in Shakespeare or the Bible.
- A light rum and tonic in hand, he abandoned his post for the kitchen to forage for food.

Scout:

A soldier, plane, that is sent to search the area in front of an army and get information about the enemy.

- But the scouts were very aware that the fear of war was never far from their minds.
- But the decision seems to be a hit with the scouts.

Maze:

A complicated and confusing arrangement of streets, road.

- Its importance in enabling people to use lawyers to guide them through the baffling maze of legal rules is self-evident.
- Players search for the princess by uncovering clues, solving puzzles and navigating a medieval maze.

Precaution:

Something you do in order to prevent something dangerous or unpleasant from happening.

- Nevertheless, it makes sense to take a few simple precautions.
- The district officer wanted to know if suitable precautions had been taken to avoid the elephants.

Mesh:

Two ideas or things mesh, they fit together very well.

- Fortunately, they meshed nicely with the neo-mercantilist enthusiasms of the Labor government.
- That does not mesh with the reports from the region at the moment.

Outstrip:

To do something better than someone else or be more successful.

- Even the most primitive computer can outstrip the human brain in certain types of calculation.
- Girls are now outstripping boys in all school subjects.

Megalopolises:

A very large, heavily populated city or urban complex.

Weed:

A wild plant growing where it is not wanted that prevents crops or garden flowers from growing properly.

- Everyone called me a weed when I was at school because I was so bad at sports.
- Dorothea bent down and pulled weeds out of the garden.

Reading passage 2: Population movements and genetics

Peninsula:

A piece of land completely surrounded by water but joined to a large area of land.

- Although the rebel numbers are small, there are known to be many infiltrators and sympathizers on the peninsula.
- But it is obvious that one relatively small peninsula cannot contain this missionary zeal indefinitely.

Incisor:

One of the eight teeth at the front of your mouth.

- He laughed, revealing powerful white incisors.
- A sweet chestnut lay close by, its glossiness marred by decisive incisor scratch marks.

Molar:

One of the teeth at the back of the mouth that are used for breaking up food.

- And so what if her dentures are a few molars short of the set.
- Digestion of the molars by mammalian predators varies considerably.

Credence:

The acceptance of something as true.

- But they don't get any credence here and several of our most respected lawyers, doctors and public servants are black.
- Political economy and class perspectives on urban sociology lend little credence to this type of analysis.

Reading passage 3:

Mediterranean:

A sea surrounded by the countries of South Europe, North Africa, and southwest Asia.

Immense:

Extremely large SYN enormous.

- People who travel by rail still read an immense amount.
- Regular visits from a social worker can be of immense value to old people living alone.

Surveillance:

When the police, army etc. watch a person or place carefully because they may be connected criminal activities.

- Banks are installing surveillance cameras to prevent robberies.
- Television surveillance in public areas should help to make housing developments safer.

Culprit:

The person who is guilty of a crime or doing something wrong, victim.

- The police did everything they could to try and track down the culprit, but he was never caught.
- Any of the eight inmates of the manor could be the culprit.

Relaunch:

A new effort to sell a product that is already on sale.

- A solid deal, and possibly a relaunch of the product, will happen by year-end, says Interactive.
- Noble stores before the relaunch, believes it will become a best seller this time around.

Test 4, reading passage 1:

Pulling strings to build pyramids

Sledge:

A small vehicle used for sliding over snow, often used by children or in some.

- Fiennes developed severe frostbite after removing a glove while attempting to retrieve a sledge from freezing water.
- Walter did not use a sledge to raise the action.

Aeronautics:

The science of designing and flying planes.

- He launched into bus production and truck transport, before expanding to aeronautics.

- It stems from someone trying to apply a basic equation from aeronautics to the flight of the bee.

Pulley:

A piece of equipment consisting of a wheel over which a rope or chain is pulled to lift heavy things.

- A fellow engineer came to check on the work, and to do so had to ascend on a rope pulley.
- As they ran over the pulleys, a slurry of sand or tungsten carbide was poured on the wire.

Scaffold:

A structure built next to a wall, for workers to stand on while they build, repair, or paint a building or a raised structure which was used in the past as a place to kill criminals by hanging them or cutting off their heads.

- He squeezed in time at the typewriter between the high-rise scaffolds and his duties as husband and father of two sons.
- On seeing the scaffold du Barry lost all control.

Rig:

To dishonestly arrange the result of an election or competition before it happens.

- Many of the game shows of the 1950s turned out to be rigged.
- They would never have got into power if the whole thing hadn't been rigged.

Trolley:

A large basket on wheels that you use for carrying bags, shopping etc.

- I saw a dwarf selling plastic combs, hair-bands and bobby-pins from a wooden trolley.
- Mrs. Danby dumped the cat-food in the trolley and came close to me.

Reckon:

To think or suppose something.

- This hotel is reckoned to be one of the best in the country.
- They reckon the French team's better than ours.

Jerk:

To move with a quick sudden movement, or to make part of your body move in this way.

- He jerked the string and the light came on.
- Isabel jerked her hand away from his and shoved it in her pocket.

Brute:

A man who is cruel, violent, and not sensitive.

- But it is also a story of brute resolve and drive, and courage at a crunch.
- Even his strong-man routine seems devoid of any intelligence or style and focuses, instead, upon brute force and muscle.

Debris:

The pieces of something that are left after it has been destroyed in an accident, explosion etc.

- Fragments of building debris can form a large part of the total number of finds from a site.
- Men on board pulled the wounded and the mangled bodies of the dead from beneath collapsed debris.

Foe:

Enemy

- Mitterrand drew France closer to the European Union and to Germany, its former foe.
- But the political field is inscribed with the logic of friend and foe.

Reading passage 2: Endless Harvest

Fur:

The thick soft hair that covers the bodies of some animals, such as cats, dogs, and rabbits.

- Furs from the far north of Canada were exchanged for cotton and other goods.
- He raked his fingers through fur the color of weak tea, brown, red, golden tint of gaslight.

Archipelago:

A group of Small Island.

- For the rest, the archipelago could and did live off its own resources.
- Her scissors move through the material like a swimmer doing crawl, among the archipelago of tissue paper.

Crustacean:

An animal such as a LOBSTER or a CRAB that has a hard outer shell and several pairs of legs, and usually lives in water.

- As if it were something cumulative that accrued around me, like the hardening shell of a crustacean.
- It seemed surprised when the crustacean raised its claws and valiantly fought back.

Mollusc:

A type of sea or land animal that has a soft body covered by a hard shell.

- I pictured my navel, soft and curled like a mollusc.
- It is a small mollusc, the size of a mussel that starts life as a tiny free-swimming speck of jelly.

Herring:

A long thin silver sea fish that can be eaten.

- Girls, caught by the arm, have snow rubbed into their hair like salt into a herring.
- The herring was never quite considered a member of the fish family.

Statehood:

The condition of being an independent nation or the condition of being one of the states that make up a nation such as the US.

- Thus could economic statehood be achieved for the economic union?
- First there is the fact of statehood, with the implied acceptance of law and order by the people.

Sonar:

Equipment on a ship or SUBMARINE that uses SOUND WAVE s to find out the position of objects under the water.

- A dolphin is able to produce sonar clicks by forcing air through special passages and sinuses in its head.
- Navy salvage experts used sonar to help locate the area of submerged wreckage

Chum:

A good friend.

- Her school chums may disagree with her politics but they treat her respectfully and make sure their colleagues do, too
- I hardly knew Kapinsky, in fact I avoided him and his chums.

Subsistence:

The condition of only just having enough money or food to stay alive.

- If overtime is not paid subsistence can be claimed at own base.
- They were prisoners, for the most part, of a subsistence economy.

Reading passage 3: Effect of noise

Plausible:

Reasonable and likely to be true or successful.

- I need to think of a plausible excuse for not going to the meeting.
- In any plausible way of forming Jupiter the hydrogen and helium are initially well mixed at a molecular level.

Arousal:

Excitement, especially sexual excitement.

- Feeling his swift arousal, she dragged her mouth from his to bury it against his warm neck.
- He wasn't unmoved either, and his slow arousal against her made her arch into him.

Cambridge 8

Test 1, R 1: A chronicle of timekeeping

Shipment:

A load of goods sent by sea, road, or air, or the act of sending them.

- And last week the company said shipments from Quincy Farms had declined 5 percent because of the cut.
- At the moment supervision of these shipments in most countries stops at the national border.

Wax:

A solid substance made of fat or oil and used to make candle, polish.

- Posed him in a uniform with a musket in front of a wax image of General Washington.
- The solid wax gives heavier protection. We also lost many recordings: the wax masters could be broken.

Wane:

Become smaller, weaker, or less important.

- But with his popularity waning and the economy temporarily faltering, Park was in trouble even in his own entourage.
- Even in the final years of the Soviet Union, the managers were stepping into the void created by waning party power.

Wax and wane:

To increase and decrease over time

- Interest in the show has waxed and waned.

Conspicuous:

Very easy to notice, very great and impressive.

- It was a small country town, and Lauren looked very conspicuous in her fashionable New York clothes.
- Cuzco's few tourists are conspicuous as they explore the old cobbled streets

Municipal:

Relating to or belonging to the government of a town or city.

- The museum and other municipal buildings are threatened.
- Although municipal waste seems to grow more slowly than income in rich countries, it does still grow.

Cosmic:

Relating to space or the universe_ extremely large.

- The universe is believed to have been created about 15 billion years ago in a cosmic explosion.
- I've only been back on the case, in cosmic terms, about two-and-a-half minutes.

Equinox:

One of the two times in a year when night and day are of equal length.

- Only during the time of the spring and autumn equinoxes do our aquariums have a tropical day.
- Dominic knows that in the 1960s the equinox had progressed to Aquarius.

Basin:

A round container attached to the wall in a bathroom, where you wash your hands and face SYN

sink:

- Water splashed in the basin of the fountain.
- It was a naturally sheltered basin, a trick of the undulating meadows along the Comer.

Anchor:

A piece of heavy metal that is lowered to the bottom of the sea, a lake etc to prevent a ship or boat moving.

- These ancient trees are a spiritual anchor that our culture needs to hold on to.
- The anchors are usually linked by sundry cords and tapes of varying age and wear.

Nationwide:

Happening or existing in every part of the country SYN countrywide

- A nationwide hunt was launched yesterday for the killer of 13-year-old Nicola Jones.
- May 24 saw further nationwide strikes and demonstrations in 12 cities.

Passage reading 2:

Air traffic control in the USA

Congested:

Full of traffic_ a part of your body that is congested is very full of liquid, usually blood.

- Pedestrians picked their way across congested streets.
- Often looks rather besotted with a congested mottled and purple face; a bloated face but not edema.

Beacon:

A light that is put somewhere to warn or guide people, ships, vehicles, or aircraft.

- Navigation was helped by a radio beacon set up by the Army on the island.
- It might have been an airport beacon back on Earth, and he stared at it with a tightening of the throat.

Fortuitous:

Happening by chance, especially in a way that has a good result.

- A fortuitous fire destroyed all evidence of his wrongdoing.

- Ironically enough, his main field experience occurred as a fortuitous consequence of the First World War.

Vicinity:

(Of something) in the area around a particular place.

- This was one of the largest silk mills in the vicinity, although it started life as a corn mill.
- Many persons in the vicinity were awakened by the blast, and some were thrown from their beds.

Reliance:

When someone or something is dependent on someone or something else SYN dependence.

- A decreasing reliance on the inflation tax can be discerned in all four countries.
- It is difficult to reverse half a century of total reliance on the car.

Cue:

An action or event that is a signal for something else to happen.

- Some people can cope with hearing loss by using other cues to meaning.
- Use the leash to give the dog cues about what you want him to do.

Realm:

A general area of knowledge, activity, or thought.

- But they do not exist in some half-real realm, neither fully actual nor merely possible.
- Feminism exists outside the realm of political instrumentality, as an idea.

Aviation:

The science or practice of flying in aircraft_ the industry that makes aircraft.

- At the same time Beaverbrook told the House of Lords of Britain's willingness to attend an international conference on civil aviation
- Light aviation is an unpredictable business.

Turboprop:

A turbine engine that drives a propeller_ an aircraft that gets power from this type of engine.

- All my fellow passengers in the turboprop are asleep.
- The Aircraft division manufactures and assembles a range of turboprops and jetliners.

Cruise:

To move at steady speed in a car, aircraft.

- It was Friday night and the kids were out cruising up and down Main Street.
- The Jayhawks cruised to a 7-0 victory over the Eagles.

Passage reading 3:

Telepathy:

Spark:

A small action or event that causes something to happen, especially trouble or violence_ a flash of light caused by electricity passing across a space.

- A spark created by loose wires was the cause of the explosion.
- Turner provided the team the spark they needed in the second half.

Derision:

When you show that you think someone or something is stupid or silly.

- Even outside all these imaginings, rumor and derision held us in an unwelcome embrace.
- Raul looked him up and down, eyes opened wide with derision.

Brink:

A situation when you are in, usually a bad one.

- But when the bust came, he teetered with others on the brink of bankruptcy.
- Is it really news that a couple on the brink of separation should be arguing about the custody of their children?

Swamp:

To suddenly give someone a lot of work, problems to deal with.

- About 3000 years ago a tidal wave swamped the coastal lowlands of Greece, causing massive destruction.
- The dam burst, swamping the valley and hundreds of homes.

Tranquil:

Pleasantly calm, quiet, and peaceful.

- Efforts are being made to make life more tranquil in Japan's noisy and overcrowded cities.
- In summer, the normally calm, tranquil streets fill with crowds of tourists.

Beam:

A line of light shining from the sun, a lamp etc.

- Maggie stumbled across the field with only a narrow beam of light from her flashlight to help her.
- We could see the beams of searchlights scanning the sky.

Flaw:

A mistake, mark, or weakness that makes something imperfect SYN defect.

- It was half price because of a slight flaw.
- In this he was fatally handicapped by his own inconsistencies, paradoxes and deep personal flaws.

Leakage:

The deliberate spreading of secret information_ when gas, water etc leaks in or out, or the amount of it that has leaked.

- Leakages of confidential information.

Outright:

Clear, direct and complete.

- It would, however, be incorrect to deduce that in the nineteenth century only outright deception was commented upon.
- The point is to avoid outright confrontation.

Plausible:

Reasonable and likely to be true or successful OPP implausible.

- I need to think of a plausible excuse for not going to the meeting.
- In any plausible way of forming Jupiter the hydrogen and helium are initially well mixed at a molecular level.

Esoteric:

Known and understood by only a few people who have special knowledge about something.

- It brings us into touch with levels of ourselves untouched hitherto, and so it has a profound esoteric significance.

- It simply feels good to gain even esoteric knowledge, and that is more than enough.

Test 2, reading passage 1:

Sheet glass manufacture: the float process

Lime:

A white substance obtained by burning limestone, used for making cement, marking sports field etc SYN quicklime.

- Some have occurred as a result of lime and fertilizer applications coupled with more intensive grazing of livestock
- The lime was mixed with flowers of sulphur so that the walls would give off sulphurous fumes when they got warm.

Unblemished:

Not spoiled by any mistake or bad behavior SYN spotless_ without marks or damage SYN flawless.

- He has established an unblemished reputation for accuracy.
- She is a woman with an unblemished reputation of fairness and competence.

Tint:

A small amount of a particular color SYN shade, hue.

- It was October, and the leaves had begun to take on their warm autumn tints.
- Petal colors include every tint between white and pink.

Ribbon:

A narrow piece of attractive cloth that you use, to tie your hair or hold things together.

- Christmas ornaments hung from red ribbons on the tree.
- Before her the long straight reach of the canal lay like a silver ribbon.

Mar:

To make something less attractive or enjoyable SYN spoil.

- He had handsome Arabic features, marred by a long scar across his face.
- The movie's premiere was marred by gang-related violence.

Tremor:

A small earthquake in which the ground shakes slightly_ a slight shaking movement in your body.

- The medication can cause hair loss, tremors, and increased weight.
- Another well-known effect of caffeine is increased hand tremor, which has been measured in numerous experiments.

Ripple:

To move in small waves, or to make something move in this way.

- He saw ahead of him the rippling waters of the river.
- The occasional dip of an oar rippled the lake's glassy surface.

Reading passage 2:

The little ice age

Glacial:

Relating to ice glaciers, or formed by glaciers.

- Attempts to light a fire in the glacial dining-room had to be abandoned when it smoked out the house.
- But we are no longer limited by the glacial rate of natural genetic innovation.

Northeasterly:

Towards or in the northeast_ a northeasterly wind comes the northeast.

- They set off in a northeasterly direction.

Perish:

To die, especially in a terrible or sudden way.

- Everyone aboard the ship perished when it sank off the coast of Maine.
- We must make sure that democracy does not perish.

Herring:

A long thin silver sea fish that can be eaten.

- Girls, caught by the arm, have snow rubbed into their hair like salt into a herring.
- The herring was never quite considered a member of the fish family.

Fleet:

A group of ships, or all the ships in a navy.

- There are unconfirmed reports that the seventh fleet is moving into the area.
- We have the largest fleet of trucks in the state.

Offshore:

In order the sea and not far from the coast.

- More than 100 offshore funds pay an income in sterling.
- Needless to say, the use of offshore centers is never far from being a controversial matter.

Regime:

A government, especially one was not elected fairly or that you disapprove of for some other reason.

- The US supported several right-wing regimes in Central America.
- The military regime refused to recognize the elections.

Reading passage 3:

The meaning and power of smell

Olfactory:

Connected with the sense of smell.

- Frustrated female appetites are consoled with olfactory stimulation: bananas, strawberries, raspberries in the soap or bath oil.
- The temporal responsiveness of insect olfactory organs is truly remarkable.

Grimace:

To twist your face in an ugly way because you do not like something, because you are feeling pain, or because you are trying to be funny.

- He grimaced and scratched his short, curly black hair where it stuck out from under his tartan cap.

- He married his high school sweetheart, though he grimaces at that term.

Sensation:

A feeling that you get from one of your five senses, especially the sense of touch.

- A common sign of brain tumors is a tingly, numb sensation in the toes and fingertips.
- She felt a cold sensation as the icy water dripped down her back.

Realm:

A general area of knowledge, activity, or thought.

- But they do not exist in some half-real realm, neither fully actual nor merely possible.
- Feminism exists outside the realm of political instrumentality, as an idea.

Test 3, reading passage 1:

Striking back at lighting with lasers

Fury:

Extreme, often uncontrolled anger SYN rage.

- Shaking with uncontrollable fury, she stood up to confront him.
- Today, public fury alternates with apathy.

Brew:

To make beer_ to make a drink of tea or coffee.

- Any wonder that there is a campaign-finance scandal brewing in Washington?
- His face was like something brewed up out of spit and bile.

Stumble:

To hit your foot against something or put your foot down awkwardly while you are walking or running, so that you almost fall.

- I finished the whiskey, then stumbled upstairs and into bed.
- The room was dark, and Stan nearly fell over a chair as he stumbled to the phone.

Nifty:

Something that is nifty is good because it is clever, skilful, or effective.

- It's a nifty computer game that teaches math skills.
- He scooped up the heavy wet snow, digging hard, his mind ticking through the mechanics of a last nifty illusion.

Zapper:

A thing you use for changing CHANNEL s on a television from a distance SYN remote control _a piece of electrical equipment that attracts and kills insects.

- More than 15 million viewers now own a zapper.
- This will ease the effects of these sleep zappers.

Torrential:

Having the qualities of a torrent; characterized by a very rapid flow, moving in a fast and violent stream.

- He spent many nights sleeping in an open orchard in torrential rain until he located a small cave.
- I woke to the sound of torrential rain.

Hailstone:

A small ball of frozen rain.

- He and Jimmy lay beneath the wagon as a barrage of hailstones beat hard on the planks above.

- I found a small but perfectly-formed hailstone on my knee, which must have got in through the air vent.

Reading passage

2:

The nature of genius

Cult:

An extreme religious group that is not part of an established religion.

- A spokesman denied the group is a cult and said members could leave whenever they wanted.
- Members of the cult are not allowed to marry or own property without permission.

Divinity:

The study of God and religious beliefs SYN theology.

- His power was greater than that of all the other divinities together.
- The eternal, overarching divinity whom Graves' favorite goddess personified has gone by many names.

Boffin:

A science_ someone who is very clever.

- A few science boffins were asked for their opinions, but otherwise the article gave very little information.
- Government boffins have been explaining a new weapon that destroys people but leaves houses intact

Anecdote:

A short story based on your personal experience.

- Personal anecdotes have no place in an academic essay.
- But he illustrates his points with telling anecdotes that make good, and fast, reading.

Corporal:

A low rank in the army, air force etc.

- Sergeants and corporals outnumber private soldiers.
- Smith and Petrossian, the corporals, were checking kit, pushing among the reluctant men.

Paediatrics:

The area of medicine that deals with children and their illnesses.

- He was senior house officer in paediatrics at the District Hospital.
- His medical special interests had been embryology, paediatrics, and homoeopathy.

Vantage point:

A good position from which you can see something _A way of thinking about things that comes from your own particular situation or experiences SYN point of view.

- We enjoyed the lights of Los Angeles from a vantage point high above the city.
- From her piggyback vantage point she heard dry reeds whisper and water splash.

Mundane:

Ordinary and not interesting or exciting SYN boring.

- Most of the law cases he deals with are pretty mundane.
- My initial job was pretty mundane, but later I was given more responsibility.

Prodigy:

A young person who has a great natural ability in a subject or skill.

- Everest climbers display prodigies of endurance.

- He watched his would-be freshman prodigy Alton Ford make just one of two free throws at the other end.

Outstrip:

To do something better than someone else or be more successful.

- Even the most primitive computer can outstrip the human brain in certain types of calculation.
- Girls are now outstripping boys in all school subjects.

Unpalatable:

An unpalatable fact or idea is very unpleasant and difficult to accept.

- Senator Long tends to avoid unpalatable social issues.
- As a consequence land has become unproductive as unpalatable weeds have replaced nutritious fodder.

Reading passage 3:

How does the biological clock tick?

Mutation:

A change in the GENETIC structure of an animal or plant that makes it different from others of the same kind.

- A minor mutation should be deemed an eccentricity and nothing more.
- A second bug experienced a mutation that allowed it to make use of the acetate excreted from the first.

Frugal:

Careful to buy what is necessary.

- Hidden hotel costs can be a source of frustration to the frugal traveler.
- The monks lead a frugal life, allowing themselves only the bare essentials.

Hedgehog:

A small brown European animal whose body is round and covered with sharp needle-like spines.

- A hedgehog tries to climb up the net and when it hears you approach it promptly rolls up into a ball.
- I wanted to see a baby hedgehog.

Lethargic:

Feeling as if you have no energy and no interest in doing anything.

- All this hot weather is making me feel lethargic.
- The spectacular play inspired his lethargic teammates to start playing harder.

Comrade:

A friend, especially someone who shares difficult work or danger.

- They belonged to every organization, social club, old comrades association, and church for miles around.
- And the same tensions continued after 1975 as southern Communists balked at domination by their northern comrades.

Spar:

To practice boxing with someone.

- Foreman was cut over his right eye while sparring.
- The two have sparred for months over the health bill.

Test 4, passage 1:

Land of the rising sun

Curriculum:

The subject that are taught by a school, college.

- Are politicians the best people to be developing the educational curriculum?
- We cover the curriculum by choosing things the kids will be interested in.

Homogenize:

To change something so that its parts become similar or the same.

- The American landscape is being homogenized by malls and fast-food restaurants.
- Plans to homogenize the various school systems.

Render:

To cause someone or something to be in a particular condition.

- Both runways have been rendered useless by enemy bombings.
- Galan rendered his drawing of a new commercial center in less than a week.

Quote:

To repeat exactly what someone else has said or written.

- Dr. Morse quoted three successful cases in which the drug was used.
- I don't think the company is doing very well, but don't quote me on that.

Reading passage 2:

Biological control of pests

Engender:

To be the cause of a situation or feeling.

- Their financial success has engendered jealousy among their neighbors.
- Although the plot failed, the reaction it engendered is significant.

Superbug:

A type of bacterial that cannot be killed by traditional drugs.

- That did kill many, but some mosquitoes became resistant: A superbug had evolved.
- The tots were struck down by a superbug in the intensive care unit at the London hospital.

Glaring:

Very bad and very noticeable.

- It was a glaring example of bad judgment," said one official who asked not to be named.
- It was a glaring error, which cost the company over \$2 million in lost business.

Havoc:

A situation in which there is a lot of damage or a lack of order, especially so that it is difficult for something to continue in the normal way SYN chaos.

- A weak yen creates havoc in several ways for Detroit.
- Direct sunlight plays havoc with the varnish.

Avid:

Doing something as much as possible.

- Tim's father is an avid collector of old blues and jazz records.
- As a keen writer and avid newspaper reader, Jenny had always wanted to be a journalist.

Glory:

The importance, honor, and praise that people give someone they admire a lot.

- The designs reflect the glories of French fashion.
- He was bitter because he couldn't inherit the glory they unwittingly advertised.

Weevil:

A small insect that feeds on grain, flour etc and spoil it.

- Help at hand away with vine weevil Pippa Greenwood outwits this frustrating plant predator.
- He was the weevil in the fruit, according to Rex, the canker in their midst.

Weed:

A wild plant growing where it is not wanted that prevents crops or garden flowers from growing properly.

- Dorothea bent down and pulled weeds out of the garden.
- Everyone called me a weed when I was at school because I was so bad at sports.

Devious:

Using dishonest tricks and deceiving people in order to get what you want.

- In the film, he plays a devious defense lawyer named Richard Adler.
- Their method of collecting money was devious, but not illegal.

Hyacinth:

A garden plant with blue, pink, or white bell-shaped flowers and a sweet smell.

- As I turned out the lights, I caught a whiff of the intense fragrance of hyacinths.
- Crocus, tulips, grape hyacinths and the rest can follow.

Nuisance:

A person, thing, or situation that annoys you or causes problems.

- Rabbits can be a nuisance to gardeners.
- The overgrown vacant lot was declared a public nuisance.

Defoliant:

A chemical substance, used especially in war, that makes all the leaves of plants drop off.

- Chemical defoliants would not be used against crops, nor would producers be arrested or property confiscated.

Hispid:

Having or covered with rough rigid coarse hairs or bristles (of animal parts or plants).

Plague:

To cause pain, suffering, or trouble to someone, especially for a long period of time.

- Elway has been plagued all season by back problems.
- Heavy rains continue to plague the state.

Beetle:

An insect with a round hard back that is usually black. Verb: to go somewhere quickly and leaning forward.

- It is useless to beetle your brow in what you clearly believe to be a threatening fashion.
- If you are curious about the bombardier beetle, by the way, what actually happens is as follows.

Reading passage 3:

Collecting Ant Specimens

Stray:

To move away from the place you should be.

- A number of Charles's men were killed because they had strayed out of formation.
- Do women instinctively want to find a mate and never stray?

Bait:

Food used to attract fish, animals, or birds so that you can catch them.

- I felt I was arguing on behalf of myself and the other two, who never rose to the bait.
- Don't you know you're using that boy like bait to catch a fish?

Pitfall:

A problem or difficulty that is likely to happen in a particular job, course of action, or activity.

- And Magic can count on more pitfalls before his team is back to prominence again.
- It would be wise to note at this point that there can be pitfalls.

Rotten:

Badly decayed and no longer good to use.

- I wouldn't climb that tree if I were you - some of the branches look rotten.
- The floor in the bathroom is all rotten.

Trunk:

The thick central woody stem of a tree.

- As the phrase suggests, a main trunk of cables splits off into branches which supply individual subscribers.
- Barbara Molland had found the box in a trunk that stood under the window in Kate's room.

Bark:

The outer covering of a tree.

- Black too is a color, and the deep ridges of persimmon tree bark are an almost-black striated with dark gray.
- Wood and bark Wood and bark are essential constituents of a vast number of instruments.

Nest:

A place made or chosen by a bird to lay its eggs in and to live in.

- About as pleasant to come across as a nest of vipers.
- Individuals could invest in stocks and bonds themselves, creating their own retirement nest eggs.

Forage:

To go around searching for food or other supplies.

- A light rum and tonic in hand, he abandoned his post for the kitchen to forage for food.
- A troupe of golden-crowned kinglets was foraging close to the ground.

Forceps:

A medical instrument used for picking up and holding things.

- For larger hooks, a good pair of curved surgical forceps cannot be bettered.
- He seized a horrible pair of forceps and I closed my eyes as he started flexing his muscles.

Shrub:

A small bush with several woody stem.

- Inside, the complex is immaculate, with neatly trimmed shrubs and rose bushes lining each building.
- It also is useful to wrap this synthetic material around shrubs that are prone to freeze damage.

Debris:

The pieces of something that are left after it has been destroyed in an accident, explosion.

- The beach was littered with debris.
- Fragments of building debris can form a large part of the total number of finds from a site.

Marsh:

An area of low flat ground that is always wet and soft.

- She caught a few words: marsh, explosion, death.
- You play over a salt marsh, or bayou, from tee to green.

Sift:

To put flour, sugar etc through a sieve or similar container in order to remove large pieces_ to examine information, documents etc carefully in order to find something out or decide what is important and what is not.

- It will take a while to sift through all these magazines.
- Police continued to sift through the statements of various witnesses Saturday

Twig:

A small very thin stem of wood that grows from a branch on a tree.

- And again in what directions do the branches and smaller twigs grow?
- He found a not very effective twig and scraped.

Funnel:

A thin tube with a wide top that you use for pouring liquid into a container with a narrow opening, such as a bottle _a metal CHIMNEY that allows smoke from a steam engine or steamship to get out

- An opening in a small pipe near the end of the funnel chuffed steam in bursts.
- One is reduced to her ribs; the other still has her steel plating and her funnel

Cambridge 9

Test 1, Reading 1: William Henry Perkin

Stumble:

To hit your foot against something or walk in an unsteady way.

- I finished the whiskey, then stumbled upstairs and into bed.
- The room was dark, and Stan nearly fell over a chair as he stumbled to the phone.

Breakthrough:

An important new discovery in something you are studying, especially one made after trying _____ for _____ a _____ long time.

- Negotiators have made a breakthrough on the most difficult issue of employment security.
- Scientists at Merck were nearing a breakthrough on a new drug to treat HIV.

Quinine:

A drug used for treating fevers, especially malaria.

- Howards began by manufacturing fine chemicals, especially the antimalarial drug quinine _____ and its derivatives, for the pharmaceutical industry.
- I believe its main ingredient was quinine and doubt if it can be obtained today.

Tar:

A black substance, thick and sticky when hot but hard when cold, used especially for making road surfaces_ a sticky substance that forms when tobacco burns.

- His facial scars radiating ridges pigmented with tar or carbon pictured some many-legged mutant spider.
- The amount of tar in cigarettes is also important but less so than the number smoked _____ or duration of smoking.

Dye:

A substance you use to change the color of your clothes, hair.

- Carbonless paper coated with chemicals and dye which will produce copies without _____ carbon paper
- Pots of dye always seemed to be boiling in the back room.

Excretion:

The process of getting rid of waste material from your body.

The excretion of mercury by the kidney generally forms the basis for measurement of exposure.

Dr. Ghaemi Test Prep. Center

- The use of rose Bengal dye was the first attempt at assessing liver function through dye excretion.

Snail:

A small soft creature that moves very slowly and has a hard shell on its back.

- At different points along a trail the child sees snails-different snails each time.
- Making a shell is costly for a snail.

Glandular:

Related to the glands, or produced by the glands.

- He contracted glandular fever and viral meningitis.
- He is swept from day to day by waves of glandular emotion.

Grasp:

To take and hold something firmly_ to completely understand a fact or an idea.

- Science lessons should be taught in a way that makes the material easier to grasp.
- Fame has come suddenly, and Peyton is finding it hard to grasp.

Patent:

A special document that gives you the right to make or sell a new invention or produce that no one else is allowed to copy.

- At about the time of the exhibition, it emerged that the firm was infringing the Medlock patent.
- He had a patent and had earned millions of dollars in royalties.

Clamour:

The expression of feelings of anger and shock by a large number of people.

- The station was filled with the clamour of shouting voices and movement.
- Just then the raucous clamour of alarm bells sounded from all over the house and the basement area ahead of him.

Reading passage 2:

Is there anybody out there?

Acronym:

A word made up from the first letters of the name of something such as an organization. For example, NATO is an acronym for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

- It was called UDAG-a sincere-sounding acronym that covered a multitude of sins.

- Many new terms and acronyms are noted, but some of them are not satisfactorily explained. **Intermittent:**

Stopping and starting often and for short periods.

- There will be intermittent thunderstorms throughout the day.
- There were clouds and intermittent rain during the festival.

Cog:

One of the small bits that stick out on a cog_ (a cog in a machine: someone who only has a small unimportant job in a large organization.)

- He's joined the Liberal Party, and now he's a very important cog in the cabinet.
- They were like cogs working together, fitting into place when and where they were needed.

Orbit:

To travel in a curved path around a much larger object such as earth, the sun.

- The satellite will orbit the Earth for the next 15 years.
- Venus orbits the sun once every 225 Earth

days. Reading passage 3: The history of the tortoise

Parched:

Very dry, especially because of hot weather.

- It seemed to parch his mouth as he gulped it down.
- parched. His mouth was parched with expectation and from the whisky of the night before.

Ashore:

On or towards the shore of a lake, liver, sea.

- Most of the other passengers had gone ashore.
- Two bodies were washed ashore last night.

Gill:

One of the organs on the sides of a fish through which it breathes.

- As well as having gills, Lungfish have primitive lungs with which they can obtain oxygen from the air.
- Sediment also clogs the gills of fishes.

Incarnation:

A period of time when someone or something has a particular job, use etc.

- Supporters hope that the party in its new incarnation will be more popular with the voters.
- Her first incarnation on East Enders was too shocking, though.

Amphibious:

Able to live both on land and in water.

- Dinosaurs were probably the first ancestors of amphibious reptiles and fish.
- The case for the Navy's amphibious capability was being made by events.

Nest:

Build a nest; search for bird's nests; arrange something inside something else; make homey or home-like

- The birds stop briefly to nest and feed.
- I wondered if the kingfisher still nested in the sandy banks there.

Test 2

Reading passage 1:

Acoustic:

Related to sound and the way people hear things.

- Deaf people get no acoustic feedback when they talk, so their speech is often impaired.
- Various pieces of recording equipment are used to produce interesting acoustic effects.

Reverberation:

A sever effect that is caused by a particular event and continues for a long time.

- The June 5 union election will have reverberations throughout the auto industry.
- If that generous interpretation is correct, then the success of Cobra might have reverberations far beyond beer and curry.

Spectrum:

A complete range of opinion, people, sound, radio.

- At one end of the spectrum were the Communists, and at the other, the Nationalists.
- The spectrum of protest activity goes from peaceful to extremely violent.

Promulgate:

To spread an idea or belief to as many people as possible.

- However, most people see these institutions as promulgating the wealth and power of rich Western countries.
- Some of these are defined in the regulations promulgated for the administration of the Wholesome Meat Act.

Reading passage

2:

Venus in transit

Allege:

To say that something is true or that someone has done something wrong, although it has not been proved.

- In a statement to the press, Massey alleged that her husband had planned to kill her.
- Taylor is alleged to have used public money to buy expensive presents for her friends.

Polymath:

Someone who has a lot of knowledge about many different subject.

- He is either a polymath or an extremely thorough researcher.
- His ebullient personality is a vivid reminder of the polymath of past times.

Latitude:

The distance north or south of the equator, measured in degrees.

- Having his own show gives Williams wide latitude to discuss controversial topics.
- The birds breed in northern latitude.

Thwart:

To prevent someone from doing what they are trying to do.

- Efforts to clean up the oil spill have been thwarted by storms.
- Harry knew now that nothing could thwart his plans.

Besiege:

To surround a city or castle with military force until the people inside let you take control.

- Opposition forces who besieged the parliament building.
- The capital has been besieged by the opposition militia for two months now.

Undaunted:

Not afraid of continuing to try to do something in spite of difficulties or danger.

- Unconvinced, the battalion marched out of the city, but the undaunted colonel followed, arguing as he went.

- Our team of ballot counters, undaunted by the mammoth task before them, faithfully recorded your favorites.

Reading passage 3:

A neuroscientist reveals how to think differently

Iconoclastic:

Iconoclastic ideas, opinion, writings etc attack established beliefs and customs.

- As a pastor he was diligent and although iconoclastic, he defended the clergy against attack outside.
- It is in its nature neither conservative nor iconoclastic.

Rumbling:

Remarks that show that people are starting to become annoyed, or that a difficult situation is developing.

- There were rumblings of discontent among the students.
- As he left, the crowd broke up, and I heard rumblings of disappointment about having to hang around.

Pitfall:

A problem or difficulty that is likely to happen in a particular job, course of action, or activity.

- And Magic can count on more pitfalls before his team is back to prominence again.
- It would be wise to note at this point that there can be pitfalls.

Test 3

Reading passage 1:

Attitudes to language:

Polemic:

A written or spoken statement that strongly criticizes or defends a particular idea, opinion, or person.

- We discussed, planned, and engaged in passionate polemics.
- Essentially, the play is a polemic on the judicial system.

Exempt:

Not affected by something, or not having to do it or pay it.

- Furthermore, interest on the bonds of state and local governments is exempt from the Federal income tax.
- And, frankly I would be surprised if the majority of readers were completely exempt from such situations.

Aptitude:

Natural ability or skill, especially in learning.

- A trainee with normal aptitude can learn these techniques in a few months.
- All applicants are given aptitude tests before being invited for interview.

Deviation:

A noticeable difference from what is expected or acceptable.

- Some even feared deviation from their own narrow path, as if deviants were excluded from heaven or segregated.
- A closer examination of the Celtic Church reveals a much greater deviation from Rome than is generally acknowledged or even known.

Authoritarian:

Strictly forcing people to obey a set of rules or law, especially ones that are wrong or unfair.

- His management style has been criticized as authoritarian.
- Many people are now demanding a more democratic and less authoritarian form of government.

Tenet:

A principle or belief, especially one that is part of a large system of beliefs.

- In order to reveal these foundations we must therefore examine the main tenets of conservative and liberal political thought.
- No dissent from or criticism of Kim IL Sung, his tenets, or his decisions was permitted.

Quasi:

Like something else or trying to be something else.

- a quasi-scientific theory
- the chairman's quasi-judicial role

Elitist:

An elitist system, government etc is one in which a small group of people have more power and advantages than other people.

- A prime source of violence resides in the elitist educational strategies that are firmly rooted in the school ethos.

- The elitist republic has evolved into an inclusive

democracy. **Reading passage 2:**

Tidal power

Tidal:

Relating to the regular rising and falling of the sea.

- Her almost flat nose tended to widen at the nostrils, flaring over a tidal wave of a mouth.
- Studio heads and directors ignore the long list of artistic failures and succumb to the tidal pull.

Blade:

The flat wide part of an object that pushes against air or water_ the flat cutting part of a tool or weapon.

- The blade should be kept sharp.
- A boy would have better opportunities - of doing that nasty trick with the razor blade, for example.

Propeller:

A piece of equipment consisting of two or more blades that spin around, which makes an aircraft or ship move.

- He sat there looking at the dead propeller all the way to Cleveland.
- Most impressive is probably the Mustang nose and propeller at what once was the entrance to Steeple Morden.

Saline:

Containing or consisting of salt.

- Mucosal resistance was similar in the three groups when the acid challenge was given after saline pretreatment.
- Other doctors were putting compresses of saline solution on the worst burns.

Subsidiary:

A company that is owned or controlled by another larger company.

- The subsidiary has 50 offices around the country.
- The stated intention of the Eleventh Directive is to harmonize the laws relating to subsidiaries and branches.

Debris:

Pieces of waste material, paper.

- Flaps were to be left in the down position to facilitate the removal of mud and other debris prior to their retraction.
- Fragments of building debris can form a large part of the total number of finds

from a site. **Reading passage 3:** **Information theory - the big idea**

Circuit:

A path that forms a circle around an area, or journey along this path.

- He intends to push the record to over 9000 miles by walking another 2000 miles to complete the circuit.
- I have done the circuit many times before, but always with sitting in the co-pilots seat.

Shun:

To deliberately avoid someone or something.

- When the rumors started, the children found themselves shunned by their classmates.
- Some young women are shunned by their families when they become pregnant outside of marriage.

Inveigle:

To persuade someone to do what you want, especially in a dishonest way.

- She had inveigled me into taking messages to her lover.

Theorem:

A statement, especially in mathematics, that you can prove by showing that it has been correctly developed from facts.

- Some young women are shunned by their families when they become pregnant outside of marriage.
- The non-substitution theorem then applies, and prices are again determined independently of demand conditions.

Trick:

Something you do in order to deceive someone_ something that makes things appear different.

- For my final trick, I will make this elephant disappear.
- He refused to answer, suspecting they were asking him a trick question.

Ravage:

To damage something very badly.

- A ragged tear ravaged the painted face that looked back at her.
- It was thus doomed to fail-but not before it had ravaged every society it touched.

Test 4

Reading passage 1:

The life and work of Marie Cuie

Prodigious:

Very large or great in a surprising or impressive way.

- Building the bridge was a prodigious feat of engineering and finance.
- He fell in love, via a prodigious email correspondence, with another academic whom he had met fleetingly at a conference.

Ore:

Rock Or earth from which metal can be obtained.

- As the granite cooled it squeezed out hot fluids containing mineral ores in solution.
- Earlier studies on the deposit indicated the copper ore can be treated using conventional methods.

Pitchblende:

A dark shiny substance dug from the earth, from which uranium and radium are obtained.

- The cliff contains pitchblende veins that have been sources of dissolved uranium.
- Veins of pitchblende in the cliff are the source of uranium in the flat floodplain deposits at the foot of the cliff.

Isotope:

One of the possible different forms of an atom of a particular element.

- Asteroids contain a variety of rare radioactive isotopes of potassium, uranium, thorium, rubidium, and so on
- There is also a section on isotope dilution analysis.

Inauguration:

To hold an official ceremony when someone starts doing an important job in government.

- The new President will be inaugurated in January.

- In 1960, Brazil inaugurated its new capital, Brasilia.

Reading passage 2:

Young children's sense of identity

Caregiver:

Someone who takes care of a child or sick person.

- As patients are sent home sooner and sooner, families are thrown into the role of caregivers.
- As I discussed earlier, we also need to increase the continuity of relationships between adult caregivers and children.

Mimic:

To copy the way someone speaks or behaves, especially in order to make people laugh.

- Jackson mimicked a foreign accent to make his point.
- This insect mimics the appearance of a wasp.

Vocalize:

To make a sound or sounds with your voice.

- Getz vocalized what everyone else at the meeting was

thinking. **Contingent:**

Depending on something that may happen in the future.

- Compounds of limitation are derived at three different levels, from limitations which are continuous, contextual, and contingent.
- It is a necessarily existing source of all actuality, which actualizes a subset of possibilities by a contingent act of will.

Empirical:

Based on scientific testing or practical experience, not on ideas.

- His theory is inconsistent with the empirical evidence.
- At the empirical level culture and nature cannot be discriminated in this way.

Dab:

A small amount of something that you put onto a surface.

- With big dabs of his brush, he began painting.
- An absolute pristine typical Redesmere roach of old, complete with dab of orange under its chin.

Tug:

To put with one or more short, quick pulls.

- The little girl was tugging her mother's sleeve, trying to get her attention.
- We tugged at the door but it still wouldn't open.

Reading passage 3:

The development of museums

Artefact:

An object such as a tool, weapon etc that was made in the past and is historically important.

- An artefact from the past can be used to engage interest and awaken curiosity.
- Many artefacts decorated in this way have been found in royal tombs on the mainland.

Enact:

To act in a play, story_ to make a proposal into a law.

- The characters wear colorful outfits and enact their scenes center stage.
- Under a new law, universities must enact smoke-free policies on their campuses.

Vulgarize:

To spoil the quality or lower the standard of something that is good.

- He thought: we can vulgarize everything but not this.

Fantasy:

An exciting and unusual experience or situation you image happening to you, but which will probably never happen.

- My son seems to live in a fantasy world sometimes.
- Psychologists say that memories can sometimes be pure fantasy, rather than actual recollections.

Steer:

To control the direction a vehicle is going, for example by turning a wheel.

- Steer slightly to the right as you enter the bend.
- Even the children had a go at steering the boat.

Cathedral:

The main church of a particular area under the control of a bishop.

- He cleared his mind and went farther into the vast cathedral.
- > But the Commission considers that the role played by music in the worship of parish and cathedral ought not to be confused.

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Cambridge 10

test 1, reading passage 1:

Step wells

Irrigation:

Artificially supply an area land with water; apply liquid to a part of the body to cleanse or disinfect

(Medicine)

- The water in Lake Powell is used to irrigate the area.
- The stored water is then used to irrigate nearby agricultural land.

Utilitarian:

Intended to be useful and practical rather than attractive or comfortable.

- My father was a carpenter and held a passionate but essentially utilitarian belief in education.
- Along with good light and utilitarian spaces, Chelsea offers comparatively cheap real estate.

Monument:

Something that serves to commemorate (statue, building, etc.), memorial; statue; tombstone

- Ellis Island is preserved as a historic monument
- Memorial monuments usually celebrate triumphs rather than the state's decimation of cultures and peoples.

Bygone:

The period of time in the past.

- He had impeccable manners that somehow always reminded you of an older, bygone age.
- It is a relic of a bygone age, a cultural icon with a colorful political past

Heyday:

Prime, time of greatest success or popularity, period of greatest power or influence.

- In its heyday it must have been a good little vehicle, but now it was definitely finished.
- The building had originally been a manor house and must have looked beautiful in its heyday.

Dot:

A small round mark or spot_ something that looks like a small spot because it is so far away.

- His fabric prints include lots of roses, hearts, and dots.
- The plane was just a dot in the sky.

Aquifer:

Underground stratum of rock or gravel which holds water (supplies water for springs, wells, etc.).

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- Because of the long residence times typical of most bodies of groundwater, contaminated aquifers are not readily restored by natural processes.

Crater:

Bowl shaped pit (on the moon, at the mouth of a volcano, etc.); hole formed by the explosion of a mine or other explosive.

- When the bomb exploded it left a huge crater in the ground.
- Such a resolution would also establish whether impact craters and volcanoes exist.

Paving:

Material used to form a hard level surface on a path, road, area etc.

- Concrete paving blocks are a more flexible and more versatile alternative to slabs.
- He started walking again, treading carefully on the cracks between the paving stones

Slop:

Be spilled; overflow

- It is wrong to slop and make messes that others have to clear up behind one.
- As she slopped about in the cooling water, Jess pondered over this peculiarity.

One of several levels or layers that rise up one above the other.

- We always sat in the top tier of seats.
- I suppose I could have joined in except I was on the second tier of the other stand.

Pillar:

Column, narrow vertical structure used as a support or for decorative purposes.

- A white pillar of steam marked its finale.
- Never mind that he had been a pillar of the regime and was approved on to the ballot by the Council of Guardians.

Relentless:

Strict. Cruel, determined, without ever stopping.

- Hugh felt the relentless sun on his back.
- Ridge's success is due to a relentless pursuit of perfection.

Embellish:

To make something more beautiful by adding decorations to it.

To make story or statement more interesting by adding details that are not true.

- He says the truth is sensational enough without anyone having to embellish it.
- Lynn couldn't help embellishing the story.

Churn:

Prepare butter by agitating cream; shake or agitate with violent motion.

- He was now churning out drawings at a tremendous rate.
- My mind churned with countless plots and schemes, conjuring up acts of untold terror and devastation.

Derelict:

A derelict building or piece of land is in very bad condition because it has not been used for a long time.

- In the middle of town is a derelict building that used to be the school.
- It includes derelict factories and some of the poorest housing in the country.

Silt up:

If something silts up or is silted up, it becomes filled with silt (sand).

- The old harbor silted up years ago.

Pristine:

Extremely fresh or clean, not spoiled or damaged in any way.

- He passed her a pristine handkerchief and waited.
- The car has been restored to pristine condition.

Hallmark:

An idea, method, or quality that is typical of a particular person or thing. A mark put on silver, gold to show the quality of the metal.

- Her health was a hallmark of her personality.
- His campaign hallmark is his informality and accessibility.

Shrine:

A place that is connected with a holy event or holy person, and that people visit to pray.

- Hope then built a beautiful shrine at the other end of the village.
- To me, this voyage was something much more—it was a pilgrimage to the shrine of my philosophy.

Strike:

To hit or fall against the surface of something.

- Evidence shows that the victim had been struck several times with an iron bar.
- Her husband had never struck her before.

Verandas:

An open area with a floor and a roof that is attached to the side of a house at ground level

- I missed my Mbarara veranda, having to write up my journal on a table
- No one had poured coffee yet, and the silence on the veranda was now very tense.

Ornate:

Cover with a lot of decoration.

- The ornate interior of the opera house was almost overwhelming.
- A pair of ornate gold candlesticks stood on the altar.

Flock:

A large group of people, crowd.

- As a hermit living in a cave, he refused the flock of naked women sent to tempt him.
- It's easy to spot flocks of geese as they migrate.

Fling:

Throw; cast; toss, discard; speak sharply or forcefully; involve oneself in an energetic manner; move in an energetic or violent manner.

- He pulled the knife from her hand and flung it out of the window.
- When he gave her the tickets she ripped them up and flung them at him

Reading passage 2

European transport systems 1990_2010

Fleet:

A group of a ships, or all ships in a navy _ a group of vehicles that are controlled by one company.

- There are unconfirmed reports that the seventh fleet is moving into the area.
- We have the largest fleet of trucks in the state.

Haulage:

The business of carrying goods in trucks or trains for other companies.

- Jean works for a road haulage company based in St Etienne.
- Rail freight charges are high compared with the cost of road haulage.

Culprit:

The person who is guilty of a crime or doing something wrong _ the reason for a particular problem
difficulty or

- Some money was taken from my desk yesterday. I think I know who the culprit is.
- The FBI was called in to help track down the culprits.

Pitch:

A strong level of feeling about something or a high level of an activity or quality

- The President made his strongest pitch yet for standardized testing in schools.
- The village has attractive playing fields, with a football and cricket pitch.

Freight:

Goods that are carried by ship, train, or aircraft and the system of moving these goods

- These trains haul freight between Grand Junction and Denver.
- Prices begin at \$ 15, 825 with freight for a two-door model with rear wheel drive only.

Curb:

To control or limit something in order to prevent it from having a harmful effect

- The city is trying new measures to curb pollution.
- The only way to curb the spread of the disease is by immunizing the entire population.

Saturate:

To put a lot of something into a particular place, especially so that you could not add any more

- Saturate the label with vinegar and let it sit before you try to scrape it off the bottle.
- The bathtub overflowed, and water saturated the carpeting.

Reading passage 3

The psychology of innovation:

Quartet:

Musical composition for four performers.

- All over the country children worked in similar acts but this particular quartet, Les Jolies Petites, was fortunate.
- There was a barbershop quartet on board.

Quintet:

Five singers or musicians who perform together

- Every one of the quintet saw the opposition party gain strength during his final period in office.
- A long list of names yes, but there's nothing larger here than a quintet format.

Seize:

To take hold of something suddenly and violently

- "Come with me," said Nat, seizing him by the arm.
- The General has been Head of State since he seized power in 1982.

Gamble:

To risk money or possession on the result of something such as a card game or a race

- At the trial, defense attorney Neal gambled by calling no defense witnesses.
- By converting pounds to other currencies investors are gambling that the pound will fall.

Pervasive:

Existing everywhere

- Alcohol is still a pervasive problem with high - school students.
- Violence and crime are pervasive features of city life.

Veteran:

Someone who has had a lot of experience of a particular activity

- The case of these two veterans may be just the beginning.
- Among the protesters will be Laura Magnani, another veteran in the campaign against capital punishment.

Prototype:

Original model which serves as an example for later stages or forms; ideal, example.

- Pilots have begun testing a prototype of the new aircraft.
- The prototype of this particular computer was developed by an American in 1975.

Overbearing:

Always trying to control other people other without considering their wishes or feelings

- His wife felt stifled in the presence of her overbearing mother-in-law.
- The manager can be very overbearing at times, and it's difficult to argue with him.

Cambridge 10, test 2, Passage

one: Tea and industrial revolution

Enigma:

Someone or something that is strange and difficult to understand

- As I studied more about their past, I became more puzzled, and the enigma expanded.
- It is something of an enigma how a man who could not bear to hurt a living thing could serve as defense secretary.

Tannin:

A reddish acid used in preparing leather, making ink etc.

- One of the problems we've had of late is the wine keeping too much tannin as it matures.
- Red wines are fermented at a higher temperature than whites to extract color and tannin from the skins.

Succumb:

To stop opposing someone or something that is stronger than you, and allow them to take control

- People would succumb to temptation and revert to familiar if inefficient form
- We cannot, we will not succumb to the dark impulses that lurk in the far regions of the soul everywhere.

Dysentery:

A serious disease of your bowels that makes them bleed and pass much more

- Fear of the rats hurried even those with the fluid stomach of embryonic dysentery or gastroenteritis.
- This is one of the most dangerous bacteria that causes dysentery.

Eccentric:

Behave in a way that is unusual and different from most people

- Our neighbor is an eccentric old lady who has about 25 cats.
- Mr. Withers is a little eccentric, but he's basically harmless.

Alight:

To step out of a vehicle after a journey

- A returning female alights within a few feet of where she last left her baby.
- As the tram was between stops, they were unable to alight.

Burst:

Break open or apart suddenly and violently so that its contents come out, break open, move suddenly.

- Thousands of gallons of oil flowed into the river when an oil pipeline burst.
- The dam burst after heavy rains.

Halve:

To reduce something by a half, or to cut or divide something into two equal pieces.

- Halve the eggplant lengthwise and hollow out the center.
- At the current rate, costs will be halved again within a decade.

Sanitation:

The protection of public health by removing and treating waste, dirty water etc.

- There was very little sanitation the way we know sanitation.
- He was assassinated the day after addressing a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis.

Gin:

A strong alcoholic drink made mainly from grain, or a glass of this drink.

- They drank beer and gin, which Lee brought to the room but only sipped to be polite.
- Combining the three ounces of gin and vermouth that you stir you will end up with a four-ounce martini.

Grip:

The way you hold something tightly, or power and control over someone or something, or understanding of something.

- It's hard to get a good grip on this box.
- The policeman had a firm grip on my arm.

Clipper:

A fast sailing ship used in the past

- But the days of clipper ships were numbered.
- Many of the best racing clippers were therefore composite built.

Reading Passage 2: Gifted children and learning

Manipulate:

To make someone think and behave exactly as you want to, by skilfully deceiving or influencing them_ to use skill in moving or handling something.

- Babies investigate their world by manipulating objects.
- He's so crazy about her he doesn't realize he's being manipulated.

Tuition:

Teaching, especially in small group_ the money you pay for being taught.

- Computerworld offers personal tuition on the latest equipment.
- If you prefer doing it on horseback, there are stables in nearby Going where tuition is available.

Pupils:

Someone who is being taught, especially a child.

- The new law reduces the number of pupils per class in the first four years of schooling.
- The 20 pupils attending the meetings are ages 5-12.

Curiosity:

The desire to know about something.

- Olly was bursting with curiosity about the new house.
- His curiosity and detailed pursuits with paint and drawing materials continued throughout his life as a vital source of exploration and communication.

Succinct:

Clearly expressed in a few words, concise

- a succinct description of the Egyptian writing system
- The new labelling is more succinct and advises consumers simply that oat bran may help prevent heart disease.

Reading passage 3

Museums of fine art and their public

Facsimile:

An exact copy of a picture, piece of writing etc.

- A facsimile of the 1896 book was published in February.
- After a few experiments, I came up with a reasonable facsimile of Rebecca's accidental assemblage.

Apprentice:

Someone who works for an employer for a fixed period of time in order to learn a particular skill or job.

- I worked as an apprentice electrician for 18 months.
- When I finish classes, I'm hoping to land a summer job as a chef's apprentice.

Repository:

A place or container in which large quantities of something are stored.

- However, unlike definitions, there is no convenient repository from which they can be instantly extracted.
- Modern dance, Alvin believed, needed a living repository of its classics and curiosities.

Treasure:

A very valuable and important object such as a painting or ancient document _ someone who is very useful or important to you.

- A husband that cooks and cleans is a real treasure.
- Your old furniture could be a treasure to a growing number of collectors.

Sheer:

To change direction suddenly, especially in order to avoid something.

- Finally on the fourth day one of the anchor ropes sheered through and we lost that anchor to the gale.
- Rimmed by a waist-high balustrade, the garden sheers down some twenty feet.

Render:

To cause someone or something to be in a particular condition_ do something because it is your duty.

- Digital technology could render today's televisions useless.
- The angry exchange rendered future compromise impossible.

Fidelity:

When you are loyal to a person, an organization, or something that you believe in.

- First and last he sought only the strictest fidelity to justice, rectitude and truth.
- We gain a new sense of loyalty, steadfastness and fidelity that are not our own.

Awe:

To admire someone and have great respect for them and sometime a slight fear of them.

- I felt the wonder and awe of the first European explorers who looked at the mountain.
- Most people stand in awe of these agglomerations of power, admit their inability to fight them, and submit.

Cambridge 10, test 3, reading passage 1:

The context, meaning and scope of tourism

Aristocrat:

Someone who belong to the highest social class.

- He was promoted by the emperor, made an aristocrat, and be-came wealthy.
- The importance of the mandarins made them look to Western eyes rather like aristocrats.

Gross:

Total amount of money before any tax or cost have been taken away_ clearly wrong and unacceptable.

- a gross income of \$150,000
- Obviously you get more used to it the more often you do it, but it's still pretty gross.

Amorphous:

Having no definite shape or features

- In her later works, large, amorphous shapes seem to float on the canvas.
- The molten rock hardens into amorphous forms.

Commodity:

A product that is bought and sold_ a useful quality or thing.

- Food shopping takes time, a commodity of which most of us have precious little.
- Other commodity exchanges said they would keep normal hours.

Quote:

To repeat exactly what someone else has said or written_ to give a piece of information that is written down somewhere.

- He was always quoting clever sayings from Oscar Wilde's plays.
- If you call the hotel directly, you may get a rate lower than those quoted by travel agents.

Reading passage 2: Autumn leaves

Hemisphere:

A half of the earth or one of the two halves of your brain.

- Damage to the corresponding part of the right hemisphere had no effect on speech.
- It was bitterly cold inside the aluminum hemisphere.

Conifer:

A tree such as a pine that has leaves like needles and produces brown cones that contain seeds.

- I often see foxes, roe deer and red squirrels in the conifer plantation there.
- It's classed as being a conifer but it looks nothing like one.

If you are redundant, your employer no longer has a job for you_ not necessary because something else means or does the same thing.

- Businesses are closing and making people redundant.
- He argued that he was not redundant because there was other work available within the terms of his contract of employment.

Dismantle:

To take machine or piece of equipment apart so that it is in separate pieces_ to gradually get rid of system or organization.

- Jimmy was in the garage, dismantling his bike.
- The first thing the soldiers did was to dismantle the enemy's surveillance equipment.

Twig:

A small very thin stem of wood that grow from a branch on a tree_ verb: to suddenly realize something about a situation.

- It took him about two minutes to twig what I was going on about!
- So I gradually amassed armfuls of small twigs, which I carried back to my cave.

Maple:

A tree which grows mainly in northern countries such as Canada. Its leaves have five points and turn red or gold in autumn.

- I walked through hardwood forest of very thick sugar maples and yellow birches.
- Most of northern Calabria is mountainous and thickly wooded with pine, silver fir and maple.

Sumac:

Any of a number of small trees and shrubs having feathery leaves and a small reddish fruit.

Minted:

A newly minted word, phrase, idea etc has been invented or produced very recently_ very rich.

- Cray liked to hire talented but newly minted engineers.
- Some newly minted salesmen and saleswomen have been laid off from other jobs.

Scrambling:

The activity of climbing over rocks using your hands but no ropes.

- I also advise against solo scrambling.

- It was steep and exposed but solid, and the final push for the summit involved some exhilarating scrambling.

Robust:

Strong and healthy, showing determination or strong opinion

- He was a robust little boy, with curly dark hair.
- Paul travelled north to visit his parents, who he found less robust than before.

Dull:

Not interesting or exciting

- A dull opening Wednesday on Wall Street kept stock prices at low levels.
- I'm afraid I must seem very dull compared with all those interesting people you meet.

Plausible:

Reasonable and likely to be true or successful

- His explanation sounds fairly plausible to me.
- I need to think of a plausible excuse for not going to the meeting.

Paradox:

A situation that seems strange because it involves two ideas or qualities that are very different.

- Being defined in terms of tension or paradox, ambiguity's potential diversity was restored to some sort of unitary wholeness.
- Fortunately, a way out of this apparent paradox exists.

Hue:

Type of color or opinion.

- The Prince wore majestic robes of a rich purple hue.
- Colorful seaweeds are found in a variety of hues.

Reading passage 3:

Beyond the blue horizon

Archipelago:

A group of Small Island.

- Cornelius observed that freckles on her left cheek mapped out the Tuamotu archipelago of south-west Polynesia

- For the rest, the archipelago could and did live off its own resources.

Daring:

Involving a lot of risk or danger, or brave enough to do risky things

- It is a particularly daring stunt, involving being tied up and suspended in mid-air.
- Three inmates fled the prison in a daring tunnel escape

Canoe:

A long light boat is pointed at both ends and which you move along using a paddle.

- In my sixth year I did make myself a smaller canoe, but I did not try to escape in it.
- Memories merge with reality now as we beach the canoe near the ledges under the still-standing thick hemlock.

Rove:

Travel from one place to another.

- Bands of armed men rove the countryside.
- Benedict's eyes roved over her sleeping body.

Taro:

A tropical plant grown for its thick root, which is boiled and eaten.

- Coconuts are being scraped and the juice is squeezed on pounded taro or cassava for puddings.
- Rice was their basic food and their most important food crop, far ahead of maize, taro or sago.

Clad:

Wearing a particular kind of clothing.

- She felt hot, despite being clad only in a thin cotton dress.
- An armor-clad ship.

Rim:

The outside edge of something circular

- John's glasses had small lenses and steel rims.
- Her lipstick left a red mark on the rim of the cup.

Stubborn:

Determined not to change your mind, even when people think you are being unreasonable.

- Despite stubborn opposition, the President managed to raise interest rates.
- I've got a very stubborn streak and I discovered that I couldn't bear people telling me what I could and couldn't eat

Rig:

To dishonestly arrange the result of an election or competition before it happens.

- Many of the game shows of the 1950s turned out to be rigged.
- The senator resigned after accusations that the vote had been rigged.

Eternity:

A period of time that seems very long because you are annoyed, anxious etc.

- It seemed an eternity in coming.
- They had practiced together for only an hour, yet it seemed like an eternity.

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Cambridge 10, test 4, reading

passage 1: The mega fires of California

Blaze:

A big dangerous fire (use especially in news reports).

- Six fire fighters were injured battling the blaze.
- The church was completely destroyed in the blaze.

Acreage:

The area of a piece of land measure in acres

- But Carlton sold off the last of his acreage to his brother-in-law last year.
- Optic and Cooper make up their spring barley acreage.

Scorch:

If you scorch something, its surface burns slightly and changes color.

- Having the iron on a very high heat can scorch the fabric.
- The heater was left on all night and it scorched the wall.

Dilapidated:

A dilapidated building, vehicle etc is old and in very bad condition, derelict.

- Jesse was raised in a large, dilapidated house on the East Side.
- We stayed in an old, dilapidated hotel with a leaky roof.

Blueprint:

A plan for achieving something_ a pattern that all living cells contain.

- Conservation groups have suggested a blueprint for a "Green World".
- He calls them a blueprint for disaster in their current form and wants them amended.

Serpentine:

Winding like snake_ complicated and difficult to understand.

- Its proposed costly serpentine curve makes sense there, but not necessarily elsewhere.
- There are serpentine steps leading up from the road.

Siege:

A situation in which an army or the police surround a place and try to gain control of it or force someone to come out of it.

- Here the Navy is under siege for all kinds of moral and ethical improprieties.
- The book is not an exhaustive account of all the sieges of the war.

Jurisdiction:

The right to use an official power to make legal decisions, or the area where this right exists.

- In general, the American courts have no jurisdiction to deal with crimes outside the USA.
- The council has no jurisdiction over these matters.

Revamp:

To change something in order to improve it and make it seem more modern.

- Now the new town is being revamped.
- The site was revamped two months ago and a new system was installed to enable Tesco to handle increased levels of traffic.

Reading passage 2:

Second nature

Reticent:

Unwilling to talk about what you feel or what you know.

- John was somewhat reticent about it at first, but finally admitted he was working on a new book.
- Few of them cared to talk about their jobs; they were as reticent as veterans of an unpopular war.

Stamina:

Physical or mental strength that lets you continue doing something for a long time without getting tired.

- Brooks just doesn't have the stamina to play the whole game.
- Exercises to increase your strength and stamina.

Cerebrospinal:

Pertaining to the brain and spinal cord (Anatomy)

Vow:

A serious or religious promise.

- After being released from his wedding vows, John joined the Friars Minor.
- She told him that she was bound by a vow not to tell any human being.

Intimidate:

To frighten or threaten someone into making them do what you want.

- He's being kept in jail until the trial so that he can't intimidate any of the witnesses.
- The boss is quite tough, but don't let him intimidate you.

Allegation:

A statement that someone has done something wrong or illegal, but that has not been proved.

- The newspaper made several allegations, none of which turned out to be true.
- There have been allegations in the press that the fire was started deliberately.

Reading passage 3:

When evolution runs backwards

Atavism:

Appearance of a trait belonging to a distant ancestor that has been dormant in recent generations (Biology).

Connotation:

A quality or an idea that a word makes you think of that is more than its basic meaning.

- For most people "motherhood" has a very positive connotation
- A whole group of connotations, arising from our knowledge of the drug culture, then settles on the music.

Appendage:

Something that is connected to a more important thing.

- Among the Apterygota the retention of at least some abdominal appendages is a general feature.
- I dissected preserved larvae into their component appendages and painstakingly traced each detail.

Render:

To cause someone or something to be in a particular condition.

- In beautifully rendered prose, she relates her daily struggles.
- The angry exchange rendered future compromise impossible.

Mole:

A small dark furry which is almost blind_ someone who works for an organization while secretly giving information to its enemies.

- FBI moles had infiltrated the company looking for evidence of fraud.
- The government suspects there is a mole who is leaking information to the press.

Salamander:

A small animal similar to a lizard, which lives on land and in the water.

- The salamander, who now barely moved, could never have moved fast.
- The dusky salamander lives in the southern Appalachian Mountains, and likes to stay at home.

Amphibian:

An animal such as a frog that can live both on land and in water

- Members of this group are chiefly external parasites of turtles, fishes, and amphibians.
- Plants and many insects and amphibians have an additional method: chemical defense.

Metamorphose:

To change completely and become something different, or to make something change in this way.

- Along the way, its reputation metamorphosed.
- The place metamorphosed into storage space.

Tadpole:

A small creature that has a long tail, lives in water.

- Now only one lake supports tadpoles.
- Over the Easter term, the inky tadpoles changed from commas into exclamation marks.

Hind:

Relating to the back part of an animal with four legs.

- It was a small piece of shrapnel, but it did a number on the left cheek of my hind end. •
The hair is somewhat longer on both front and hind legs.

Toe:

To do what other people in a job or organization say you should do.

- He looks under the table and sees a bare toe rubbing the toe of his sneaker. •
Like on horseback, I hold on with the tips of my toes.

Cambridge 11

test 1, passage 1: Crop growing skyscrapers

Demographic:

- 1 information about a group such as the people who live in a particular area:
 - the demographics of a newspaper's readership
- 2 a part of the population that is considered as a group, especially by advertisers who want to sell things to that group:
 - CBS has been trying to attract the 18-to-49 demographic with its hipper new shows.

Hothouse:

Heated building, usually made of glass, where delicate plants can grow → GREENHOUSE:

- For almost two weeks, Saigon was a hothouse that bred a combustion of burning chemicals and fuel.
- He was cold, very cold despite the hothouse temperature of the atrium.

Vogue:

A popular and fashionable style, activity, method.

- People's fondness for wearing black and other dark colors was a vogue I never really liked.
- If you want to control the vogue for greed and exploitation, then start using local suppliers.

Verdant:

Verdant land is thickly covered with fresh green plants SYN lush.

- Here in the verdant environs of Forest House is unchanged rural Essex.
- Just out of the sound of the sea, it is as verdant and gently rolling as Mr. Inshaw's image.

Arid:

Arid land or arid climate is very dry because it has very little rain.

- In the arid summer, the landscape becomes brown and dusty.
- The birds inhabit tropical forests, savannah, and arid semi-desert conditions.

Rigour:

The problems and difficulties of a situation or great care and thoroughness in making sure that something is correct.

- Ferguson has restored the rigour of self-scrutiny to history.
- This limits the potential rigour of design because the anchor of skill training is the specification of the objectives.

Monsoon:

The season, from about April to October, when it rains a lot in India and other southern Asian countries.

- But trips home for Arizona firefighters this summer promise to be as rare as a monsoon rain on Memorial Day.
- During our interview, a monsoon rain was drenching his small, 1920s house in Sam Hughes.

Plough:

A piece of farm equipment used to turn over the earth so that seeds can be planted.

- Inland, the rich red of the plough fields glowed in the sunshine.
- The introduction of the plough made possible much greater density of population, concentrated in villages and manors.

Stack:

A neat pile of things or a large amount of something.

- The whole stack fell over, and half the plates got broken.
- After he had gone, she stared blankly at the stack of boxes he had left.

Tray:

A flat piece of plastic, metal, or wood, with raised edges, use for carrying things such as plates, food.

- If bulbs look shriveled when unpacked, immerse in trays of damp peat until plumped out.
- She heard Stephen order Sally to take a tray upstairs to Mrs. Winters and she said nothing.

Reading passage

2:

The Falkirk wheel

Dismantle:

To take machine or piece of equipment apart so that it is in separate pieces or to gradually get rid of a system or organization.

- No one is suggesting that we dismantle the Social Security system
- Before a technician dismantled the device, a nearby restaurant, a post office and City Hall were evacuated.

Commemoration:

Something that makes you remember and respect someone important or an important event in the past SYN remembrance

- A 50th anniversary commemoration is planned for November.

- It is a commemoration and ensures that people remember the event because it was out of the ordinary, and special.

Tilt:

To move a part of your body, especially your head or chin, upwards or to the side.

- He made another round of the tower, standing on tiptoe to tilt the angle of the glasses downward toward the valley.
- She tilted her chin upwards and put on her loftiest expression.

Axe:

A tool with a heavy metal blade on the end of a long handle, used to cut down trees or split pieces of wood.

- A dozen men and women clad in furs were polishing axes and broadswords monotonously, mindlessly.
- In Crete, we also find the double axe engraved on stalactite columns in caves.

Propeller:

A piece of equipment consisting of two or more blades that spin around, which makes an aircraft or ship move.

- Designer William Towns rides the Water bike, propeller driven in various configurations.
- He sat there looking at the dead propeller all the way to Cleveland.

Painstaking:

Very careful and thorough SYN meticulous.

- They began the long and painstaking task of compiling a bibliography.
- A delicate and painstaking examination with her fingertips yielded nothing.

Bolt:

To suddenly run somewhere very quickly, especially in order to escape or because you are frightened.

- Before I could say a word, she turned and bolted out the front door.
- The dog bolted into the road, into the oncoming traffic.

Crane:

A large tall machine used by builders for lifting heavy things → hoist

Or a tall water bird with very long legs.

- A heron or crane had been made out of solid bronze by an artist commissioned by the cultural society.
- A little way off, under the clouds, I could see cranes moving.

Robust:

A robust person is strong and healthy or a robust system, organization etc. is strong and not likely to have problems:

The formerly robust economy has begun to weaken.

- He was a robust little boy, with curly dark hair.
- Less robust persons might need a siesta, but Eva worked right through from dawn till dusk.

Weld:

To join metals by melting their edges and pressing them together when they are hot or to join or unite people into a single strong group.

- It is not possible, for example, to weld brackets or stiffening materials directly to the surface.
- It is not possible, for example, to weld brackets or stiffening materials directly to the surface

Gondola:

A long narrow boat with a flat bottom and high points at each end, used on the canals in Venice in Italy.

The place where passengers sit that hangs beneath an airship or balloon

The enclosed part of a cable car where the passengers sit.

- Allow 40 minutes for the gondola ride up the mountain.
- The gondola that contains the payload has been spotted from the air and is believed to be undamaged.

Basin:

A round container attached to the wall in a bathroom, where you wash your hands and face SYN sink.

- Water splashed in the basin of the fountain.
- It was a naturally sheltered basin, a trick of the undulating meadows along the Comer.

Hydraulic:

Moved or operated by the pressure of water or other liquid.

- One of the hydraulic stand pipes, seen before being enclosed in a cabin.
- The hydraulic specialists were organized in the same manner, as were the aircraft mechanics, and so on.

Dock:

A place in a port where ships are loaded, unloaded, or repaired.

- The boat crossed the bay and let them off at the dock, directly below the hotel.
- Cyril sat on the dock and stared out over the water.

Axle:

The bar connecting two wheels on a car or other vehicle.

- After fetching the wagon bed, they rolled out the wheels and axles and assembled the vehicle.
- A string led from the axle, via a pulley held by another patient pupil, to a dangling weight.

Cog:

1 a wheel with small bits sticking out around the edge that fit together with the bits of another wheel as they turn in a machine.

2 one of the small bits that stick out on a cog.

3 a cog in the machine/wheel someone who only has a small unimportant job in a large organization.

- I hear them in there pry up his forehead like a manhole cover, clash and snarl of jammed cogs
- They were like cogs working together, fitting into place when and where they were needed.

Orbit:

To travel in a curved path around a much larger object such as the Earth, the Sun etc.

- The satellite will orbit the Earth for the next 15 years.
- Venus orbits the sun once every 225 Earth days.

Aqueduct:

A structure like a bridge that carries water across a river or valley.

- A miniature aqueduct led water from the spring into a well at the garth's center.
- After another island with half blocked off by Hamstead Wharf there are two aqueducts.

Reading passage 3: Reducing the effects of climate change

Stride:

A long step you make while you are walking.

An improvement in a situation or in development of something.

- In four angry strides, Stuart was through the front gate.
- Sainsbury has really hit its stride with its Pinot Noirs, which seem to be getting better each year.

Stem:

The long thin part of a plant, from which leaves, flowers, or fruit grow.

- But the plant continually produces new stalks through the year, so there always should be some new stems to pick.
- It looked like something pulled from the earth, a tuberous stem or fungus esteemed by gourmets.

Parade:

A public celebration when bands, brightly decorated vehicles etc. move down the street.

- A lot of soldiers were missing from the Victory parade.
- When Johnson arrived home after the championships a big parade was held in his honor.

Arctic:

Relating to the most northern part of the world → Antarctic.

- The Arctic island of Novaya Zemlya.
- Arctic condition.

Replenish:

To put new supplies into something, or to fill something again:

- As more workers retire, new employees are needed to replenish the workforce.
- In an emergency, water can be pumped from the well to replenish the irrigation canals.

Scrutinize:

To examine someone or something very carefully.

- For example, unlike the United States, mergers should be very closely scrutinized.
- But one thing is certain, they will be the most scrutinized players in franchise history.

Birch:

A tree with smooth bark (= outer covering) and thin branches, or the wood from this tree.

- An imperceptible breeze forced the leaves of a regiment of birch trees into anxious quaking.
- Dark pines and yellow birches lay ahead, as the shoreline curved to meet me.

Test 2, reading passage 1: Raising the Mary Rose

Fleet:

A group of ships, or all the ships in a navy or a group of vehicles that are controlled by one company.

- There are unconfirmed reports that the seventh fleet is moving into the area.
- The ban was imposed on the grounds that dolphins were being killed by the tuna fleet.

Overladen:

Filled with too many people or things.

- Overladen buses.

Seabed:

The seabed the land at the bottom of the sea SYN sea floor.

Starboard:

The side of a ship or aircraft that is on your right when you are facing forwards → port.

- Another column dashed up her starboard side and carried off her smokestack.
- He would have had to have panicked, turned her starboard against a westward storm.

Clay:

A type of heavy sticky earth that can be used for making pots, bricks etc.

- Here we find the features of the deceased preserved in clay masks.
- In that case the sellers had warranted that a clay pulverizing machine would process clay at six tons per hour.

Sunken:

Having fallen to the bottom of the sea, a lake, or a river.

- After Charlotte's death in 1943, the villagers all noticed how extraordinarily frail and sunken Shaw looked.
- In one corner there is a sunken Jacuzzi with a young person in it, moving sinuously in the bubbling waters.

Timber:

Wood used for building or making thing SYN lumber.

- Adjustable shelving is still a very popular choice; timber and glass shelves are ideal for displaying ornaments.
- Along the length of the railway line were timber yards, rope works, malting and an iron foundry.

Wreck:

To completely spoil something so that it cannot continue in a successful way.

- He came home drunk again, threatening to wreck the apartment.
- His confrontational speech has wrecked any chances of a peace settlement.

Stray:

To move away from the place you should be.

- A number of Charles's men were killed because they had strayed out of formation.
- An antimatter atom that strays and touches the container wall would set off a chain-reaction annihilation.

Treasure:

A group of valuable things such as gold, silver, jewels etc.

- A husband that cooks and cleans is a real treasure.

- Your old furniture could be a treasure to a growing number of collectors.

Salvage:

1 to save something from an accident or bad situation in which other things have already been damaged, destroyed, or lost.

- If you no longer care for your partner, it is time to ask what can be salvaged from your relationship.
- Retailing and tourism can't salvage an ailing economy.

Hull:

The main part of a ship that goes in the water.

- A glass tide tinkled on the hull of the receiver, its echoing obsidian.
- As the temperature rises in the museum under the hot sun moisture evaporates from the ship's wooden hull.

Bolt:

A metal bar that you slide across a door or window to fasten it.

- Atop a mountain he slew his daughter, then was immediately struck dead by a bolt of lightning.
- Investigators could not check the bolts because they had fallen into the sea.

Suck:

To pull someone or something with great power and force into or out of a particular place.

- She's got long fair hair and a little white face and she sucks her thumb a lot.
- The eighth time the hand enters the mouth, the thumb alone is retained and sucking continues.

Cradle:

A small bed for a baby, especially one that moves gently from side to side.

- The baby rested peacefully in his cradle.
- He put the phone down on the cradle and stared at it.

Cushioning:

- Something soft that protects someone or something when they hit a surface.
- But the cushioning has to be in the mid or forefoot, where the foot hits, rather than the heel.
- Each key has a full travel with good cushioning for the heavy handed

Test 2, reading passage 2:

What destroyed the civilization of Easter Island?

Ethnography:

The scientific description of different races of people.

- A series of individual observation and interview measures will be derived on the basis of this ethnography.
- The ordinary methods of Hellenistic ethnography would have been sufficient.

Inca:

An ancient people who lived in Peru, South America, and who ruled a large area of the Andes mountains, from Ecuador to Chile, until the Spanish arrived in the 16th century and destroyed their civilization. They are known especially for building impressive cities, such as machu picchu, building roads, and having advanced methods of farming. Their capital was Cuzco, and their language was Quechua.

Extraterrestrial:

A creature that people think may exist on another planet.

- Since none of these meteorites had been observed to fall, proof of their extraterrestrial origin was impossible.
- These in turn tend to point to extraterrestrial phenomena.

Grassland:

A large area of land covered with wild grass SYN prairie.

- In my village there also rice fields, grassland and wetland.
- It's found in lowland areas on chalk grassland and among sand dunes.

Scrawny:

A scrawny person or animal looks very thin and weak SYN skinny.

- A few scrawny chickens were searching for scraps of food in the dry earth.
- A few scrawny chickens were searching for scraps of food in the dry earth.

Pollen:

A fine powder produced by flowers, which is carried by the wind or by insects to other flowers of the same type, making them produce seeds.

- However, it is important to remember that the pollen zones are not uniform across large areas.
- The pollen of one flower is transferred to another by means of a fine brush

Lush:

1 plants that are lush grow many leaves and look healthy and strong.

2 very beautiful, comfortable, and expensive SYN luxurious.

- First, we need a long, warm, unbroken growing season to provide a plentiful diet of lush herbage.
- It was green, lush and luxuriant, ringed by the mountains with snowy peaks

Scarce:

If something is scarce, there is not very much of it available.

- After the war, food and clothing were scarce.
- Cheap, clean hotel rooms are scarce in this city, especially in the summer.

Canoe:

A long light boat that is pointed at the ends and which you move along using a paddle.

- In my sixth year I did make myself a smaller canoe, but I did not try to escape in it.
- Memories merge with reality now as we beach the canoe near the ledges under the still-standing thick hemlock.

Cannibal:

1 a person who eats human flesh

2 an animal that eats the flesh of other animals of the same kind

- After the fish have spawned, remove the adults to prevent them from turning cannibal and eating the eggs.
- A cannibal track for me to find and stare at.

Dominance:

The fact of being more powerful, more important, or more noticeable than other people or things.

- In this culture, establishing dominance is often exalted.
- There, too, Theseus and the Minotaur struggle for dominance.

Sledge:

A small vehicle used for sliding over snow, often used by children or in some sports.

- They're good men - they're pulling their sledges themselves.
- Walter did not use a sledge to raise the action.

Topple:

To become unsteady and then fall over, or to make something do this

Topple over or to take power away from a leader or government, especially by force SYN overthrow.

- Political corruption threatens to topple the regime.
- Clinging to each other, Melanie laughing, they toppled in slow motion to the floor.

Chieftain:

The leader of a tribe or a Scottish clan.

- Arturo Silvio, the modelling agency's Milan chieftain, was bustling across the floor towards her.
- At last Achilles called an assembly of the chieftains.

Haul:

To pull something heavy with a continuous steady movement.

- At about five o'clock the beach was full of activity, with the fishermen hauling in their nets.
- Somehow we managed to haul the boat out of the water and onto the bank.

Belly:

The middle part of an animal's body, near its stomach.

- Half way up the drive, Wayne started pawing his belly and rolling the whites of his eyes.
- He kicked Charlie in the belly as soon as they got out of the car.

Overrun:

An amount of time or money that is larger than was planned or intended.

- Cost overruns for overtime for both the police and fire departments has been a chronic problem for years.
- Naturally shortfalls and overruns occur when one year is compared with the next.

Shrivel:

If something shrivels, or if it is shrivelled, it becomes smaller and its surface becomes covered in lines because it is very dry or old.

- Profits have shriveled since the start of the economic crisis.
- How it had shrivelled her to the point of annihilation.

Steward:

A man whose job is to serve food and drinks to passengers on a plane or ship.

- Not all ranchers are good stewards of the land.
- He turned smartly on his heel and trotted into the foyer, greeting the stewards with indiscriminate effusion.

Reading passage 3: Neuroaesthetics

Splash:

If a liquid splashes, it hits or fall on something and makes a noise.

- A motorcycle sped past, splashing all the spectators with mud.
- He knocked over her cup and splashed coffee all over her new dress.

Canvas:

1 strong cloth used to make bags, tents, shoes etc.

2 a painting done with oil paints, or the piece of cloth it is painted on.

- And from somewhere beneath a cupboard she produced an enormous canvas draped in a sheet and showed it to me.
- He tried out the Helen Frankenthaler technique of staining raw canvas with diluted paint.

Fuzzy:

1 if a sound or picture is fuzzy, it is unclear → blurred.

2 unclear or confused **OPP** clear.

- Clarence had only a few fuzzy memories of his grandparents.
- Police have only a fuzzy videotape of the bank robbery.

Doodle:

To draw shapes, lines, or patterns without really about what you are doing.

- I always doodle while I'm talking on the phone.
- Simon was lying on the floor, doodling on a sheet of paper.

Messy:

Making someone or something dirty or untidy.

- My desk isn't always this messy - I've been working on a major project.
- She felt uncomfortable in such a messy house.

Scrutiny:

Careful and thorough examination of someone or something.

- Closer scrutiny of the document revealed a number of interesting facts.
- Once you become famous your private life comes under public scrutiny.

Decipher:

1 to find the meaning of something that is difficult to read or understand.

2 to change a message written in a code into ordinary language so that you can read it **SYN** decode

- Illiterate people may be able to recognize and decipher signs.
- From then on the Chamber began following closely each development as the messages were in turn deciphered and translated.

Encase:

To cover or surround something completely.

- But the cool grape leaves that encase the rice like gift wrapping are fork tender.
- He was encased in a great deal of expensive burgundy metal, and his car was coming right at me.

Flit:

To move lightly or quickly and not stay in one place for very long.

- In the greenhouse birds flit among the plants.
- He lowered his fork and stopped eating, astonished at the idea that had flitted through his mind.

Fractal:

A pattern, usually produced by a computer that is made by repeating the same shape many times in smaller and smaller sizes.

Motif:

- 1 an idea, subject, or image that is regularly repeated and developed in a book, film, work of art etc.
- 2 a small picture or pattern used to decorate something plain.
 - She was wearing a plain white T-shirt with a fish motif in blue and green.
 - Between these two mosaics, however, there are few obvious similarities of motif.

Intrigue:

- 1 if something intrigues you, it interests you a lot because it seems strange or mysterious.
- 2 to make secret plans to harm someone or make them lose their position of power.
 - One question has particularly intrigued those working on this study.
 - The final part of the letter intrigued him greatly.

Test 3, passage 1: The story of silk

Cocoon:

- 1 a silk cover that young moths and other insects make to protect themselves while they are growing.
- 2 something that wraps around you completely, especially to protect you.
- 3 a place or situation in which you feel comfortable and safe, and are protected from anything unpleasant.
 - These children live outside the cocoon of the middle class.
 - But it was clear to all that the then Massachusetts governor would have fit snugly into the capital cocoon.

Mulberry:

A dark purple fruit that can be eaten or a dark purple color.

- I leant against the mulberry tree clutching Radish in my fist and had a bit of a cry there
- I still stop at the mulberry garden every day.

Sip:

To drink something slowly, taking very small mouthfuls.

- She sipped water all the way through the interview.
- As we sat and sipped our half-pint shandies I reflected on what a lucky choice of company I had made

Grove:

A piece of land with trees growing on it.

- His island, she mused, as she drove through almond and olive groves.
- I am in the sacred grove with a priestess in the last surviving matriarchal, communal culture on earth.

Rear:

The back part of an object, vehicle, or building.

- A small porch at the rear can be used for other small items, although access is only from inside.
- That's all, apart from the domestic quarters at the rear.

Reel:

To be confused or shocked by a situation.

- The drunk reeled across the road, talking loudly to nobody.
- When we left, Volkov was reeling from a mixture of liquor and exhaustion, but he remained in high good humor.

Weave:

To make cloth, a carpet, a basket etc. by crossing threads or thin pieces under and over each other by hand or on a loom.

- The old highway weaved its way through Tucson.
- The river weaved across the plain, towards the sea.

Peasant:

A poor farmer who owns or rents a small amount of land, either in past times or in poor countries.

- The economic crisis caused famine, epidemics, and peasant revolt.
- In response peasants cultivate bulkier but less nutritious crops, such as cassava.

Noble:

Morally good or generous in a way that is admired.

- The Siberian tiger is regarded as a noble creature.
- He was rough as a bear in manner, but withal a noble, tender-hearted fellow and a splendid soldier.

Commodity:

A product that is bought and sold.

- Food shopping takes time, a commodity of which most of us have precious little.
- He might want her as a doctor, but as a woman, it seemed, she was a disposable commodity.

Merchandise:

Goods that are being sold.

- The merchandise is attractively displayed and the assistants are friendly and helpful.
- The town has a tiny general store with wildly overpriced merchandise

Monk:

A member of an all-male religious group that lives apart from other people in a monastery.

- And the next thing he remembered was the minibus stopping and the monks helping him into it.
- Each monk received good clothing, although bathing took place only irregularly unless they were ill.

Monopoly:

If a company or government has a monopoly of a business or political activity, it has complete control of it so that other organizations cannot compete with it.

- It is not good for consumers if one company has a monopoly in any area of trade.
- It was not easy to persuade the monarchy to let go of its monopoly of power.

Sweep:

To clean the dust, dirt etc. from the floor or ground, using a brush with a long handle.

- It was not easy to persuade the monarchy to let go of its monopoly of power.
- I just finished sweeping the kitchen floor.

Parachute:

A piece of equipment fastened to the back of people who jump out of planes, which makes them fall slowly and safely to the ground.

- Earth arrival is accomplished by aero capture, followed by descent of the sample container under a parachute.
- Make a rough sketch of a parachute on the board.

Stifle:

To stop something from happening or developing.

- Apparently satisfied, the man leaned back, stifling a choking, coughing fit.
- She leapt to her feet with a cry which was instantly stifled by a mouthful of insects.

Metric:

Using or connected with the metric system of weights and measures.

- Commercial facilities within the state manage 733, 515 metric tons of material.
- In terms of this new time coordinate the Schwarzschild metric becomes.

Reading passage 2: Great migration

Mission:

An important job that involves travelling somewhere, done by a member of the air force, army etc.

- Bush flew bomber missions for the Navy in World War II.
- He volunteered to embark on a dangerous secret mission into occupied France.

Tern:

A black and white sea bird that has long wings and a tail with two points.

- Only the egrets, spoonbill, and least tern, however, faced actual extinction before help arrived.
- The tern is swift, turning tightly among the flock to avoid the pirate.

Herring:

A long thin silver sea fish that can be eaten.

- A few dozen herring here or there; nobody troubled: every child went home with a few dozen herring on a string.
- One issue between these parties was whether the herring meal supplied corresponded with the description.

Gull:

A large common black and white sea bird that lives near the sea SYN seagull

- I walked around the lake three times, looking for the gull.
- The herring gulls are local resident birds, and great opportunists, able to change their feeding habits to whatever is available.

Voracious:

Eating or wanting large quantities of food.

- A voracious reader, Veia is adamant about the pursuit of writing excellence.
- It was a Dorado or dolphin fish, a voracious predator which feeds mostly on flying fish.

Gravelly:

A gravelly voice has a low rough sound.

- Home, she thought dismally as she drove up the gravelly drive.
- The bank on each side of the oak tree was bare and consisted of a light, gravelly soil.

Terrestrial:

1 relating to the Earth rather than to the moon or other planet.

2 living on or relating to land rather than water.

- A statistical analysis based on this data suggests that well over half the stars are being orbited by rocky terrestrial material.
- Rain forests are home to numerous species, terrestrial and epiphytes.

Onward:

Moving forward or continuing.

- From the age of six onward, Vologsky had been able to apply almost total recall to figures of any sort.
- Given his rate of drift, within ten or fifteen minutes the home-base would pass onward beneath him.

Aphid:

A type of small insect that feeds on the juices of plants.

- An hour and there was a speck of yellow on the horizon as tiny as an aphid.
- Some of the alders held overwintering white patches of woolly aphids on their gray stems.

Wildebeest:

A large Southern African animal with a tail and curved horns SYN gnu.

- I cannot look at another zebra, another wildebeest, and certainly no more armadillos!
- The lionesses on the flanks may well drive some of the wildebeest towards their companions in the center of the line.

Antelope:

An animal with long horns that can run very fast and is very graceful.

- A small antelope races away into the bush.
- Across the plain, a herd of antelope ran, and then pivoted all at once like a school of fish.

Plain:

Very clear, and easy to understand or recognize SYN obvious.

- Do you have any plain white shirts?
- She spoke slowly and carefully, using plain simple language.

Sagebrush:

A small plant that is very common in dry areas in the western US.

- Insects clicking softly in the sagebrush.
- We turned down a fence line through high sagebrush.

Bounty:

An amount of money that is given to someone by the government as a reward for doing something, especially catching or killing a criminal.

- It's this seasonal bounty to which the Eleonora's breeding cycle is geared, and the falcons harvest it in abundance.
- President Davis assured the men he had plans that would soon regain for them the bounty of the green fields of Tennessee.

Gaze:

To look at someone or something for a long time, giving it all your attention, often without realizing you are doing so SYN stare.

- I lay back on the sand and gazed at the stars above.
- She sat gazing out the windows at the people walking by.

Bottleneck:

A place in a road where the traffic cannot pass easily, so that there are a lot of delays.

- Automatic packing machines should get rid of the bottlenecks in the process.
- If we don't hire more people in production we're going to have a huge bottleneck in a few months.

Forested:

Forested areas are covered in forests SYN wooded

- Soon after setting off we came to a forested valley along the banks of the Gwaun.
- The landscape was flat, forested and every so often there were small wooden villages.

Hill:

An area of land that is higher than the land around it, like mountain but smaller.

- The hotel is up on the hill, overlooking the town.
- For a while it looks like the red earth, green vegetation and gentle hills of Sedona.

Choke:

To be unable to breathe properly because something is in your throat or there is not enough air.

- "I guess we choked," said Coach Landers after his team's last minute defeat.
- He grabbed her around the neck and choked her to death.

Jurisdiction:

The right to use an official power to make legal decisions, or the area where this right exists.

- It's not within our jurisdiction to tell people what to do in the privacy of their own homes.
- The council has no jurisdiction over these matters.

Reading passage 3:

Preface to how the other half thinks: adventures in mathematical reasoning.

Algebra:

A type of mathematics that uses letters and other signs to represent numbers and values.

- Good understanding of most concepts up to and including algebra
- He hoped to be an engineer, and he was taking algebra and trigonometry and falling behind in both.

Geometry:

Of the angles and shapes formed by the relationships of lines, surfaces, and solid objects in space → geometric.

- The biometric security market also includes voice recognition and hand geometry devices
- There are also a few experiments in Earth geometry that gain from the rapid transfer of data between distant schools.

Trigonometry:

The part of mathematics concerned with the relationship between the angles and sides of TRIANGLES.

- By itself, it is easy to interpret this ability as some sort of mindless, automatic exercise in trigonometry.
- He hoped to be an engineer, and he was taking algebra and trigonometry and falling behind in both

Arithmetic:

The science of numbers involving adding, multiplying etc. Mathematics.

- Of course that simple arithmetic may be wrong.
- Once, multiplying or dividing by zero had terrifying results, reducing orderly arithmetic to instant nonsense.

Alleged:

An alleged crime, fact etc. is one that someone says has happened or is true, although it has not been proved.

- an alleged conspiracy to murder President Kennedy
- Death was the alleged penalty for those who divulged the secrets of the order.

Tantalize:

To show or promise something that someone really wants, but then not allow them to have it.

- It goes as far as it can and waits there for a while, its big eyes staring up, tantalized.
- What were her many mysteries, she tantalized herself, replaying all the loves she'd ever known.

Subatomic:

Smaller than an atom or existing within an atom.

- It investigates phenomena which range in size from subatomic particles to the universe itself.

- The B mesons can now be assured of a place in the tables of known subatomic particles.

Episode:

An event or a short period of time during which something happens.

- Brad Pitt made a guest appearance on last week's episode.
- That was one of the best episodes - I wish I'd got it on tape.

Aficionado:

Someone who is very interested in a particular activity or subject and knows a lot about it.

- Aspirants and aficionados alike ought to be queuing up outside bookstores to lay hands on it.
- But true opera aficionados were perhaps less surprised.

Testimonial:

1 a formal written statement describing someone's character and abilities → reference.

2 something that is given or done to someone to thank or praise them, or show admiration for them.

- But first, a few words of caution, a few more words about Bogdanovich, and a testimonial.
- The testimonials that follow speak to all these matters.

Test 4 reading passage 1:

Research using twins

Fraternal:

Showing a special friendliness to other people because you share interests or ideas with them.

- The fraternal spirit seems to be declining in relations between our churches.
- Identical twins, clearly, are far more concordant in general than are fraternal twins.

Ailment:

An illness that is not very serious.

- Patients who often complain of minor ailments might have something more important on their minds.
- The medicine was supposed to cure all kinds of ailments, ranging from colds to back pains.

Pinpoint:

To discover or explain exactly the real facts about something or the cause of a problem.

- Investigators are trying to pinpoint the cause of the fire.
- Scientists have been unable to pinpoint the exact causes of cancer.

Epigenetics:

The scientific study of changes in the behavior of genes that are caused by things that a living thing experiences.

Hardwired:

1 computer systems that are hard-wired are controlled by hardware rather than software and cannot be easily changed by the user.

2 if an attitude, way of behaving etc. is hard-wired, it is a natural part of a person's character that they are born with and cannot change.

- The aim should be to have hard-wired network data connections in close proximity to all potential computer users.

Reading passage 2:

An introduction to film sound

Banal:

Ordinary and not interesting, because of a lack of new or different ideas SYN trivial.

- It was just another banal newspaper story.
- Everybody says sorry and life goes on - it's that banal.

Whirlwind:

1 an extremely strong wind that moves quickly with a circular movement, causing a lot of damage SYN tornado.

2 a situation in which you experience a lot of different emotions, or a lot of different things happen, one after another.

- A black whirlwind, they fill the air with the click of leathery wings as they spiral through the trees.
- Living in Manhattan is such a whirlwind.

Frenetic:

Frenetic activity is fast and not very organized.

- Every frenetic gesture engendered tenderness in her heart
- His expressions range from that of a contented Cheshire cat, to a somewhat frenetic frown.

Ominous:

Making you feel that something bad is going to happen.

- Another wave crashed onto the deck and the mast made an ominous creaking sound.
- Katy answered the phone. There was an ominous silence.

Nuance:

A very slight, hardly noticeable difference in manner, color, meaning etc.

- There are layers of nuance and humor in her writing.
- His voice is measured, but I invent my own tones, the nuances of criticism.

Siren:

A piece of equipment that makes very loud warning sounds, used on police cars, fire engines.

- I fall asleep to the drone of sirens and helicopters overhead.
- I howl with the blaring of the air raid sirens.

Ubiquitous:

- Seeming to be everywhere_ sometimes used humorously.
- Plastic containers are ubiquitous nowadays.
- Energy-and water-saving technologies are ubiquitous.

Dissonance:

A combination of notes that sound strange because they are not in harmony or lack of agreement.

- A choral piece full of dissonance and odd rhythms.
- The party faithful might be willing to put up with such dissonance among their candidates.

Salient:

The salient points or features of something are the most important or most noticeable parts of it.

- Before commenting, let me now briefly sketch out by way of summary the salient points of the monist argument.
- In Chapter 9, we examine some of the more salient differences in their experiences.

Motif:

An idea, subject, or image that is regularly repeated and developed in a book, film, work of art etc.

- Between these two mosaics, however, there are few obvious similarities of motif.
- In this case we find a classic call-refusal motif.

Chase:

To quickly follow someone or something in order to catch them.

- He's been chasing some cute girl he met at the ice rink.
- I chased around all day looking for a birthday present to give her.

Creaky:

Something such as a door, floor, or bed that is creaky creaks when you open it, walk on it, sit on it etc. especially because it is old and not in good condition.

- He kept his jeans and sweaters in a plastic suitcase under the creaky bed.
- When they are successful a bell rings and a mechanical Buddha lights up and makes a creaky obeisance.

Reading passage 4:
This marvelous invention

Distill:

To make a liquid such as water or alcohol more pure by heating it so that it becomes a gas and then letting it cool.

- Water could be extracted by distilling or melting blocks of permafrost.
- But it does distill the issue to the question on which tax policy should stand or fall: fairness.

Essence:

The most basic and important quality of something.

- His speech was, in essence, a plea for understanding and conciliation.
- the essence of his argument is that human character is formed by society

Eloquent:

Able to express your ideas and opinions well, especially in a way that influences people.

- He gave an eloquent speech after dinner.
- Few will forget his eloquent defense of individual freedom.

Hymn:

A song of praise to God.

- He liked the hymns and ever afterwards admired the Congregational hymn book.
- There were two organs in the Great Chamber and hymns were often sung.

Homage:

Something you do to show respect for someone or something you think is important.

- Memorial Day is when Americans pay homage to those killed in the nation's wars.
- I am here to receive your homage in dark silence.

Paradox:

A situation that seems strange because it involves two ideas or qualities that are very different.

- Fortunately, a way out of this apparent paradox exists.
- It is this paradox, according to Brooks, that is the main point of the poem.

Craftsman:

Someone who is very skilled at a particular craft.

- The original designs were made by highly skilled craftsmen.
- And like all craftsmen, they were not always taken seriously by the intellectually fashionable people of their times.

Splutter:

To talk quickly in short confused phrases, especially because you are angry or surprised.

- Shaw is like saltwater in the face and Margaret was apt to splutter.
- Shells from our gunboats on the James came hoarsely spluttering over the heads of our troops.

Cog:

A wheel with small bits sticking out around the edge that fit together with the bits of another wheel as they turn in a machine.

- Our cog was a sturdy merchantman escorted by a small man-of-war.
- The lime kiln belly rotated on giant cogs into the dark of the next chamber.

Savanna:

A large flat area of grassy land, especially in Africa.

- Seems like there were early records of savanna blazing star in the state.
- When the savanna grass shouldered out cactus, they weeded fiercely.

Sprawl:

To lie or sit with your arms or legs stretched out in a lazy or careless way.

- The middle-class neighborhoods sprawl outward from the city center.
- Gallagher drove his fist into his face and sent him sprawling on his back.

Exertion:

A lot of physical or mental effort.

- A little physical exertion helps me think more clearly at work.
- After some exertion, I decided the track was too rutted for me to have a hope.

Stunt:

A dangerous action that is done to entertain people, especially in a film.

- Lockiear was the first pilot to do aerial stunts for the movies.
- The hunger strike is thought to be just another political stunt.

Monstrosity:

Something large and ugly, especially a building.

- I rented a Spanish-style monstrosity in Beverly Hills while my apartment was redecorated.
- This building is another monstrosity celebrated as a brilliant piece of architecture.

Squashed:

Broken or made flat by being pressed hard.

- He held out a squashed packet of cigarettes and offered me one.
- We can't give her those chocolates - they're all squashed.

Colossal:

Used to emphasize that something is extremely large.

- A crane arrived, its colossal arm reaching out of the sky toward the building.
- Children are failing exams and dropping out of school in colossal numbers.

Sleek:

A vehicle or other object that is sleek has a smooth attractive shape.

- Linda looked wonderful at the party; her hair was long and sleek, her make-up perfect.
- The cat purred as Ben stroked its sleek fur.