Unit One: Chapter 4

- agenda
- antidote
- apathy
- bland
- propaganda

- prospects
- radical
- reinforce
- relevant
- ruthless
Choose the meaning closest to that of the *boldfaced* word.

1. **agenda**  
   (ə-ˈjen-ə) — noun

- There are two items on the **agenda** for today’s office meeting: the company’s new product and the holiday party.

*Agenda* means

A. a schedule.
B. a desk.
C. work.

“Besides eating and sleeping, what’s on your **agenda** for today?”
Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

**1 agenda** (ə-ˈjēn-də) – noun

- There are two items on the **agenda** for today’s office meeting: the company’s new product and the holiday party.

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**Agenda** means

A. a schedule.

B. a desk.

C. work.

Two items are on the **schedule** for discussion at today’s meeting. Ralph’s daily **schedule** includes the three activities listed.

**“Besides eating and sleeping, what’s on your **agenda** for today?”**
TEN WORDS IN CONTEXT

Choose the meaning closest to that of the boldfaced word.

2 antidote (ʔən'tĭ-dōt′) – noun

• Because there was no antidote for the snake’s poison, the cat that was bitten died.

• For me, a good antidote to feeling low is to bake a batch of brownies.

Antidote means
A. a short story.
B. a cause.
C. a cure.
TEN WORDS IN CONTEXT

Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

**2 antidote** (ăn'tĭ-dōt') — noun

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**Antidote** means

A. a short story.
B. a cause.
C. a cure.

The cat died because there was no **cure** for the poison. Baking a batch of brownies (and then eating them) could be a **cure** for feeling low.
TEN WORDS IN CONTEXT

Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

3  **apathy**  (əp'ə-thē)  — noun

- Determined to shock her students out of their **apathy**, the history teacher showed up for class one day dressed as Joan of Arc.

*Apathy* means

A. pity.
B. understanding.
C. lack of interest.
Choose the meaning closest to that of the boldfaced word.

3 apathy (ˌăp′ə-thē) – noun

- Determined to shock her students out of their apathy, the history teacher showed up for class one day dressed as Joan of Arc.

_Apathy_ means

A. pity.
B. understanding.
C. lack of interest.

The students might be shocked out of their lack of interest if the teacher showed up for class dressed as Joan of Arc. Low turnout on election day would indicate that the voters lacked interest.
Mexicans, accustomed to hot and spicy foods, often find American dishes **bland** by comparison.

**Bland** means

A. old.
B. dull.
C. bitter.
Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>bland</th>
<th>(bländ)</th>
<th>– adjective</th>
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- Mexicans, accustomed to hot and spicy foods, often find American dishes **bland** by comparison.

**Bland** means

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B. dull.

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The gray outfit by itself would seem **dull**; the bright red scarf would make the outfit striking. The hot and spicy foods make the less spicy American dishes seem **dull** by comparison.
Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

**5 propaganda** (prōp'ə-găn'də) — **noun**

- Until recently, the **propaganda** put out by cigarette companies said that nicotine didn’t harm people’s health.

*Propaganda* means

A. research.
B. complaints.
C. publicity.
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5 *propaganda* (prɒˈpə-gənˈdə) — noun

- Until recently, the *propaganda* put out by cigarette companies said that nicotine didn’t harm people’s health.

*Propaganda* means

A. research.
B. complaints.
C. publicity.

In order to sell cigarettes, tobacco companies would put out publicity saying that nicotine didn’t harm people’s health. Political candidates would put out publicity directed against their opponents. The words *TV ads* are a clue.
Prospects means
A. reasons.
B. chances.
C. fears.
Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

6 **prospects** (prŏs'pĕkts') — noun

- What are my **prospects** of finding a hotel room in this town during Super Bowl weekend?

*Prospects* means

A. reasons.

B. chances.

C. fears.

Bad reviews would harm a movie’s **chances** for doing well at the box office. One would wonder about the **chances** of finding a hotel room in town on Super Bowl weekend.
TEN WORDS IN CONTEXT

Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

7 **radical** (răd'ĭ-kəl) – adjective

- I won’t vote for the **radical** candidate—his beliefs are too extreme for me.
- Most students tried to change school policy through peaceful compromise, but a **radical** group wanted to take over the president’s office by force.

*Radical* means

A. extreme.
B. average.
C. young.
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| 7 radical (r̩dˈɪ-kl) | adjective |

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  *Radical* means

  A. extreme.

  B. average.

  C. young.

In the first item, the word *extreme* is a clue. In the second item, making over the president’s office by force is an *extreme* way to try to change school policy.
TEN WORDS IN CONTEXT

Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

8 **reinforce**  (rē'ĭn-fôrs')  – **verb**

- Jonathan’s wisecrack *reinforced* the teacher’s opinion that he was interested only in fooling around.

*Reinforce* means

A. to ruin.
B. to make stronger.
C. to repeat.

The metal mesh *reinforces* the concrete that is poured over it.
Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

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• Jonathan’s wisecrack **reinforced** the teacher’s opinion that he was interested only in fooling around.

**Reinforce** means
A. to ruin.
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The wisecrack would strengthen the teacher’s opinion that the student was interested only in fooling around. Extra layers of material would make the heels and toes stronger.
TEN WORDS IN CONTEXT

Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

9  **relevant**  (rĕl'ə-vənt')  – adjective

- History is always **relevant** to our lives because it shows us what results can follow certain actions.

*Relevant* means

A. known.
B. related.
C. threatening.
TEN WORDS IN CONTEXT

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- History is always relevant to our lives because it shows us what results can follow certain actions.

*Relevant* means

A. known.

B. related.

C. threatening.

By showing us what results can follow certain actions, history is related to our lives. The topic of the weather is not related to the topic of Yvonne’s speeding tickets.
Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

**10 ruthless**  
**(rōoth'īlĭs)**  
*– adjective*

- Barry is so **ruthless** that he would step on coworkers to advance himself.

*Ruthless* means

A. sweet.
B. confusing.
C. without mercy.
Choose the meaning closest to that of the **boldfaced** word.

**10 ruthless** *(rūth'lis)* — adjective

- Barry is so **ruthless** that he would step on coworkers to advance himself.

*Ruthless* means

A. sweet.

B. confusing.

C. without mercy.

In the first item, the words *shows no mercy* are a clue. In the second item, someone who would step on his coworkers to advance himself is a person who is **without mercy**.