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# Vocabulary Unit



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## allude (v)

- To refer to casually or indirectly



In the wizarding world, witches and wizards will only **allude**, or refer indirectly, to Voldemort, calling him “He Who Must Not Be Named,” rather than saying his name aloud. But, as Hermione says, “fear of a name only increases fear of the thing itself.”

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# clairvoyant

- (adj) supernaturally perceptive
- (n) one who possesses extrasensory powers; a seer



Most people automatically think of clairvoyants, or people who can sense the future, as frauds.

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## conclusive (adj)

- Serving to settle an issue; final

My mother often invoked the **conclusive**, or final, parental answer, “Because I said so!” when dealing with my sister and me. There was no arguing after that!



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## disreputable (adj)

- Not respectable, not esteemed



After being elected twice on a platform of “family values,” our governor has become a national joke and a **disreputable** figure, having lost all respect due to an alleged affair with his top political advisor, among other allegations of corruption.

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## endemic (adj)

- Native or confined to a particular region or people
- Characteristic of or prevalent in a field

Unfortunately, burnout is an **endemic** problem in education. It becomes more and more prevalent in the field every year.



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## exemplary (adj)

- Worthy of imitation, commendable
- Serving as a model



Be careful who you choose as a role model; exemplary human beings, or those worthy of imitation, are few and far between.

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$$\begin{aligned}
C = & \left( F_{Gr_c} - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{r_c^3} \right) \frac{1}{2nr_c} + \frac{v_{rc}^2}{2nr_c^2} - \frac{z}{2nz} \left( \frac{z}{r_c} \right)^\mu \\
& \times v_{r0c} v_{rc} \left[ \frac{1}{r_c} + \frac{z}{z} \left( \frac{z}{r_c} \right)^\mu \right] + \frac{1}{2n} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial r} F_{Gr} \Big|_c + 3 \frac{\lambda_c^2}{r_c^4} \right) \\
& + \frac{v_{rc}^2}{2nr_c^2} + \mu \frac{z}{2nz} \frac{z^\mu}{r_c^{\mu+1}} v_{r0c} v_{rc} + \frac{z}{2nz} \left( \frac{z}{r_c} \right)^\mu \\
& \times v_{rc} \left[ \frac{2n v_{r0c}}{c_{s0c}} \left( \frac{-B_0 + \sqrt{B_0^2 - 4A_0 C_0}}{2A_0} \right) + \frac{v_{r0c}}{r_c} \right], \quad (A3)
\end{aligned}$$

It would take the rest of my days on Earth to **fathom**, or understand, mathematical equations like these.

## fathom

- (v) to understand, to get to the bottom of; to determine the depth of
- (n) a measure of depth in water

$$\nabla^2 u = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2}$$





## guile (n)

- Trickery, cunning deception

Wile E. Coyote spends his days trying to catch the roadrunner, using **guile**, or trickery, of all sorts. However, he only ever ends up hurting himself, while the roadrunner watches in amusement.



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# integrity (n)

- Honesty, high moral standards
- An unimpaired condition, completeness, soundness



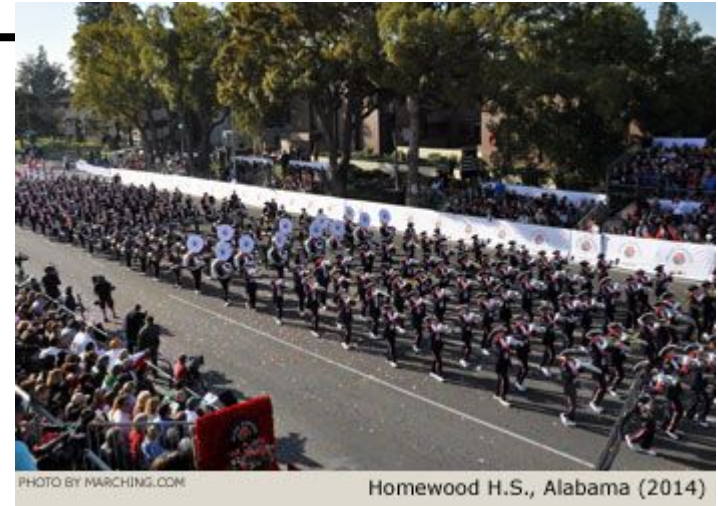
Structural engineers must periodically test suspension bridges like the Golden Gate Bridge to ensure their **integrity**, or soundness, to prevent disasters.

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# itinerary (n)

- A route of travel
- A record of travel
- A guidebook
- A schedule of travel



Just looking at the **itinerary**, or travel schedule, for my son's 2014 trip to Pasadena exhausted me. They did more in four days than I do in a month!

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## **misconstrue (v)**

- To interpret wrongly, mistake the meaning of



Walking down the street in London, I was thrilled to see David Tennant waving to me. Weak in the knees from my wicked fangirl crush, I waved back, only to realize I'd **misconstrued** the situation, interpreting it incorrectly. Turns out he was just hailing a cab.

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## obnoxious (adj)

- Highly offensive, arousing strong dislike



Need I say more?!?

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## placate (v)

- To appease, soothe or pacify



Most babies can be easily **placated**, or soothed, by popping a pacifier into their mouth, but it is a hard habit for them to break later!

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## placid (adj)

- Calm and peaceful

Lake **Placid** in New York is aptly named for its calm, tranquil waters.



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## potent (adj)

- Powerful, highly effective

Most poisons are **potent**, or powerful and highly effective, often killing the one who ingests them. Their potency is highlighted by the skull and crossbones image used as a warning.





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## pretext (n)

- A false reason, deceptive excuse

Using the need for milk as her **pretext**, or false reason, the exhausted young mother drove to the store, then sat in her car for fifteen minutes of peace and quiet.



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## protrude (v)

- To stick out

The late, great Jimmy Durante made a name for himself by satirizing his own nose, which **protruded**, or stuck out, more than any other feature on his face. In fact, he was known as “The Great Schnozzola.”



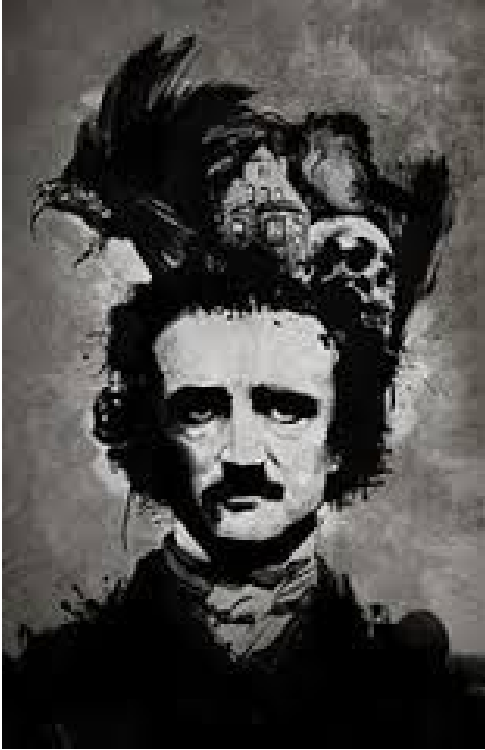
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# reparation (n)

- A repayment made for a wrong or an injury

After WWII, Germany was ordered to pay billions of dollars in **reparation** to repay other countries for the losses and damages caused by Germany's aggression.





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## stark

- (adj) harsh, unrelieved, desolate
- (adv) utterly

As a result of his dark, often disturbing, works, people incorrectly assumed that Edgar Allan Poe was **stark**, or utterly, raving mad. His writing simply responded to the **stark**, or harsh, life he lived.

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## superficial (adj)

- On or near the surface
- Concerned with or understanding only what is on the surface, shallow



In *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, the Black Knight famously yells, “It’s only a flesh wound!” after having his arm lopped off by King Arthur. The irony, of course, is that his wound is not **superficial**, or on the surface, at all. In fact, it is quite gruesome.

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