

## General Words

### Senior General Level 2

#### alpine

(say **al**-puyn)

*adjective* having to do with high, mountainous country:

*Alpine wildflowers are very delicate.*

#### apricot

(say **ay**-pree-kot or **ay**-pruh-kot)

*noun* a small, round, juicy fruit:

*I always find it hard to tell the difference between an apricot and a peach.*

#### balance

(say **bal**-uhns)

*verb* If you **balance** something, you keep it in a steady position so that it doesn't fall or tip over:

*I tried to balance a plate on my head while walking.*

#### bamboo

(say bam-**booh**)

*noun* a woody plant whose stem is sometimes used for making furniture:

*We have a chair on our balcony made from bamboo.*

#### blanch

(say blانش or blahnsh)

*verb* to put in boiling water for a short time, and then in cold, in order to remove the skins or to kill germs before freezing:

*We decided to blanch the tomatoes so that it would be easier to remove the skins.*

#### bombard

(say bom-**bahd**)

*verb* to attack a place or building with heavy guns or bombs:

*The army decided to bombard the fort to force the enemy to surrender.*

#### calendar

(say **kal**-uhn-duh)

*noun* a chart that shows you the days and weeks of each month of the year:

*Our calendar hangs in the kitchen next to the fridge.*

#### canyon

(say **kan**-yuhn)

*noun* a deep valley with steep sides:

*Everything at the bottom of the canyon looks very small.*

#### charcoal

(say **chah**-kohl)

*noun* partly burnt wood, which can be used for drawing:

*We drew pictures with sticks of charcoal in our art class.*

#### citrus

(say **sit**-ruhs)

*noun* a small evergreen tree such as the lemon, orange or lime:

*The citrus we planted last year is starting to produce fruit.*

**clerk**

(say klahk)

*noun* someone who works in an office, doing things like keeping records, opening letters and sending out bills to people who owe money:

*My mother works as a clerk for a large company.*

**compost**

(say kom-post)

*noun* a mixture of things like vegetable scraps and leaves, left to rot and then used to fertilise the soil:

*We dug some compost into the ground before we planted our vegetable garden.*

**coupon**

(say kooH-pon)

*noun* a ticket or card which you can exchange for goods or money:

*I was given a coupon for a free movie.*

**crumb**

(say krum)

*noun* a small piece of bread, cake or other dry food:

*We watched as the ant struggled under the weight of a crumb.*

**custard**

(say kuss-tuhd)

*noun* a soft sweet food made from milk, eggs and sugar:

*My grandmother makes delicious banana custard.*

**cutlery**

(say kut-luh-ree)

*noun* the knives, forks and spoons used for eating:

*He set the table with plates and cutlery.*

**cyclone**

(say suy-klohn)

*noun* a storm with very strong winds:

*The roof of their house was torn off in the cyclone.*

**dally**

(say dal-ee)

*verb* to waste time:

*We were told to go straight home and not to dally on the way.*

**damage**

(say dam-ij)

*verb* to harm or spoil something:

*Eating too much sweet food can damage your teeth.*

**deduce**

(say duh-dyoohs)

*verb* to reach a decision by reasoning and considering all the facts known to you:

*The police were able to deduce the identity of the thief.*

**describe**

(say duh-skruyb)

*verb* To **describe** someone or something is to give a picture of them using written or spoken words:

*Can you describe the man clearly?*

**dismal**

(say **diz**-muhl)

*adjective* Something that is **dismal** makes you feel gloomy:

*The dismal weather made me want to stay in bed all day.*

**dissolve**

(say duh-**zolv**)

*verb* A solid substance **dissolves** when it is mixed into a liquid and it disappears:

*These tablets dissolve quickly in water.*

**dutiful**

(say **dyooh**-tuh-fuhl)

*adjective* obediently performing your duties:

*He was a dutiful teacher who cared for all his students.*

**elephant**

(say **el**-uh-fuhnt)

*noun* a very large animal of Africa or India, with a thick grey skin, a long trunk which can grasp and carry things, and long curved tusks:

*We went to the zoo especially to see the new African elephant.*

**emblem**

(say **em**-bluhm)

*noun* a badge or something that serves as a sign or symbol:

*The floral emblem of New South Wales is the waratah.*

**engross**

(say en-**grohs**)

*verb* to occupy the mind or attention of completely:

*That book will engross you for days.*

**expiry**

(say ek-**spuy**-ree)

*noun* a coming to an end:

*He intends to retire at the expiry of his present contract.*

**federal**

(say **fed**-uh-ruhl or **fed**-ruhl)

*adjective* relating to a union of states under a central government:

*He is a journalist who writes about federal politics.*

**flour**

(say **flow**-uh)

*noun* a fine powder made from rice, wheat, or other grain and used in cooking:

*Dad bought some flour to make pancakes.*

**fossil**

(say **foss**-uhl)

*noun* the remains of an animal or plant from long ago, preserved in rock:

*We found a fossil of a fern leaf in a cave.*

**fungus**

(say **fung**-guhs)

*noun* a type of plant which does not grow from seeds and does not have a green stem or green leaves:

*I saw a colourful fungus on a log in the bush.*

**garment**

(say **gah**-muhnt)

*noun* a piece of clothing, such as a dress, shirt or coat:

*He was wearing a very peculiar garment of purple and green satin.*

**gnome**

(say nohm)

*noun* a small being in fairytales, usually imagined as a little old man:

*In fairytale illustrations a gnome generally has a beard and a pointed hat.*

**harmony**

(say **hah**-muh-nee)

*noun* a pleasant combination of musical notes sounding together:

*The choir sang in perfect harmony.*

**inferno**

(say in-**fer**-noh)

*noun* a place that seems like hell because of heat or fire:

*When the curtains caught fire, the house quickly became a blazing inferno.*

**lagoon**

(say luh-**goohn**)

*noun* a shallow pool of water, often separated from the sea by a bank of sand or a reef:

*The sea was too rough so we swam in the lagoon.*

**lethal**

(say **lee**-thuhl)

*adjective* Something **lethal** causes death:

*The venom of the funnel-web spider can be lethal.*

**mammal**

(say **mam**-uhl)

*noun* an animal whose young feeds on its mother's milk:

*A whale is a mammal which lives in the sea.*

**mattress**

(say **mat**-ruhs)

*noun* a case filled with soft material, often reinforced with springs, used as a bed:

*I need a bigger bed and mattress now that I'm a teenager.*

**mulch**

(say mulch)

*noun* plant material such as grass clippings and leaves, spread on gardens to protect and feed the plants:

*Jim spread mulch around his new seedlings.*

**nostril**

(say **noss**-truhl)

*noun* Your **nostril** is one of the two openings of your nose:

*My left nostril was completely blocked up because I had a cold.*

**onion**

(say **un**-yuhn)

*noun* a white vegetable with a white, brown or purple skin and a strong smell and taste, used in cooking:

*He chopped up an onion and put it on the barbecue.*

**patient**

(say **pay**-shuhnt)

*noun* someone who is being treated by a doctor or is in a hospital:

*The doctor had to check on one last patient before he could leave for the night.*

**reptile**

(say **rep**-tuyl)

*noun* a cold-blooded animal that lays eggs, such as a lizard or snake:

*Because a reptile is cold-blooded, it needs to lie in the sun to warm up.*

**review**

(say ruh-**vyooh**)

*noun* an article which describes and gives an opinion of something, such as a book or film:

*The review was so good that we're going to see the film.*

**sensor**

(say **sen**-suh)

*noun* any device that can detect something and respond to it, usually by setting off a signal:

*The sensor detected smoke, and set off the fire alarm.*

**smuggle**

(say **smug**-uhl)

*verb* To **smuggle** something somewhere is to take it there secretly and illegally:

*They were trying to smuggle rare fossils out of the country but were caught at the airport.*

**velvet**

(say **vel**-vuht)

*noun* a kind of soft, slightly furry fabric:

*The magician wore a cloak of dark blue velvet.*

### Senior General Level 3

#### activist

(say **ak**-tuh-vuhst)

*noun* someone who works very hard for something they believe in:

*My uncle is an activist for the environment.*

#### advisory

(say uhd-**vuy**-zuh-ree)

*adjective* having the power to advise:

*The school had an advisory council made up of teachers and parents.*

#### affluent

(say **af**-looh-uhnt)

*adjective* wealthy or rich:

*Australia is a relatively affluent country with few people living in extreme poverty.*

#### aghast

(say uh-**gahst**)

*adjective* shocked and frightened:

*We were aghast to find that the floodwater had reached the back door.*

#### ailment

(say **ayl**-muhnt)

*noun* an illness:

*She has a serious ailment and needs ongoing treatment.*

#### alfalfa

(say al-**fal**-fuh)

*noun* a plant used as feed for animals, and whose sprouts are used in salads:

*We liked to put alfalfa sprouts on our sandwiches instead of lettuce.*

#### algae

(say **al**-jee or **al**-gee)

*plural noun* a type of green plant found in or near water:

*Seaweed is a type of algae.*

#### allotment

(say uh-**lot**-muhnt)

*noun* a portion or share:

*We had to make our allotment of food last for the whole week of the camping trip.*

#### annul

(say uh-**nul**)

*verb* to abolish or wipe out:

*The judge agreed to annul the bankruptcy of the company.*

#### aphid

(say **ay**-fuhd)

*noun* a small insect which sucks the juice from certain plants:

*Mum says if I see an aphid on her roses I should squash it!*

#### aplomb

(say uh-**plom**)

*noun* the ability to handle difficult or unusual situations:

*Our school captain introduced the guest speaker with aplomb.*

**appendix**

(say uh-**pen**-diks)

*noun* a small tube-like body part joined to the large intestine in the right side of the abdomen:

*My friend has had her appendix taken out, and she won't be back at school for a week.*

**armament**

(say **ahm**-uh-muhnt)

*noun* the weapons on a military aircraft or ship:

*Torpedoes were part of the submarine's armament.*

**aromatic**

(say a-ruh-**mat**-ik)

*adjective* having a pleasant smell:

*The heated aromatic oil made the whole house smell pleasant.*

**arsenic**

(say **ah**-suh-nik)

*noun* a greyish white element which can form poisonous compounds:

*Arsenic was often used as a poison in old murder mysteries.*

**artichoke**

(say **ah**-tuh-chohk)

*noun* a thick, round flower which grows on a thistle-like plant and is used as a vegetable:

*The artichoke is eaten as a vegetable but it is really a flower.*

**artisan**

(say **ah**-tuh-zuhn)

*noun* a skilled worker who makes useful things like tools, cooking items, etc.:

*The medieval town had an artisan who made fine silverware.*

**astrology**

(say uhs-**trol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the study of the possible effects of the stars and planets on our lives:

*Astrology involves judging the influence of the stars and planets on our lives.*

**atoll**

(say **at**-ol)

*noun* a coral island with a saltwater lagoon in the middle:

*We enjoyed swimming in the lagoon within the atoll.*

**auditor**

(say **aw**-duh-tuh)

*noun* a person appointed to examine accounting records:

*An auditor came to review our tax records.*

**avocado**

(say av-uh-**kah**-doh)

*noun* a green, pear-shaped fruit with a large seed:

*She sliced an avocado and added it to the salad.*

**backgammon**

(say **bak**-gam-uhn)

*noun* a board game in which two people take turns to move pieces after throwing dice:

*On Wednesday nights I play backgammon with my grandfather.*

**ballot**

(say **bal**-uht)

*noun* a ticket or paper you must fill in to record your vote:

*Please mark your vote on the ballot and put it in the box.*

**bangalow**

(say **bang**-guh-loh)

*noun* a palm tree of New South Wales and Queensland, sometimes growing in clumps near the coast:

*He climbed a bangalow to get a better view of the beach.*

**basalt**

(say **bass**-awlt)

*noun* a type of dark, dense, volcanic rock:

*Basalt is a rock formed by the rapid cooling of lava.*

**basmati**

(say baz-**mah**-tee)

*noun* a type of rice from India:

*Basmati is the best rice to serve with this curry.*

**bazooka**

(say buh-**zoo**-kuh)

*noun* a cylindrical weapon that fires a rocket to destroy tanks, etc.:

*The rebels took aim at the helicopter with a bazooka.*

**beech**

(say beech)

*noun* a tree with smooth, grey bark and hard wood which is often used for making furniture:

*Our new dining table is made from the wood of the beech tree.*

**belfry**

(say **bel**-free)

*noun* a tower with a bell hanging in it:

*He climbed to the top of the belfry to ring the bell.*

**beret**

(say **be**-ray)

*noun* a soft, round cap:

*The French man at the cheese shop always wears a beret.*

**bettong**

(say **bet**-ong)

*noun* a very small kangaroo that looks like a small wallaby with a short nose:

*The bettong is one of Australia's nocturnal marsupials.*

**billabong**

(say **bil**-uh-bong)

*noun* a waterhole which used to be part of a river:

*We pitched our tent beside the billabong. [from an Aboriginal language of New South Wales called Wiradjuri]*

**bizarre**

(say buh-**zah**)

*adjective* very strange or unusual:

*The doctors were very worried by his bizarre behaviour.*

**blizzard**

(say **bliz**-uhd)

*noun* a violent storm with strong winds and driving snow:

*We got caught in a blizzard on the way back from our skiing trip.*

**blockade**

(say blok-**ayd**)

*noun* the closing of a port by enemy ships or soldiers to stop supplies from going in or out:

*The blockade prevented fresh supplies from reaching the soldiers.*

**boobook**

(say **booh**-book)

*noun* a small brownish owl with white-spotted back and wings:

*A boobook landed on my windowsill last night.*

**boycott**

(say **boy**-kot)

*verb* If you **boycott** something, you refuse to go to it:

*She decided to boycott the meeting as a protest against the new policy.*

**brochure**

(say **broh**-shuh or bruh-**shoo**-uh)

*noun* a small book with a paper cover, containing information or advertisements:

*The travel agent offered me a brochure about the different resorts on the island.*

**brumby**

(say **brum**-bee)

*noun* a wild horse living freely in the bush:

*The stockman's favourite horse was the brumby.*

**brusque**

(say brusk or broosk)

*adjective* quick to say something and not very polite:

*His brusque manner sometimes upsets people.*

**bunion**

(say **bun**-yuhn)

*noun* a swelling of a joint on the foot, especially on the big toe:

*The bunion on my foot makes walking very painful.*

**callous**

(say **kal**-uhs)

*adjective* showing no concern for another person's feelings:

*Ignoring his cry for help was both callous and cruel.*

**camisole**

(say **kam**-uh-sohl)

*noun* a woman's simple top with narrow shoulder straps:

*The bride wore a simple camisole with a long white skirt.*

**carafe**

(say kuh-**rahf**)

*noun* a glass bottle used for serving water, wine or fruit juice at a meal table:

*She poured some homemade lemonade from the carafe.*

**carnivore**

(say **kah**-nuh-vaw)

*noun* an animal that eats mostly meat:

*The lion is a carnivore that attacks its prey with ferocity.*

**cassata**

(say kuh-**sah**-tuh)

*noun* a type of gelato containing chopped nuts and mixed fruit:

*Her two favourite types of gelato are lemon and cassata.*

**cavalry**

(say **kav**-uhl-ree)

*noun* the group of soldiers within an army which used to ride horses:

*The cavalry was an important part of an army because it could move with great speed.*

**cellular**

(say **sel**-yuh-luh)

*adjective* relating to a cell:

*Using a microscope, we could see the cellular structure of the leaf.*

**chieftain**

(say **cheef**-tuhn)

*noun* the leader of a tribe:

*Only the chieftain of each Scottish clan could attend the meeting.*

**cleanse**

(say klenz)

*verb* When you **cleanse** something, you make it clean or pure:

*The nurse started to cleanse the wound with a mild antiseptic.*

**cockatoo**

(say kok-uh-**tooh**)

*noun* a crested parrot:

*He taught his pet cockatoo to whistle the national anthem.*

**coconut**

(say **koh**-kuh-nut)

*noun* the large, hard nut of a kind of palm tree, which is lined with white flesh and contains a clear milk:

*Be careful a coconut doesn't fall down from the tree and hit you!*

**coleslaw**

(say **kohl**-slaw)

*noun* a salad made with sliced raw cabbage:

*We always have coleslaw when we have a barbecue.*

**complexity**

(say kuhm-**pleks**-uh-tee)

*noun* the state or quality of being complex or intricate:

*It took her some time to understand the complexity of running her own business.*

**concession**

(say kuhn-**sess**-uhn)

*noun* something that you agree to do or to give, especially to end some disagreement:

*I'm prepared to make a concession if you agree to change some of your demands.*

**condemn**

(say kuhn-**dem**)

*verb* If you **condemn** someone or something, you strongly express your disapproval of them:

*The government moved quickly to condemn the actions of the vandals.*

**confetti**

(say kuhn-**fet**-ee)

*noun* small bits of coloured paper, thrown at weddings or carnivals:

*Confetti rained down on the bridal couple after the ceremony.*

**contingent**

(say kuhn-**tin**-juhnt)

*adjective* depending on something that is not yet certain:

*The future of our company is contingent upon good sales this year.*

**corduroy**

(say **kaw**-juh-roy or **kaw**-duh-roy)

*noun* a cotton material with a pattern of ridges:

*Jeans made of corduroy are good in winter.*

**coriander**

(say ko-ree-**an**-duh)

*noun* a small plant with strong-smelling, seedlike fruit, used in cooking and medicine:

*Coriander is an essential ingredient for Thai cooking.*

**cornice**

(say **kawn**-uhs)

*noun* a strip covering the joint between the walls and ceiling of a room:

*The cornice was a strip of bright red between the white wall and ceiling.*

**coronial**

(say kuh-**roh**-nee-uhl)

*adjective* of or relating to a coroner:

*There will be a coronial inquiry into the fatal train crash.*

**currawong**

(say **ku**-ruh-wong)

*noun* a large, black-and-white or greyish Australian bird with a large pointed bill and a loud ringing call:

*Last spring, a baby currawong woke me every morning at six o'clock.*

**cypress**

(say **suy**-pruhs)

*noun* an evergreen cone-bearing tree:

*The cypress in the backyard had grown too large and needed to be trimmed.*

**daffodil**

(say **daf**-uh-dil)

*noun* a yellow, bell-shaped flower:

*She had a daffodil in a vase on her desk.*

**decipher**

(say duh-**suy**-fuh)

*verb* When you **decipher** something, you solve or find the meaning of it:

*After years of trying, they finally managed to decipher the code.*

**deign**

(say dayn)

*verb* If you **deign** to do something, you lower yourself to do something you think is below you:

*The queen would not deign to answer her servant.*

**depot**

(say **dep**-oh)

*noun* a place where buses or trams are kept:

*By midnight all the buses were back at the depot.*

**deterrent**

(say duh-**te**-ruhnt or duh-**ter**-ruhnt)

*noun* something that has a discouraging effect:

*Photos of diseased people on cigarette packs are meant to be a deterrent to smokers.*

**detonator**

(say **det**-uh-nay-tuh)

*noun* an explosive which is used to set off a larger explosion:

*The bomb was equipped with a detonator and a timer.*

**diesel**

(say **dee**-zuhl)

*noun* a type of fuel used in some cars, trucks, boats and other machines:

*This truck runs on diesel, not petrol.*

**dilemma**

(say duh-**lem**-uh or duy-**lem**-uh)

*noun* a difficult situation in which you have to choose between two different things:

*His dilemma was that if he went to the football game he would miss the party.*

**diligent**

(say **dil**-uh-juhnt)

*adjective* A **diligent** person pays careful attention to their work:

*She is a diligent student, but she always makes time for fun.*

**discern**

(say duh-**sern**)

*verb* to see, recognise, or understand something clearly:

*I was able to discern a slight accent when she spoke.*

**disembark**

(say **dis**-uhm-bahk)

*verb* to leave a ship or plane:

*We planned to disembark when the ship docked at the ancient port of Muscat.*

**dishearten**

(say dis-**hah**-tuhn)

*verb (t)* to lower the spirits of; discourage:

*We didn't like to dishearten her when she was so excited.*

**drudgery**

(say **druj**-uh-ree)

*noun* boring or hard work:

*I'm sick of the drudgery of housework.*

**dunnart**

(say **dun**-aht)

*noun* a type of native mouse found only in Australia. It is endangered:

*The dunnart is a little native mouse that eats mostly insects.*

**economical**

(say ek-uh-**nom**-i-kuhl or ee-kuh-**nom**-i-kuhl)

*adjective* not wasteful:

*There is not a lot of money -- we will have to be economical.*

**eiderdown**

(say **uy**-duh-down)

*noun* a quilt filled with duck feathers:

*Suzy put an eiderdown on her bed for extra warmth in winter.*

**elitism**

(say uh-**leet**-iz-uhm)

*noun* the idea that a certain group of people should have special advantages:

*In a society free of elitism, everyone has the same opportunities.*

**emphatic**

(say em-**fat**-ik)

*adjective* showing or highlighting the importance of something:

*The manager's instruction to the staff was emphatic -- we should arrive at work on time.*

**epithet**

(say **ep**-uh-thet)

*noun* an adjective or phrase used to describe a person or thing:

*The ancient Macedonian king Alexander was given the epithet 'the Great' and is now known as 'Alexander the Great'.*

**escarpment**

(say uhs-**kahp**-muhnt)

*noun* a long, cliff-like ridge of rock:

*We could see the rugged mountain escarpment from the aeroplane.*

**exultant**

(say uhg-**zul**-tuhnt)

*adjective* If you are **exultant**, you show that you are happy because you have achieved or won something:

*They were exultant that their team had got into the finals.*

**fatigue**

(say fuh-**teeg**)

*noun* severe mental or physical tiredness:

*The rescued bushwalkers were suffering from fatigue.*

**feudal**

(say **fyoo**-duhl)

*adjective* having to do with a way of life in which ordinary people lived on and used the land of a nobleman, giving him military and other service in return:

*The feudal system lasted for centuries in Europe.*

**flamboyant**

(say flam-**boy**-uhnt)

*adjective* dazzlingly bright and showy:

*The peacock is known for its flamboyant display.*

**foliage**

(say **foh**-lee-ij)

*noun* the leaves of a plant:

*In autumn, the foliage of some trees turns orange and red.*

**fracas**

(say **frak**-ah or **frak**-uhs)

*noun* a noisy disturbance or fight:

*The police were called to break up the fracas outside parliament.*

**galah**

(say guh-**lah**)

*noun* an Australian cockatoo with pink and grey feathers:

*We took the injured galah to the vet.*

**galleon**

(say **gal**-ee-uhn)

*noun* a kind of large Spanish sailing ship:

*The galleon sank in the violent storm.*

**gazelle**

(say guh-**zel**)

*noun* a small, graceful antelope with large eyes:

*Her movement was as fast and as graceful as that of a gazelle.*

**gelato**

(say juh-**lah**-toh)

*noun* an iced sweet made from cream, milk or water:

*Which flavour gelato will I have? Lemon, chocolate or strawberry?*

**heifer**

(say **hef**-uh)

*noun* a young cow that has not had a calf:

*There was only one heifer in the herd of cows.*

**hysteria**

(say his-**teer**-ree-uh)

*noun* an uncontrollable emotional state:

*She rang me in a state of hysteria after hearing about the accident.*

**impasse**

(say **im**-pahs)

*noun* a situation from which there is no way out:

*With mountains on three sides and the sea on the other, the escapees had reached an impasse.*

**impromptu**

(say im-**promp**-tyooh)

*adjective* made or done on the spot, without any previous preparation:

*At my friend's birthday party, they asked me to give an impromptu performance on the piano, so I played my favourite piece.*

**innuendo**

(say in-yooh-**en**-doh)

*noun* a remark that suggests something unpleasant about someone without actually stating it:

*The campaign was marked by innuendo designed to discredit the new candidate.*

**insomnia**

(say in-**som**-nee-uh)

*noun* a condition in which you have difficulty sleeping:

*Insomnia can lead to lack of concentration and weariness.*

**isle**

(say uyl)

*noun* a small island:

*We sailed towards a small coral isle.*

**jaundice**

(say **jawn**-duhs)

*noun* a disease in which the skin and the whites of the eyes become yellow:

*The jaundice was easy to diagnose because his skin was yellow.*

**linguistics**

(say ling-**gwis**-tikz)

*noun* the study of language, including sounds, words and grammar:

*My big brother is studying linguistics at university.*

**loch**

(say lok)

*noun* a lake in Scotland:

*The castle was built on the shore of a loch in the Scottish highlands.*

**lunacy**

(say **looh**-nuh-see)

*noun* any form of insanity:

*In the past, a person suffering from lunacy was simply locked up.*

**mantilla**

(say man-**til**-uh)

*noun* a silk or lace headscarf, worn in Spain:

*The flamenco dancer wore a mantilla of black lace and a vivid red skirt.*

**matador**

(say **mat**-uh-daw)

*noun* the bullfighter who kills the bull in a bullfight:

*The crowd cheered as the matador arrived for the final bullfight.*

**measles**

(say **mee**-zuhlz)

*noun* a type of infectious disease occurring mostly in children, with a fever and rash:

*Many children are vaccinated against measles these days.*

**megabyte**

(say **meg**-uh-buyt)

*noun* a unit of measurement of computer memory size equal to 2<sup>20</sup> or 1 048 576 bytes:

*If you use one more megabyte we will go over our monthly limit! Also, **meg**.*

**migraine**

(say **muy**-grayn or **mee**-grayn)

*noun* a very bad headache which makes you feel ill:

*When Dad gets a migraine he has to lie down in a dark room.*

**modular**

(say **mod**-yuh-luh)

*adjective* composed of separate units for easy building or arrangement:

*The library has modular furniture which can easily be moved around for different purposes.*

**mollusc**

(say **mol**-uhsk)

*noun* an animal with a soft body in a hard shell:

*A snail is a mollusc, and so is an oyster.*

**mulberry**

(say **mul**-bree)

*noun* a sweet, dark-purple fruit like a blackberry:

*Silkworms eat the leaves of the mulberry tree.*

**mutineer**

(say myooh-tuh-**near**)

*noun* someone who revolts or mutinies:

*Jess was born on Norfolk Island and is descended from a mutineer on the Bounty.*

**notary**

(say **noh**-tuh-ree)

*noun* an official, usually a solicitor, given the power to certify contracts, etc.:

*For the contract to be binding, a notary had to witness their signatures.*

**octopus**

(say **ok**-tuh-poos)

*noun* a soft-bodied sea animal which has eight tentacles:

*Did you know that an octopus can grow another tentacle if one drops off?*

**offal**

(say **off**-uhl)

*noun* animal intestines and other parts which are usually thrown away, or other organs such as the brain, liver and tripe which are used as food:

*The butcher often has different types of offal for sale, such as lambs' brains and tripe.*

**oregano**

(say o-ruh-**gah**-noh)

*noun* a herb of the mint family, used in cooking:

*The pizza just needed a pinch of oregano added before going in the oven.*

**ottoman**

(say **ot**-uh-muhn)

*noun* a low padded seat without a back or arms:

*He chose to sit on the ottoman instead of the armchair.*

**palisade**

(say pal-uh-**sayd**)

*noun* a fence of tall pointed sticks set firmly in the ground as a protection around a fort or camp:

*The palisade around the fort was not strong enough to withstand the attack.*

**paraffin**

(say **pa**-ruh-fuhn)

*noun* in chemistry, any one of a series of saturated hydrocarbons:

*We watched a video on how candles are made from paraffin.*

**paramount**

(say **pa**-ruh-mownt)

*adjective* above all others in rank, authority or importance:

*Installing a fire alarm was the paramount item on the agenda.*

**paraplegia**

(say pa-ruh-**plee**-juh)

*noun* paralysis of the lower part of the body:

*My brother suffers from paraplegia and represents Australia in wheelchair basketball.*

**pauper**

(say **paw**-puh)

*noun* a very poor person:

*The story was about a pauper who had to beg for food.*

**pesticide**

(say **pest**-uh-suyd)

*noun* a chemical for killing animals that are dangerous or harmful:

*They had to use a pesticide to get rid of the termites.*

**petroleum**

(say puh-**troh**-lee-uhm)

*noun* an oily liquid, usually obtained from under the ground, and used to make petrol and other fuels:

*The largest known reserves of petroleum are in the Middle East.*

**plankton**

(say **plangk**-tuhn)

*noun* the mass of very tiny plants and animals which drift on or near the surface of water:

*She is a biologist and studies the life cycles of various kinds of plankton.*

**porpoise**

(say **paw**-puhs)

*noun* a sea animal with a rounded nose, usually blackish on top and paler beneath:

*A porpoise leapt out of the water right beside our boat.*

**prodigy**

(say **prod**-uh-jee)

*noun* someone, especially a child, who has talent far greater than is normal:

*At the age of five it was clear that he was a musical prodigy.*

**prolific**

(say pruh-**lif**-ik)

*adjective* producing plentifully:

*He is a prolific author, publishing a novel every year.*

**propagate**

(say **prop**-uh-gayt)

*verb* If you **propagate** plants, you grow many from the seeds or cuttings from one plant:

*My grandfather is using the internet to learn how to propagate orchids.*

**prosaic**

(say proh-**zay**-ik)

*adjective* dull and unimaginative:

*She is too creative to have produced such a prosaic piece of writing.*

**rancid**

(say **ran**-suhd)

*adjective* having a sour, unpleasant smell or taste from lack of freshness:

*We caught some yabbies using rancid meat as bait.*

**relapse**

(say **ree**-laps or ruh-**laps**)

*noun* a return of a disease or illness after partial recovery:

*The doctors warned him that he could suffer a relapse and end up in hospital again if he didn't get enough rest.*

**reprieve**

(say ruh-**preev**)

*noun* a delay or cancellation, especially in carrying out a punishment:

*She may be given a reprieve because of her remorse over the crime.*

**retrospect**

(say **ret**-ruh-spekt)

*noun* If you look at past events in **retrospect**, you think about them with the knowledge you now have about them:

*It is often easy to think of a clever thing to say in retrospect, when it's too late!*

**ricotta**

(say ruh-**kot**-uh)

*noun* a soft fresh white cheese with a delicate flavour:

*My father likes to eat ricotta with pears and apples.*

**rogue**

(say rohg)

*noun* a dishonest person:

*That rogue tricked me out of a hundred dollars.*

**roughage**

(say **ruf**-ij)

*noun* the coarser kinds or parts of fodder or food, of less nutritive value, especially those which assist digestion:

*The sheep did well because they had a balanced diet of roughage and palatable grasses.*

**sarcasm**

(say **sah**-kaz-uhm)

*noun* the saying of harsh and bitter things, especially by using the trick of saying the opposite of what you really mean, so as to hurt someone's feelings:

*'I'm terribly sorry', I said in a cold and cutting voice, but my sarcasm was wasted on him.*

**sartorial**

(say sah-**taw**-ree-uhl)

*adjective* having to do with clothes or dress, usually a man's:

*The elderly actor took pride in his sartorial elegance and had his clothes made for him from the finest fabrics.*

**scrupulous**

(say **skroohp**-yuh-luhs)

*adjective* careful or exact in every detail:

*Doctors have to be scrupulous about cleanliness.*

**semaphore**

(say **sem**-uh-faw)

*noun* a system for signalling messages using flags:

*Before radio, semaphore was used to communicate between the ships in a fleet.*

**shrapnel**

(say **shrap**-nuhl)

*noun* the small parts of an exploded cannon shell:

*During the battle, a piece of shrapnel lodged in the soldier's leg.*

**shroud**

(say shrowd)

*noun* something which covers and hides like a cloth:

*A shroud of secrecy hung over the real facts of the story.*

**sinusitis**

(say suy-nuh-**suy**-tuhs)

*noun* an inflammation of a sinus or sinuses:

*He would always come down with sinusitis just before exams.*

**skeleton**

(say **skel**-uh-tuhn)

*noun* all the bones of a human or animal body, connected together:

*The most interesting thing in the museum was the dinosaur skeleton.*

**sluice**

(say sloohs)

*noun* a channel for water, fitted with a gate to control the water flow:

*The miners washed the gravel in the sluice.*

**solemn**

(say sol-uhm)

*adjective* A **solemn** promise or agreement is one that is very sincere, usually made after serious thought:

*The politician made a solemn promise that she would improve the transport system if she was elected.*

**souvenir**

(say sooh-vuh-**near**)

*noun* something you keep as a memory of a place or event:

*I brought home a big shell as a souvenir of my holiday on the island.*

**spectre**

(say spek-tuh)

*noun* a ghost:

*They say a strange spectre appears in the garden every night at midnight.*

**splurge**

(say splerj)

*verb* To **splurge** money is to spend it wastefully or on a luxury:

*He would splurge all his money dining in expensive restaurants.*

**squalor**

(say skwol-uh)

*noun* dirt and poverty:

*In the slum, many families lived in crowded squalor.*

**sternum**

(say ster-nuhm)

*noun* a bone or series of bones extending along the midline of the front of the chest and attached to the ribs:

*In the accident, the seatbelt hurt his sternum, but it prevented serious injury.*

**stupor**

(say styooh-puh)

*noun* a state in which the mind or senses are deadened or not working, as a result of illness or drugs:

*She was walking around in a stupor because she was very tired and unwell.*

**swami**

(say swah-mee)

*noun* a Hindu religious teacher:

*The swami taught them about Ganesha, the Hindu elephant-headed god.*

**syrup**

(say si-ruh-p)

*noun* a thick, sweet, sticky liquid:

*I love strawberry syrup on my ice-cream.*

**tambourine**

(say tam-buh-reen)

*noun* a type of small drum which has small, round pieces of metal set into a frame, and is played by hitting or shaking it:

*You have to have a good sense of rhythm to play the tambourine.*

**tarragon**

(say **ta**-ruh-guhn)

*noun* a strong-smelling herb used in cooking and salads:

*Roast chicken is delicious when flavoured with tarragon.*

**tattoo**

(say tat-**oo**h)

*noun* an ink picture permanently printed into someone's skin with needles:

*The tattoo on his back was of a vampire.*

**terrier**

(say **te**-ree-uh)

*noun* A **terrier** is one of the small dogs that were once used for hunting:

*A terrier is a very determined little dog.*

**terrine**

(say tuh-**reen**)

*noun* pâté served in an earthenware cooking dish:

*Mum made a chicken terrine for us to eat on our picnic.*

**tetanus**

(say **tet**-nuhs or **tet**-uh-nuhs)

*noun* an infectious, often deadly disease, which causes extreme stiffness of the muscles of the jaw and other parts of the body:

*These days, most people in Australia are immunised against tetanus, so it is not very common.*

**textile**

(say **teks**-tuyl)

*noun* any woven material used for clothing, curtains and so on:

*The curtains in the music room were made of a heavy textile to improve the acoustics.*

**theorem**

(say **thear**-ruhm)

*noun* a statement containing something to be proved in mathematics:

*Our maths teacher showed us two different ways to prove the theorem.*

**thyme**

(say tuym)

*noun* a common garden herb that is used in cooking:

*In a small bowl combine shallots, thyme and bay leaves with salt and pepper.*

**tinea**

(say **tin**-ee-uh)

*noun* a skin disease which makes the skin between the toes red and sore:

*Tinea is a foot complaint which is easily spread from person to person.*

**tiresome**

(say **tuy**-uh-suhm)

*adjective* annoying:

*His constant complaining is getting very tiresome.*

**trailblazer**

(say **trayl**-blayz-uh)

*noun* someone who is the first to do something:

*Even if I say so myself, I think I'm a bit of a trailblazer in dreaming up the notion of peanut butter ice-cream.*

**trampoline**

(say tram-puh-**leen**)

*noun* a frame with tightly stretched material attached to it by springs, on which you can jump for exercise or fun:

*Only two children are allowed to jump on the trampoline at the one time.*

**tranquil**

(say **trang**-kwuhl)

*adjective* peaceful or quiet:

*It was a tranquil scene beside the river until the tractor arrived.*

**tremulous**

(say **trem**-yuh-luhs)

*adjective* shaky or uncertain:

*Her tremulous voice betrayed her nervousness.*

**tuition**

(say tyooh-**ish**-uhn)

*noun* teaching:

*He needs extra tuition in maths.*

**turmoil**

(say **ter**-moyl)

*noun* wild disorder:

*The school was in turmoil when the electricity failed.*

**tuxedo**

(say tuk-**see**-doh)

*noun* a man's black jacket, worn on formal occasions:

*He was looking very smart in his new shoes and a hired tuxedo.*

**uncharitable**

(say un-**cha**-ruh-tuh-buhl)

*adjective* unforgiving and harsh:

*He admitted that his initially harsh view of the applicant might have been uncharitable and undeserved.*

**uninspired**

(say un-in-**spuy**-uhd)

*adjective* lacking imagination or creative spirit; dull:

*It was an uninspired speech and the audience looked very weary.*

**unspeakable**

(say un-**speek**-uh-buhl)

*adjective* impossible to express in words:

*It gave the mother unspeakable joy to see her daughter finally able to walk again.*

**vacuum**

(say **vak**-yoohm)

*noun* a space that has absolutely nothing in it:

*Because there was a vacuum in the bottle, the flame went out.*

**vague**

(say vayg)

*adjective* If something is **vague**, it is not clear or certain:

*I had a vague feeling that something was missing, but I couldn't work out what it was.*

**variance**

(say **vair**-ree-uhns)

*noun* the condition or fact of varying:

*There were a number of points of variance between his original story and what he later told the police.*

**vengeful**

(say **venj**-fuhl)

*adjective* desiring, seeking, or taking revenge:

*He's not my favourite character -- he's bullying, greedy, self-centred and vengeful!*

**vertex**

(say **ver**-teks)

*noun* the top or highest point of something:

*We had to mark the vertex of the triangle `A' and the other two points `B' and `C'.*

**vertigo**

(say **ver**-tuh-goh)

*noun* a feeling of dizziness, often experienced when looking down from a high place:

*People who suffer from vertigo shouldn't go mountain climbing.*

**vineyard**

(say **vin**-yuhd or **vin**-yahd)

*noun* a farm where grapes are grown for wine-making:

*The vineyard was pretty but the wine was undrinkable.*

**vinyl**

(say **vuy**-nuhl)

*noun* a type of plastic:

*The couch was covered in brown vinyl that looked like leather.*

**viscount**

(say **vuy**-kownt)

*noun* a British nobleman ranking below an earl and above a baron:

*His uncle was a viscount and lived in a castle.*

**vitamin**

(say **vuy**-tuh-muhn or **vit**-uh-muhn)

*noun* any of a number of substances present naturally in food, and necessary in small quantities for good health:

*We need sunlight for vitamin D.*

**volcanic**

(say vol-**kan**-ik)

*adjective* relating to volcanoes:

*Volcanic soil is very fertile.*

**wallaroo**

(say wol-uh-**rooh**)

*noun* a large kangaroo with shaggy, dark fur that lives in rocky or hilly land:

*The wallaroo has shorter back legs than the kangaroo.*

**warmonger**

(say **waw**-mung-guh)

*noun* someone who advises war as the best action to take:

*The pacifist lobby accused the politician of being nothing more than a warmonger.*

**wastage**

(say **wayst**-ij)

*noun* loss by use, wear, decay, wastefulness, and so on:

*The state government has started a campaign to educate the public in minimising water wastage.*

**whirlpool**

(say **werl**-poohl)

*noun* a circular current, as in a river or sea, which draws things into its centre:

*There was a whirlpool at the bottom of the waterfall.*

**widower**

(say **wid**-oh-uh)

*noun* a man whose wife has died and who has not married again:

*Next door lived a widower with his two sons.*

**windcheater**

(say **wind**-chee-tuh)

*noun* a close-fitting jacket or jumper worn for protection against the wind:

*You'll need a windcheater out on the boat.*

**wondrous**

(say **wun**-druhs)

*adjective* wonderful or marvellous:

*Greg saw many wondrous sights on his trip to South America.*

**wreath**

(say reeth)

*noun* a decoration consisting of leaves and flowers tied together in the shape of a circle:

*We always hang a wreath on our door at Christmas time.*

**zodiac**

(say **zoh**-dee-ak)

*noun* a part of the sky which forms an imaginary belt through which the sun, moon and planets appear to travel, and which contains twelve constellations which are used in astrology:

*Her sign of the zodiac was Aries but she would have liked to have been Aquarius.*

## Senior General Level 4

### abbreviation

(say uh-bree-vee-**ay**-shuhn )

*noun* a shortened form of a word used to stand for the whole word:

*'ATM' is the abbreviation for 'automatic teller machine'.*

### abolition

(say ab-uh-**lish**-shuhn)

*noun* the act of putting an end to something:

*Many supported the abolition of slavery.*

### abrasion

(say uh-**bray**-zhuhn)

*noun* a sore that is caused by a scrape:

*He had a nasty abrasion on his knee after the fall.*

### abundance

(say uh-**bun**-duhns)

*noun* a plentiful amount or supply:

*Because of all the recent rain, there is an abundance of water in the reservoir.*

### accentuate

(say uhk-**sen**-chooh-ayt)

*verb* to emphasise something:

*She used a black pencil to accentuate her eyebrows.*

### accessible

(say uhk-**sess**-uh-buhl)

*adjective* able to be reached or used:

*It is important to have an accessible first-aid kit in case of an emergency.*

### acknowledge

(say uhk-**nol**-ij)

*verb* to admit or agree that something is true:

*I acknowledge that I was wrong, but I wasn't the only culprit.*

### acne

(say **ak**-nee)

*noun* a rash with a lot of pimples, especially on the face:

*Alana was very self-conscious about the acne on her face.*

### administration

(say uhd-min-uhs-**tray**-shuhn)

*noun* the people that run a business or government:

*The Rugby League administration is keen to increase the popularity of the sport.*

### admissible

(say uhd-**miss**-uh-buhl)

*adjective* allowed as evidence in a court of law:

*That evidence is hearsay, so is not admissible in this court case.*

### adorable

(say uh-**daw**-ruh-buhl)

*adjective* delightful:

*The puppy was absolutely adorable.*

### adventurous

(say uhd-**ven**-chuh-ruhs)

*adjective* wanting to take part in adventures:

*Jodie was very adventurous -- she was always exploring new places.*

**advisable**

(say uhd-**vuy**-zuh-buhl)

*adjective* sensible:

*It's advisable to watch for snakes when bushwalking in hot weather.*

**affliction**

(say uh-**flik**-shuhn)

*noun* any cause of continual pain of body or mind, as sickness, loss, etc.:

*The charity runs a helpline for people suffering the affliction of depression.*

**agitation**

(say aj-uh-**tay**-shuhn)

*noun* a condition of being agitated or upset:

*He stormed out of the room in great agitation.*

**alias**

(say **ay**-lee-uhs)

*noun* a false name:

*The magazine writer produced a column under the alias of 'Lady Jane'.*

**alimentary**

(say al-uh-**men**-tree)

*adjective* relating to food or nutrition:

*The stomach and intestines are part of the body's alimentary system.*

**allegation**

(say al-uh-**gay**-shuhn)

*noun* a claim made without proof:

*It is a serious crime to make a false allegation to the police.*

**allergy**

(say **al**-uh-jee)

*noun* an unusual sensitivity to things that are normally harmless, like pollen, dust and certain foods:

*Some people have an allergy to wattle.*

**alligator**

(say **al**-uh-gay-tuh)

*noun* an animal like a crocodile, but with a broader snout:

*The alligator resembles the crocodile but is found mostly in America.*

**alluvial**

(say uh-**looh**-vee-uhl)

*adjective* relating to sand or mud which has been washed down by a river:

*The miners found gold in the alluvial mud.*

**ambiguous**

(say am-**big**-yooh-uhs)

*adjective* unclear, due to having more than one meaning:

*As the question was quite ambiguous, we had to ask the teacher what she meant.*

**amicable**

(say **am**-ik-uh-buhl)

*adjective* friendly:

*I hope this committee meeting will be amicable, without the arguments of last time.*

**anagram**

(say **an**-uh-gram)

*noun* a word made by changing the order of the letters in another word:

*An anagram is made by rearranging the letters of another word.*

**anarchy**

(say **an**-uh-kee)

*noun* any situation where there is no control or law:

*There was anarchy in the classroom while the teacher was away.*

**animosity**

(say an-uh-**moss**-uh-tee)

*noun* a strong feeling of dislike or unfriendliness:

*There was continuing animosity between the two families.*

**annotate**

(say **an**-uh-tayt)

*verb* to supply with notes or make remarks upon:

*It tooks years for the professor to annotate the works of Shakespeare.*

**antonym**

(say **ant**-uh-nim)

*noun* a word which has an opposite meaning to another word:

*'Hot' is the antonym of 'cold'.*

**apologetic**

(say uh-**pol**-uh-jet-ik)

*adjective* full of regret, or showing that you are sorry:

*He was apologetic about the way he had behaved at the party.*

**apparition**

(say ap-uh-**rish**-uhn)

*noun* a ghostly appearance:

*He appeared out of the fog like an apparition.*

**arbitrary**

(say **ah**-buh-truh-ree or **ah**-buh-tree)

*adjective* If someone does something in an **arbitrary** way, their action is not based on reason or a system but on how they feel at the time:

*Her decisions were always so arbitrary we never knew what to expect.*

**architect**

(say **ah**-kuh-tekt)

*noun* someone whose job is to plan buildings:

*Rata loved the idea of designing houses and thought she would be an architect when she grew up.*

**artifice**

(say **ah**-tuh-fuhs)

*noun* a clever trick or device:

*Her artifice of causing a disturbance allowed us to slip past the guards.*

**artillery**

(say ah-**til**-uh-ree)

*noun* large guns on wheels:

*The army won the battle with the use of heavy artillery.*

**aspirin**

(say **ass**-pruhn)

*noun* a drug used to stop pain:

*I took an aspirin to relieve my headache.*

**autopsy**

(say **aw**-top-see)

*noun* the examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death:

*They performed an autopsy on the body, as there were suspicious circumstances.*

**avail**

(say uh-**vayl**)

*noun* If something is to no **avail**, it is of no use:

*All our preparations for the picnic were to no avail when it started to pour.*

**aviary**

(say **ayv**-yuh-ree or **ay**-vuh-ree)

*noun* a large cage or enclosure where birds are kept:

*The cockatoo did not like being in the aviary and was put in a cage by itself.*

**azure**

(say **ay**-zhuh or az-**yoo**-uh)

*adjective* of a pale blue or sky-blue colour:

*The sky was a lovely azure colour.*

**ballast**

(say **bal**-uhst)

*noun* heavy material carried by a ship to keep it steady, or by a balloon to control its height:

*Ships use water as ballast to improve their manoeuvrability and stability.*

**barbaric**

(say bah-**ba**-rik)

*adjective* wild or cruel:

*War produces barbaric acts.*

**bauble**

(say **baw**-buhl)

*noun* a bright ornament:

*She added one final bauble to the Christmas tree.*

**beneficial**

(say ben-uh-**fish**-uhl)

*adjective* helpful:

*We looked forward to the beneficial effects of a long holiday.*

**besotted**

(say buh-**sot**-uhd or bee-**sot**-uhd)

*adjective* filled with foolish love:

*Although they had hardly spoken, he was besotted with her.*

**bilateral**

(say buy-**lat**-ruhl)

*adjective* of or affecting two sides:

*The two countries signed a bilateral agreement.*

**biodegradable**

(say buy-oh-duh-**gray**-duh-buhl)

*adjective* A **biodegradable** chemical or substance is one that can be broken down by the sun or bacteria into products which are not harmful to the environment:

*We buy biodegradable soap powder to minimise its effect on the environment.*

**biological**

(say buy-uh-**loj**-i-kuhl)

*adjective* having to do with biology:

*The biological balance of the area is being jeopardised by industrial development.*

**bounteous**

(say **bown**-tee-uhs)

*adjective* plentiful or generous:

*There was a bounteous supply of food at the banquet.*

**boysenberry**

(say **boy**-zuhn-be-ree or **boy**-zuhn-bree)

*noun* a blackberry-like fruit with a flavour similar to raspberries:

*She told us that the boysenberry was her favourite berry.*

**breeches**

(say **brich**-uhz)

*plural noun* trousers, especially worn in the past when riding a horse:

*He pulled on his breeches and boots and strode towards his horse.*

**bulbous**

(say **bul**-buhs)

*adjective* bulging or shaped like a bulb:

*He was very self-conscious about his bulbous nose.*

**burglary**

(say **berg**-luh-ree)

*noun* the crime of breaking into a building to steal things:

*We were worried because there had been a burglary in the building next door.*

**buttress**

(say **but**-ruhs)

*noun* a support for a wall or building:

*A buttress is built against a wall in order to support it.*

**cabaret**

(say **kab**-uh-ray)

*noun* a musical or comedy show performed at a restaurant or club:

*They ate dinner while enjoying the cabaret.*

**caffeine**

(say **kaf**-een)

*noun* a stimulating drug found in coffee and tea:

*The caffeine in coffee makes it hard for me to get to sleep.*

**cajole**

(say kuh-**johl**)

*verb* to persuade, using pleasantness and flattery:

*Joey tried to cajole Mike into helping him with his homework.*

**camellia**

(say kuh-**meel**-yuh)

*noun* one of several shrubs or trees native to Asia, with glossy evergreen leaves and white, pink, or red, waxy, roselike flowers:

*The camellia flowers best when planted in a semi-shaded area.*

**capsicum**

(say **kap**-suh-kuhm)

*noun* a type of vegetable, usually green or red, which is often used in salads:

*We bought a red capsicum at the fruit and vegetable shop.*

**caraway**

(say **ka**-ruh-way)

*noun* a herb with small seeds which are used in cooking:

*The Indian recipe required caraway seeds.*

**cathedral**

(say kuh-**thee**-druhl)

*noun* a very big and important church:

*We could hear the sound of bells coming from the cathedral.*

**cede**

(say seed)

*verb* When someone **cedes** something, they give it away by making a solemn written promise:

*Under the treaty, the country that lost the war had to cede some of its territory to its neighbours.*

**celery**

(say sel-uh-ree)

*noun* a vegetable with long, pale green stems:

*We can buy sticks of celery at our school canteen.*

**centennial**

(say sen-ten-ee-uhl)

*adjective* marking the end of 100 years:

*There were centennial celebrations at the beginning of the new century.*

**centurion**

(say sen-tyooh-ree-uhn)

*noun* in the ancient Roman army, the leader of 100 soldiers:

*The centurion led his men into battle.*

**ceremonious**

(say se-ruh-mohn-ee-uhs)

*adjective* marked by formal ceremony:

*The launching of the ship was a very ceremonious occasion.*

**cessation**

(say sess-ay-shuhn)

*noun* a pause or stopping:

*The United Nations called for a cessation of fighting.*

**champagne**

(say sham-payn)

*noun* a bubbly white wine:

*The waiter poured glasses of champagne for the toast to the bride and groom.*

**chastise**

(say chas-tuyz)

*verb* to punish or scold someone:

*The teacher began to chastise me for not doing my homework.*

**chimpanzee**

(say chim-pan-zee)

*noun* a large monkey from Africa which spends much of its life in the trees:

*We saw a baby chimpanzee at the zoo.*

**choir**

(say kwuy-uh)

*noun* an organised group of people who sing together:

*My sister's school choir is performing at the Opera House tonight.*

**cicada**

(say suh-kah-duh or suh-kay-duh)

*noun* a large flying insect which is found in trees and which makes a loud noise in hot weather:

*We found the shell of a cicada on a tree trunk.*

**cinnamon**

(say **sin**-uh-muhn)

*noun* a spice made from the inner bark of certain trees and used in cooking:

*The baker made a delicious bread roll flavoured with cinnamon.*

**circumvent**

(say ser-kuhm-**vent**)

*verb* to get around or avoid:

*They chose to circumvent the problem rather than spend the time actually solving it.*

**citadel**

(say **sit**-uh-del)

*noun* a fort or strongly defended place, built to protect or control a city:

*The enemy forces were approaching the city's citadel at great speed.*

**civilian**

(say suh-**vil**-yuhn)

*noun* someone who is not a member of the armed forces:

*He was now a civilian after twenty years in the air force.*

**clarinet**

(say kla-ruh-**net**)

*noun* a musical instrument belonging to the woodwind family which makes a deeper sound than the flute:

*Nine members of our school band play the clarinet.*

**coagulate**

(say koh-**ag**-yuh-layt)

*verb* If a liquid **coagulates**, it changes into a solid lump:

*If you have a wound, your blood will coagulate and form a clot.*

**cognac**

(say **kon**-yak)

*noun* a high quality brandy:

*Cognac is brandy from a particular area in France.*

**cohesion**

(say koh-**hee**-zhuhn)

*noun* the state of sticking together or being connected:

*Cohesion was needed within the party to present a united front.*

**colossal**

(say kuh-**loss**-uhl)

*adjective* very great in size:

*The ship looked colossal from our tiny canoe.*

**combination**

(say kom-buh-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* the act of putting two or more things together:

*The combination of chocolate and orange makes a delicious cake.*

**commissioner**

(say kuh-**mish**-uh-nuh)

*noun* someone who is a member of an official commission:

*The commissioner of the sports league awarded the team's trophy.*

**conceptual**

(say kuhn-**sep**-chooh-uhl)

*adjective* relating to the forming of concepts or ideas:

*The design of the building is still at the conceptual stage.*

**concurrent**

(say kuhn-**ku**-ruhnt)

*adjective* happening at the same time:

*I am exhausted because I am working on three concurrent jobs.*

**confidential**

(say kon-fuh-**den**-shuhl)

*adjective* secret or private:

*The politicians were shocked when details of their confidential conversations appeared in the media.*

**configuration**

(say kuhn-fig-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

*noun* the arrangement of the parts of something:

*The car engine has a V8 configuration.*

**confiscate**

(say **kon**-fuh-skayt)

*verb* to seize something by authority:

*The teacher decided to confiscate my whistle until the end of term.*

**congenial**

(say kuhn-**jee**-nee-uhl)

*adjective* pleasant or agreeable:

*He is a congenial host who always makes his guests feel relaxed.*

**conjunction**

(say kuhn-**jungk**-shuhn)

*noun* a type of word which joins parts of a sentence together:

*The word 'and' is a very common conjunction.*

**conservation**

(say kon-suh-**vay**-shuhn)

*noun* the protection of natural areas, plants and animals, as well as buildings and objects of historical interest:

*This political party is concerned about the conservation of our natural environment.*

**constellation**

(say kon-stuh-**lay**-shuhn)

*noun* a group of stars:

*The Southern Cross is the most widely known constellation in the southern hemisphere.*

**contemptible**

(say kuhn-**temp**-tuh-buhl)

*adjective* deserving people's disgust:

*Accusing your brother of stealing when you took the money yourself was contemptible.*

**contingency**

(say kuhn-**tin**-juhn-see)

*noun* something which may happen in the future which you have to be aware of in making plans:

*A good planner thinks of every contingency and avoids nasty surprises.*

**contradictory**

(say kon-truh-**dik**-tuh-ree or kon-truh-**dik**-tree)

*adjective* stating the opposite of each other:

*The statements given to the police about the accident were completely contradictory.*

**controversial**

(say kon-truh-**ver**-shuhl)

*adjective* subject to different points of view; debatable:

*The political party was divided about the controversial issue.*

**conundrum**

(say kuh-**nun**-druhm)

*noun* a riddle or puzzle:

*The children had to solve a conundrum before the wizard would let them pass through the enchanted gate.*

**corps**

(say kaw)

*noun* a unit of soldiers:

*My brother has joined the cadet corps at his school.*

**corral**

(say ko-**rahl**)

*noun* a pen or enclosure for horses, cattle, etc.:

*We led the horses into the corral when we saw signs of bad weather approaching.*

**corroborate**

(say kuh-**rob**-uh-rayt)

*verb* to make something seem more certain because more evidence is given:

*We can't find any evidence to corroborate his version of events.*

**corsage**

(say kaw-**sahzh**)

*noun* a small bunch of flowers, especially worn pinned to a dress:

*My date for the formal gave me a corsage that matched my dress.*

**courteous**

(say **ker**-tee-uhs)

*adjective* well-mannered or polite:

*The teacher reminded them to be very courteous to the visitors.*

**credulous**

(say **kred**-juh-luhs)

*adjective* ready to believe things unquestioningly:

*You'd have to pretty credulous to believe that the moon is made of cheese.*

**criterion**

(say kruyt-**ear**-ree-uhn)

*noun* a standard or rule for testing something:

*The only criterion for entering the competition was being under the age of sixteen.*

**croissant**

(say krwu-**sont**)

*noun* a roll of baked pastry in the shape of a crescent:

*I had a croissant and a coffee every morning for breakfast when I was in France.*

**deception**

(say duh-**sep**-shuhn)

*noun* a trick or something that deceives:

*He considered himself a master of deception because of his costume collection.*

**decoration**

(say dek-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

*noun* the act of decorating:

*The children always enjoyed helping with the decoration of the Christmas tree.*

**decrepit**

(say duh-**krep**-uht)

*adjective* made weak or broken down by age:

*The old car was so decrepit that we could not get it registered.*

**defiance**

(say duh-**fuy**-uhns)

*noun* daring disobedience to authority:

*They showed their defiance by refusing to fly the invader's flag.*

**deficiency**

(say duh-**fish**-uhn-see)

*noun* the condition of lacking something:

*She became very ill as a result of a vitamin deficiency.*

**defoliate**

(say duh-**foh**-lee-ayt)

*verb* To **defoliate** a plant is to take off all its leaves:

*The farmer had to spray his wheat fields to make sure the locusts would not defoliate the entire crop.*

**delineate**

(say duh-**lin**-ee-ayt)

*verb* to describe or show in words:

*She did her best to delineate the plan precisely.*

**denomination**

(say duh-nom-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* a religious group, especially in the Christian church:

*The Anglican Church is Australia's second biggest denomination.*

**desperado**

(say des-puh-**rah**-doh)

*noun* a desperate or reckless criminal:

*He was a notorious desperado who had given the police a lot of trouble.*

**dialogue**

(say **duy**-uh-log)

*noun* a conversation between two or more people, especially in a play or story:

*The actors were asked to quickly memorise the dialogue.*

**digestion**

(say duy-**jes**-chuhn)

*noun* the act of or process by which you digest food:

*Eating your food slowly helps the process of digestion.*

**diplomacy**

(say duh-**ploh**-muh-see)

*noun* skill in managing relations between nations or people:

*Joe's diplomacy made him an excellent mediator.*

**disciple**

(say duh-**suy**-puhl)

*noun* a follower of any set of ideas or of the person who puts them forward:

*She is a disciple of the peace movement.*

**disenchanted**

(say dis-uhn-**chan**-tuhd or dis-uhn-**chahn**-tuhd)

*adjective* disappointed:

*She had become disenchanted with her new job.*

**disinfectant**

(say dis-uhn-**fek**-tuht)

*noun* any chemical substance which kills germs:

*The vet sprays the examining table with disinfectant after each patient.*

**dissension**

(say duh-**sen**-shuhn)

*noun* a disagreement or quarrel, especially one that goes on for a long time:

*He was upset about the dissension in his family.*

**distinguish**

(say duh-**sting**-gwish)

*verb* If you can **distinguish** one thing from another, you can tell the difference between them:

*Sometimes I can't distinguish my sister's voice from my mother's on the phone.*

**distraught**

(say duhs-**trawt**)

*adjective* very worried or upset:

*The lost toddler became more and more distraught as daylight faded.*

**division**

(say duh-**vizh**-uhn)

*noun* the act of dividing one number by another number in mathematics:

*I am better at multiplication than division.*

**dramatic**

(say dru-**mat**-ik)

*adjective* startling or striking:

*The government is concerned about the dramatic rise in unemployment.*

**ducat**

(say **duk**-uht)

*noun* a gold coin that was widely used in European countries in the past:

*The archaeologist uncovered a ducat near the ruins of an old French village.*

**echidna**

(say uh-**kid**-nuh)

*noun* a spiny, ant-eating animal which lays eggs and feeds its young with its own milk:

*The echidna can be found all over Australia.*

**edifice**

(say **ed**-uh-fuhs)

*noun* a building, especially a large or impressive one:

*The Parthenon is the most famous surviving edifice of ancient Greece.*

**effusive**

(say uh-**fyoo**-siv)

*adjective* showing too much feeling:

*Her effusive manner can be overwhelming and often makes people uncomfortable.*

**electorate**

(say uh-**lek**-tuh-ruht)

*noun* the area of a country, or the people in the area, which a member of parliament represents:

*The boundary of our electorate has changed so we have a different member of parliament.*

**eloquent**

(say **el**-uh-kwuhnt)

*adjective* able to speak in a flowing, expressive manner:

*Being naturally eloquent, Ann was chosen to give the opening speech.*

**embarrass**

(say em-**ba**-ruhs)

*verb* To **embarrass** someone is to make them feel uncomfortable:

*My mother's old-fashioned ideas sometimes embarrass me in front of my friends.*

**epilepsy**

(say **ep**-uh-lep-see)

*noun* an illness which produces fits of unconsciousness and uncontrollable movements of the body:

*She has a mild form of epilepsy which is controlled well with medication.*

**escalator**

(say **es**-kuh-lay-tuh)

*noun* a continuously moving stairway that carries people upwards or downwards:

*They had to use the escalator to reach the higher level.*

**eucalypt**

(say **yooh**-kuh-lipt)

*noun* a gum tree:

*The wood of a eucalypt is the best wood for a camp fire.*

**evaporate**

(say uh-**vap**-uh-rayt)

*verb* to dry up and disappear:

*There is water in that puddle now, but it will probably evaporate during the day.*

**evocative**

(say uh-**vok**-uh-tiv)

*adjective* tending to evoke memories:

*That old song is evocative of my childhood.*

**executioner**

(say eks-uh-**kyooh**-shuh-nuh)

*noun* a person appointed to carry out the punishment of execution:

*Because Australia does not have capital punishment, we have no need for an executioner.*

**fanciful**

(say **fan**-suh-fuhl)

*adjective* quaintly odd in appearance:

*The dinner set was decorated with a fanciful design of barnyard animals sitting down to tea.*

**feasible**

(say **fee**-zuh-buhl)

*adjective* able to be done or achieved:

*Your plan might be feasible if we can get enough people together.*

**feign**

(say fayn)

*verb* If you **feign** something, you pretend to have it:

*She tried to feign chickenpox by drawing red spots on her skin.*

**fibrous**

(say **fy**-bruhs)

*adjective* stringy or indigestible:

*No-one enjoyed the beans as they were old and too fibrous.*

**fissure**

(say **fish**-uh)

*noun* a crack or split:

*The earthquake caused a fissure in the cliff.*

**flannelette**

(say flan-uh-**let**)

*noun* a cotton cloth treated on one side to look and feel like flannel:

*His checked flannelette shirt wasn't suitable for the formal wedding.*

**forehead**

(say **fo**-ruhd or **faw**-hed)

*noun* Your **forehead** is the top part of your face under the place where your hair starts:

*Sarah fell off the wall and now has a big purple bump on her forehead.*

**foreigner**

(say **fo**-ruh-nuh)

*noun* someone who has come from another country:

*When my father first came to Australia he felt like a foreigner, but that only lasted for a few years.*

**formidable**

(say **faw**-muh-duh-buhl)

*adjective* frightening:

*Mum's visitor was a formidable woman and Dad stayed out in the shed.*

**foundry**

(say **fown**-dree)

*noun* a place in which things are made from molten metal poured into moulds:

*All of these brass goblets and serving platters were made at the foundry.*

**frigate**

(say **frig**-uht)

*noun* a type of warship:

*The frigate escorted the battleship through the dangerous waters.*

**frivolous**

(say **friv**-uh-luhs)

*adjective* not serious:

*She was dressed in a frivolous outfit for the party.*

**gazette**

(say guh-**zet**)

*noun* an official government magazine containing lists of people the government has appointed, and so on:

*She decided to look for a job in the public service gazette.*

**generous**

(say **jen**-uh-ruhs)

*adjective* If you are **generous**, you are ready to give what you have to other people:

*Damien is so generous that he shared his lunch with me when I forgot mine.*

**geography**

(say jee-**og**-ruh-fee)

*noun* the study of the earth, including its landforms, peoples, climates, soils and plants:

*In his geography class, my big brother learns about things like how mountains were formed.*

**germinate**

(say **jerm**-uh-nayt)

*verb* To **germinate** is to begin to grow or develop:

*The seeds will take at least fourteen days to germinate.*

**ghoul**

(say goohl)

*noun* someone who enjoys what others find revolting:

*A person who hangs around the scene of road accidents is nothing but a ghoul.*

**gladiator**

(say **glad**-ee-ay-tuh)

*noun* a man in ancient Rome who fought as a public entertainment:

*As part of our studies of ancient civilisations, we saw a film about a gladiator.*

**glutinous**

(say **glooh**-tuh-nuhs)

*adjective* sticky, like glue:

*We heated and stirred the sauce until it developed a glutinous texture.*

**goanna**

(say goh-**an**-uh)

*noun* any of a number of large Australian lizards:

*The goanna climbed up the tree looking for a bird's nest.*

**grievous**

(say **greev**-uhs)

*adjective* causing grief or sorrow:

*The grievous news devastated the family.*

**homicide**

(say **hom**-uh-suyd)

*noun* the crime of killing someone on purpose:

*He is to stand trial for homicide.*

**humidifier**

(say hyooh-**mid**-uh-fuy-uh)

*noun* a device for regulating the amount of moisture in the air in a room or building:

*The air in the room felt stuffy and dry, so we turned on the humidifier.*

**humorous**

(say **hyooh**-muh-ruhs)

*adjective* If something is **humorous**, it is funny:

*We thought it was humorous when my little brother said that a caterpillar was a worm in a fur coat.*

**hurricane**

(say **hu**-ruh-kuhn or **hu**-ruh-kayn)

*noun* a violent tropical storm with a very strong wind:

*The hurricane tore the roof off the football stadium.*

**hydrogen**

(say **huy**-druh-juhn)

*noun* a colourless, odourless gas:

*Water is made up of hydrogen and oxygen.*

**hypocrite**

(say **hip**-uh-krit)

*noun* someone who pretends that they have certain beliefs or morals that they do not really have:

*The outspoken conservationist was branded a hypocrite when it was discovered that she did not recycle her paper and plastic.*

**icicle**

(say **uy**-sik-uhl)

*noun* a hanging tapering piece of ice formed by the freezing of water falling in drops:

*It was so cold that an icicle had formed above the window.*

**illustration**

(say il-uhs-**tray**-shuhn)

*noun* a picture in a book:

*The illustration at the bottom of the page shows how a tadpole turns into a frog.*

**imbecile**

(say **im**-buh-seel or **im**-buh-suyl)

*noun* someone who behaves in a very stupid way:

*I felt like a complete imbecile for losing the money.*

**immeasurable**

(say i-**mez**h-uh-ruh-buhl)

*adjective* so great as to not be able to be measured:

*The oceans seem to contain immeasurable amounts of water.*

**imminent**

(say **im**-uh-nuhnt)

*adjective* likely to happen at any moment:

*The black sky warned that a storm was imminent.*

**impenetrable**

(say im-**pen**-uh-truh-buhl)

*adjective* not able to be penetrated:

*The dense rainforest was completely impenetrable.*

**impermeable**

(say im-**per**-mee-uh-buhl)

*adjective* not allowing fluids to pass through:

*This plastic is impermeable to liquid, so it will keep the rain out.*

**inaccessible**

(say in-uhk-**ses**-uh-buhl)

*adjective* not able to be reached:

*The floodwaters meant that our destination was inaccessible for at least a week.*

**incessant**

(say in-**sess**-uhnt)

*adjective* continuing without stopping:

*It was hard to hear over the incessant chatter in the cafe.*

**incision**

(say in-**siz**h-uhn)

*noun* a cut with a knife:

*The surgeon began the operation by carefully making an incision.*

**indecisive**

(say in-duh-**suy**-siv or in-duh-**siz**-iv)

*adjective* having difficulty in making decisions:

*She is so indecisive that ordering food in a restaurant takes forever.*

**indicator**

(say **in**-duh-kayt-uh)

*noun* something that points to or shows something:

*The fuel indicator showed we were nearly out of petrol.*

**indolent**

(say **in**-duh-luhnt)

*adjective* tending to avoid work or effort:

*Her indolent ways annoyed the firm so much that she was sacked.*

**inflammation**

(say in-fluh-**may**-shuhn)

*noun* a red, painful, and often swollen area on the body, caused by an infection:

*The inflammation around his knee prevented him from surfing for a month.*

**insatiable**

(say in-**say**-shuh-buhl)

*adjective* never having enough:

*Teenage boys seem to have an insatiable appetite.*

**intrepid**

(say in-**trep**-uhd)

*adjective* very brave:

*The intrepid reporter risked her life by entering the war zone.*

**intuition**

(say in-tyooh-**ish**-uhn)

*noun* a strong feeling about something without any real reason that you know of:

*I have no proof, but my intuition tells me that she's telling the truth.*

**inundate**

(say **in**-un-dayt)

*verb* to overwhelm with a flood or with something like a flood:

*I hope our teacher doesn't inundate us with assignments over the holidays.*

**irritable**

(say **i**-ruh-tuh-buhl)

*adjective* easily annoyed:

*I try to keep out of his way when he is tired and irritable.*

**jeopardy**

(say **jep**-uh-dee)

*noun* If something is in **jeopardy**, it is at risk:

*The school excursion is in jeopardy because insurance costs so much.*

**judicial**

(say jooh-**dish**-uhl)

*adjective* having to do with judges or law courts:

*A respected judge was appointed to lead the judicial inquiry into the helicopter accident.*

**knowledge**

(say **nol**-ij)

*noun* **Knowledge** is what someone knows:

*She had a good knowledge of the rules of the game so they asked her to be referee.*

**kookaburra**

(say **kook**-uh-bu-ruh)

*noun* an Australian bird of the kingfisher family whose call sounds like human laughter:

*The kookaburra flew down and grabbed the worm in its beak.*

**krypton**

(say **krip**-ton)

*noun* a gaseous element:

*Krypton is a gas which is used in some camera flashes.*

**lacerate**

(say **lass**-uh-rayt)

*verb* to tear roughly or cut:

*There are sharp rocks on the reef that could lacerate your feet.*

**lathe**

(say laydh)

*noun* a machine which holds and turns a piece of wood or metal while it is being cut or shaped:

*The carpenter used a lathe to shape a chair leg from a piece of wood.*

**liability**

(say luy-uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

*noun* something or someone that causes difficulty rather than being helpful:

*Having a pet can be a liability when you want to go on holidays.*

**liana**

(say lee-**ahn**-uh)

*noun* a climbing tropical plant:

*In the rainforest, tangled liana jostled with strangler figs and massive tree ferns.*

**librarian**

(say luy-**brair**-ree-uhn)

*noun* A **librarian** is someone who works in a library:

*The librarian showed us how to use the internet to find the information we needed.*

**lieutenant**

(say lef-**ten**-uhnt or looh-**ten**-uhnt)

*noun* an officer in the army or navy:

*After serving in the army for two years she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant.*

**limerick**

(say **lim**-uh-rik)

*noun* a poem with five lines, intended to make you laugh:

*The teacher recited a funny limerick about bees.*

**linguist**

(say **ling**-gwuhst)

*noun* a person who studies language:

*He is a linguist and is compiling a dictionary of an Aboriginal language of western Queensland.*

**lithe**

(say luydh)

*adjective* To be **lithe** is to have a flexible and supple body:

*Ballerinas are always lithe and graceful.*

**litigation**

(say lit-uh-**gay**-shuhn)

*noun* the process of challenging someone in a law court:

*Many doctors worry about the threat of litigation against them.*

**livelihood**

(say **luyv**-lee-hood)

*noun* a way of earning money to live:

*Farming has been his livelihood for sixty years.*

**locum**

(say **loh**-kuhm)

*noun* a temporary stand-in for a doctor, lawyer, etc.:

*He was employed for three weeks as a locum while the resident doctor took holidays.*

**ludicrous**

(say **looh**-duh-kruhs)

*adjective* so silly as to cause laughter:

*Sally looked ludicrous dressed as an egg.*

**macadamia**

(say mak-uh-**day**-mee-uh)

*noun* an edible nut with a very hard shell, grown in eastern Australia and South-East Asia:

*The shell of a macadamia is very hard, but the nut inside is delicious.*

**macaw**

(say muh-**kaw**)

*noun* a colourful, tropical American parrot with a long tail and a harsh voice:

*The bright colours of the macaw caught their eyes as it flew away.*

**magician**

(say muh-**jish**-uhn)

*noun* someone who practises magic or magic tricks:

*The magician was able to make a coin disappear and then appear again.*

**malicious**

(say muh-**lish**-uhs)

*adjective* showing malice or nastiness:

*Her bitterness made her say malicious things about the family.*

**malnutrition**

(say mal-nyooh-**trish**-uhn)

*noun* illness caused by not having enough food:

*Malnutrition affects millions of people around the world.*

**manufacture**

(say man-yuh-**fak**-chuh)

*verb* To **manufacture** something is to make it with machines in a factory:

*A company has been formed to manufacture the new hearing aids.*

**masonry**

(say **may**-suhn-ree)

*noun* the art or work of someone who builds or works with stone:

*Beautiful local sandstone had been used in the masonry of the new house.*

**matriarch**

(say **may**-tree-ahk)

*noun* a woman leader in a family, tribe or any field of activity:

*Grandma was the matriarch of the family.*

**maudlin**

(say **mawd**-luhn)

*adjective* tearfully or weakly emotional or sentimental:

*She grew tearful listening to the maudlin song about lost love.*

**mechanism**

(say **mek**-uhn-iz-uhm)

*noun* a piece of machinery:

*The mechanism which controls the temperature in the fridge is broken.*

**mischievous**

(say **mis**-chuh-vuhs)

*adjective* You are **mischievous** if you like to do naughty things:

*My little brother is very mischievous -- Mum and Dad have to watch what he is doing all the time.*

**monolith**

(say **mon**-uh-lith)

*noun* a single, huge rock:

*Uluru in the centre of Australia is the largest monolith in the world.*

**monologue**

(say **mon**-uh-log)

*noun* a long talk by one person:

*The hardest part of this role is the long monologue at the end of the first act.*

**montage**

(say mon-**tahzh** or **mon**-tahzh)

*noun* a work of art made by arranging different pictures, or parts of pictures, in one composition:

*In our art class we are cutting up old magazines to make a montage.*

**morose**

(say muh-**rohs**)

*adjective* bad-tempered or gloomy because of unhappiness:

*He became very morose when he found out that dinner was to be lentil burgers.*

**morphine**

(say **maw**-feen)

*noun* a strong drug used to stop pain:

*The doctor prescribed morphine to reduce her pain after the major operation.*

**mortality**

(say maw-**tal**-uh-tee)

*noun* the condition of being mortal or human:

*Serving in the war made him acutely aware of his mortality.*

**muesli**

(say **myoohz**-lee or **moohz**-lee)

*noun* breakfast cereal made from a mixture of oats, chopped fruit, nuts, etc.:

*Each morning I enjoy a bowl of muesli and milk followed by toast and jam.*

**municipality**

(say myooh-nuh-suh-**pal**-uh-tee)

*noun* a district which has its own local government:

*We have some good parks in our municipality.*

**mysterious**

(say muhs-**teer**-ree-uhs)

*adjective* puzzling or full of mystery:

*We were woken by mysterious noises in the night.*

**napery**

(say **nay**-puh-ree)

*noun* household linen, especially for the table:

*My mother used an online site to buy curtains and napery for the new house.*

**necessity**

(say nuh-**sess**-uh-tee)

*noun* something that cannot be done without:

*A water flask is a necessity when you are hiking.*

**nonchalant**

(say **non**-shuh-luhnt)

*adjective* calm and indifferent:

*He shrugged his shoulders in a nonchalant way to show he didn't care.*

**notorious**

(say nuh-**taw**-ree-uhs)

*adjective* If someone is **notorious**, they are famous or well-known for something bad:

*Ned Kelly was a notorious bushranger.*

**nuisance**

(say **nyooh**-suhns)

*noun* someone or something that is very annoying:

*It was a real nuisance that we couldn't turn on the tap.*

**obituary**

(say uh-**bich**-uh-ree)

*noun* a notice, usually in a newspaper, saying that someone has died and often including a short account of their life and achievements:

*I was sad when I saw an obituary in the paper for my old school principal.*

**obscene**

(say uhb-**seen**)

*adjective* shocking and offensive:

*The film was banned because it was thought to be too obscene.*

**officious**

(say uh-**fish**-uhs)

*adjective* too eager to force your services upon others and to tell them what to do:

*If there is one thing I don't like it is officious dog catchers.*

**omnivorous**

(say om-**niv**-uh-ruhs)

*adjective* eating both animals and plants:

*We had to list the animals as herbivorous, carnivorous or omnivorous according to what they eat.*

**opaque**

(say oh-**payk**)

*adjective* If something is **opaque**, it does not let light through and you cannot see through it:

*The window was opaque because it had been painted over.*

**opinionated**

(say uh-**pin**-juhn-ay-tuhd)

*adjective* having strong opinions that you refuse to change:

*He's an opinionated broadcaster, never paying much attention to anyone else's point of view.*

**optometry**

(say op-**tom**-uh-tree)

*noun* the practice of testing the eyes by means of suitable instruments or appliances:

*She wanted to study optometry so she could help people with eye problems.*

**orchid**

(say **aw**-kuhd)

*noun* a plant which grows in warm climates and which produces a beautiful flower with an unusual shape:

*She is going to carry a single white orchid at her wedding.*

**organism**

(say **aw**-guh-niz-uhm)

*noun* any form of animal or plant life:

*She saw the tiny organism under the microscope.*

**orphanage**

(say **aw**-fuh-nij)

*noun* a place where children without parents live:

*The film was about a boy who grew up in an orphanage.*

**oxygen**

(say **ok**-suh-juhn)

*noun* a gas with no colour or smell which is a necessary part of the air we breathe:

*Red blood cells carry oxygen to every cell in your body.*

**panorama**

(say pan-uh-**rah**-muh)

*noun* a view over a wide area:

*The panorama was dotted with dams, farmhouses and apple trees.*

**paranoia**

(say pa-ruh-**noy**-uh)

*noun* a mental condition in which the patient suffers from delusions such as that of persecution:

*A person with paranoia often imagines they are the victim of conspiracies.*

**perceptible**

(say puh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

*adjective* able to be perceived:

*The only perceptible difference between the twins was that Belinda was slightly taller.*

**permeable**

(say **perm**-ee-uh-buhl)

*adjective* able to be passed through, especially by liquids:

*Unfortunately, our tent was made of permeable material, so when it rained the water passed straight through and drenched us.*

**perpendicular**

(say per-puhn-**dik**-yuh-luh)

*adjective* meeting a line or surface at right angles:

*This instrument will indicate if the wall is exactly perpendicular to the floor.*

**persimmon**

(say **per**-suh-muhn)

*noun* a red or orange plum-like fruit:

*The ancient Greeks used to call the persimmon the 'fruit of the gods'.*

**pharmacist**

(say **fahm**-uh-suhst)

*noun* a professional person who prepares and dispenses medicines:

*The pharmacist said that it would take about ten minutes to fill the prescription.*

**piety**

(say **puy**-uh-tee)

*noun* deep honour and respect for religion:

*Saint Francis is remembered for his love of animals and his piety.*

**pinnacle**

(say **pin**-uh-kuhl)

*noun* a high, pointed mountain top:

*We cannot be sure if the missing climber ever reached the pinnacle of the Matterhorn.*

**plaintiff**

(say **playn**-tuhf or **playn**-tif)

*noun* a person who brings a court case against someone else known as the defendant:

*The plaintiff had brought the case against her landlord.*

**platypus**

(say **plat**-uh-poos)

*noun* an Australian animal with webbed feet and a bill like a duck's, which lays eggs and feeds its young with its own milk:

*We went down to the creek early in the morning hoping to see a platypus.*

**plaudit**

(say **plaw**-duht)

*noun* applause, approval, etc., as for an admired performance:

*The actor received plaudit after plaudit for his remarkable performance.*

**pollution**

(say puh-**looh**-shuhn)

*noun* **Pollution** is dirt in the air, rivers, seas, or the water that people drink. It can stop people and animals being healthy:

*All the factories near us have caused a lot of pollution.*

**population**

(say pop-yuh-**lay**-shuhn)

*noun* the people living in a country, town or other area:

*The population of Australia is now over 22 million.*

**porcupine**

(say **pawk**-yuh-puyn)

*noun* a small animal covered with stiff, sharp spines, found in Europe, Africa, and North America:

*Falling onto the porcupine was a nasty experience -- for us both.*

**posterior**

(say pos-**teer**-ree-uh)

*adjective* from or at the back:

*The X-ray gave a posterior view of the lung.*

**precarious**

(say pruh-**kair**-ree-uhs)

*adjective* involving danger:

*That plate is in a precarious position right on the edge of the table.*

**precipice**

(say **press**-uh-puhs)

*noun* a steep cliff:

*They stood at the top of the precipice and watched the waves crashing below.*

**predatory**

(say **pred**-uh-tuh-ree or **pred**-uh-tree)

*adjective* A **predatory** animal hunts other animals for food:

*A predatory bird soared high above the plain looking for prey.*

**prehistoric**

(say pree-his-**to**-rik)

*adjective* belonging to the time before history was written or records were kept:

*We can find out about prehistoric life by examining fossils.*

**primitive**

(say **prim**-uh-tiv)

*adjective* being the earliest in existence:

*Primitive humans are believed to have lived in caves.*

**principle**

(say **prin**-suh-puhl)

*noun* a general truth or rule:

*Shop owners often state the principle that the customer is always right.*

**procession**

(say pruh-**sess**-uhn)

*noun* an orderly line of people, cars or floats moving along in a ceremony or as a show:

*We waited for the funeral procession to pass before crossing the street.*

**prohibitive**

(say pruh-**hib**-uh-tiv)

*adjective* of a price, too high for you to afford:

*I don't know how anyone could afford the prohibitive price for that new mobile phone.*

**proliferate**

(say pruh-**lif**-uh-rayt)

*verb* to grow by multiplying:

*Swimming pools seem to proliferate in suburbs where there are lots of kids.*

**propensity**

(say pruh-**pen**-suh-tee)

*noun* a natural or habitual tendency:

*She has a propensity for gossip that can get a bit irritating.*

**proportionate**

(say pruh-**paw**-shuh-nuht)

*adjective* in the correct proportion:

*The huge amount of noise from the sports ground was not proportionate to the small number of spectators.*

**proprietor**

(say pruh-**pruy**-uh-tuh)

*noun* the person who owns a business or a property:

*The proprietor of the doughnut shop is a very good friend of mine.*

**quartz**

(say kwawts)

*noun* a common mineral, used in making clocks and watches:

*Quartz is the most common mineral in the earth's crust.*

**queue**

(say kyoooh)

*noun* a line or file of people, cars or animals waiting in turn for something:

*The queue for the hamburgers was too long so we decided to make do with chips.*

**radiator**

(say ray-dee-ay-tuh)

*noun* A **radiator** is a heater with one or two round bars which are heated up by electricity and used to warm a room:

*It was such a cold night that the whole family was huddled around the radiator.*

**rapport**

(say ruh-paw)

*noun* a friendly feeling between people:

*Josie and I have a good rapport and can talk about anything.*

**rarity**

(say rair-ruh-tee)

*noun* something interesting and uncommon:

*A whale in the harbour is a great rarity these days.*

**raspberry**

(say rahz-bree)

*noun* a soft, juicy, red berry:

*The bowl of ice-cream had a raspberry on top.*

**rationale**

(say rash-uh-nahl)

*noun* a statement of reasons or principles:

*We were interested to hear the council's rationale for removing barbecues from the park.*

**rattan**

(say ruh-tan)

*noun* the tough stems of a kind of palm, used for making baskets, cane furniture, and so on:

*The outdoor chairs were made of rattan, with bright waterproof cushions.*

**rebellion**

(say ruh-bel-yuhn)

*noun* open, organised, and armed resistance to a government:

*There was a feeling of nervousness in the city because of the possibility of rebellion.*

**receipt**

(say ruh-seet)

*noun* a signed piece of paper proving that you have received goods and paid money for them:

*I always save the receipt when I buy something, in case I need to return it.*

**recipe**

(say res-uh-pee)

*noun* instructions on how to cook something:

*We followed the recipe exactly and made the best lamingtons ever.*

**recommend**

(say rek-uh-mend)

*verb* to tell someone that a person or thing is extremely good or helpful:

*I can certainly recommend this book to you.*

**refrigerator**

(say ruh-**frij**-uh-ray-tuh)

*noun* a special appliance where food and drink are kept cool:

*I hope there is some strawberry yoghurt in the refrigerator.*

**refugee**

(say ref-yooh-**jee**)

*noun* someone who needs shelter or protection from danger or trouble:

*He came to Australia as a refugee from the harsh regime in his country.*

**regalia**

(say ruh-**gay**-lee-uh)

*plural noun* the emblems of royalty, such as the crown, sceptre, etc.:

*The exhibition featured all the regalia of Louis XIV, including his royal crown.*

**rehabilitate**

(say ree-huh-**bil**-uh-tayt)

*verb* To **rehabilitate** someone is to help return them to normal activities, especially after an illness or accident, or after having been in prison:

*The hospital has introduced a new scheme to help rehabilitate drug addicts.*

**reincarnation**

(say ree-in-kah-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* the return of the soul after death in a new body or form, a process which some people believe happens:

*The monk wasn't afraid of death as he believed in reincarnation.*

**rejuvenate**

(say ruh-**jooh**-vuh-nayt)

*verb* To **rejuvenate** someone is to make them feel young or energetic again:

*Swimming in the fresh ocean water will rejuvenate them.*

**relentless**

(say ruh-**lent**-luhs)

*adjective* never stopping or becoming softer:

*The days of relentless heat had made us all tired and irritable.*

**renegade**

(say **ren**-uh-gayd)

*noun* someone who deserts one party or cause for another:

*It was clear from the voting papers that there was a renegade in our midst.*

**repulsive**

(say ruh-**pul**-siv)

*adjective* disgusting:

*The smell of the garbage bin was repulsive.*

**requisite**

(say **rek**-wuh-zuht)

*adjective* needed or demanded:

*He has the requisite qualifications for the job.*

**resignation**

(say re-zig-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* a statement informing your employer that you are giving up a job:

*She decided that she would hand in her resignation at the end of the week, and go and pick bananas in Darwin.*

**rhinoceros**

(say ruy-**noss**-uh-ruhs)

*noun* a large, thick-skinned animal of Africa and Asia, with one or two horns on its nose:

*A rhinoceros can be a very dangerous animal if it gets angry.*

**sashimi**

(say suh-**shee**-mee)

*noun* a Japanese dish of fresh seafood fillets cut into bite-sized, oblong strips, and eaten raw:

*Fiona had sashimi at the Japanese restaurant and I had teriyaki chicken.*

**sassafras**

(say **sass**-uh-frass)

*noun* an Australian tree with sweet-smelling bark:

*Oak and cedar were used for cabinetwork and fittings -- and sassafras for flooring.*

**sierra**

(say see-**air**-ruh)

*noun* a chain of hills or mountains with jagged tops:

*From a distance, the peaks of the mountains in the sierra looked like the edge of a saw.*

**skillion**

(say **skil**-yuhn)

*noun* an outer building sometimes leaning against a wall, with a roof sloping in one direction:

*The laundry was at the back of the old house, in a skillion, which was a kind of lean-to with a sloping roof.*

**squadron**

(say **skwod**-ruhn)

*noun* a fighting unit in the armed forces, especially in the air force or navy:

*The squadron provided aerial support to the fleet of supply ships.*

**succulent**

(say **suk**-yuh-luhnt)

*adjective* juicy:

*A succulent mango is hard to eat without getting covered in juice.*

**systematic**

(say sis-tuh-**mat**-ik)

*adjective* having or using a system, method, or plan:

*The teacher worked out a systematic course of reading for the boy who needed extra help.*

**trauma**

(say **traw**-muh)

*noun* an emotional shock which has a lasting effect on the mind:

*The family never really got over the trauma of the accident.*

**wheatgerm**

(say **weet**-jerm)

*noun* a part of the wheat grain, rich in vitamins, which is removed when the wheat is ground:

*You can buy wheatgerm at a health food store.*

## Senior General Level 5

### abhorrent

(say uhb-**hor**-uhnt)

*adjective* hateful or disgusting:

*I find the idea of mistreating animals abhorrent.*

### ablutions

(say uh-**blooh**-shuhnz)

*noun* the act of washing yourself:

*In the old novel, they performed their ablutions at a pump in the garden.*

### aboriginal

(say ab-uh-**rij**-uh-nuhl)

*adjective* having to do with the earliest inhabitants of a country:

*The Inuit are the aboriginal people of Alaska.*

### abstinence

(say **ab**-stuh-nuhns)

*noun* the habit or practice of abstaining, especially from drinking alcohol:

*John practised abstinence from alcohol for one month every year.*

### acclaimed

(say uh-**klaymd**)

*adjective* praised or applauded:

*The city is acclaimed for its beautiful harbour.*

### acquisition

(say ak-wuh-**zish**-uhn)

*noun* the act of acquiring something:

*The director was delighted with the museum's acquisition of the ancient Egyptian vase.*

### acquittal

(say uh-**kwit**-uhl)

*noun* the state of being found innocent of a crime:

*When it was clear there was an acquittal, the accused man's family cheered.*

### acrimony

(say **ak**-ruh-muh-nee)

*noun* harshness or bitterness:

*It's a shame there's so much acrimony between the two rivals.*

### acronym

(say **ak**-ruh-nim)

*noun* a word made from the first letters of other words:

*'ANZAC' is an acronym from 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps'.*

### adjacent

(say uh-**jay**-suhnt)

*adjective* lying near or close to:

*Most schools have pedestrian crossings adjacent to their entry gates.*

### adjourn

(say uh-**jern**)

*verb* to defer or postpone:

*The judge decided to adjourn the court case until the next morning.*

**adjunct**

(say **aj**-ungkt)

*noun* something joined to another thing but not essentially part of it:

*Telephone counselling is often used as an adjunct to nicotine patches in helping people to give up smoking.*

**advantageous**

(say ad-van-**tay**-juhs)

*adjective* useful or beneficial:

*It was advantageous for the athletes to run in the inside lane.*

**aerial**

(say **air**-ree-uhl)

*noun* a wire or rod that you put up to receive radio or television signals:

*We had to adjust the television aerial to get good reception.*

**affectionate**

(say uh-**fek**-shuh-nuht)

*adjective* having or showing great love or affection:

*The puppy is very affectionate and is always trying to lick the children's faces.*

**affidavit**

(say af-uh-**day**-vuht)

*noun* in law, a written statement which may be used as a substitute for evidence in court:

*She was asked to provide an affidavit describing the events leading up to the accident.*

**affirmative**

(say uh-**fer**-muh-tiv)

*adjective* agreeing:

*We were pleased with our mother's affirmative response to our idea.*

**agapanthus**

(say ag-uh-**pan**-thuhs)

*noun* a type of plant with big, round, blue or white flowers:

*The agapanthus is often used as a border plant, along driveways and fences.*

**albeit**

(say awl-**bee**-it)

*conjunction* although:

*Corinne and Carla organised all the stalls at the school fete -- albeit with a little help from their parents.*

**amalgamate**

(say uh-**mal**-guh-mayt)

*verb* to join together:

*The two companies decided to amalgamate and move to a new location.*

**ambivalent**

(say am-**biv**-uh-luhnt)

*adjective* unable to make up your mind due to conflicting feelings:

*She felt ambivalent about going to the party -- it would be fun, but she was very tired.*

**amphibious**

(say am-**fib**-ee-uhs)

*adjective* able to live, move or operate both on land and in water:

*A frog is an amphibious animal.*

**anecdote**

(say **an**-uhk-doh)

*noun* a short story that tells about a funny or interesting person or event:

*She kept us entertained with an anecdote about her family.*

**anguish**

(say **ang**-gwish)

*noun* very great pain or sorrow:

*The anguish of losing the cricket match stayed with him all weekend.*

**anomaly**

(say uh-**nom**-uh-lee)

*noun* a variation from what is normal:

*She never misses school so her absence from school was an anomaly.*

**antagonistic**

(say an-tag-uh-**nis**-tik)

*adjective* mutually opposing:

*The two brothers were quite antagonistic towards each other and were often arguing.*

**anthropologist**

(say an-thruh-**pol**-uh-juhst)

*noun* someone who studies anthropology, the science of the beginnings and the development of humans:

*He wants to become an anthropologist, so he can travel the world and see the different ways people live.*

**antiquity**

(say an-**tik**-wuh-tee)

*noun* the quality of being ancient:

*The archaeologist discovered a vase of great antiquity in the ruins of the temple.*

**antiseptic**

(say an-tuh-**sep**-tik)

*noun* a chemical used to kill germs that produce disease:

*We cleaned the cut with antiseptic before putting a bandage on it.*

**antithesis**

(say an-**tith**-uh-suhs)

*noun* the direct opposite:

*Her confident manner was the antithesis of her brother's shyness.*

**aperture**

(say **ap**-uh-chuh)

*noun* a hole, slit, crack, gap, or other opening:

*Light came in through a small aperture in the ceiling.*

**arachnid**

(say uh-**rak**-nid)

*noun* one of a group of animals that includes spiders and scorpions:

*An arachnid has eight legs.*

**arbitration**

(say ah-buh-**tray**-shuhn)

*noun* the settling of a disagreement by someone chosen to find a solution:

*The neighbours could not resolve their dispute, so they were ordered to go through arbitration to have the matter settled.*

**archaic**

(say ah-**kay**-ik)

*adjective* characteristic of an earlier period of time:

*'Forsooth' and 'begone' are two archaic English words.*

**aspersion**

(say uh-**sper**-zhuhn or uh-**sper**-shuhn)

*noun* a harmful remark or criticism:

*Her old enemy was quick to cast an aspersion on her character.*

**asphalt**

(say **ash**-felt or **ass**-felt)

*noun* a black, sticky substance, mixed with crushed rock and used for making roads:

*The council had to lay new asphalt to repair the road.*

**assassin**

(say uh-**sass**-uhn)

*noun* someone who undertakes murder for a reward:

*The assassin and his accomplices were quickly arrested.*

**assignation**

(say ass-ig-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* an appointment for a meeting, nowadays especially a forbidden love-meeting:

*The lovers made an assignation to meet by the river.*

**assignment**

(say uh-**suyn**-muhnt)

*noun* a particular task:

*Our assignment was to write a report on the Olympic Games.*

**assimilation**

(say uh-sim-uh-**lay**-shuhn)

*noun* the resemblance of an animal to its surroundings, in both shape and colour:

*The assimilation of snow leopards to their natural surroundings is so effective that it is almost impossible to see them.*

**asterisk**

(say **ass**-tuh-risk)

*noun* a star shape used in printing or writing to show that something has been written as a note at the bottom of the page, or been left out:

*An asterisk is a small, star-shaped symbol.*

**asthma**

(say **ass**-muh)

*noun* a breathing disorder which causes difficulty in breathing, coughing and a feeling of tightness in the chest:

*She found that swimming helped her breathing and she had fewer attacks of asthma.*

**astringent**

(say uh-**strin**-juhnt)

*adjective* tightening and refreshing the skin:

*Dad uses an astringent after-shave lotion to refresh his skin.*

**atrocious**

(say uh-**troh**-shuhs)

*adjective* very bad or unpleasant:

*His treatment of his animals is atrocious.*

**atrocious**

(say uh-**tross**-uh-tee)

*noun* a terribly wicked or cruel act:

*The bombing of the city was considered a terrible atrocity.*

**auditorium**

(say aw-duh-**taw**-ree-uhm)

*noun* a hall or other large space for meetings or concerts:

*We held the school play in the gym because the roof of the auditorium was being repaired.*

**augment**

(say awg-**ment**)

*verb* to make larger:

*He works at night as a cab driver to augment his income.*

**authoritarian**

(say aw-tho-ruh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

*adjective* An **authoritarian** government or ruler is one which controls a country strictly and does not allow people to have freedom and individual rights:

*The people were overjoyed when the authoritarian government was overthrown in the elections.*

**axiom**

(say **ak**-see-uhm)

*noun* a statement that is generally accepted as true:

*You should remember the old axiom that crime doesn't pay.*

**bailiff**

(say **bay**-luhf)

*noun* a law officer employed to deliver court orders, collect payments of debts, and so on:

*The bailiff handed the judge the evidence.*

**balaclava**

(say bal-uh-**klah**-vuh)

*noun* a knitted woollen hood that covers the whole head except for the face:

*Simon always wore a balaclava when he went snowboarding to keep his face warm.*

**bankruptcy**

(say **bangk**-rup-see)

*noun* the state of being unable to pay your debts:

*He knew he would be facing bankruptcy unless the business started to make a profit.*

**barnacle**

(say **bah**-nuh-kuhl)

*noun* a crustacean that attaches itself to the bottom of ships, floating timber and marine rocks:

*He cut his foot on a barnacle attached to a piece of driftwood on the beach.*

**barrister**

(say **ba**-ruhs-tuh)

*noun* a lawyer whose main work is presenting cases in court:

*The barrister questioned the witness for nearly an hour.*

**beautician**

(say byooh-**tish**-uhn)

*noun* someone who works in a beauty salon:

*Her lifelong dream was to be a beautician and work in Paris.*

**benevolent**

(say buh-**nev**-uh-luhnt)

*adjective* desiring to do good for others:

*A benevolent passer-by helped the poor woman to her feet.*

**betrothed**

(say buh-**trohdhd**)

*noun* engaged to be married:

*My grandmother was betrothed to my grandfather for a year before they married.*

**bibliography**

(say bib-lee-**og**-ruh-fee)

*noun* a list of all the books, websites, etc., read or used when writing a book or essay:

*We lose marks if we don't include a complete bibliography with our work.*

**bilingual**

(say buy-**ling**-gwuhl)

*adjective* able to speak two languages:

*She is bilingual, speaking both English and Japanese.*

**bohemian**

(say boh-**heem**-ee-uhm)

*adjective* unconventional and artistic:

*It was a popular place to live because of its bohemian lifestyle.*

**brogue**

(say brohg)

*noun* a strong accent, especially an Irish one:

*Despite being in Australia for ten years, he still spoke with an Irish brogue.*

**cachet**

(say **kash**-ay or kash-**ay**)

*noun* prestige or distinction:

*She invited her famous friend along, because she thought he would add a certain cachet to the party.*

**cafeteria**

(say kaf-uh-**teer**-ree-uh)

*noun* a cheap self-service restaurant:

*We had a coffee in the hospital cafeteria.*

**candelabra**

(say kan-duh-**lah**-bruh)

*noun* an ornamental branched candlestick:

*On special occasions we put a candelabra in the centre of the dinner table.*

**capacious**

(say kuh-**pay**-shuhs)

*adjective* able to hold a lot:

*She pulled an umbrella, a pineapple and a straw hat out of her capacious bag.*

**cauliflower**

(say **kol**-ee-flow-uh)

*noun* a vegetable with a large round head of white flowers:

*We had cauliflower and cheese sauce with our roast beef.*

**cavalcade**

(say **kav**-uhl-kayd)

*noun* a procession of people on horseback or in horse-drawn carriages:

*An impressive cavalcade followed the queen's carriage.*

**cavalier**

(say kav-uh-**lear**)

*adjective* not caring about important things:

*Some people thought he had a cavalier attitude towards safety in the surf.*

**cayenne**

(say kay-**en**)

*noun* a hot, biting spice consisting of the ground pods and seeds of any of several varieties of capsicum:

*The recipe for salsa called for a pinch of cayenne pepper.*

**celestial**

(say suh-**less**-tee-uhl)

*adjective* heavenly:

*The painting was of angels and other celestial beings.*

**cellophane**

(say **sel**-uh-fayn)

*noun* a transparent, waterproof, paper-like product, used to wrap sweets, gifts, and so on:

*The flowers were wrapped in clear cellophane.*

**cemetery**

(say **sem**-uh-tree)

*noun* a burial ground:

*We sometimes go to the cemetery to visit my grandfather's grave.*

**cerebral**

(say **se**-ruh-bruhl or suh-**ree**-bruhl)

*adjective* having to do with the brain:

*The doctors said they could detect cerebral activity in the unconscious patient.*

**chagrin**

(say shuh-**grin** or **shag**-ruhn)

*noun* a feeling of anger and disappointment:

*I realised, to my chagrin, that my foolishness had cost our team the honour of winning the competition.*

**chasm**

(say **kaz**-uhm)

*noun* a deep hole or opening in the ground:

*The earthquake left a large chasm in the earth's surface.*

**chiffon**

(say shuh-**fon** or **shif**-on)

*noun* sheer fabric of silk, nylon, or rayon in plain weave:

*Kelly wore a dress made of white chiffon to the dance.*

**chronicle**

(say **kron**-ik-uhl)

*noun* a record or history of events in the order in which they happened:

*We pieced together the chronicle of events leading to the accident.*

**cinematography**

(say sin-uh-muh-**tog**-ruh-fee)

*noun* the art of film photography:

*The cinematography in that new French film is outstanding.*

**circumstantial**

(say ser-kuhm-**stan**-shul)

*adjective* **Circumstantial** evidence is secondary or indirect:

*All the evidence against the accused woman was circumstantial and she was not convicted.*

**clandestine**

(say klan-**dess**-tuhn or klan-**dess**-tuyn or **klan**-duh-stuyn)

*adjective* secret:

*The rebels were holding clandestine meetings in the hills.*

**classicism**

(say **klas**-uh-siz-uhm)

*noun* the classical style in literature or art, which pays special attention to form, stressing simplicity, balance, proportion and controlled emotion:

*We compared the different styles of classicism and romanticism in art class.*

**coalition**

(say koh-uh-**lish**-uhn)

*noun* a combination of two or more political parties with similar goals:

*The coalition presented a united front in their approach to free trade.*

**coerce**

(say koh-**er**ce)

*verb* If you **coerce** someone into doing something, you force them to do it:

*We tried to coerce him into telling us the secret code.*

**coherent**

(say koh-**hear**-ruhnt)

*adjective* clear and well thought out:

*She presented a coherent argument for building a new school hall.*

**coir**

(say **koy**-uh)

*noun* the prepared fibre of the coconut, used in making rope, matting, etc.:

*They covered the floor of the hut with coir matting.*

**colloquial**

(say kuh-**loh**-kwee-uhl)

*adjective* suitable for casual, informal, or everyday language:

*'This arvo' is a colloquial way of saying 'this afternoon'.*

**comfrey**

(say **kum**-free)

*noun* a kind of plant of Europe and Asia, having blue, purplish or white flowers, used in making herbal tea, etc.:

*The naturopath made a paste out of comfrey leaves to put on my bruise.*

**concoction**

(say kuhn-**kok**-shuhn)

*noun* the product of combining a group of ingredients:

*The concoction of tea, lemon and honey helped soothe his sore throat.*

**conducive**

(say kuhn-**dyooh**-siv)

*adjective* leading to or helping to bring about a result:

*Lots of exercise is conducive to good health.*

**consciousness**

(say **kon**-shuhs-nuhs)

*noun* mental awareness:

*She regained consciousness when the anaesthetic wore off.*

**conservatorium**

(say kuhn-serv-uh-**taw**-ree-uhm)

*noun* a school where you learn music:

*Fran played two solo pieces in her audition for the conservatorium.*

**contagious**

(say kuhn-**tay**-juhs)

*adjective* easily spread from one person to another:

*Measles is contagious, but most people in Australia are vaccinated against it.*

**contemplative**

(say **kon**-tuhm-play-tiv or kon-**temp**-luh-tiv)

*adjective* considering things in a thoughtful way:

*She stared out the window in a contemplative mood.*

**contemporary**

(say kuhn-**temp**-uh-ruh-ree or kuhn-**temp**-ree)

*adjective* modern:

*I prefer contemporary music to classical.*

**contentious**

(say kuhn-**ten**-shuhs)

*adjective* characterised by argument:

*The government's contentious new policy has caused many arguments in the community.*

**conurbation**

(say kon-er-**bay**-shuhn)

*noun* a large heavily populated area formed by growth and the gradual joining together of previously separate towns:

*The size of the typical modern conurbation has serious implications for public transport systems.*

**convalesce**

(say kon-vuh-**less**)

*verb* If someone is **convalescing**, they are growing stronger after an illness:

*They took her to the mountains so she could convalesce in the cool, clean air.*

**copha**

(say **koh**-fuh)

*noun* a white waxy solid derived from coconut flesh used as a shortening in cookery:

*We made chocolate crackles from rice bubbles, cocoa and copha.*

**corroboration**

(say kuh-rob-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

*noun* verification or confirmation:

*The witness's corroboration of the victim's story helped police with their investigation.*

**crescendo**

(say kruh-**shen**-doh)

*noun* an increasingly loud or forceful part in a piece of music:

*The composer chose a slow crescendo for the end of his symphony.*

**crevasse**

(say kruh-**vass**)

*noun* a deep crack in a glacier or river of ice:

*The glacier was enormous and we could see a large vertical crevasse slicing it down the middle.*

**crustacean**

(say kruss-**tay**-shuhn)

*noun* a type of animal with a hard shell instead of a skeleton, such as a crab, usually living in water:

*Krill is a tiny shrimp-like crustacean vital in the food chain.*

**cynicism**

(say **sin**-uh-siz-uhm)

*noun* a cynical way of thinking:

*Her newspaper articles were known for their sharpness and cynicism.*

**dahlia**

(say **dayl**-yuh)

*noun* a type of plant, native to Mexico and Central America, widely cultivated for its showy flowers:

*Grandpa won first prize at the flower show with a huge red dahlia bloom.*

**dandelion**

(say **dan**-duh-luy-uhn)

*noun* a plant with yellow flowers which form fluffy balls when they go to seed:

*The strong wind blew the seeds of the dandelion away.*

**debacle**

(say day-**bah**-kuhl or duh-**bah**-kuhl)

*noun* a disastrous failure:

*Unfortunately, the restaurant's opening night was a complete debacle with the chef storming out in a rage.*

**deforestation**

(say dee-fo-ruhs-**tay**-shuhn)

*noun* the permanent removal of forests or trees from a large area:

*Extensive deforestation has a disastrous effect on the environment.*

**denunciation**

(say duh-nun-see-**ay**-shuhn)

*noun* an open and harsh condemnation of someone or something you think is bad:

*His angry denunciation of the government was heard by many at the rally.*

**differential**

(say dif-uh-**ren**-shuhl)

*adjective* showing a difference or distinction:

*Opposition to differential pay rates was one of the important platforms of feminism.*

**differentiate**

(say dif-uh-**ren**-shee-ayt)

*verb* to see that one thing is different from another:

*It is hard for colourblind people to differentiate between red and green.*

**disciplinarian**

(say diss-uh-pluh-**nair**-ree-uhn)

*adjective* believing in strict discipline:

*Her disciplinarian boss would not allow her to leave a minute early.*

**discourteous**

(say dis-**ker**-tee-uhs)

*adjective* lacking politeness:

*Discourteous behaviour is not tolerated in my house.*

**discrepancy**

(say dis-**krep**-uhn-see)

*noun* a difference:

*There is a discrepancy between the two accounts and we don't know which to believe.*

**discrimination**

(say duh-skrim-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* unfair treatment of a person because of something such as their gender, nationality or religion:

*Discrimination of any kind is not tolerated in our school.*

**dishevelled**

(say dish-**ev**-uhld)

*adjective* untidy or in disorder:

*He tried to tidy his dishevelled hair.*

**disintegrate**

(say dis-**in**-tuh-grayt)

*verb* to break up into small parts:

*The meteor began to disintegrate when it entered the earth's atmosphere.*

**disorientate**

(say dis-**o**-ree-uhn-tayt)

*verb* to confuse, especially about where you are or which direction you are facing:

*The winding roads often disorientate tourists.*

**disparate**

(say **dis**-puh-ruht)

*adjective* unlike or different in kind:

*The documentary highlighted the disparate lives of the city's rich and very poor.*

**dispensation**

(say dis-pen-**say**-shuhn)

*noun* the act of giving out or the distribution of something:

*My father was responsible for the dispensation of letters when the mail came.*

**dissociate**

(say dis-**oh**-shee-ayt)

*verb* to separate or break a connection:

*After the fight, Sam's mother wanted him to completely dissociate himself from the gang.*

**distillery**

(say duhs-**til**-uh-ree)

*noun* a place for distilling, especially alcoholic spirits:

*The distillery produced excellent whisky.*

**distinguished**

(say duhs-**ting**-gwisht)

*adjective* important and famous:

*Several distinguished guests attended the charity dinner.*

**duress**

(say dyooh-**ress**)

*noun* the use of threats or force:

*The man claimed he had only signed the confession under duress.*

**elucidate**

(say uh-**looh**-suh-dayt)

*verb* to make clear or easily understood:

*The scientist was asked to elucidate the theory so that we could all understand it.*

**embezzlement**

(say em-**bez**-uhl-muhnt)

*noun* a crime where someone who has been entrusted with money or property uses it for themselves:

*The bank official was found guilty of the embezzlement of customers' money.*

**emissary**

(say **em**-uh-suh-ree or **em**-uhs-ree)

*noun* someone sent on mission:

*It was the role of the emissary to conduct negotiations with the island's government.*

**emulsion**

(say uh-**mul**-shuhn)

*noun* a milk-like mixture, often rather oily:

*The naturopath made up a special emulsion for her to rub on the affected areas.*

**entourage**

(say **on**-tooh-rahj)

*noun* a group of people attending and helping someone, especially an important person:

*The prime minister's entourage travelled with her on the plane.*

**equinox**

(say **EEK**-wuh-noks or **ek**-wuh-noks)

*noun* the time when the sun is directly over the earth's equator, making night and day all over the earth of equal length:

*There is one equinox in March and another in September.*

**equivocate**

(say uh-**kwiv**-uh-kayt)

*verb* to use words having more than one meaning, especially in order to deceive:

*He tends to equivocate in his speeches to avoid taking a stand on issues.*

**esplanade**

(say **es**-pluh-nahd or **es**-pluh-nayd)

*noun* a path or road by the sea:

*We like to go for walks along the esplanade on sunny afternoons.*

**eucalyptus**

(say yoooh-kuh-**lip**-tuhs)

*noun* a type of tree with many different varieties, used for its timber and its strong oil:

*The Australian bush is characterised by the eucalyptus.*

**evangelist**

(say uh-**van**-juh-luhst)

*noun* someone who travels from place to place teaching from the Bible:

*The evangelist invited the whole town to listen to what he had to say.*

**exaggerate**

(say uhg-**zaj**-uh-rayt)

*verb* To **exaggerate** is to make something out to be greater than it is:

*You always exaggerate so it's hard to know what really happened.*

**excerpt**

(say **ek**-serpt)

*noun* a piece quoted from a book or shown from a film:

*The teacher read us an excerpt from the final Harry Potter book.*

**exquisite**

(say ek-**skwiz**-uht or **ek**-skwuh-zuht)

*adjective* delicately beautiful:

*This plant produces exquisite golden flowers.*

**extortionate**

(say uhk-**staw**-shuhn-uht)

*adjective* excessively high:

*The price of limes was extortionate because they were out of season.*

**extrasensory**

(say eks-truh-**sen**-suh-ree)

*adjective* outside the normal senses:

*He had what appeared to be an extrasensory understanding of what people were thinking.*

**farcical**

(say **fah**-sik-uhl)

*adjective* ridiculous or unlikely:

*With six of our players sick, the game was a farcical walkover.*

**fascism**

(say **fash**-iz-uhm)

*noun* a government system with strong centralised power, which permits no opposition:

*Fascism is a system of government which gave rise to dictatorships last century.*

**fictitious**

(say fik-**tish**-uhs)

*adjective* imaginary or made up:

*The characters in this film are fictitious -- they are not based on real people.*

**fiefdom**

(say **feef**-duhm)

*noun* a powerful person's area of control:

*Wales was once considered a fiefdom of English aristocrats.*

**focaccia**

(say fuh-**kah**-chuh or fuh-**kah**-chee-uh)

*noun* flat Italian bread which can be eaten with various fillings or toppings:

*We had focaccia with cheese and olives for lunch.*

**foible**

(say **foy**-buhl)

*noun* a slight weakness in someone's character:

*His major foible is spending too much money on computer games.*

**follicle**

(say **fol**-ik-uhl)

*noun* a small cavity or gland in your body:

*A hair grows from a follicle.*

**fortuitous**

(say faw-**tyooh**-uh-tuhs)

*adjective* happening by chance or by good luck:

*I needed to speak to her, so it was fortuitous that I bumped into her on my way to the shops.*

**fractious**

(say **frak**-shuhs)

*adjective* bad-tempered and uncooperative:

*The fractious child needed a good night's sleep.*

**fraught**

(say frawt)

*adjective* involving or full of:

*The journey across the mountains was fraught with danger.*

**fruition**

(say frooh-**ish**-uhn)

*noun* the attainment of something that a person desires:

*All her hard work came to fruition when her novel was published to rave reviews.*

**fugitive**

(say **fyoo**-juh-tiv)

*noun* someone who is running away:

*Police are still hunting for the fugitive who escaped from prison.*

**gangrenous**

(say **gang**-gruh-nuhs)

*adjective* affected by gangrene:

*The surgeon had to amputate the gangrenous leg before the disease spread.*

**gargoyle**

(say **gah**-goyl)

*noun* a spout, often carved in the shape of an ugly head with an open mouth, which carries rainwater off a roof:

*Each corner of the old building was adorned with an ugly gargoyle.*

**gauche**

(say gohsh)

*adjective* clumsy and awkward:

*His gauche manners embarrassed everybody.*

**gerbera**

(say **jer**-buh-ruh)

*noun* a type of flower like a large daisy:

*The gerbera is a flower that comes in a wide range of bright colours.*

**geriatric**

(say je-ree-**at**-rik)

*adjective* having to do with old people or their care:

*A geriatric nurse looks after elderly people in hospital.*

**gingivitis**

(say jin-juh-**vuy**-tuhs)

*noun* inflammation of the gums around your teeth:

*Gingivitis can make your gums red and sore.*

**glimpse**

(say glimps)

*noun* a quick sighting:

*I caught a glimpse of him as he ran past.*

**glossary**

(say **gloss**-uh-ree)

*noun* a list of special or difficult words about a particular subject, with their definitions:

*There was a glossary of terms at the end of the book.*

**gratuity**

(say gruh-**tyooh**-uh-tee)

*noun* a gift, usually of money, for service given:

*He was given a gratuity of \$5 for carrying the luggage.*

**guarantor**

(say ga-ruhn-**taw**)

*noun* someone who makes or gives a guarantee, such as promising they will pay someone's debt if that person can't:

*He asked his parents to be a guarantor for his housing loan.*

**gumption**

(say **gump**-shuhn)

*noun* initiative or resourcefulness:

*It took a lot of gumption to play again after losing so badly.*

**gyrate**

(say juy-**rayt**)

*verb* to move in a circle or spiral:

*The children watched the spinning top gyrate for minutes until it finally came to a stop.*

**hallucination**

(say huh-looh-suh-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* something which someone imagines they have seen or heard:

*I thought I saw a large, cool drink in front of me but it was just a hallucination.*

**heresy**

(say **he**-ruh-see)

*noun* a belief, especially about religion, which goes against the things that people generally believe:

*In some religions, the theory of evolution is considered heresy.*

**homily**

(say **hom**-uh-lee)

*noun* a religious talk:

*The minister's homily was on the subject of compassion.*

**humanitarian**

(say hyooh-man-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

*adjective* concerned with helping people who live in bad conditions or are suffering:

*She works with a charity providing humanitarian aid in Africa.*

**hypothermia**

(say huy-puh-**ther**-mee-uh)

*noun* an abnormally low body temperature:

*The two children were found in the snow, suffering from hypothermia.*

**idolatry**

(say uy-**dol**-uh-tree)

*noun* worship of idols:

*Idolatry is a part of some ancient religions.*

**illiterate**

(say il-**it**-uh-ruht)

*adjective* unable to read and write:

*Illiterate people face many hardships in everyday life.*

**impeccable**

(say im-**pek**-uh-buhl)

*adjective* without any faults:

*The principal said she was proud of our impeccable behaviour on the excursion.*

**imperceptible**

(say im-puh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

*adjective* not able to be seen:

*The grey cat was almost imperceptible in the dark corner.*

**inauspicious**

(say in-aw-**spish**-uhs)

*adjective* unfavourable:

*The black clouds were inauspicious for the outdoor wedding.*

**incarcerate**

(say in-**kah**-suh-rayt)

*verb* to imprison:

*The prisoner was shocked when the judge chose to incarcerate him for twenty years.*

**incidental**

(say in-suh-**den**-tuhl)

*noun* **Incidental** music is played during the action of a film or a play, but it doesn't form an essential part of the performance:

*You often don't notice the incidental music playing in the background of a film scene, but it is important for creating the right atmosphere.*

**incredulous**

(say in-**krej**-uh-luhs)

*adjective* not willing to believe something, usually because it is too surprising or shocking:

*She explained her theory to an incredulous audience.*

**instantaneous**

(say in-stuhn-**tay**-nee-uhs)

*adjective* immediate:

*There was instantaneous cheering when the winner was announced.*

**interdisciplinary**

(say in-tuh-**dis**-uh-pluhn-uh-ree)

*adjective* of or relating to educational courses, committees, etc., in which two or more areas of learning work together:

*The new course was an interdisciplinary one involving the departments of psychology and sociology.*

**interrogation**

(say in-te-ruh-**gay**-shuhn)

*noun* the act of questioning someone closely to find out something:

*The interrogation of the suspect took more than four hours because he wouldn't name his accomplices.*

**intricacy**

(say in-truh-kuh-see)

*noun* detailed complexity:

*We admired the intricacy of her embroidery.*

**irredeemable**

(say i-ruh-**deem**-uh-buhl)

*adjective* hopeless or irreparable:

*They all sadly agreed that the situation was irredeemable.*

**julienne**

(say jooH-lee-**en**)

*adjective* prepared as a food garnish by being cut in very thin strips:

*Rhonda cut carrots into julienne strips to add to the salad.*

**jurisdiction**

(say jooH-ruhs-**dik**-shuhn)

*noun* If a person or legal body has **jurisdiction** in a particular matter, they have the authority to make a judgement about it:

*The industrial court does not have jurisdiction to decide on that kind of dispute.*

**jurisprudence**

(say jooH-ruhs-**prooh**-duhns)

*noun* the science or philosophy of law:

*Scholars of jurisprudence ask questions like what is the goal of law and whether we should obey the law.*

**knapsack**

(say **nap**-sak)

*noun* an old-fashioned word for a backpack:

*The camper carried water and food in her knapsack.*

**lassitude**

(say **las**-uh-tyoohd)

*noun* weariness:

*A feeling of lassitude overwhelmed him after the meal and he nodded off.*

**liaison**

(say lee-**ay**-zuhn)

*noun* a connection or communication between people or groups:

*The council works in liaison with local bush regeneration groups.*

**liege**

(say leej or leezh)

*noun* a lord entitled to loyalty and service:

*In medieval times, serfs used to work the land for their liege.*

**lineage**

(say **lin**-ee-ij)

*noun* descent from a line of ancestors:

*Tom's aunt thinks her family is of royal lineage.*

**locavore**

(say **loh**-kuh-vaw)

*noun* a person who eats only food that is locally produced, because they believe that fresh food is nutritionally better, and that transporting food increases greenhouse emissions:

*My mother is a locavore and only eats fresh food which has been grown close to home.*

**loquat**

(say **loh**-kwot or **loh**-kwuht)

*noun* a small, evergreen tree native to China and Japan, but grown elsewhere for its yellow plumlike fruit:

*The loquat produces its fruit early in the season.*

**lymphatic**

(say lim-**fat**-ik)

*adjective* relating to lymph, one of the important fluids in our bodies:

*Doctors have to know how the lymphatic system works to be able to treat many illnesses.*

**macabre**

(say muh-**kahb** or muh-**kah**-buh or muh-**kah**-bruh)

*adjective* horrible in a gruesome way:

*The newspaper article gave details of the macabre murders.*

**magnanimous**

(say mag-**nan**-uh-muhs)

*adjective* nobly unselfish and generous:

*It's very magnanimous of you to give me your ticket to the concert.*

**magnolia**

(say mag-**noh**-lee-uh)

*noun* a large tree with spectacular flowers:

*The garden is beautiful when the magnolia is in bloom.*

**maintenance**

(say **mayn**-tuh-nuhns)

*noun* the act of maintaining or keeping something in good condition:

*The maintenance of his motorbike took up much of his time.*

**malleable**

(say **mal**-ee-uh-buhl)

*adjective* easily worked into a different shape:

*Plasticine is easy to shape because it is malleable.*

**marshmallow**

(say mahsh-**mal**-oh or mahsh-**mel**-oh)

*noun* a type of sweet with a spongy texture, usually containing gelatine, sugar, and flavouring:

*I like to put a marshmallow in my hot chocolate.*

**masquerade**

(say mas-kuh-**rayd** or mahs-kuh-**rayd**)

*noun* a party at which the guests wear fancy dress:

*I wore a pirate costume to the masquerade.*

**melodramatic**

(say mel-uh-druh-**mat**-ik)

*adjective* too emotional and dramatic:

*We were surprised by her melodramatic reaction to the announcement.*

**meringue**

(say muh-**rang**)

*noun* a mixture of sugar and beaten whites of eggs used in cakes and sweets:

*We cooked the meringue in the oven on a very low heat.*

**metaphor**

(say **met**-uh-faw or **met**-uh-fuh)

*noun* a kind of imagery used in writing or speech in which something is spoken of as if it were something else:

*'Knowledge is a key that opens many doors' is an example of a metaphor.*

**milliner**

(say **mil**-uh-nuh)

*noun* someone who makes or sells hats:

*My grandmother is a milliner and is busy every year making hats for the Melbourne Cup.*

**mimicry**

(say **mim**-uh-kree)

*noun* the act of mimicking or copying something or someone:

*His mimicry of the politician's unusual way of walking had us all laughing.*

**minestrone**

(say min-uh-**stroh**-nee)

*noun* a kind of soup containing vegetables, herbs and pasta:

*The more ingredients you add to minestrone, the better it tastes.*

**minion**

(say **min**-yuhn)

*noun* a favourite, especially someone who behaves slavishly to keep the favour of their master:

*He was accused of being a mere minion of the powerful politician.*

**molasses**

(say muh-**lass**-uhz)

*noun* a thick brown, bitter syrup drained from raw sugar:

*Molasses is a thick syrup which is a by-product of sugar production.*

**monotonous**

(say muh-**not**-uh-nuhs)

*adjective* tiresomely lacking in variety:

*We almost fell asleep listening to the sound of the lecturer's monotonous voice.*

**neuralgia**

(say nyoooh-**ral**-juh)

*noun* a pain along a nerve:

*The sharp pains from her neuralgia were getting worse.*

**nuance**

(say **nyoooh**-ons)

*noun* a slight variation of colour, meaning, expression or feeling:

*We knew every nuance of her voice and could tell that she was worried.*

**obnoxious**

(say uhb-**no**k-shuhs)

*adjective* disagreeable or nasty:

*His behaviour was so obnoxious that not even his friends thought he was funny.*

**occurrence**

(say uh-**ku**-ruhns)

*noun* the action or fact of occurring, or happening:

*The occurrence of rain after a drought is cause for great celebration.*

**oleander**

(say ol-ee-**an**-duh)

*noun* a pink or white flowering shrub with dark green leaves:

*The oleander is a pretty plant, but it is poisonous.*

**opulently**

(say **op**-yuh-luhnt-lee)

*adverb* in a rich or visibly wealthy manner:

*The king dressed opulently in velvet robes and jewelled crowns.*

**osteopath**

(say **oss**-tee-uh-path)

*noun* a person who cures diseases by realigning bones in the body:

*The osteopath examined the patient thoroughly before treating her.*

**pacifist**

(say **pas**-uh-fuhst)

*noun* someone who opposes all war or violence:

*My mother is a pacifist who is very active in the anti-war movement.*

**pandemonium**

(say pan-duh-**moh**-nee-uhm)

*noun* wild and noisy confusion:

*There was absolute pandemonium when we heard that our team had made the finals.*

**paparazzi**

(say pap-uh-**raht**-see)

*plural noun* news photographers who seek sensational but trivial material with great persistence:

*Most celebrities hate their privacy being invaded by the paparazzi.*

**paradigm**

(say **pa**-ruh-duym)

*noun* a pattern or example:

*Dad regards his elder brother as the paradigm of a successful businessman.*

**parochial**

(say puh-**roh**-kee-uhl)

*adjective* having a very narrow field of interest or activity:

*She's very parochial in her outlook, and not interested in wider issues.*

**parquetry**

(say **pah**-kuh-tree)

*noun* mosaic work of wood often used for floors:

*We found parquetry on the floor when we stripped back the carpet.*

**penchant**

(say **pen**-chuhnt or **pon**-shon)

*noun* a taste or liking for something:

*Her clothes reflect her penchant for bright colours.*

**peripheral**

(say puh-**rif**-uh-ruhl)

*adjective* not part of a main or central thing:

*We shouldn't waste our time worrying about peripheral issues.*

**pernicious**

(say puh-**nish**-uhs)

*adjective* very hurtful, or destructive:

*There are pernicious rumours circulating about how he got the job.*

**philanthropy**

(say fuh-**lan**-thruh-pee)

*noun* love of humankind, especially shown in deeds of giving to charity, and so on:

*His philanthropy had saved the lives of countless children.*

**pneumonic**

(say nyoooh-**mon**-ik)

*adjective* of or relating to the lungs; pulmonary:

*The doctor diagnosed a pneumonic illness because the patient was having difficulty breathing.*

**precocious**

(say pruh-**koh**-shuhs)

*adjective* more advanced than others of the same age:

*Anyone who composes music at the age of four, as Mozart did, could be regarded as precocious.*

**predecessor**

(say **pree**-duh-sess-uh)

*noun* someone who had the job before someone else:

*Governor Macquarie arrived in New South Wales shortly after his predecessor had left.*

**prejudice**

(say **prej**-uh-duhs)

*noun* an opinion unfairly formed beforehand, without reason or proof:

*The decision didn't seem fair and showed a prejudice on the part of the judge.*

**presbytery**

(say **prez**-buh-tree or **press**-puh-tree)

*noun* the house of a priest:

*Our after-school care centre is in a presbytery once occupied by a priest.*

**pretentious**

(say pruh-**ten**-shuhs)

*adjective* having an exaggerated outward show of importance, wealth and so on:

*She is so pretentious, always talking about her large house at the beach.*

**primordial**

(say pruy-**maw**-dee-uhl)

*adjective* existing at the beginning of the world:

*Scientists have tried to discover what life existed in the earth's primordial oceans.*

**proprietary**

(say pruh-**pruy**-uh-tree)

*adjective* insistent on your ownership of something:

*He is very proprietary about his car and won't let anyone else drive it.*

**quagmire**

(say **kwog**-muy-uh)

*noun* an area of muddy or boggy ground:

*The building site looked like a quagmire after the rain.*

**rapacious**

(say ruh-**pay**-shuhs)

*adjective* very greedy:

*The tycoon was known for his rapacious business methods.*

**rebellious**

(say ruh-**bel**-yuhs)

*adjective* fighting against a government or other organised authority:

*Soldiers were sent to control the rebellious mob.*

**reiterate**

(say ree-**it**-uh-rayt)

*verb* to say or do again or repeatedly:

*How many times do I have to reiterate that you are not to jump on the table?*

**reminiscent**

(say rem-uh-**niss**-uhnt)

*adjective* awakening memories of something else:

*Today's game was reminiscent of the great Grand Final of 1975.*

**repertoire**

(say **rep**-uh-twah)

*noun* the plays, musical pieces or other items which an entertainer can perform:

*The singer's repertoire is small but she claims that quality is more important than quantity.*

**sapphire**

(say **saf**-uy-uh)

*noun* a clear blue gem:

*The sapphire in her necklace matched the colour of her eyes.*

**secede**

(say suh-**seed**)

*verb* to withdraw from an association:

*The club threatened to secede from the federation.*

**sequester**

(say suh-**kwes**-tuh)

*verb* to place in a position of solitude:

*The movie star decided to sequester himself on an island, and lived alone for a year.*

**shipwright**

(say **ship**-ruyt)

*noun* someone who works at building or repairing ships:

*The old shipwright was constructing a sailing boat for his grandchildren.*

**sojourn**

(say **soh**-jern or **soj**-ern)

*noun* a temporary stay:

*They had a pleasant sojourn in Tasmania after the conference.*

**solicitous**

(say suh-**lis**-uh-tuhs)

*adjective* anxiously caring about something:

*They were solicitous for the new girl's wellbeing.*

**solitaire**

(say **sol**-uh-tair)

*noun* a card game played by one person:

*Dad usually has a game of solitaire before bed.*

**sovereignty**

(say **sov**-ruhn-tee)

*noun* supreme power or authority:

*The British claimed sovereignty over Australia even though there were already people living here.*

**stalactite**

(say **stal**-uhk-tuyt)

*noun* a deposit formed by dripping water, which hangs from the roof of a limestone cave:

*While we were exploring the cave, I hit my head on a stalactite.*

**statuesque**

(say stach-oo-**esk**)

*adjective* like or suggesting a statue, in dignity, grace or beauty:

*She was statuesque in a long white satin gown.*

**stevedore**

(say **stee**-vuh-daw)

*noun* a firm or individual engaged in the loading or unloading of ships:

*He had worked on the docks for years as a stevedore.*

**successor**

(say suhk-**sess**-uh)

*noun* someone or something that comes after and takes the place of:

*I am leaving the job in the capable hands of my successor.*

**succinct**

(say suhk-**singkt**)

*adjective* expressed in a few words:

*Our teacher advised us to write succinct answers as we did not have a lot of time.*

**suppurate**

(say **sup**-yuh-rayt)

*verb* to produce or discharge pus:

*The lacerated flesh had begun to suppurate.*

**surreptitious**

(say su-ruh-p-**tish**-uhs)

*adjective* secret or stealthy:

*She tried to sneak a surreptitious look at the answers, but was caught and punished for cheating.*

**surrogate**

(say **su**-ruh-guht)

*noun* something that takes the place of another thing:

*I use frozen raspberries as a surrogate for fresh raspberries when they are not in season.*

**swathe**

(say swaydh)

*verb* to wrap something up with strips of material or other wrappings:

*She decided to swathe her neck with a scarf before going out into the cold night.*

**syllabus**

(say **sil**-uh-buhs)

*noun* a plan of what is to be taught in a course of lessons:

*After pressure from the students, they have added cooking to the syllabus at the local boys' school.*

**tortilla**

(say taw-**tee**-yuh)

*noun* a thin, round, unleavened cake made from cornmeal:

*We wrapped some chicken and salad in a tortilla for lunch.*

**tribunal**

(say truy-**byooh**-nuhl)

*noun* a court of justice or a place where judgements are made:

*The military tribunal will decide if the soldiers are guilty.*

**unwarranted**

(say un-**wo**-ruhn-tuhd)

*adjective* not reasonable or justified:

*That harsh punishment for such a little thing was entirely unwarranted.*

**unwholesome**

(say un-**hohl**-suhm)

*adjective* harmful to health or wellbeing:

*Eating only cream biscuits and cake is an unwholesome way to live.*

**vestibule**

(say **vest**-uh-byoohl)

*noun* an entrance hall:

*We waited in the church vestibule until the service was about to start.*

**vindictive**

(say vin-**dik**-tiv)

*adjective* spiteful or nasty:

*Her vindictive remark hurt everybody's feelings.*

**warranty**

(say **wo**-ruhn-tee)

*noun* a formal promise or assurance of reliability:

*The computer's one-year warranty covered replacement of faulty parts.*

**witticism**

(say **wit**-uh-siz-uhm)

*noun* a joke or witty remark:

*He often came out with a clever joke or witticism.*

**wreckage**

(say **rek**-ij)

*noun* the broken parts of something that has been destroyed:

*They could see the wreckage of the plane from where they stood.*

## Senior General Level 6

### aardvark

(say **ahd**-vahk)

*noun* a large African mammal, active at night, which digs burrows, lives on termites, and has a long tongue and ears:

*The aardvark uses its snout to suck up termites.*

### abalone

(say ab-uh-**loh**-nee)

*noun* a type of shellfish that is good to eat:

*Dad makes a delicious stir-fry with abalone and lots of chilli.*

### abscess

(say **ab**-suhs)

*noun* an infected swelling in a part of the body:

*The mosquito bite had become a nasty abscess on his leg.*

### adolescence

(say ad-uh-**less**-uhns)

*noun* the time before becoming an adult:

*Adolescence can be a confusing time.*

### agoraphobia

(say ag-uh-ruh-**foh**-bee-uh)

*noun* an extreme fear of being in open or public spaces:

*Agoraphobia is an illness which can make people afraid of leaving their homes.*

### apoplexy

(say **ap**-uh-plek-see)

*noun* anger so extreme that you can't even talk:

*Just thinking about the cruel treatment of animals gives him apoplexy.*

### appendicitis

(say uh-pen-duh-**suy**-tuhs)

*noun* an illness in which the appendix becomes infected and painful:

*Joe had to miss the school camp because he had appendicitis.*

### avaricious

(say av-uh-**rish**-uhs)

*adjective* having a very strong desire for money:

*She was so avaricious that she exploited even her own family.*

### balustrade

(say **bal**-uh-strayd)

*noun* a rail with a row of short pillars holding it up, usually part of a balcony or staircase:

*The old woman clung to the balustrade as she descended the steep staircase.*

### bocconcini

(say bok-uhn-**chee**-nee)

*noun* cheese formed into small round balls, usually stored in salty water:

*We need to buy some bocconcini for this special Italian dish we're cooking tonight.*

### bronchitis

(say brong-**kuy**-tuhs)

*noun* an illness in which the lining of the air passages in the chest becomes red and sore:

*Exercise strengthens the lungs and may help bronchitis sufferers.*

**brontosaurus**

(say bron-tuh-**saw**-ruhs)

*noun* a large plant-eating dinosaur with a long neck and tail, that died out millions of years ago:

*The brontosaurus is also known as the apatosaurus.*

**camaraderie**

(say kam-uh-**rah**-duh-ree)

*noun* close friendship or mateship:

*The camaraderie between the Anzac diggers in World War I became the mateship which is so much a part of the Australian character.*

**cardiothoracic**

(say kah-dee-oh-thuh-**rass**-ik)

*adjective* of or relating to the medical science with deals especially with the heart and lungs:

*When my grandfather had a heart attack, he was looked after in the cardiothoracic section of the hospital.*

**catacombs**

(say **kat**-uh-kohmz or **kat**-uh-koohmz)

*plural noun* a series of underground tunnels and caves or rooms, once used as burial places:

*I'm reading a scary book about a group of children lost in the catacombs under Paris.*

**catechism**

(say **kat**-uh-kiz-uhm)

*noun* a book of questions and answers meant to help you learn about your religion:

*The priest explained some of the Christian concepts from the catechism.*

**celeriac**

(say suh-**ler**-ree-ak)

*noun* a vegetable, similar to celery, with a large bulbous root:

*Celeriac is a vegetable often used in French and German cooking.*

**chauffeur**

(say **shoh**-fuh or shoh-**fer**)

*noun* someone whose job is to drive you in a car:

*For the wedding, they are hiring a car and a chauffeur to drive it.*

**circuitous**

(say suh-**kyooh**-uh-yuhs)

*adjective* roundabout; not direct:

*We took a circuitous route home to avoid the traffic.*

**conquistador**

(say kon-**kwiss**-tuh-daw)

*noun* one of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century:

*The book described the life and adventures of a famous conquistador.*

**consortium**

(say kuhn-**saw**-tee-uhm)

*noun* an association of organisations formed to carry out some special operation needing large amounts of money:

*A consortium of businesses and government was formed to manufacture the new aircraft.*

**corpuscle**

(say **kaw**-pus-uhl)

*noun* one of the very small particles in our blood and other body fluids:

*A blood corpuscle can be either red or white.*

**cunjevoi**

(say **kun**-juh-voy)

*noun* a type of sea animal that attaches itself to rocks:

*Cunjevoi is used as bait for fishing.*

**deleterious**

(say del-uh-**teer**-ree-uhs)

*adjective* harmful to health:

*Eating too many sweets can have a deleterious effect on your teeth.*

**diabetes**

(say duy-uh-**bee**-teez)

*noun* a disease in which the body finds it difficult to use sugar:

*An excessive thirst is a symptom of diabetes.*

**diptych**

(say **dip**-tik)

*noun* a pair of pictures or pieces of writing, painted or carved onto two panels which are joined together with hinges:

*At the exhibition we saw a beautiful diptych carved in ancient times.*

**ecclesiastical**

(say uh-kleez-ee-**ass**-tuh-kuhl)

*adjective* having to do with the church:

*A bishop needs to have an extensive knowledge of ecclesiastical matters.*

**effervescent**

(say ef-uh-**vess**-uhnt)

*adjective* If a drink is **effervescent**, it is fizzy:

*The bubbles from the effervescent drink tickled my nose.*

**ensconce**

(say en-**skons**)

*verb* to settle comfortably or firmly:

*She would ensconce herself in the armchair with a book and not move for hours.*

**euphoria**

(say yoooh-**faw**-ree-uh)

*noun* a feeling of very great joy:

*The spectators screamed with euphoria when their team won the grand final.*

**flaccid**

(say **flas**-uhd or **flak**-suhd)

*adjective* soft and flabby:

*After years of no exercise, her muscles had become flaccid.*

**grevillea**

(say gruh-**vil**-ee-uh)

*noun* an Australian shrub with spiky, brightly coloured flowers:

*They decided to grow a grevillea to attract native birds.*

**heinous**

(say **hay**-nuhs or **hee**-nuhs)

*adjective* hateful for its wickedness:

*He was accused of committing a heinous crime that had shocked the whole population.*

**hieroglyphics**

(say huy-ruh-**glif**-iks)

*plural noun* writing in which words or sounds are represented by pictures:

*The ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphics as their writing system.*

**hyacinth**

(say **huy**-uh-suhnth)

*noun* a type of plant which grows from a bulb:

*The hyacinth is widely grown for its spikes of fragrant, bell-shaped flowers.*

**impugn**

(say im-**pyoohn**)

*verb* to call into doubt or challenge as false:

*The accusations would impugn her honesty, even if they were ultimately proved to be false.*

**labyrinth**

(say **lab**-uh-rinth)

*noun* a twisting set of passages in which it is hard to find your way:

*It is easy to get lost in the labyrinth of underground caves.*

**laryngitis**

(say la-ruhn-**juy**-tuhs)

*noun* a soreness and swelling in the larynx that often makes you lose your voice for a while:

*The band had to cancel when the lead singer got laryngitis.*

**melaleuca**

(say mel-uh-**loo**h-kuh)

*noun* an Australian tree often found on river banks or in swamps:

*The melaleuca is often called a paperbark or a tea-tree.*

**negligible**

(say **neg**-luh-juh-buhl)

*adjective* unimportant enough to be ignored:

*The difference between the two performances was negligible, so they were both given a prize.*

**obdurate**

(say **ob**-juh-ruht)

*adjective* very determined not to change, and to continue doing or thinking something:

*His obdurate refusal to listen to advice caused many problems.*

**penicillin**

(say pen-uh-**sil**-uhn)

*noun* a strong germ-fighting substance used in medicine:

*In 1940, Australian scientist Howard Florey discovered how penicillin could be used as a medicine.*

**perspicacious**

(say per-spuh-**kay**-shuhs)

*adjective* having keen mental perception:

*The novelist was a perspicacious observer of the people around her.*

**petroglyph**

(say **pet**-ruh-**glif**)

*noun* a drawing or carving on rock, especially one made by prehistoric people:

*We saw a petroglyph that was thousands of years old on the wall of the cave.*

**piranha**

(say puh-**rah**-nuh)

*noun* a small South American fish which swims in schools that attack animals:

*The piranha is a hazard to animals in many parts of the Amazon River.*

**pituitary**

(say puh-**tyooh**-uh-tree)

*noun* a small gland at the base of the brain, which produces several hormones:

*The pituitary is a gland which controls the secretion of hormones in the body.*

**precipitation**

(say pruh-sip-uh-**tay**-shuhn)

*noun* water that falls from the sky, whether as rain, snow or hail:

*Parts of Australia may experience no precipitation for years at a time.*

**receptacle**

(say ruh-**sep**-tik-uhl)

*noun* a container or something that holds things:

*There is a separate receptacle for recyclable waste.*

**rhetorical**

(say ruh-**to**-rik-uhl)

*adjective* concerned only with style or effect:

*It was just a rhetorical question and there was no need for anyone to answer it.*

**rheumatism**

(say **rooh**-muh-tiz-uhm)

*noun* a disease affecting the joints or muscles:

*During winter she suffers from rheumatism in her fingers.*

**sceptre**

(say **sep**-tuh)

*noun* a rod carried by a king or queen, as a symbol of royal power:

*The queen was presented with the sceptre at her coronation.*

**scintillating**

(say **sin**-tuh-lay-ting)

*adjective* witty, and stimulating one's interest:

*The scintillating conversation at the dinner table kept us all entertained.*

**silhouette**

(say sil-**ooh**-et)

*noun* a drawing which has an outer line filled in with black, like a shadow:

*The drawing showed the silhouette of the trees against the sky.*

**soliloquy**

(say suh-**lil**-uh-kwee)

*noun* talking to yourself when you are alone, as in a play:

*The teacher read out the famous soliloquy from Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'.*

**sorghum**

(say **saw**-guh-m)

*noun* a cereal grass, used especially as food for animals:

*The farmer's principal crop was sorghum.*

**spontaneity**

(say spon-tuh-**nay**-uh-tee or spon-tuh-**nee**-uh-tee)

*noun* the quality of being spontaneous, or impulsive:

*Her spontaneity makes her a lot of fun, because we're never sure what she'll do next.*

**supercilious**

(say sooh-puh-**sil**-ee-uhs)

*adjective* proud and scornful:

*He gave the giggling teenagers a look of supercilious disdain.*

**synagogue**

(say **sin**-uh-gog)

*noun* a Jewish place of worship:

*Every Saturday, the family went to worship at the synagogue.*

**synonymous**

(say suh-**nom**-uh-muhs)

*adjective* having the same meaning or quality as:

*She was perfect for the campaign because her name had become synonymous with healthy eating.*

**thylacine**

(say **thuy**-luh-seen)

*noun* a wolf-like marsupial of Tasmania, tan-coloured, with black stripes across the back, now thought to be extinct:

*The thylacine is also known as the Tasmanian tiger.*

**tourniquet**

(say **taw**-nuh-kay)

*noun* a tight bandage or band, twisted or wrapped around your arm or leg:

*Nowadays a tight tourniquet is generally not recommended in first aid.*

**trachea**

(say truh-**kee**-uh)

*noun* the main tube which conveys air to and from the lungs:

*She had an infection in her trachea and couldn't stop coughing.*

**vehement**

(say **vee**-uh-muhnt)

*adjective* strong or passionate:

*There was no doubt about the sincerity of her swift and vehement reply.*

**vigilante**

(say vij-uh-**lan**-tee)

*adjective* having to do with a group of citizens organised to keep order and punish crime in the absence of regular law enforcement:

*A vigilante group was formed to attempt to repel the attacks.*

## Senior General Level 7

### blancmange

(say bluh-**monzh**)

*noun* a sweet, jelly-like dessert made with flavoured milk:

*We had strawberry blancmange for dessert.*

### cantankerous

(say kan-**tang**-kuh-ruhs)

*adjective* bad-tempered and quarrelsome:

*She always gets cantankerous when she has not had enough sleep.*

### catarrh

(say kuh-**tah**)

*noun* a condition in which too much mucus is produced, especially in the lungs and throat:

*His catarrh caused him to cough and made sleep difficult.*

### chrysanthemum

(say kruh-**san**-thuh-muhm)

*noun* a tall plant with big white or brightly coloured flowers:

*I bought Mum a single white chrysanthemum for Mother's Day.*

### diocese

(say **duy**-uh-suhs)

*noun* the district under the care of a Christian bishop:

*The bishop of the diocese was wearing his purple cassock.*

### diphtheria

(say dif-**theer**-ree-uh or dip-**theer**-ree-uh)

*noun* a serious infectious disease which makes it hard to breathe and which causes a high fever:

*Thanks to vaccinations, diphtheria has been almost eradicated in Australia.*

### dysentery

(say **diss**-uhn-tree)

*noun* an infectious disease marked by inflammation of the bowels, and diarrhoea:

*The explorers contracted dysentery and were very ill for several days.*

### eclecticism

(say e-**klek**-tuh-siz-uhm or uh-**klek**-tuh-siz-uhm)

*noun* the practice of taking ideas and methods from a variety of sources:

*The artist's nomadic lifestyle was reflected in the eclecticism of her work.*

### ennui

(say on-**wee**)

*noun* a feeling of boredom, weariness and discontent resulting from lack of interest:

*Whenever the subject of homework came up, he felt a sense of ennui come over him.*

### hyperbole

(say huy-**per**-buh-lee)

*noun* obvious overstatement made for effect and not intended to be taken literally:

*The statement 'I've told you a million times!' is an example of hyperbole.*

### insouciant

(say in-**sooh**-see-uhnt or in-**syoo**h-suhnt)

*adjective* without anxiety; carefree:

*Her insouciant attitude towards performing in front of the whole school was typical of her carefree approach to life.*

**obstreperous**

(say uhb-**strep**-uh-ruhs)

*adjective* resisting control in a noisy way:

*The two students were so obstreperous that we had to separate them.*

**paraphernalia**

(say pa-ruh-fuh-**nay**-lee-uh)

*plural noun* goods, equipment, baggage or other articles, especially unnecessary ones:

*There is a lot of useless paraphernalia in the garage that could be thrown out.*

**pomegranate**

(say **pom**-uh-gran-uht)

*noun* a thick-skinned, red fruit which has edible seeds and flesh:

*My grandmother makes delicious pomegranate jelly.*

**sphagnum**

(say **sfag**-nuhm)

*noun* any of the bog mosses found chiefly in temperate areas of high rainfall and little sun:

*Stunted ferns and spongy sphagnum covered the wet ground in the middle of the forest.*

## Categorised Words:

### Senior Arts Level 2

#### carol

(say **ka**-ruhl)

*noun* a joyful song, especially a Christmas song or hymn:

*'Silent Night' is my favourite Christmas carol.*

#### cello

(say **chel**-oh)

*noun* a stringed instrument which is held upright on the floor between the knees of the player:

*The cello is an instrument with a lovely deep sound.*

#### composer

(say kuhm-**poh**-zuh)

*noun* someone who writes music:

*Beethoven was a famous German composer.*

#### costume

(say **koss**-tyoohm)

*noun* a set of clothes, especially to make you look like someone else or for a particular purpose:

*Luke wore a Batman costume to the party.*

#### creative

(say kree-**ay**-tiv)

*adjective* good at making or inventing things:

*She was very creative and often made her own clothes.*

#### debut

(say **day**-byooh or **day**-booh or duh-**booh**)

*noun* a first appearance in public, on stage, etc.:

*She made her debut in the chorus of 'Swan Lake'.*

#### fable

(say **fay**-buhl)

*noun* a short, made-up story, often about animals, that teaches a lesson about how to behave:

*Have you heard the fable of the boy who cried wolf?*

#### festival

(say **fest**-uh-vuhl)

*noun* a celebration with performances of music and dance and other displays:

*Our town has an annual Christmas festival.*

#### fresco

(say **fress**-koh)

*noun* a painting done on a wall or ceiling:

*The council hired an artist to paint a fresco on the ceiling of our new town hall.*

#### melodic

(say muh-**lod**-ik)

*adjective* tuneful:

*He played us a melodic tune on his clarinet.*

**opera**

(say **op**-ruh)

*noun* a play that is sung to music:

*Luckily I know the story of this opera because it is sung in Italian and I can only speak English.*

**script**

(say skript)

*noun* the words written down for the actors to say in a play or film:

*I practised my part for the play by reading the script in the bath.*

**tango**

(say **tang**-goh)

*noun* a dramatic dance from South America, danced by couples:

*We each found a partner and learned how to dance the tango.*

**tempo**

(say **tem**-poh)

*noun* the speed of a piece of music:

*The music had a very fast tempo.*

**trumpet**

(say **trum**-puht)

*noun* a brass wind instrument with a flared end:

*The trumpet players in the school band always played the loudest.*

### Senior Arts Level 3

#### audition

(say aw-**dish**-uhn)

*noun* a test given to see how suitable an actor or performer is for a particular role:

*Connie was very nervous about her audition for the school play.*

#### ballet

(say **bal**-ay)

*noun* a formal type of dancing, where the dancers act out a story, using graceful and controlled movements:

*We are going to see my favourite ballet, 'Swan Lake', next week.*

#### bassoon

(say buh-**soohn**)

*noun* a woodwind instrument with a low pitch:

*He plays the bassoon in the school band.*

#### canvas

(say **kan**-vuhs)

*noun* a heavy cloth, often stretched over a frame and used by artists to paint on:

*The artist brushed the paint thickly onto the canvas.*

#### carnival

(say **kah**-nuh-vuhl)

*noun* a time of processions and public celebrations, usually for a special occasion:

*The town holds a spring carnival every year.*

#### castanets

(say kass-tuh-**nets**)

*plural noun* a pair of shell-shaped pieces of wood which you hold in your hand and click together in time to music and dancing:

*The flamenco dancer played the castanets as she danced.*

#### cellist

(say **chel**-uhst)

*noun* someone who plays the cello:

*The solo was going to be performed by the lead cellist.*

#### ceramics

(say suh-**ram**-iks)

*noun* the craft of making things out of clay:

*When we do ceramics in art, the teacher always operates the kiln.*

#### chorus

(say **kaw**-ruhs)

*noun* the words that are repeated after each verse of some songs or poems:

*We all sang the chorus very loudly but unfortunately we didn't know the verses.*

#### cinema

(say **sin**-uh-muh)

*noun* a theatre where films are shown:

*For my birthday, my friends took me to the cinema to see a movie.*

#### compere

(say **kom**-pair)

*noun* someone who introduces the acts in a show:

*The compere of the comedy show kept everyone laughing between acts.*

**composition**

(say kom-puh-**zish**-uhn)

*noun* a short piece of writing which you do as part of school work:

*We had to write a composition about what we would do with a million dollars.*

**dirge**

(say derj)

*noun* a funeral song or tune, or one expressing grief:

*The dirge played at the funeral was very long.*

**dramatist**

(say **dram**-uh-tuhst)

*noun* a writer of plays:

*The actor was overwhelmed to be chosen by the dramatist to perform in his new play.*

**duet**

(say dyooh-**et**)

*noun* a musical piece for two performers:

*She and her sister played a duet together on the piano.*

**easel**

(say **eez**-uhl)

*noun* a stand for holding a painting or drawing while the artist is working on it:

*We each set up an easel under the trees and began to paint the landscape.*

**editorial**

(say ed-uh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

*noun* a newspaper article written by the editor, which expresses the editor's or the paper's views:

*The editorial was supportive of the government's new tax plan.*

**encore**

(say **on**-kaw)

*noun* an extra song or piece of music performed at the end of a concert, in response to the audience's applause:

*The band came back on stage and played an encore, much to the delight of the crowd.*

**etching**

(say **ech**-ing)

*noun* a process of making designs or pictures on metal, glass, etc., using acid:

*Etching is a difficult process and should be undertaken with care.*

**frieze**

(say freez)

*noun* a band around the top of a wall which is often decorated with a pattern:

*A frieze had been carved all the way around the ancient building.*

**genre**

(say **zhon**-ruh)

*noun* the category to which a piece of writing, music, film or art belongs:

*Poetry is a genre of literature.*

**guitar**

(say guh-**tah**)

*noun* a musical instrument with a long neck and strings which you play by plucking or strumming:

*Shane wanted to learn how to play the guitar so he could play in a band with his friends.*

**harmonica**

(say hah-**mon**-ik-uh)

*noun* a small wind instrument with metal reeds, which you play by blowing:

*He pulled the harmonica from his pocket and played a tune while he waited for the bus.*

**intonation**

(say in-tuh-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* the pattern of changes of pitch in speech or music:

*The actor changed the intonation of his voice to give his words added menace.*

**minim**

(say **min**-uhm)

*noun* a note in music equal to half a semibreve in length:

*My music teacher gets cross because I always forget how long a minim is.*

**museum**

(say myooh-**zee**-uhm)

*noun* a place where rare and interesting things are displayed:

*Our class visited the museum to see the exhibition of dinosaur bones.*

**orator**

(say **o**-ruh-tuh)

*noun* a public speaker, especially a skilful one:

*The audience was captivated by speech the orator gave.*

**pantomime**

(say **pan**-tuh-muym)

*noun* a play in which the actors use actions and not words to tell the story:

*The children put on a pantomime of the story of Cinderella.*

**playwright**

(say **play**-ruyt)

*noun* someone who writes plays:

*Shakespeare is the most famous English playwright.*

**portrait**

(say **paw**-truht or **paw**-trayt)

*noun* a painting, drawing or photograph of someone, especially of their face:

*My mother was asked to paint a portrait of the mayor of our town.*

**projectionist**

(say pruh-**jek**-shuh-nuhst)

*noun* someone who operates a film projector:

*The projectionist liked to show old black-and-white movies.*

**rehearse**

(say ruh-**herce**)

*verb* To **rehearse** is to practise in private before giving a public performance:

*Our school choir has to rehearse for the concert every afternoon.*

**satire**

(say **sat**-uy-uh)

*noun* a literary composition in which someone's failings are ridiculed:

*The play was a satire that poked fun at the government.*

**sonnet**

(say **son**-uht)

*noun* a poem of fourteen lines in which the lines have to rhyme in a certain way:

*Whoever wrote the best sonnet in poetry class would get to read it to the whole school at assembly.*

**soprano**

(say suh-**prah**-noh)

*noun*

a woman or boy who sings with a high voice:

*Her voice is too low to sing the part of soprano.*

## Senior Arts Level 4

### adaptation

(say ad-uhp-**tay**-shuhn)

*noun* a literary work rewritten to be presented in a different way:

*She wrote an adaptation of 'The Three Musketeers' for the stage.*

### alabaster

(say **al**-uh-bas-tuh)

*noun* a fine white stone used for carving:

*Alabaster is often carved into ornaments.*

### allegro

(say uh-**lay**-groh or uh-**leg**-roh)

*adverb* a direction indicating that music should be played or sung at a fast speed:

*The most difficult passage to play was the one marked 'allegro'.*

### anthology

(say an-**thol**-uh-jee)

*noun* a collection of poems, short stories or songs, each by a different author or songwriter:

*I bought my mother an anthology of Australian poetry for her birthday.*

### audience

(say **aw**-dee-uhns)

*noun* an assembly of hearers or spectators:

*The audience was very surprised to see him suddenly burst onto the stage.*

### cameo

(say **kam**-ee-oh)

*noun* a short appearance in a film by a celebrity:

*The Prime Minister agreed to do a cameo in the new film about politics.*

### chorister

(say **ko**-ruhs-tuh)

*noun* someone who sings in a choir:

*She loved singing and wanted to be a chorister in the cathedral choir.*

### chromatic

(say kruh-**mat**-ik)

*adjective* having to do with a musical scale that moves by semitones:

*She made a mistake when she was practising chromatic scales on the piano.*

### concerto

(say kuhn-**cher**-toh)

*noun* a piece of music for one or more solo instruments, such as a piano or violin, and an orchestra:

*The concerto was performed by a famous orchestra.*

### critique

(say kruh-**teek**)

*noun* an article or essay reviewing something:

*The newspaper featured a critique of the new film.*

### crotchet

(say **kroch**-uht)

*noun* a musical note equal to the time of one beat:

*A minim is twice as long as a crotchet, and a crotchet is twice as long as a quaver.*

**decibel**

(say **dess**-uh-bel)

*noun* a measure of loudness used to show how much louder one sound is than another:

*If the music got one decibel louder we were sure our ears would explode!*

**documentary**

(say dok-yooh-**men**-tuh-ree or dok-yooh-**men**-tree)

*noun* a film, television or radio program about a real event or someone's life:

*We watched a documentary about World War II on television last night.*

**enamel**

(say uh-**nam**-uhl)

*noun* a very hard, shiny coating applied to metal for decoration or protection:

*The sculpture was covered in bright blue enamel.*

**epilogue**

(say **ep**-uh-log)

*noun* a short section at the end of a play or written work:

*The epilogue gave the information that the story was based on real events.*

**exhibition**

(say eks-uh-**bish**-uhn)

*noun* a show or display of something that a lot of people can go and see:

*All their parents and friends came to see the students' art exhibition.*

**extravaganza**

(say uhk-strav-uh-**gan**-zuh)

*noun* an entertainment event, especially a live performance, which is very colourful and elaborate and which costs a lot to produce:

*The music festival ended with a spectacular extravaganza on the main stage.*

**figurine**

(say fig-uh-**reen** or fig-yuh-**reen**)

*noun* a small statue or model:

*On the shelf was a marble figurine of a young girl.*

**finale**

(say fuh-**nah**-lee)

*noun* the last part of a concert, opera or ballet:

*For the finale, the pianist played a spectacularly difficult piece.*

**heroine**

(say **he**-ruh-wuhn)

*noun* the female character who has the main part in a book, film or play:

*The heroine jumped on her horse and raced to save the townspeople.*

**instalment**

(say in-**stawl**-muhnt)

*noun* a single part of a story being published in several parts one after the other:

*I can't wait to read the next instalment of the story in the school magazine.*

**instrumentalist**

(say in-struh-**men**-tuhl-uhst)

*noun* a person who performs on a musical instrument:

*She worked as an instrumentalist accompanying different singers.*

**karaoke**

(say ka-ree-**oh**-kee)

*noun* singing along to a video and the background music of a song. The singer reads the words to the song displayed on a video screen:

*There's a good Japanese restaurant close by that has karaoke on Saturday nights.*

**memoir**

(say **mem**-wah)

*noun* a record of events based on the personal experience of the writer:

*The film star's memoir described her childhood love of going to the cinema.*

**metronome**

(say **met**-ruh-nohm)

*noun* an instrument that can be set to beat at a fixed rate and so give the right speed for playing a piece of music:

*We practised with a metronome when the conductor couldn't make it to our rehearsal.*

**ocarina**

(say ok-uh-**ree**-nuh)

*noun* a simple musical wind instrument shaped like an elongated egg, with finger holes:

*The ocarina is not a very difficult instrument to learn.*

**photography**

(say fuh-**tog**-ruh-fee)

*noun* the act of producing images with a camera:

*The skill involved in photography is often underestimated.*

**pianoforte**

(say pee-an-oh-**for**-tay)

*noun* a piano:

*'Pianoforte' is another name for the piano.*

**piccolo**

(say **pik**-uh-loh)

*noun* a small flute with a very high sound:

*She plays the piccolo as well as the flute.*

**premiere**

(say prem-ee-**air**)

*noun* A **premiere** is the first time something is shown or done:

*There were lots of famous people at the premiere of the film.*

**quadrille**

(say kwuh-**dril**)

*noun* a dance where four couples dance in a square pattern:

*The dancing class was divided into groups of eight to learn the steps of the quadrille.*

**requiem**

(say **rek**-wee-uhm)

*noun* music composed to honour the memory of the dead:

*She composed the requiem in honour of her late brother.*

**rhythm**

(say **ridh**-uhm)

*noun* the pattern of beats in music or speech:

*The crowd started clapping to the rhythm of the music.*

**simile**

(say **sim**-uh-lee)

*noun* a figure of speech which points out a likeness between two generally unlike things, usually using the words 'like' or 'as':

*An example of a simile is 'She sings like a bird'.*

**staccato**

(say stuh-**kah**-toh)

*adverb* in music, played with the notes very short and detached from each other:

*This piece should be played staccato, to sound like high-heeled shoes on the pavement.*

**symphony**

(say **sim**-fuh-nee)

*noun* a musical composition for a full orchestra, usually with four movements or parts:

*Mozart was very young when he composed his first symphony.*

**theatre**

(say **thear**-tuh)

*noun* a building or hall for presenting plays, opera, ballet, and so on:

*The play opens at the local theatre on Friday.*

**violin**

(say vuy-uh-**lin**)

*noun* a stringed instrument played with a bow and held between your shoulder and chin:

*The violin is a very difficult instrument to learn to play.*

**virtuoso**

(say ver-chooh-**oh**-soh)

*noun* a highly skilled person, especially a musician:

*We went to the concert hall to hear a famous violin virtuoso.*

**vocabulary**

(say voh-**kab**-yuh-luh-ree)

*noun* the total number of words used by someone or by a particular group of people:

*She is trying to add to her vocabulary by learning one new word a day.*

## Senior Arts Level 5

### accompaniment

(say uh-**kump**-nee-muhnt)

*noun* that part of a composition which provides the harmonic and rhythmic backing to a melodic line:

*The pianist played the accompaniment for the flautist.*

### adagio

(say uh-**dah**-zhee-oh or uh-**dah**-jee-oh)

*adverb* a direction indicating that music should be played or sung slowly and calmly:

*The conductor made the violins slow down during the passage marked 'adagio'.*

### articulation

(say ah-tik-yuh-**lay**-shuhn)

*noun* the degree of clearness of speech:

*The newsreader had impeccable articulation.*

### aural

(say **aw**-ruhl)

*adjective* having to do with hearing or listening:

*I failed the aural test in the music exam because I had a bad cold.*

### autobiography

(say aw-tuh-buy-**og**-ruh-fee)

*noun* your own life story written by yourself:

*There was outrage when the sports star had someone else write his autobiography.*

### bouzouki

(say buh-**zoo**-kee)

*noun* a stringed instrument from Greece, related to a mandolin, played by plucking:

*The music of the bouzouki immediately transported us to a sparkling Greek island.*

### cerise

(say suh-**rees** or suh-**reez**)

*adjective* red like the colour of a cherry:

*His favourite shade of red is cerise.*

### decoupage

(say day-koooh-**pahzh**)

*noun* the art or process of decorating something with an arrangement of cut-out paper, cardboard, etc.:

*We had to collect lots of colourful paper to cut up for our decoupage.*

### decrescendo

(say dee-kruh-**shen**-doh)

*noun* in music, a gradual reduction in loudness:

*The piece of music ended with a decrescendo that faded away to silence.*

### dulcimer

(say **dul**-suh-muh)

*noun* an old-fashioned musical instrument with metal strings that you strike with light hammers:

*The dulcimer is played sitting down, with the instrument held on the player's lap.*

### elocution

(say el-uh-**kyoo**-shuhn)

*noun* the way you speak:

*Newsreaders have to have very clear elocution.*

**glockenspiel**

(say **glok**-uhn-speel or **glok**-uhn-shpeel)

*noun* a musical instrument with steel bars set in a frame, which you hit with hammers:

*He enjoyed playing the glockenspiel in the band.*

**guiro**

(say **gwear**-roh)

*noun* a percussion instrument consisting of a dried empty gourd, which has parallel notches across which a stick is drawn:

*I love being the band's percussionist, because I get to play some unusual instruments, like the guiro.*

**harpsichord**

(say **hahp**-suh-kawd)

*noun* an old-fashioned musical instrument like a piano:

*We listened to the sound of the harpsichord echoing through the old castle.*

**madrigal**

(say **mad**-rig-uhl)

*noun* a short poem which can be set to music, popular in the past in Europe:

*The minstrel performed a madrigal for the king and his court.*

**manuscript**

(say **man**-yuh-skript)

*noun* a book, letter, or piece of music, written by hand or typed:

*The manuscript of my unfinished novel is in the bottom drawer.*

**overture**

(say **oh**-vuh-choouh)

*noun* music played as an introduction to an opera, ballet or musical show:

*The audience listened with anticipation as the orchestra played the overture.*

**oxymoron**

(say ok-see-**maw**-ron)

*noun* a saying which contains a seeming contradiction:

*Some would say that the phrase 'enjoyable homework' is an oxymoron.*

**palindrome**

(say **pal**-uhn-droh)

*noun* a word or expression which reads the same backwards as forwards:

*The word 'Madam' is a palindrome -- it reads the same backwards as forwards.*

**pastiche**

(say pas-**teesh**)

*noun* a work of art which consists of parts borrowed from the work or style of other artists:

*The film was a pastiche of scenes from twelve different directors.*

**percussion**

(say puh-**kush**-uhn)

*noun* relating to musical instruments which produce a note when they are struck:

*The parts written for percussion in the overture were very hard and took a lot of practice to get right.*

**portfolio**

(say pawt-**foh**-lee-oh)

*noun* a collection of an artist's drawings or photographs, which they can show to someone as examples of their work:

*The artist showed his portfolio of drawings to the gallery owner.*

**rhapsody**

(say **rap**-suh-dee)

*noun* a type of musical composition:

*The first track on this CD is a famous rhapsody.*

**saxophone**

(say **sak**-suh-fohn)

*noun* a wind instrument with a curved brass body:

*Lisa is my favourite Simpsons character because she plays the saxophone.*

**shawm**

(say shawm)

*noun* an early woodwind instrument:

*The shawm is an early musical instrument related to the modern oboe.*

**synonym**

(say **sin**-uh-nim)

*noun* a word having the same or very similar meaning as another:

*The teacher said that a synonym for 'joyful' is 'happy'.*

**synopsis**

(say suh-**nop**-suh)

*noun* a short version or summary:

*I will give you a synopsis of what we have done so far.*

**timbre**

(say **tim**-buh or **tam**-buh)

*noun* the particular sound an instrument makes:

*His voice has a rich, warm timbre which is perfect for this particular role.*

**ventriloquist**

(say ven-**tril**-uh-kwuhst)

*noun* someone who can speak with little or no lip movement:

*The children thought the puppet was speaking but it was really the ventriloquist talking without moving his lips.*

**waltz**

(say wawltz or wolts)

*noun* a type of dance in which you and your partner move in circles:

*The bride and groom danced a waltz.*

## Senior Arts Level 6

### amphitheatre

(say **am**-fee-thear-tuh)

*noun* a round building with an open area in the centre and rows of seats rising around it:

*The amphitheatre at school is mainly used for plays and concerts.*

### balalaika

(say bal-uh-**luy**-kuh)

*noun* a Russian musical instrument like a triangular guitar:

*A man sat in the corner of the Russian restaurant playing a balalaika.*

### calligraphy

(say kuh-**lig**-ruh-fee)

*noun* the art of doing beautiful handwriting:

*Not very many people learn the art of calligraphy these days.*

### capriccio

(say kuh-**prich**-ee-oh)

*noun* a lively musical work in a free style:

*She finished the concert with a lively capriccio.*

### choreography

(say ko-ree-**og**-ruh-fee)

*noun* the art of designing ballets and dances:

*The choreography was devised specifically for these ballerinas.*

### embouchure

(say **om**-boosh-oooh)

*noun* the position of player's mouth on the mouthpiece of a wind instrument:

*To learn to play the flute, you will need to learn the correct embouchure.*

### ikebana

(say ik-ee-**bah**-nuh)

*noun* the art of Japanese flower arrangement:

*Mum loves working with flowers, so she's doing an evening course in ikebana.*

### matinee

(say **mat**-uh-nay)

*noun* an afternoon performance of a play or showing of a film:

*We bought tickets to the matinee because they were cheaper.*

### mosaic

(say moh-**zay**-ik or muh-**zay**-ik)

*noun* a picture or pattern made of small pieces of different coloured stone or glass:

*The artist had designed a beautiful mosaic for the wall of the new building.*

### pianissimo

(say pee-uh-**nis**-uh-moh)

*adverb* very softly:

*The conductor put his finger to his lips to indicate that the violins should be playing pianissimo.*

### rhythmical

(say **ridh**-mik-uhl)

*adjective* of or relating to rhythm:

*His excellent rhythmical sense helped him greatly when he started to learn the drums.*

**sforzando**

(say sfawt-**san**-doh)

*noun* with force (used as a direction for the playing of a note or chord):

*There were many notes in the piece that were to be played sforzando.*

**shakuhachi**

(say shak-oooh-**hah**-chee)

*noun* a Japanese bamboo flute:

*The music of the shakuhachi harmonised with the soft sounds of the water in the Japanese garden.*

**syncopation**

(say sing-kuh-**pay**-shuhn)

*noun* a shifting of the normal accent in a musical rhythm:

*Jazz music often features syncopation.*

**troubadour**

(say **trooh**-buh-daw)

*noun* a singer or song-writer, especially in medieval France:

*The troubadour sang a beautiful ballad about his lost love.*

## Senior Arts Level 7

### **caricature**

(say **ka**-ruh-kuh-choouh)

*noun* a picture of someone which makes fun of their unusual or characteristic features:

*The caricature of the politician emphasised his bushy eyebrows.*

### **eisteddfod**

(say uh-**sted**-fuhd)

*noun* a competition in which people sing, play music or recite poetry:

*The country contestants had to travel for hours to perform in the eisteddfod.*

### **fuchsia**

(say **fyoo**h-shuh)

*noun* a brilliant purplish-pink colour:

*She didn't mind what style her dress was as long as it was fuchsia in colour.*

### **lyricism**

(say **li**-ruh-siz-uhm)

*noun* a songlike character in poetry:

*There is such lyricism in her poetry that it is almost like listening to music.*

### **mnemonic**

(say nuh-**mon**-ik)

*noun* a rhyme, poem, or something similar, intended to help you remember something:

*Our teacher taught us a mnemonic to help us remember the names of the planets.*

## Senior Science & Maths Level 2

### compass

(say **kum**-puhs)

*noun* an instrument with a magnetic needle pointing to north which is used to find directions:

*We always take a compass with us when we go walking in the bush.*

### concave

(say **kon**-kayv or kon-**kayv**)

*adjective* hollow and curved like the inside of a circle:

*The concave mirrors in the sideshow made us look short and fat.*

### gravity

(say **grav**-uh-tee)

*noun* **Gravity** is the strong force that pulls things or that makes them fall towards the earth:

*If it wasn't for gravity, we would all be floating around.*

### height

(say huyt)

*noun* the distance from bottom to top:

*It's hard to estimate the height of a skyscraper.*

### length

(say length)

*noun* the measure of something from one end to the other:

*The length of the pool is 50 metres.*

### litre

(say **lee**-tuh)

*noun* a measure of liquid in the metric system:

*The container holds one litre of milk.*

### measure

(say **mez**-uh)

*verb* to find out the size or quantity of something, usually by using a special instrument such as a ruler or scales:

*We need to measure the window before we buy blinds.*

### metre

(say **mee**-tuh)

*noun* a unit of measurement of length in the metric system:

*Can you estimate how long the classroom is, to the nearest metre?*

### oblong

(say **ob**-long)

*noun* a four-sided shape which is longer than it is wide, and which has four right angles:

*The swimming pool was in the shape of an oblong.*

### octagon

(say ok-**tuh**-gon)

*noun* a flat shape with eight straight sides:

*The tower was in the shape of an octagon.*

### particle

(say **pah**-tik-uhl)

*noun* a very tiny piece or amount:

*A particle of dust flew into her eye.*

**quart**

(say kwawt)

*noun* a liquid measure in the imperial system, equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$  gallon, or 1.136 litres:

*One quart is equal to a bit more than one litre.*

**solution**

(say suh-**looh**-shuhn)

*noun* a substance which is made up of one chemical, usually a solid, mixed throughout another chemical, usually a liquid:

*Salt can be dissolved in water to make a saline solution.*

**theory**

(say **thear**-ree)

*noun* a suggested explanation with little or no basis in fact:

*They had to undertake a lot a research before their theory could be proved.*

**volume**

(say **vol**-yoohm)

*noun* the size, measure, or amount of anything in three dimensions:

*We had to calculate the volume of the parcel before we could send it.*

### Senior Science & Maths Level 3

#### abacus

(say **ab**-uh-kuhs)

*noun* a frame with rods through it which hold beads used for counting:

*The abacus was used as a calculation tool in ancient times.*

#### addition

(say uh-**dish**-uhn)

*noun* the act of adding numbers together:

*I think addition is much easier than division.*

#### altitude

(say **al**-tuh-tyoohd)

*noun* height above sea level:

*The top of the mountain is at such a high altitude that it is above the clouds.*

#### average

(say **av**-rij)

*noun* the result you get if you add two or more amounts together, and then divide the total by the number of amounts:

*In the last three games our team scored 7, 12 and 20, so our average was 13.*

#### calculator

(say **kal**-kyuh-lay-tuh)

*noun* a small machine that you can use to do sums:

*I would rather use a calculator than work out problems in my head.*

#### centimetre

(say **sen**-tuh-mee-tuh)

*noun* a unit of length equal to one hundredth of a metre:

*The dress needs to be one centimetre longer.*

#### decimal

(say **dess**-uh-muhl)

*adjective* relating to a number system based on the number ten:

*Australia uses decimal currency.*

#### diagonal

(say duy-**ag**-uh-nuhl)

*adjective* a **diagonal** line is a sloping line that joins two opposite corners of a square or rectangle:

*If you draw a diagonal line from one corner of a square to another, you will make two triangles.*

#### dissect

(say duh-**sekt** or duy-**sekt**)

*verb* to cut something up carefully to examine it:

*In our science class we watched the teacher dissect a sheep's heart to show us how it worked.*

#### divisible

(say duh-**viz**-uh-buhl)

*adjective* able to be divided:

*Twenty is divisible by ten.*

#### enzyme

(say **en**-zuym)

*noun* a protein in the body which produces a chemical change:

*Each enzyme aids the digestion of food in the stomach.*

**formula**

(say **faw**-myuh-luh)

*noun* in chemistry, the representation of the atoms in a molecule by symbols:

*The formula for ordinary salt is NaCl.*

**fraction**

(say **frak**-shuhn)

*noun* a part of a whole number:

*At school, we are learning how to multiply a number by a fraction.*

**gene**

(say jeen)

*noun* one of the units in the body which is responsible for passing on characteristics, like eye colour, from parents to their children:

*I have inherited the gene for red hair from my mother.*

**geology**

(say jee-**ol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the study of the rocks which form the earth:

*I would like to study geology to know more about rocks.*

**hydroponics**

(say huy-druh-**pon**-iks)

*noun* the growing of plants with their roots in water rather than soil:

*With a system of hydroponics you need only a small area to grow food that is both tasty and nutritious.*

**inertia**

(say in-**er**-shuh)

*noun* the tendency of something to continue to stay still or keep moving in the same direction:

*In our physics class we learnt that inertia is the force that makes an object stay still until it is moved or keep moving until it is stopped.*

**integer**

(say **in**-tuh-juh)

*noun* any whole number:

*Two is an integer, and so is zero.*

**isobar**

(say **uy**-suh-bah)

*noun* a line drawn on a weather map, connecting all the places that have the same air pressure:

*The weather presenter pointed out each isobar on the map.*

**kilowatt**

(say **kil**-uh-wot)

*noun* 1000 watts:

*The power company charges us for each kilowatt we use.*

**latitude**

(say **lat**-uh-tyoohd)

*noun* the distance, measured in degrees, by which a point on the earth is north or south of the equator:

*The equator is at zero degrees latitude.*

**methodology**

(say meth-uh-**dol**-uh-jee)

*noun* (plural **-gies**)

the science of method, especially a branch of logic dealing with the logical principles underlying the organisation of the various special sciences, and the conduct of scientific enquiry:

*The success of the experiment was helped by a sound methodology.*

**microscope**

(say **muy**-kruh-skohp)

*noun* an instrument used for looking at extremely tiny things that you normally cannot see:

*We examined a mosquito under the microscope.*

**millilitre**

(say **mil**-uh-lee-tuh)

*noun* a unit of measurement in the metric system equal to one thousandth of a litre:

*The baby needs only one millilitre of this medicine because she is so small.*

**molecule**

(say **mol**-uh-kyoohl)

*noun* the smallest unit or particle into which something can be divided without changing its features:

*A molecule of water is made up of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen.*

**multiply**

(say **mul**-tuh-pluy)

*verb* When you **multiply** one number by another, you add up as many lots of the first number as there are of the second number:

*If you multiply six by three you get eighteen.*

**nucleus**

(say **nyooh**-klee-uhs)

*noun* in biology, the central part of a living cell:

*When the doctor examined the blood under the microscope he found that the nucleus of each cell was damaged.*

**ounce**

(say ownce)

*noun* a measure of weight in the imperial system, equal to about 29 grams:

*The recipe said to add one ounce of butter, but I had none left.*

**percentage**

(say puh-**sen**-tij)

*noun* a number which shows the rate in every hundred:

*I got seven out of ten -- or, as a percentage, seventy.*

**prism**

(say **priz**-uhm)

*noun* a transparent object, usually of glass and with triangular ends, used for breaking light down into the colours of the rainbow:

*We used a prism to break up light into the colours of the rainbow.*

**procedure**

(say pruh-**see**-juh)

*noun* writing or speaking which tells how to do or make something step by step:

*The procedure for our science experiment was written clearly on the whiteboard.*

**propulsion**

(say pruh-**pul**-shuhn)

*noun* a force which moves something forward:

*The missile was under rocket propulsion.*

**quotient**

(say **kwoh**-shuhnt)

*noun* the number or result you get when one number is divided by another:

*In the expression  $15 \div 3$ , the quotient is 5.*

**rhombus**

(say **rom**-buhs)

*noun* a shape with four equal sides, and angles that are not right angles:

*I have a kite that is in the shape of a rhombus.*

**specimen**

(say **spess**-uh-muhn)

*noun* a single thing or part taken as being typical of a whole group or mass:

*We found a very good starfish specimen in a shallow rock pool.*

## Senior Science & Maths Level 4

### absorption

(say uhb-**sawp**-shuhn or uhb-**zawp**-shuhn)

*noun* the act, process or result of absorbing:

*The absorption of nutrients into the body is a complicated process.*

### ampere

(say **am**-pair)

*noun* a unit of electric current:

*Electricians usually shorten the word 'ampere' to 'amp'.*

### amplitude

(say **amp**-luh-choohd)

*noun* in physics, the distance or range from the maximum or minimum point of a wave pattern to the middle point:

*We could measure the changes in amplitude from looking at the graph.*

### anatomy

(say uh-**nat**-uh-mee)

*noun* the structure of the body of a human, animal or plant:

*The anatomy of a human is very similar to that of an ape.*

### apparatus

(say ap-uh-**rah**-tuhs)

*noun* a collection of tools or machines used for a particular purpose:

*We set up the apparatus for the experiment.*

### astronomy

(say uh-**stron**-uh-mee)

*noun* the scientific study of the sun, moon, stars and planets:

*When you study astronomy, you learn things like how long it takes light from the sun to reach different planets.*

### barometer

(say buh-**rom**-uh-tuh)

*noun* an instrument that measures air pressure, used to help work out what changes in the weather can be expected:

*The barometer is falling which means we are in for bad weather.*

### calculate

(say **kal**-kyuh-layt)

*verb* to work out by mathematical methods:

*We must calculate how much we've spent this month.*

### calculus

(say **kal**-kyuh-luhs)

*noun* a method of calculation which uses a special system of algebra:

*Calculus is a branch of maths which is used a lot in science and engineering.*

### caustic

(say **koss**-tik)

*adjective* capable of burning or eating away living cells in the body:

*We handled the caustic cleaning substance with great care.*

### chemistry

(say **kem**-uh-stree)

*noun* the science of what substances are made of and the ways they react with each other:

*My father studied chemistry and physics at university.*

**circumference**

(say suh-**kum**-fuh-ruhns)

*noun* the distance around something, especially around a circle or circular object:

*The good thing about knowing the circumference of a circle is that you can then work out its diameter.*

**concentric**

(say kuhn-**sen**-trik)

*adjective* Two or more circles are **concentric** when they have the same centre:

*The teacher told us to draw three concentric circles with our compasses.*

**conductivity**

(say kon-duk-**tiv**-uh-tee)

*noun* the ability of a substance to conduct heat, electricity or sound:

*Copper is commonly used for electrical wiring because it has a high conductivity.*

**cylinder**

(say **sil**-uhn-duh)

*noun* a tube-shaped object, either hollow or solid, with circular ends:

*A toilet roll is a good example of a cylinder.*

**denominator**

(say duh-**nom**-uh-nay-tuh)

*noun* the number under the line in a fraction which shows how many equal parts it may be divided into:

*In the fraction  $\frac{3}{4}$  4 is the denominator.*

**derivative**

(say duh-**riv**-uh-tiv)

*noun* a substance or compound made from another substance or compound:

*Petrol is a derivative of coal.*

**diameter**

(say duy-**am**-uh-tuh)

*noun* the straight line which goes through the centre of a circle from one side to the other:

*The part of a circle on one side of the diameter is always exactly half the whole circle.*

**diffusion**

(say duh-**fyoo**h-zhuhn)

*noun* the filling of any space by a fluid, or the mixing of fluids due to the way their particles or molecules move freely:

*We experimented with diffusion by mixing different types of liquids together.*

**evaporation**

(say uh-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn or ee-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

*noun* the act or process of water turning to vapour:

*Evaporation increases as the temperature increases.*

**frequency**

(say **free**-kwuhn-see)

*noun* the rate of movements in a sound wave:

*What is the frequency of your favourite radio station?*

**fulcrum**

(say **full**-kruhm)

*noun* the point on which something balances or turns:

*To make a seesaw we put a plank of wood on a stool which acted as the fulcrum.*

**geothermal**

(say jee-oh-**ther**-muhl)

*adjective* relating to the heat which comes from the molten core of the earth:

*These changes to the earth's surface are caused by geothermal activity.*

**hypothesis**

(say huy-**poth**-uh-suhs)

*noun* an idea put forward as a useful starting point for a discussion or scientific investigation:

*The scientist proposed the hypothesis that the earth was much older than commonly thought.*

**longitude**

(say **long**-guh-tyood)

*noun* the distance, measured in degrees, by which a point on the earth is east or west of Greenwich in England:

*We had to find the longitude and latitude of each of the capital cities in Australia.*

**magnetism**

(say **mag**-nuh-tiz-uhm)

*noun* typical qualities of magnets:

*We learned lots about magnetism by moving the poles of the magnets around.*

**magnification**

(say mag-nuh-fuh-**kay**-shuhn)

*noun* the act or result of magnifying:

*Under the microscope, the magnification of the cockroach made it look like a prehistoric monster.*

**microscopic**

(say mui-kruh-**skop**-ik)

*adjective* extremely small:

*The insects they were studying were microscopic, so they needed a microscope in order to see them.*

**multiplication**

(say mul-tuh-pluh-**kay**-shuhn)

*noun* in arithmetic, the process of finding the number (called the product) resulting from the addition of a given number (the multiplicand) to itself as many times as there are units in another given number (the multiplier);  $4 \times 3$  means  $4 + 4 + 4$ :

*Two times three is an easy multiplication - everyone knows that the answer is six.*

**neurology**

(say nyoooh-**rol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the science of the nerves or the nervous system, especially its diseases:

*A specialist in neurology explained the possible reasons for her headaches.*

**observation**

(say ob-zuh-**vay**-shuhn)

*noun* When you make an **observation**, you watch something or someone carefully:

*The researcher's observation of the koalas' habitat produced a lot of information about how endangered they are.*

**perpendicular**

(say per-puhn-**dik**-yuh-luh)

*adjective* meeting a line or surface at right angles:

*This instrument will indicate if the wall is exactly perpendicular to the floor.*

**probability**

(say prob-uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

*noun* *Statistics* the relative frequency of the occurrence of an event as measured by the ratio of the number of cases or alternatives favourable to the event to the total number of cases or alternatives:

*The data showed that the probability of another earthquake was high.*

**protractor**

(say pruh-**trak**-tuh)

*noun* an instrument used to measure or mark off angles:

*He needed a protractor to measure the angles accurately.*

**solubility**

(say sol-yuh-**bil**-uh-tee)

*noun* the property of being able to be dissolved:

*In most situations, solubility increases as temperature rises.*

**statistics**

(say stuh-**tis**-tik)

*plural noun* the science which deals with the collection, ordering, and use of information in the form of numbers and amounts:

*Statistics show that more boys are born than girls.*

**synthetic**

(say sin-**thet**-ik)

*adjective* made from artificial substances, not natural ones:

*Fabrics made from synthetic fibres can be hot to wear, as they don't let air through.*

**zoology**

(say zoh-**ol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the science or study of animal life:

*My brother is passionate about animals and is studying zoology at university.*

## Senior Science & Maths Level 5

### algebra

(say **al**-juh-bruh)

*noun* the branch of mathematics which uses letters to stand for numbers:

*We have just started to learn about algebra in maths.*

### alkali

(say **al**-kuh-luy)

*noun* a chemical that reduces the effect of acid:

*In science today we learned that soap is an alkali.*

### alphanumeric

(say al-fuh-nyooh-**me**-rik)

*adjective* consisting of both letters and numerals:

*My password is alphanumeric: ABC986.*

### analytical

(say an-uh-**lit**-i-kuhl)

*adjective* pertaining to analysis:

*Her analytical mind helps her solve problems.*

### buoyant

(say **boy**-uhnt)

*adjective* tending to float or rise in a fluid:

*This rubber ring will keep you buoyant in the water.*

### chromosome

(say **kroh**-muh-sohm or **kroh**-muh-zohm)

*noun* a tiny threadlike body found in the nucleus of all living cells, which carries the genetic codes for the characteristics of the organism:

*Down syndrome occurs when a person has an extra chromosome or one chromosome has an extra part.*

### equilateral

(say eek-wuh-**lat**-ruhl)

*adjective* having equal sides:

*It is easy to draw an equilateral triangle if you have a compass.*

### equilibrium

(say eek-wuh-**lib**-ree-uhm or ek-wuh-**lib**-ree-uhm)

*noun* equal balance:

*The two children managed to keep the seesaw in equilibrium.*

### extrapolate

(say ek-**strap**-uh-layt)

*verb* to make a guess about something you don't know using the things you do know as a basis:

*You can extrapolate from this survey that about one in twenty people won't vote at all.*

### horizontal

(say ho-ruh-**zon**-tuhl)

*adjective* parallel, or in line, with the horizon, as opposed to vertical:

*He had to leap over a horizontal bar a metre from the ground.*

### hypothetical

(say huy-puh-**thet**-i-kuhl)

*adjective* assumed by hypothesis; supposed:

*The medical student was asked how he would treat a hypothetical case of pneumonia.*

**mathematician**

(say math-uh-muh-**tish**-uhn)

*noun* an expert in mathematics:

*Grace was good with numbers and wanted to be a mathematician.*

**percentile**

(say puh-**sen**-tuyl)

*noun* a group equalling one hundredth of a set of statistics:

*It was her dream to be in the top percentile in maths.*

**pneumatic**

(say nyoooh-**mat**-ik)

*adjective* worked by air or air pressure:

*The invention of the pneumatic tyre made car travel much more comfortable.*

**quadrilateral**

(say kwod-ruh-**lat**-ruhl)

*noun* a closed, plane figure with four sides:

*A parallelogram is an example of a quadrilateral.*

**rhomboid**

(say **rom**-boyd)

*noun* a four-sided shape like a diamond:

*Each tile had four sides and was in the shape of a rhomboid.*

**seismology**

(say suy-z-**mol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the science or study of earthquakes:

*The institute of seismology has research data on recent earthquakes.*

**spherical**

(say **sfe**-ruh-kuhl)

*adjective* having the shape of a sphere or ball:

*Soccer is played with a spherical ball, unlike Rugby.*

**statistician**

(say stat-uh-**stish**-uhn)

*noun* someone who compiles statistics:

*A statistician analysed the tide recordings from the past twenty years.*

**symmetry**

(say **sim**-uh-tree)

*noun* the arrangement of the parts of something so that they are all balanced in size and shape:

*We marvelled at the perfect symmetry of the butterfly's wings.*

**temperature**

(say **tem**-pruh-chuh)

*noun* a measure of the degree of heat or cold of something or someone:

*She agreed to go to the doctor if her temperature rose any further.*

**terrarium**

(say tuh-**rair**-ree-uhm)

*noun* a closed glass container in which moisture-loving plants are grown:

*We have a terrarium in our classroom as part of our study of rainforest plants.*

**thermodynamics**

(say ther-moh-duy-**nam**-iks)

*noun* the science concerned with the relationship between heat and mechanical energy:

*Thermodynamics is a branch of science studied at university.*

**trapezium**

(say truh-**pee**-zee-uhm)

*noun* a four-sided figure, two of whose sides are parallel:

*He based his table design on a trapezium.*

**unidimensional**

(say yoooh-nee-duh-**men**-shuhn-uhl)

*adjective* having a single dimension:

*We learned in maths today that a line is unidimensional.*

**veterinary**

(say **vet**-uh-ruhn-ree or **vet**-uhn-ree)

*adjective* relating to the study, prevention and treatment of animal diseases and injuries:

*She wants to study veterinary science so she can treat sick animals.*

**vitreous**

(say **vit**-ree-uhs)

*adjective* resembling glass in transparency, brittleness and hardness:

*This bowl is covered in a vitreous coating.*

## Senior Science & Maths Level 6

### alchemy

(say **al**-kuh-mee)

*noun* the medieval form of chemistry which tried to find ways of changing all metals into gold:

*In the Middle Ages, people practised alchemy to try to turn other metals into gold.*

### algebraic

(say al-juh-**bray**-ik)

*adjective* of or occurring in algebra:

*We were set a number of algebraic problems to solve for our homework.*

### algorithm

(say **al**-guh-ridh-uhm)

*noun* a procedure for solving a particular mathematical problem in a finite number of steps:

*The programmer worked out the algorithm for solving the problem.*

### coefficient

(say koh-uh-**fish**-uhnt)

*noun* in maths, a number or quantity multiplying another quantity:

*3 is the coefficient of  $x$  in  $3x$ .*

### dodecahedron

(say doh-dek-uh-**heed**-ruhn)

*noun* a figure with 12 sides:

*We drew a dodecahedron with a ruler and compass, keeping all 12 sides even.*

### formaldehyde

(say faw-**mal**-duh-huyd)

*noun* a chemical substance used as a disinfectant and preservative:

*Formaldehyde is a chemical used in the manufacture of resins and plastics.*

### geochemistry

(say jee-oh-**kem**-uh-stree)

*noun* the science dealing with the chemical changes in, and the composition of, the earth, particularly its crust:

*My cousin is studying geochemistry at university.*

### hypotenuse

(say huy-**pot**-uhn-yoohz)

*noun* the side opposite the right angle in a triangle:

*Only a right-angled triangle has a hypotenuse.*

### laboratory

(say luh-**bo**-ruh-tree)

*noun* a building or room for doing scientific tests or for making chemicals or medicines:

*The mad scientist worked in his laboratory all night.*

### oscillation

(say o-suh-**lay**-shuhn)

*noun* *Physics* a repetitive to and fro motion of an object; regular variation in value, etc., as in alternating current, etc.:

*The computer readout recorded the degree of oscillation of the indicator as it moved backwards and forwards.*

**parabola**

(say puh-**rab**-uh-luh)

*noun* in geometry, a special kind of even curve, like the path of an object when it is thrown forward into the air and falls back to the earth:

*The catapult projected the stone in a perfect parabola.*

**parallelogram**

(say pa-ruh-**lel**-uh-gram)

*noun* a four-sided figure whose opposite sides are parallel to each other:

*A square is an example of a special type of parallelogram.*

**photosynthesis**

(say foh-toh-**sin**-thuh-suhs)

*noun* the making of carbohydrates by plants from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of light and chlorophyll (the green colouring in plants):

*The process of photosynthesis is necessary for life.*

**physicist**

(say **fiz**-uh-suhst)

*noun* a person trained in physics and its methods:

*She wanted to be a physicist and study space.*

**psychiatry**

(say suh-**kuy**-uh-tree or suy-**kuy**-uh-tree)

*noun* the study and treatment of mental illness:

*She studied psychiatry because she wanted to help people with mental illnesses.*

## Senior Science & Maths Level 7

### **electrolysis**

(say uh-lek-**trol**-uh-suhs or ee-lek-**trol**-uh-suhs)

*noun* the breaking down of a chemical compound into its basic parts by passing an electric current through it:

*Hydrogen can be produced by electrolysis of water.*

### **ichthyology**

(say ik-thee-**ol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the branch of zoology that deals with fish:

*He wants to study ichthyology because he is very interested in marine life.*

### **isosceles**

(say uy-**so**ss-uh-leez)

*adjective* An **isosceles** triangle has two equal sides:

*Our maths teacher asked us to draw an isosceles triangle.*

### **logarithm**

(say **log**-uh-rith-uhm)

*noun* a mathematical term relating to multiplication:

*Knowing how to calculate a logarithm can make working with large numbers easier.*

### **ophthalmology**

(say of-thal-**mol**-uh-jee or op-thal-**mol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the science dealing with the structure, functions and diseases of the eye:

*The doctor specialised in ophthalmology in order to help people with eye problems.*

## Senior Sports Level 2

### ace

(say ayce)

*noun* a serve in tennis which the other player cannot return at all:

*He served his fifth ace of the match and won the set.*

### athlete

(say **ath**-leet)

*noun* someone who trains and competes in some kind of sport, especially running or jumping events:

*Paul is an excellent athlete and wants to compete in the Olympic Games.*

### backspin

(say **bak**-spin)

*noun* the reverse spinning of a ball causing it to bounce backwards or stop in the shortest possible time:

*It's really hard to hit a ball with backspin on it.*

### champion

(say **cham**-pee-uhn)

*noun* someone who holds first place in a sport or contest:

*Ian Thorpe is an Australian swimming champion who won five Olympic gold medals.*

### cricket

(say **krik**-uht)

*noun* a game for two teams where players have to run between two points after hitting the ball with a bat:

*We play cricket on the beach every summer.*

### cyclist

(say **suy**-kluhst)

*noun* someone who rides a bicycle:

*When he got his first bike, he didn't imagine that he would become an Olympic cyclist.*

### finalist

(say **fuy**-nuh-luhst)

*noun* A **finalist** is a person who is in the last part of a competition:

*You have to be a placegetter in the heats to qualify to be a finalist.*

### gymnast

(say **jim**-nuhst)

*noun* someone specially trained and skilled in gymnastics:

*She is the first Australian gymnast to win an Olympic medal.*

### judo

(say **jooh**-doh)

*noun* a Japanese art of self-defence which is practised as a sport:

*When you fall in judo, you roll to avoid being hurt.*

### sail

(say sayl)

*verb* If you **sail** a boat, you cause it to move over water, using sails:

*They sail their yacht every weekend and have won several yachting races.*

### stadium

(say **stay**-dee-uhm)

*noun* a large sports ground, designed to hold many people:

*We are going to the stadium to watch the tennis.*

**surfboard**

(say **serf**-bawd)

*noun* a long, narrow board used to ride waves towards the shore:

*The waves looked great so I carried my surfboard down to the beach.*

**tackle**

(say **tak**-uhl)

*verb* In sports such as football and hockey, if you **tackle** your opponent, you try to get the ball from them:

*At soccer training we are being taught how to tackle.*

**trainer**

(say **tray**-nuh)

*noun* someone who trains athletes in a sport:

*Our trainer makes us run for an hour every day.*

**umpire**

(say **um**-puy-uh)

*noun* someone who makes sure a game is played according to the rules:

*The umpire sent the player off the field because she had broken the rules.*

### Senior Sports Level 3

#### acrobat

(say **ak**-ruh-bat)

*noun* someone who performs gymnastic tricks:

*The best act at the circus was the acrobat on the tightrope.*

#### agility

(say uh-**jil**-uh-tee)

*noun* the ability to move quickly and easily:

*The gymnast showed great agility in her performance on the bar.*

#### archery

(say **ah**-chuh-ree)

*noun* the sport of shooting with a bow and arrows:

*We tried archery on our school camp, and I shot an arrow into the bullseye.*

#### athletics

(say ath-**let**-iks)

*noun* events that take place on a track, such as running and hurdling, javelin throwing and the high jump:

*The athletics at the Olympic Games are exciting to watch, particularly the running and hurdling.*

#### badminton

(say **bad**-min-tuhn)

*noun* a game in which two or four players use racquets to hit a feathered ball called a shuttlecock over a high net:

*It's hard to play badminton in the wind, because the shuttlecock keeps blowing away.*

#### basketball

(say **bah**-skuht-bawl)

*noun* a game played by two teams of five players, who try to score points by shooting a ball through a metal hoop at the top of the other team's goalpost:

*We play basketball every Saturday morning -- our team hasn't lost a game all year.*

#### baton

(say **bat**-uhn or buh-**ton**)

*noun* a short stick, especially one handed by one runner to the next in a relay race:

*I reached out to grab the baton from the first runner in the relay, but disaster struck and I dropped it.*

#### biceps

(say **buy**-seps)

*noun* a large muscle at the top of the arm or the back of the leg:

*The weightlifter worked on developing his biceps.*

#### bobsleigh

(say **bob**-slay)

*noun* a racing sledge with two sets of runners, one behind the other:

*Bobsleigh racing has been a part of the Winter Olympic Games since 1924.*

#### competitor

(say kuhm-**pet**-uh-tuh)

*noun* someone who competes:

*He was the only competitor not to fall down in the skating race, so he won!*

**deuce**

(say dyooohs)

*noun* a stage in a game of tennis when both players have a score of 40:

*The scoreboard showed that they were exactly even -- one game each and at deuce in the current game.*

**discus**

(say **dis**-kuhs)

*noun* a circular plate for throwing in athletic contests:

*He won because he threw the discus the furthest.*

**doubles**

(say **dub**-uhlz)

*noun* a game, especially tennis, played by teams of two players:

*The two sisters won the doubles competition.*

**dumbbell**

(say **dum**-bel)

*noun* a piece of exercise equipment consisting of a short bar with weights attached to either end:

*Exercising by lifting a dumbbell will strengthen your arm muscles.*

**exercise**

(say **eks**-uh-suyz)

*noun* an activity of the body or mind to train or improve it:

*Walking is good exercise.*

**goalkeeper**

(say **gohl**-kee-puh)

*noun* in soccer or hockey, a player whose special duty is to prevent the ball from going through, into, or over the goal:

*In hockey practice, we all take turns at being goalkeeper.*

**gymnastics**

(say jim-**nass**-tikz)

*noun* the performance of exercises to develop muscle strength and tone up your body:

*We do gymnastics every week to strengthen our muscles.*

**javelin**

(say **jav**-uh-luhn or **jav**-luhn)

*noun* a spear which is thrown in sporting contests:

*He could throw the javelin further than anyone else.*

**karate**

(say kuh-**rah**-tee)

*noun* a Japanese form of self-defence which uses only hands, elbows, feet and knees as weapons:

*Amy wants to do karate so she can learn to smash bricks with her hands.*

**marathon**

(say **ma**-ruh-thon)

*noun* a long-distance race:

*He loved long-distance running and it was his dream to compete in the Olympic marathon.*

**mountaineer**

(say mown-tuh-**near**)

*noun* a climber of mountains:

*Sir Edmund Hillary was a famous mountaineer.*

**muscular**

(say **muss**-kyuh-luh)

*adjective* having to do with muscles:

*After a day of heavy training, he had an intense muscular pain across his back.*

**nutrition**

(say nyoooh-**trish**-uhn)

*noun* eating or eating habits:

*Good nutrition is vital to athletes.*

**opponent**

(say uh-**poh**-nuhnt)

*noun* someone who is on the opposite side to you in a competition or fight:

*My opponent was much taller than me, so I was very nervous.*

**perspiration**

(say pers-puh-**ray**-shuhn)

*noun* sweat:

*She used the towel to wipe the perspiration from her forehead.*

**referee**

(say ref-uh-**ree**)

*noun* someone who makes sure that the rules in a sporting match are followed:

*He is a very good referee -- everybody thinks he is fair.*

**regatta**

(say ruh-**gat**-uh)

*noun* a meeting for boat races:

*Our school won the rowing regatta last year.*

**skiing**

(say **skee**-ing)

*noun* the sport of travelling down slopes on skis:

*We like skiing so it is lucky we live near the mountains.*

**slalom**

(say **slay**-luhm or **slah**-luhm)

*noun* a skiing race with a winding course:

*Skiing in the slalom puts a lot of pressure on your knees.*

**stamina**

(say **stam**-uh-nuh)

*noun* physical power or strength, especially to fight off tiredness or sickness:

*She will need enormous stamina to keep up the burning pace of the marathon.*

**stirrup**

(say **sti**-ruh-p)

*noun* a loop or ring of metal hung from the saddle of a horse to support the rider's foot:

*The horserider's foot caught in the stirrup and she was in real trouble!*

**tournament**

(say **taw**-nuh-muhnt)

*noun* a meeting for contests in sport or other games:

*Clare played in a tennis tournament last weekend.*

**trapeze**

(say truh-**peeze**)

*noun* a short bar joined to the ends of two hanging ropes, on which gymnasts and acrobats perform:

*When I grow up, I want to be an acrobat and swing from a trapeze.*

**triathlon**

(say truy-**ath**-lon)

*noun* an athletic contest made up of three events straight after each other -- usually running, swimming and cycling:

*I'll be competing in my first triathlon this weekend -- I've been practising all three sports.*

**wetsuit**

(say **wet**-sooht)

*noun* a tight rubber piece of clothing worn by divers and surfers to keep in body heat:

*She decided to pack her wetsuit as well as her snorkel in case the water was too cold.*

## Senior Sports Level 4

### abseil

(say **ab**-sayl)

*verb* to descend down a cliff using ropes:

*Julian would love to abseil, but he is afraid of heights.*

### adversary

(say **ad**-vuh-suh-ree)

*noun* someone you compete against or fight with:

*My old adversary beat me in the fencing tournament.*

### aerobics

(say air-**roh**-biks)

*plural noun* exercises done to improve your physical fitness by stimulating your heart and lungs:

*My mother likes to keep fit and does aerobics during her lunch hour.*

### amateur

(say **am**-uh-tuh or **am**-uh-chuh)

*noun* an athlete who does not earn money from playing sport:

*At the moment he plays cricket as an amateur, but he would like to be a professional player one day.*

### announcer

(say uh-**noun**-suh)

*noun* someone who announces for programs on radio or television:

*The sports announcer listed the results of all the football games that day.*

### billiards

(say **bil**-yuhdz)

*noun* a game played on a long table, with hard balls hit by a long stick called a cue:

*We can have a game of billiards after dinner because we have just bought a billiards table and some cues.*

### breaststroke

(say **bre**st-strohkh)

*noun* a way of swimming in which your arms move in a circle in front of your chest and your legs kick in a frog-like manner:

*Swimming breaststroke always exhausts me.*

### catamaran

(say **kat**-uh-muh-ran)

*noun* a boat with two hulls:

*We spent a fantastic week sailing a catamaran around the islands.*

### ceremony

(say **se**-ruh-muh-nee)

*noun* a formal event performed to mark an important occasion:

*We watched the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on television.*

### contortionist

(say kuhn-**taw**-shuhn-uhst)

*noun* a person who performs difficult gymnastic feats involving contorted postures:

*The contortionist amazed us all with the postures she performed.*

**croquet**

(say **kroh**-kay)

*noun* a game played by hitting wooden balls with mallets through metal arches set in a lawn:

*Croquet is a sport that requires accuracy more than strength.*

**dais**

(say **day**-uhs)

*noun* a raised platform at the end of a hall:

*The football trophies were lined up on a table on the dais.*

**decathlon**

(say duh-**kath**-lon)

*noun* a contest in which athletes compete for the highest score in ten different events:

*The decathlon is an exhausting contest because it has ten different events in it.*

**deodorant**

(say dee-**oh**-duh-ruhnt)

*noun* something which prevents or removes bad smells:

*People who play sport need a very strong deodorant!*

**disqualify**

(say dis-**kwol**-uh-fuy)

*verb* If you **disqualify** someone from doing something, you do not allow them to do it, often because they have broken some rule:

*The judges will disqualify you if you start running before the whistle blows.*

**equestrian**

(say uh-**kwess**-tree-uhn)

*adjective* having to do with horseriding:

*Jane and her horse showed great skill and stamina to win the equestrian event.*

**gymnasium**

(say jim-**nay**-zee-uhm)

*noun* a building or room specially equipped for gymnastics and sport:

*The gymnasium has a lot of different equipment such as running machines and climbing ropes.*

**lacrosse**

(say luh-**kross**)

*noun* a ball game played by two teams, who use long-handled racquets to try to send the ball through a goal:

*Lacrosse is a team sport that was first played by Native American people.*

**liniment**

(say **lin**-uh-muhnt)

*noun* an oily liquid for rubbing on bruises, sprains or sore muscles:

*After tennis practice my shoulder was sore, so I rubbed some liniment onto it.*

**motivation**

(say moh-tuh-**vay**-shuhn)

*noun* desire to achieve a goal:

*Before every game, our coach gives us a talk to increase our motivation.*

**obstruction**

(say uhb-**struk**-shuhn)

*noun* an action where a player puts their body between an opponent and the ball so as to form an obstacle:

*The referee said he was guilty of obstruction and gave the other team a penalty.*

**parasailing**

(say **pa**-ruh-say-ling)

*noun* the sport of soaring in the air with the aid of a parachute while being towed by a motorboat:

*Yan loved parasailing -- she felt like she was flying.*

**pavilion**

(say puh-**vil**-yuhn)

*noun* an open-sided shelter at a park or sporting ground:

*We sat in the pavilion to watch the cricket match.*

**professional**

(say pruh-**fesh**-uhn-uhl)

*adjective* in sport, if someone is a **professional** athlete or player, they earn money from playing their sport:

*If you are a professional tennis player, you don't need to have another job because you are paid to train and play tennis.*

**qualifier**

(say **kwol**-uh-fuy-uh)

*noun* someone or something that qualifies:

*Excitement overwhelmed him when he found out he was a qualifier for the finals.*

**qualify**

(say **kwol**-uh-fuy)

*verb* If you **qualify** for a race, you have a fast enough time to compete:

*To qualify for the state championships, I have to take two seconds off my personal best.*

**quarterfinal**

(say kwaw-tuh-**fuy**-nuhl)

*noun* a contest which precedes the semifinals in a tournament:

*The Tamworth Tigers have to win their last two games to secure a spot in the quarterfinal.*

**scholarship**

(say **skol**-uh-ship)

*noun* a sum of money won by a student which helps to pay school or university fees:

*She was a talented basketballer and won a sport scholarship.*

**semifinalist**

(say sem-ee-**fuy**-nuh-luhst)

*noun* a player or team contesting a semifinal:

*Gina never dreamt that she would be a semifinalist at Wimbledon.*

**shuttlecock**

(say **shut**-uhl-kok)

*noun* a thin rounded piece of plastic with feathers attached to it, which is hit from one player to another over a net as a game:

*The game was declared a draw when the shuttlecock got stuck in a tree.*

**spinnaker**

(say **spin**-uh-kuh)

*noun* a large triangular sail:

*As soon as the spinnaker was raised, the yacht sped to the lead.*

**stoppage**

(say **stop**-ij)

*noun* a stop in play, especially in team sports, for such reasons as removing injured players and referring decisions:

*There was a stoppage in play until the injured player was taken from the field.*

**strategy**

(say **strat**-uh-jee)

*noun* a plan or scheme which sets out how to achieve a goal:

*Our coach said he had a brilliant strategy for defeating the opposition in the final.*

**technique**

(say tek-**neek**)

*noun* the way of doing or performing something:

*Her swimming shows good technique as well as strength.*

**toboggan**

(say tuh-**bog**-uhn)

*noun* a light kind of sled used for sliding over snow or ice:

*My little sister is too young to ski but she loves sliding down the slopes on a toboggan.*

**tricycle**

(say **truy**-sik-uhl)

*noun* a cycle with three wheels, one at the front and two at the back:

*My little sister rides a tricycle because she doesn't have very good balance yet.*

**velodrome**

(say **vel**-uh-droh-m)

*noun* an arena with sloping sides used for cycling races:

*We all crowded into the velodrome to watch the Olympic cycling final.*

**wakeboarding**

(say **wayk**-baw-ding)

*noun* a form of waterskiing which uses an adapted skateboard rather than skis:

*Rakesh thought he'd try wakeboarding instead of waterskiing next time.*

**wrestling**

(say **ress**-ling)

*noun* an exercise or sport in which two persons struggle hand to hand, each striving to throw or force the other to the ground:

*Wrestling can be a dangerous sport -- but not as dangerous as boxing.*

**wushu**

(say wooh-**shooh**)

*noun* a sport created in China which is a hybrid of various martial arts and gymnastics:

*Honi thought he would be interested in wushu as he liked both karate and gymnastics.*

## Senior Sports Level 5

### acceleration

(say ak-sel-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

*noun* the act of increasing speed:

*A racing car needs to have powerful acceleration.*

### acrobatically

(say ak-ruh-**bat**-ik-lee)

*adverb* in an acrobatic manner:

*The fullback scored a try by leaping acrobatically over his opponent and rolling into a somersault over the line.*

### acupuncture

(say **ak**-uh-pungk-chuh or **ak**-yuh-pungk-chuh)

*noun* a Chinese type of medicine which treats illness or pain by sticking needles into certain parts of the body:

*The team doctor used acupuncture to treat some of the players' aches and pains.*

### amateurish

(say **am**-uh-tuh-rish or **am**-uh-chuh-rish)

*adjective* characteristic of an amateur:

*The game was amateurish but everyone enjoyed it anyway.*

### ambidextrous

(say am-bee-**deks**-truhs)

*adjective* able to use both hands equally well:

*The ambidextrous player could wield a hockey stick equally well with either hand.*

### anchorage

(say **ang**-kuh-rij)

*noun* a place where you can anchor a boat:

*They tried to find a sheltered anchorage for the yacht during the storm.*

### bantamweight

(say **ban**-tuhm-wayt)

*noun* a boxer weighing between 51 and 54 kg (amateur):

*The boxer had lost weight and was now classified as a bantamweight.*

### carbohydrate

(say kah-buh-**huy**-drayt)

*noun* a chemical compound containing oxygen, hydrogen and carbon:

*Foods high in carbohydrate include fruits, sweets, soft drinks, breads, pastas, and cereals.*

### catapult

(say **kat**-uh-pult)

*noun* a Y-shaped stick with a length of elastic joined to the prongs, used for shooting stones at things:

*In some shooting competitions, a small catapult is used to launch targets into the air.*

### chiropractor

(say **kuy**-ruh-prak-tuh)

*noun* someone trained to treat back pain and other types of illness by massaging and adjusting the spine:

*The footballer's back felt much better after a few sessions with the chiropractor.*

**circumnavigate**

(say ser-kuhm-**nav**-uh-gayt)

*verb* to sail round something:

*The contestants in the sailing race had to circumnavigate the island.*

**guernsey**

(say **gern**-zee)

*noun* a close-fitting knitted jumper, often worn by sailors, footballers, and so on:

*Each member of the team wore a red and white guernsey.*

**gymkhana**

(say jim-**kah**-nuh)

*noun* horseriding events with games and contests:

*Sam rode her horse every day, practising for the gymkhana.*

**jodhpurs**

(say **jod**-puhz)

*plural noun* riding trousers which are close-fitting below the knee:

*She pulled on her jodhpurs and walked to the stables.*

**muscly**

(say **muss**-uh-lee)

*adjective* If someone is **muscly**, they have big muscles, and are usually very strong:

*My brother became very muscly after several months of weight training at the gym.*

**nemesis**

(say **nem**-uh-suhs)

*noun* someone or something that brings a defeat or punishment:

*She had to play her nemesis in the semifinal -- she had never beaten her and was very nervous.*

**oxygenate**

(say **ok**-suh-juh-nayt)

*verb* to treat or combine with oxygen:

*The therapist said that the exercises would help to oxygenate the blood. Also,*

**oxygenise.**

**physicality**

(say fiz-uh-**kal**-uh-tee)

*noun* physical character or presence, especially when causing a strong awareness of physical strength:

*The opposing players could sense his physicality when he strode onto the oval.*

**physiology**

(say fiz-ee-**ol**-uh-jee)

*noun* the science concerned with the bodies of living things and how they work:

*An important part of sports medicine is a thorough knowledge of anatomy and physiology.*

**physiotherapy**

(say fiz-ee-oh-**the**-ruh-pee)

*noun* the treatment of disease and injuries by physical means such as massage and exercise:

*She had five sessions of physiotherapy to strengthen her injured knee.*

**poultice**

(say **pohl**-tuhs)

*noun* a soft, moist mass of bread, meal, linseed, and so on, applied to the body as a means of curing an ailment:

*He applied a poultice to his wound to reduce the swelling.*

**pugilist**

(say **pyooh**-juh-luhst)

*noun* someone who fights with the fists:

*The pugilist wore a mouthguard to protect his teeth during the fight.*

**quadriceps**

(say **kwod**-ruh-seps)

*noun* the great muscle of the front of the thigh, which stretches the leg and is considered as having four heads or origins:

*He strained his quadriceps during the football game.*

**recruitment**

(say ruh-**krooht**-muhnt)

*noun* the act of enlisting people to join some kind of organisation:

*Her job involves the recruitment of new players for the team.*

**respiratory**

(say ruh-**spi**-ruh-tree or **res**-pruh-tree)

*adjective* relating to respiration or breathing:

*The swimmer did breathing exercises to increase her respiratory capacity.*

**somersault**

(say **sum**-uh-solt)

*noun* A **somersault** is a way of putting your head down and rolling your body forward over your head:

*She could do a triple somersault off the diving board.*

**strenuous**

(say **stren**-yooh-uhs)

*adjective* needing a great effort:

*Weightlifting is a very strenuous exercise.*

**trifecta**

(say truy-**fek**-tuh)

*noun* a form of betting in which the first three placegetters in a particular race must be selected in the correct order:

*My uncle picked the first three placegetters in the Melbourne Cup and won the trifecta.*

## Senior Sports Level 6

### adjudicator

(say uh-**jooh**-duh-kay-tuh)

*noun* someone who acts as a judge, especially in a debate or other competition:

*The adjudicator for the gymnastics competition is a former world champion.*

### annihilate

(say uh-**nuy**-uh-layt)

*verb* to destroy or defeat completely:

*Our coach told us the aim was to enjoy the game, not to annihilate the opposition.*

### arabesque

(say a-ruh-**besk**)

*noun* a position in ballet in which one leg is stretched behind and the body lowered forward:

*A ballet dancer has to do a lot of practice to master the perfect arabesque.*

### buoyancy

(say **boy**-uhn-see)

*noun* the power to float or rise in a liquid:

*The way a canoe floats is a good example of buoyancy.*

### cartilage

(say **kah**-tuh-lij)

*noun* a firm elastic tissue found in various parts of the body:

*The basketball player was in a lot of pain when he tore the cartilage in his knee.*

### commentator

(say **kom**-uhn-tay-tuh)

*noun* a writer or broadcaster who comments on news, or describes sporting events, etc.:

*The cricket commentator knew an amazing amount of detailed information about the game and the players.*

### elimination

(say uh-lim-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

*noun* the state of being removed from something such as a contest:

*If we lose this game we face elimination from the competition.*

### orienteering

(say o-ree-uhn-**teer**-ring)

*noun* a sport in which you have to find your way as quickly as possible over a difficult course, using maps and compasses:

*Bring a compass and running shoes for the orienteering competition.*

### parachute

(say **pa**-ruh-shooht)

*noun* a large piece of cloth which opens out in a round shape, used to slow down the fall of someone jumping from an aircraft:

*The skydiver's parachute drifted towards the ground.*

### physique

(say fuh-**zeek**)

*noun* the shape of someone's body:

*After months of working out at the gym, his physique had become quite muscular.*

**pirouette**

(say pi-rooh-**et**)

*noun* a quick turn in a dance, often on tiptoe:

*He managed to execute a wobbly pirouette, but decided that ballet was not for him.*

**ricochet**

(say **rik**-uh-shay)

*verb* to hit something, bounce away and fly off in another direction:

*His bad aim caused the ball to hit the wall and ricochet into the bushes.*

**rogaining**

(say roh-**gayn**-ing)

*noun* a competitive sport involving cross-country navigation over long distances and entailing movement both by day and night:

*In rogaining, teams of two to five people visit as many checkpoints as they wish in a set time period. Compare **orienteering**.*

**thoroughbred**

(say **thu**-ruh-bred)

*adjective* of pure or unmixed breed, as a horse or other animal:

*She was an experienced breeder of thoroughbred racehorses.*

**Senior Sports Level 7**

**indefatigable**

(say in-duh-**fat**-uh-guh-buhl)

*adjective* incapable of being tired out:

*The marathon runner continued at her steady pace, seemingly indefatigable.*

**indomitable**

(say in-**dom**-uh-tuh-buhl)

*adjective* not able to be subdued or overcome:

*She trained for hours each day with indomitable determination.*

## Senior Technology Level 2

### computer

(say kuhm-**pyooh**-tuh)

*noun* an electronic machine which stores and gives out information, and does calculations very quickly, according to a set of instructions called a program:

*Our new computer allows us to access the internet very quickly.*

### current

(say **ku**-ruhnt)

*noun* a movement or flow of electric charges:

*The electrician used a special meter to measure the current.*

### engine

(say **en**-juhn)

*noun* a machine that changes energy from something like petrol or steam into movement:

*Our car's engine stopped because we had run out of petrol.*

### keyboard

(say **ki**-bcd)

*noun* a row or set of keys such as on a piano or computer:

*The statistician's fingers flew over the keyboard as he entered the data.*

### modem

(say **moh**-dem or **moh**-duhm)

*noun* an electronic device that allows one computer to link to others through the telephone system:

*We turned on the modem so we could send an email to our grandmother.*

### mouse

(say mows)

*noun* a small object which you hold and move to position the cursor on a computer screen:

*The position of the cursor on the screen is controlled by the mouse.*

### router

(say **rowt**-uh)

*noun* a device which provides connection between computers in a network and controls the network areas that each can access:

*We had to follow the instructions to set up the router.*

### server

(say **serv**-uh)

*noun* a computer or program which provides services to another computer by a network:

*A hacker managed to bring down the company server.*

### terminal

(say **ter**-muh-nuhl)

*noun* a point where an electrical current enters or leaves a piece of electrical equipment:

*A battery has a positive terminal and a negative terminal.*

### transformer

(say trans-**fawm**-uh)

*noun* an electrical device used for changing one voltage to another:

*The power plant's main transformer buckled under the force of the explosion.*

**transmit**

(say trans-**mit**)

*verb* To **transmit** a signal or message to a place, is to send it there by means of electronic equipment:

*They plan to transmit the game live from the playing ground.*

**upload**

(say **up**-loh-d)

*verb* To **upload** data is to transfer or copy it from a computer to a larger system, such as from a personal computer to a network:

*After you upload the material from your computer, the rest of the class will be able to use it.*

**wavelength**

(say **wayv**-length)

*noun* the length of the radio wave used by a particular radio station for broadcasting:

*I couldn't tune in the station because I didn't know what wavelength it was on.*

**wireless**

(say **wuy**-uh-luhs)

*adjective* not using telephone lines, cables, etc.:

*Wireless technology allows people to access the internet even when they are outside.*

### Senior Technology Level 3

#### astronaut

(say **ass**-truh-nawt)

*noun* someone specially trained to travel in a spaceship:

*The astronaut tried to repair the space shuttle's damaged landing gear.*

#### audiovisual

(say aw-dee-oooh-**vizh**-yooh-uhl)

*adjective* relating to recording or reproducing both sound and pictures:

*William was required to do an audiovisual presentation for his history class.*

#### avatar

(say **av**-uh-tah)

*noun* the representation of a person in virtual reality on a computer screen:

*In some video games each player is represented on the screen by an avatar.*

#### biofuel

(say **buy**-oh-fyooh-uhl)

*noun* any type of fuel that is made from renewable sources such as plants:

*Ethanol is a type of biofuel that is made from sugar cane or grains.*

#### browser

(say **brow**-zuh)

*noun* a computer program that allows you to access web pages:

*This new browser is much faster than the previous version.*

#### byte

(say buyt)

*noun* a unit of information stored by a computer:

*A byte is a small unit of information -- this DVD holds 700 million bytes!*

#### cache

(say kaysh)

*noun* a section of a computer's memory which can be accessed very quickly:

*Sometimes you need to clear out the cache to make your computer work more quickly.*

#### cosmonaut

(say **koz**-muh-nawt)

*noun* a person trained as a pilot, to take part in the flight of a spacecraft:

*The cosmonaut prepared the spacecraft for its return to Earth.*

#### cursor

(say **ker**-suh)

*noun* the small moving sign which shows you where the writing will start when you type on a computer screen:

*Can you see the cursor? There it is, blinking at you!*

#### digital

(say **dij**-uh-tuhl)

*adjective* having to do with a device that works by storing information in a similar way to a computer:

*Many people have a digital television these days.*

#### engineer

(say en-juh-**near**)

*noun* someone who is trained to design and build things and to use machinery:

*His father is an engineer who designs roads and bridges.*

**equipment**

(say uh-**kwip**-muhnt)

*noun* anything used in doing a job, especially tools, machines, materials, and so on:

*All of the laboratory equipment was stored in the locked cupboard.*

**futuristic**

(say fyoooh-chuh-**ris**-tik)

*adjective* in a style thought likely to be in fashion at some future time:

*The design of the car was very futuristic -- it could hover in the air.*

**hyperlink**

(say **huy**-puh-lingk)

*noun* (in computers) a link from one document to another:

*I clicked on the hyperlink to get to the next page.*

**kilobyte**

(say **kil**-uh-buyt)

*noun* a unit of information stored by a computer:

*We couldn't complete the download because the file measured too many kilobytes.*

**locomotive**

(say loh-kuh-**moh**-tiv)

*noun* the engine which pulls railway carriages or trucks:

*The railway guard waved a flag to signal that the locomotive was ready to depart.*

**machinery**

(say muh-**sheen**-uh-ree)

*noun* machines in general:

*Machinery has made our lives easier.*

**microphone**

(say **muy**-kruh-fohn)

*noun* an instrument which changes sound waves into electrical waves, often used in equipment that makes sounds louder or records them:

*Hold the microphone fairly close to your mouth so it can pick up the sound of your voice.*

**monitor**

(say **mon**-uh-tuh)

*noun* the part of a computer which contains the screen:

*Your eyes will get tired if you stare at the monitor for too long.*

**operator**

(say **op**-uh-ray-tuh)

*noun* someone who works a machine:

*He is training to be a computer operator.*

**piracy**

(say **puy**-ruh-see)

*noun* the making and selling of illegal copies of CDs, DVDs, videos, computer programs, books, etc.:

*The DVD cover displayed a warning that piracy is a crime.*

**process**

(say **proh**-ses)

*verb* to treat a substance with chemicals or machines:

*Scientists are developing a new way to process nuclear fuel.*

**prosthesis**

(say pros-**thee**-suhs or pruh**s-thee**-suhs)

*noun* an artificial body part:

*No-one could tell that part of his leg was a prosthesis.*

**prototype**

(say **proh**-tuh-tuyp)

*noun* the original or the model of something which is later copied:

*The prototype of this racing car is in a motor museum.*

**radiotherapy**

(say ray-dee-oh-**ther**-uh-pee)

*noun* the treatment of disease by X-rays or radioactive substances:

*She had radiotherapy every day for a month to cure her cancer.*

**refrigeration**

(say ruh-frij-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

*noun* the process of producing low temperatures, usually so as to keep food and drink cold and fresh:

*We had no refrigeration for several days when the electricity failed and all our food went bad.*

**research**

(say ruh-**serch** or **ree**-serch)

*noun* the process of studying something deeply and doing tests to find out more about it:

*One day, medical research might discover a cure for colds.*

**resolution**

(say rez-uh-**looh**-shuhn)

*noun* the degree of fineness in the reproduction of an image, as by a photograph, television screen, etc.:

*The high resolution of the photograph allowed us to see the insect's wings in great detail.*

**technical**

(say **tek**-nik-uhl)

*adjective* having to do with machines and the way that things like industry and communications work:

*We have technical problems with the lines at the moment so you can't make any phone calls.*

**telecast**

(say **tel**-uh-kahst)

*noun* the showing of a program or event on television:

*The telecast was to be screened at eight o'clock that night so we made sure we got home in time.*

**telescope**

(say **tel**-uh-skohp)

*noun* a tube-shaped device you look through, which makes things that are far away seem closer and bigger:

*The stars looked much brighter through the telescope.*

**turbine**

(say **ter**-buyn)

*noun* a turning motor in which a wheel with blades is driven by a liquid or gas passing through it:

*The turbine was propelled by water.*

## Senior Technology Level 4

### aerodrome

(say **air**-ruh-droh-m)

*noun* a landing field for aeroplanes which is smaller than an airport but which has hangars and other buildings:

*The plane was forced to land at the aerodrome instead of the city airport.*

### aerosol

(say **air**-ruh-sol)

*noun* a substance made up of tiny particles mixed into a gas:

*To protect us against insects on the bushwalk, we took an aerosol as well as a cream insecticide.*

### aluminium

(say al-yuh-**min**-ee-uh-m)

*noun* a light, silvery-grey type of metal:

*Aluminium is used to make cans, and can be rolled into thin sheets to make aluminium foil.*

### analyst

(say **an**-uh-luhst)

*noun* someone who analyses or who is skilled in analysis:

*We had to engage a computer analyst to sort out our network problems.*

### antenna

(say an-**ten**-uh)

*noun* a wire or rod that you put up to receive radio or television signals:

*I had to adjust the antenna on the radio to receive a good signal.*

### appliance

(say uh-**pluy**-uhns)

*noun* a tool which has a motor worked by electricity:

*The best appliance in the kitchen is the dishwasher.*

### automation

(say aw-tuh-**may**-shuhn)

*noun* the use of machines instead of people to do jobs in factories:

*Automation led to a decrease in factory workers.*

### aviation

(say ay-vee-**ay**-shuhn)

*noun* the science or act of flying in an aircraft:

*The air force had an exhibition on the history of aviation.*

### circuitry

(say **ser**-kuh-tree)

*noun* a system of electrical circuits:

*The toaster stopped working because of a problem in the circuitry.*

### combustion

(say kuhm-**bus**-chuhn)

*noun* the process of burning:

*The heater worked on a process of slow combustion.*

### contraption

(say kuhn-**trap**-shuhn)

*noun* a complicated device or piece of machinery:

*They pulled the contraption apart to try and see how it worked.*

**cyberspace**

(say **su**y-buh-space)

*noun* the internet:

*She spent hours at the computer lost in cyberspace.*

**desalinator**

(say dee-**sal**-uh-nay-tuh)

*noun* a device producing drinkable water from salt or brackish water:

*The desalinator can process many thousands of litres a day.*

**electricity**

(say uh-lek-**triss**-uh-tee)

*noun* a form of energy which can be used for heating, lighting, driving a motor, and other things:

*We had no electricity in our house because a tree fell across the wires.*

**ethanol**

(say **eth**-uh-nol or **ee**-thuh-nol)

*noun* an alcohol produced from crops and used as a biofuel:

*Ethanol can be blended with other fuels for use in vehicles.*

**generator**

(say **jen**-uh-ray-tuh)

*noun* a machine for producing electricity:

*The hospital was able to depend on the generator when power cuts occurred.*

**globalism**

(say **gloh**-buh-liz-uhm)

*noun* the pursuit of globalisation:

*They are convinced that the future lies in globalism rather than in the pursuit of national interests.*

**helicopter**

(say **hel**-ee-kop-tuh)

*noun* an aircraft without wings which flies by means of a large propeller on the top:

*A helicopter carrying nearly 10 000 litres of water was used to fight the bushfire.*

**medicine**

(say **med**-uh-suhn or **med**-suhn)

*noun* a substance used in treating sickness:

*Take some cough medicine and you'll feel better.*

**microprocessor**

(say mui-kroh-**proh**-ses-uh)

*noun* the most important electronic chip in a computer:

*A computer would not be able to work without a microprocessor.*

**observatory**

(say uhb-**zerv**-uh-tree)

*noun* a building equipped with powerful telescopes for looking at the stars, planets and weather patterns:

*It is great to visit an observatory when there is a comet in the sky.*

**optician**

(say op-**tish**-uhn)

*noun* someone who makes or sells glasses:

*The optician mended my glasses after I accidentally stepped on them.*

**programming**

(say **proh**-gram-ing)

*noun* the writing of instructions in a computer language which will cause a computer to perform a particular operation:

*My sister is studying programming because she loves working with computers.*

**radiography**

(say ray-dee-**og**-ruh-fee)

*noun* the production of pictures caused by the action of X-rays on a photographic plate, especially as used in medicine:

*The development of radiography was a major step in modern medicine, allowing doctors to see inside the human body.*

**reactor**

(say ree-**ak**-tuh)

*noun* a machine which produces nuclear energy:

*Australia's first nuclear reactor was shut down at the beginning of 2007 to make way for a new one.*

**receptor**

(say ruh-**sep**-tuh)

*noun* one of or a group of the end organs of sensory or afferent neurons, specialised to be sensitive to stimulating agents:

*The first level of feeling in the body starts at the receptor -- and there are many of these in the skin to feel things like heat, cold, pain and pressure.*

**satellite**

(say **sat**-uh-luyt)

*noun* an object sent into orbit around the earth or around another planet to send information back to earth:

*The satellite transmitted images of Mercury's surface back to Earth.*

**simulator**

(say **sim**-yuh-lay-tuh)

*noun* a device used in training or experiments that simulates movement or flight:

*Pilots begin their training on a simulator before actually flying a plane.*

**simulcast**

(say **sim**-uhl-kahst)

*noun* a program broadcast on both television and radio at the same time:

*The concert was to be presented as a simulcast on television and radio before the end of the year.*

**stethoscope**

(say **steth**-uh-skohp)

*noun* an instrument used by doctors to listen to the sounds made by the heart and lungs:

*The doctor placed the stethoscope on my back and listened while I took a deep breath.*

**telecommunication**

(say tel-uh-kuh-myoooh-nuh-**kay**-shuhn)

*noun* the sending of information by line or radio waves:

*An air strike had destroyed sites necessary for telecommunication.*

**telecommute**

(say tel-ee-kuh-**myooht**)

*verb* (i) (**telecommuted**; **telecommuting**)

to work at home, using equipment such as computers and telephones to communicate with one's work base:

*Because of computers and the internet, many workers are able to telecommute.*

**transmitter**

(say trans-**mit**-uh)

*noun* the part of a radio system which produces and changes the radio waves and sends them out to the aerial:

*The radio transmitter was out of order.*

**transportation**

(say trans-paw-**tay**-shuhn)

*noun* the act of transporting:

*The train is the best form of transportation for moving large groups of people at the same time.*

**ultraviolet**

(say ul-truh-**vuy**-uh-luht)

*adjective* beyond the violet end of the light spectrum:

*The ultraviolet light rays from the sun can burn you.*

**vehicle**

(say **vee**-ik-uhl)

*noun* a form of transport, such as a car or bicycle:

*My brother's favourite type of vehicle is a racing car.*

## Senior Technology Level 5

### analgesic

(say an-uhl-**jee**-zik)

*noun* a medicine that removes or lessens pain:

*She took an analgesic and soon her headache improved.*

### antibiotic

(say an-tee-buy-**ot**-ik)

*noun* a drug capable of killing bacteria and other germs:

*The doctor prescribed an antibiotic for my chest infection.*

### centrifugal

(say sen-**trif**-uh-guhl or sen-truh-**fyoo**h-guhl)

*adjective* moving outwards from the centre:

*Centrifugal force is what keeps water in a bucket when you swing it over your head.*

### chemotherapy

(say kee-moh-**ther**-uh-pee)

*noun* the treatment of disease using chemicals as drugs, especially in treating cancer:

*Different kinds of chemotherapy are used in treating cancer.*

### gasification

(say gas-uh-fuh-**kay**-shuhn)

*noun* the process of converting a substance into gas:

*Coal gasification is a way of reducing the pollution caused by the burning of coal.*

### gelignite

(say **jel**-uhg-nuyt)

*noun* an explosive substance used in mining:

*The miners kept their store of gelignite locked away safely.*

### interstellar

(say **in**-tuh-stel-uh)

*adjective* between the stars:

*The science fiction novel was about interstellar travel.*

### pharmaceutical

(say fahm-uh-**syoo**ht-i-kuhl)

*adjective* relating to the preparation of drugs used in medicine:

*The pharmaceutical company is about to release a new asthma medication.*

### seismograph

(say **suyz**-muh-graf)

*noun* an instrument for measuring and recording vibrations within the earth, such as earthquakes:

*At the museum, we were shown how a seismograph measures the strength of an earthquake.*

### stereophonic

(say ste-ree-uh-**fon**-ik)

*adjective* using two channels and two speakers to transmit and broadcast sound:

*Joshua listened to his MP3 player with stereophonic headphones.*

### synthesis

(say **sin**-thuh-suhs)

*noun* the mixing together of parts into a whole:

*The synthesis of all the different seeds created a stunning garden of flowers.*

**technician**

(say tek-**nish**-uhn)

*noun* someone skilled in the technical aspects of something:

*We called a technician when the photocopier broke down.*

**teleprompter**

(say **tel**-uh-promp-tuh)

*noun* a device used especially by television performers, on which words to be spoken appear while the speaker reads them:

*When the teleprompter broke down, the TV host didn't know what to say.*

**titanium**

(say tuy-**tay**-nee-uhm)

*noun* a dark grey metal used to remove oxygen and nitrogen from steel and to toughen it:

*Titanium can make steel extremely strong.*

**vaccinate**

(say **vak**-suh-nayt)

*verb* to give a vaccine to in order to prevent illness:

*We had to vaccinate against hepatitis before travelling overseas.*

## Senior Technology Level 6

### appendectomy

(say ap-en-**dek**-tuh-mee)

*noun* the removal of the vermiform appendix:

*She went to the hospital with severe stomach pains and the surgeon performed an emergency appendectomy.*

### binoculars

(say buh-**nok**-yuh-luhz)

*plural noun* magnifying glasses for both eyes, used for making distant objects seem nearer:

*Tony watched the horserace through binoculars.*

### bioremediation

(say buy-oh-ruh-mee-dee-**ay**-shuhn)

*noun* the use of organisms to counteract damage done to the environment by oil spills and the like:

*The environmental consultant was employed after the oil spill because of her knowledge about bioremediation.*

### centrifuge

(say **sen**-truh-fyoohj or **sen**-truh-fyoohzh)

*noun* a machine used to separate two substances by spinning them around very fast in a rotating container:

*A centrifuge is used to separate serum from blood.*

### chromatography

(say kroh-muh-**tog**-ruh-fee)

*noun* a method of separating mixtures into their parts:

*We studied chromatography in our science class by dipping chromatography paper into different solutions.*

### defibrillator

(say dee-**fib**-ruh-lay-tuh)

*noun* a medical apparatus which uses an electric shock to restore normal heart rhythm:

*The paramedics used a defibrillator to get the man's heart pumping properly.*

### diagnostician

(say duy-uhg-nos-**tish**-uhn)

*noun* an expert in making diagnoses:

*The doctor consulted a specialist diagnostician to find out what was wrong with the sick man.*

### fluorescence

(say flooh-**res**-uhns or fluh-**res**-uhns)

*noun* the ability that certain substances have to give out light when exposed to radiation or a stream of high energy particles, such as electrons:

*Scientists in Antarctica measure fluorescence to detect stress in plants caused by pollutants.*

### fluoridation

(say flooh-ruh-**day**-shuhn)

*noun* the addition of fluoride to toothpaste, to the water supply and so on, to help prevent tooth decay:

*Fluoridation of the water supply has led to a reduction in tooth decay.*

**inoculate**

(say in-**ok**-yuh-layt)

*noun* to inject someone with germs which give them a very mild form of a disease in order to protect them from that same disease later:

*The doctor wanted to inoculate her older patients against the flu before winter.*

**oscilloscope**

(say uh-**sil**-uh-skohp)

*noun* a device which shows varying voltage or current flow:

*The oscilloscope showed a lot of variation in the current flow.*

**polyphonic**

(say pol-uh-**fon**-ik)

*noun* consisting of many voices or sounds:

*Polyphonic ringtones are available on most mobile phones these days.*

**tachometer**

(say tak-**om**-uh-tuh)

*noun* an instrument for measuring the revolutions per minute of a machine:

*The tachometer in a car shows the speed of the engine, not how fast the car is actually going.*

## Senior Technology Level 7

### **anemometer**

(say an-uh-**mom**-uh-tuh)

*noun* an instrument for indicating wind velocity:

*A pilot needs an anemometer because knowing wind speed is vital when flying a plane.*

### **dialysis**

(say duy-**al**-uh-suhs)

*noun* the removal of waste products from the blood by passing it through a special machine:

*People with malfunctioning kidneys have to regularly undergo dialysis.*

### **pyrotechnic**

(say puy-roh-**tek**-nik)

*adjective* relating to fireworks:

*The fantastic pyrotechnic display lit up the sky on New Year's Eve.*