

BARRON'S

1100 WORDS

You Need to Know

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MURRAY BROMBERG AND MELVIN GORDON

SEVENTH EDITION



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INTRODUCTION

The study of the English language has spread all over the world, and high school and college students everywhere have come to realize that language mastery depends on the possession of a comprehensive vocabulary. This is just what *1100 Words You Need to Know* has been offering through the six earlier editions and continuing on this seventh one.

We are proud that Amazon.com has rated this book as a bestseller in its category. In addition to the various exercises that help readers learn challenging vocabulary, take a look at the section called “The Lighter Touch 100,” which shows that vocabulary can be taught with a sense of humor. By investing a mere 15 minutes a day with this new book, you will soon see a dramatic improvement in your vocabulary.

Special thanks to Ellis Bromberg and Kyra Bromberg for their assistance in editing the Seventh Edition of *1100 Words You Need to Know*.

Murray Bromberg
Melvin Gordon

FULL PRONUNCIATION KEY

a	apple, bat	j	just, enjoy	u	bull, foot
ā	age, lace	k	kin, talk	ur	sure, pure
ā	alms, father	l	lose, hurl	ū	ooze, cute
ār	arm, jar	m	mice, cram	û	up, month
b	bag, sob	n	not, into	v	vast, have
ch	chill, such	ŋ	song, ring	w	wish, squeak
d	done, said	o	ox, rot	y	youth, few
ə	around, waken, pencil, demon	ō	open, blow	z	zoo, buzz
e	elk, met	ô	all, bought	zh	genre, pleasure
ē	ease, see	ōi	oil, boy	-	denotes separate syllables
er	air, wear	ōr	ore, cord	-	denotes that the following syllable is the stressed syllable
ēr	urn, worth	ou	owl, mouse	(y)	parentheses denote an optional sound in pronunciation
f	feel, stiff	p	pest, cap		
g	gone, big	r	red, tree		
h	him, behind	s	spell, best		
hw	which, whale	sh	shrug, crash		
i	inch, pin	t	time, act		
ir	ear, cheer	th	think, teeth		
ī	ivy, hide	TH	this, breathe		

WEEK 1 ❖ DAY 1

READING WISELY

The youngster who reads *voraciously*, though *indiscriminately*, does not necessarily gain in wisdom over the teenager who is more selective in his reading choices. A student who has read the life story of every *eminent* athlete of the twentieth century, or one who has *steeped* herself in every social-protest novel she can get her hands on, may very well be learning all there is to know in a narrow area. But books are *replete* with so many wonders that it is often discouraging to see bright young people limit their own experiences.

Sample Sentences On the basis of the above paragraph, try to use your new words in the following sentences. Occasionally it may be necessary to change the ending of a word; e.g., *indiscriminate* to *indiscriminately*.

1. The football game was _____ with excitement and great plays.
2. The _____ author received the Nobel Prize for literature.
3. My cousin is so _____ in schoolwork that his friends call him a bookworm.
4. After skiing, I find that I have a _____ appetite.
5. Modern warfare often results in the _____ killing of combatants and innocent civilians alike.

Definitions Now that you have seen and used the new words in sentences, and have the definitions "on the tip of your tongue," try to pair the words with their meanings.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| 6. voracious | _____ | a. of high reputation, outstanding |
| 7. indiscriminate | _____ | b. completely filled or supplied with |
| 8. eminent | _____ | c. choosing at random without careful selection |
| 9. steeped | _____ | d. desiring or consuming great quantities |
| 10. replete | _____ | e. soaked, drenched, saturated |

TODAY'S IDIOM

***eat humble pie*—to admit your error and apologize**

After his candidate had lost the election, the boastful campaign manager had to *eat humble pie*.

NEW WORDS
abound

ə - ˈbaʊnd

technology

tek - ˈnɒ - lə - jē

prognosticate

prog - ˈnɒ - stə - kāt

abode

ə - bɒd

automaton

ɔ̄ - ˈtə - mə - tɒn

SOLVING THE SERVANT PROBLEM

The worlds of science fiction *abound* with wonders. Yet modern *technology* progresses so rapidly that what is today's wild dream may be next year's kitchen appliance. A British scientist has *prognosticated* that within ten years every suburban *abode* will have its own robot servant. One task this domesticated *automaton* will not have to contend with will be scouring the oven because even today the newest ranges can be programmed to reduce their own baked-on grime to easily disposed of ash.

Sample Sentences Now that you've seen the words used in context, and—hopefully—have an idea of their meanings, try to use them in the following sentences. Remember that a word-ending may have to be changed.

1. The mayor refused to _____ as to his margin of victory in the election.
2. The time is approaching when human workers may be replaced by _____.
3. Mel's new two-bedroom _____ overlooks a lake where many birds nest.
4. The western plains used to _____ with bison before those animals were slaughtered by settlers.
5. Man may be freed from backbreaking labor by the products of scientific _____.

Definitions Test yourself now by matching the new words with the definitions. If you are not sure of yourself, cover the top half of this page before you begin.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| 6. abound | _____ | a. a place where one lives |
| 7. technology | _____ | b. branch of knowledge dealing with engineering, applied science, etc. |
| 8. prognosticate | _____ | c. a robot; a mechanical "person" |
| 9. abode | _____ | d. to exist in great numbers |
| 10. automaton | _____ | e. to predict or foretell a future event |

TODAY'S IDIOM

a pig in a poke—an item you purchase without having seen; a disappointment

The mail order bicycle that my nephew bought turned out to be *a pig in a poke*, and he is now trying to get his money back.

WEEK 1 ❖ DAY 3

A LUCKY FIND ON THE SUBWAY?

Sylvia regularly took a crowded subway train to work during rush hour, so she found it to be a *paradox* one hot, steamy Tuesday to easily find a seat in a car that was nearly empty. She wondered how, in the *realm* of possibilities, this could be; how often in the *annals* of subway history had there been such a fortunate occurrence? To *compound* the puzzle, looking out the window she could see many commuters busily racing on the platform to fill other cars. It was not until she saw the sign on the door that she realized, with a *tinge* of resignation, why she had been so “lucky” this morning: “We apologize, but the air conditioning is not working in this car.”

Sample Sentences Try your hand now at using your new words by writing them in their correct form (change endings if necessary) in these sentences:

1. His gloom was now _____ by the failing mark on his geometry test.
2. The _____ of sports are filled with great athletes of color.
3. One of the great _____ of American life is that though minority groups have suffered injustices, nowhere in the world have so many varied groups lived together so harmoniously.
4. A _____ of garlic is all that’s necessary in most recipes.
5. The cruel king would not allow the prince to enter his _____, restricting him to the forest, which abounded* with wild animals.

(*abounded—studied previously, see page 2. Each review word studied previously will be followed by an asterisk—you will find the first use of the word by consulting the index at the back of the book.)

Definitions If you are having trouble in picking the right definitions, it may be best *not* to do them in the order given, but to do the ones you are surest of first.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| 6. paradox | _____ | a. a trace, smattering, or slight degree |
| 7. realm | _____ | b. a statement that at first seems to be absurd or self-contradictory but which may in fact turn out to be true |
| 8. annals | _____ | c. to increase or add to |
| 9. compound (v.) | _____ | d. historical records |
| 10. tinge (n.) | _____ | e. special field of something or someone; kingdom |

TODAY’S IDIOM

a flash in the pan—promising at the start, but then disappointing

The rookie hit many home runs in spring training, but once the season began he proved to be a *flash in the pan*.

NEW WORDS
badger (v.)

ˈbɑ - jər

implore

ɪm - ˈplɔr

drudgery

ˈdrú - jə - rē

interminable

ɪn - ˈtɛr - mən - ə - bəl

perceive

pər - ˈsēv

HOW NOT TO GET YOUR WAY

It is difficult to change someone's opinion by *badgering* him. The child who begs his mother to "get off his back" when she *implores* him for some assistance with the household *drudgery*, may very well plead *interminably* for some special privilege when he wants something for himself. How *paradoxical** that neither is able to *perceive* that no one likes being nagged.

Sample Sentences Getting the hang of it? Now go on to use the five new words in the following sentences—remember, past tenses may be required.

1. She does her homework on Fridays to save herself from the _____ of having to do it during the weekend.
2. The teacher continually _____ the pupil for the missing assignments.
3. The eminent* scientist _____ difficulties in putting the invention into practice.
4. The sick child's mother _____ the doctor to come immediately.
5. I listened to the boring lecture for what seemed an _____ fifty minutes.

Definitions Pick the letter of the definition that matches your new word and write it in the answer space.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| 6. badger (v.) | _____ | a. unpleasant, dull, or hard work |
| 7. implore | _____ | b. unending |
| 8. drudgery | _____ | c. to plead urgently for aid or mercy |
| 9. interminable | _____ | d. to understand, know, become aware of |
| 10. perceive | _____ | e. to pester, nag, annoy persistently |

TODAY'S IDIOM

***get one's ducks in a row*—to have everything organized, have one's facts straight**

Alexandra spent a good hour before her presentation to the group being sure to *get her ducks in a row*.

You have accomplished something worthwhile this week. In learning twenty useful words and four idioms, you have taken a step toward a greater mastery of the English language. As a result of today's lesson, you will become aware of those words that require greater study on your part for complete success in these first lessons.

Take the following quiz by matching the best possible definition with the word you have studied. Write the letter that stands for that definition in the appropriate answer space.

REVIEW WORDS

- ___ 1. abode
- ___ 2. abound
- ___ 3. annals
- ___ 4. automaton
- ___ 5. badger (v.)
- ___ 6. compound (v.)
- ___ 7. drudgery
- ___ 8. eminent
- ___ 9. implore
- ___ 10. indiscriminate
- ___ 11. interminable
- ___ 12. paradox
- ___ 13. perceive
- ___ 14. prognosticate
- ___ 15. realm
- ___ 16. replete
- ___ 17. steeped
- ___ 18. technology
- ___ 19. tinge (n.)
- ___ 20. voracious

DEFINITIONS

- a. to be completely soaked in something
- b. to be able to tell what will happen in the future
- c. someone's special field
- d. to continually nag
- e. carelessly chosen
- f. related to science of engineering
- g. to add to
- h. to beg for assistance
- i. of outstanding reputation
- j. a home or dwelling
- k. small amount of
- l. dull, difficult work
- m. desiring huge amount
- n. existing in great number
- o. historical records
- p. to come to have an understanding of
- q. completely filled with
- r. machine that behaves like a person
- s. seemingly self-contradictory situation
- t. unending

IDIOMS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ___ 21. eat humble pie | u. blind item, poor purchase |
| ___ 22. a pig in a poke | v. to admit to defeat |
| ___ 23. a flash in the pan | w. a star today, a flop tomorrow |
| ___ 24. get one's ducks in a row | x. to get organized |

Now check your answers on page 295. Make a record of those words you missed. You can learn them successfully by studying them and by using them in your own original sentences. If you put in the effort to build your vocabulary, it will be worth your while.

WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

MEANINGS

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

SENSIBLE SENTENCES?

(From Week 1)

❖ Underline the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. The huge football player had a (*voracious, replete*) appetite.
2. After a seemingly (*interminable, indiscriminate*) wait, the surgeon came to give us the news.
3. Without a (*paradox, tinge*) of evidence, the coroner could not solve the murder.
4. As the proverb goes, "in the (*realm, annals*) of the blind, the one-eyed man is king."
5. We invited the (*eminent, steeped*) engineer to address our club.
6. In the Catskill Mountains, the woods (*abound, implore*) with deer.
7. I cannot (*perceive, prognosticate*) why people voted for the corrupt senator.
8. Night and day my kid brother (*badgers, compounds*) me for money.
9. Science fiction movies usually feature (*annals, automatons*).
10. With his expertise in (*drudgery, technology*), my uncle is able to earn a good salary.

❖ Do these sentences make sense? Explain why.

11. The rookie was amazing during spring training but he turned out to be a *flash in the pan*.
12. I complained to the salesperson because he had sold me a *pig in a poke*.
13. After we *got our ducks in a row*, our vacation plans went smoothly.
14. After the election, when my candidate conceded his loss, I had to *eat humble pie*.

WORDSEARCH

- ❖ Using the clues listed below, fill in each blank in the following story with one of the new words you learned this week.

Reggie the Con Man

In the ① _____ of crime, there are few scoundrels who could match the exploits of Reggie Hayes, who also used the names of Reginald Haven, Ricardo Hermosa, Father Harris, and dozens of other aliases. Reggie's police record, principally in Chicago and Baltimore, is ② _____ with scams that he perpetrated upon gullible people.

Dressed as a priest ("Father Harris"), and using no sophisticated ③ _____, he was most convincing, however. His method of operation was to "find" a wallet stuffed with hundred dollar bills outside a supermarket and then urgently ④ _____ an unsuspecting woman to share his good fortune, since there was no identification in the wallet. But first, to establish her credibility, his victim had to put up a sum of money as a testimonial to her good faith. Mrs. Emma Schultz, age 72, tearfully told the police that she had withdrawn \$14,000 from her bank and placed it in a shopping bag supplied by the helpful priest. He told her to hold onto the bag while he went next door to a lawyer's office to make the sharing of their good fortune legal.

After a seemingly ⑤ _____ wait, Mrs. Schultz discovered to her chagrin that the heartless thief had skipped out the back way, leaving her "holding the bag"—a switched bag containing shredded newspaper—while he made his getaway with her life savings.

Clues

- ① 3rd Day
- ② 1st Day
- ③ 2nd Day
- ④ 4th Day
- ⑤ 4th Day

NEW WORDS
laconic

lə - 'ko - nɪk

throng

'θrɒŋ

intrepid

ɪn - 'tre - pɪd

accost

ə - 'kɒst

reticent

're - tə - sənt

TO THE POINT

Calvin Coolidge, our thirtieth president, was named "Silent Cal" by reporters because of his *laconic* speech. One Sunday, after Mr. Coolidge had listened to an interminable* sermon, a *throng* of newsmen gathered around him. An *intrepid* reporter *accosted* the Chief Executive: "Mr. President, we know that the sermon was on the topic of sin. What did the minister say?" "He was against it," the *reticent* Coolidge replied.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. His speech was usually rambling, but this time I found it brief and _____.
2. If a surly panhandler should _____ you, keep on walking.
3. Even under repeated questioning, the witness remained _____.
4. A howling _____ of teenage girls surrounded the pop stars.
5. The corporal received the Silver Star for his _____ deeds in combat.

Definitions Match the new words with their dictionary meanings.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 6. laconic | _____ | a. expressing much in few words |
| 7. throng | _____ | b. brave |
| 8. intrepid | _____ | c. to approach and speak to |
| 9. accost | _____ | d. to crowd |
| 10. reticent | _____ | e. inclined to be reserved |

TODAY'S IDIOM

sword of Damocles ('da - mə - klēz)—any imminent danger (a king seated one of his subjects underneath a sword that was hanging by a hair, in order to teach him the dangers a king faces)

Although the president of the company seemed quite secure, he always believed that there was a *sword of Damocles* hanging over his head.

fi
fēr - tiv

 felon
fe - lən

 plethora
ple - thə - rə

 hapless
hap - lis

 irate
ī - rāt

WEEK 2 ❖ DAY 2

IF I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL

Casting a *furtive* glance over his shoulder, the *felon* slipped out the main prison gate to be swallowed up in the British fog. A *plethora* of escapes from supposedly secure prisons embarrassed the *hapless* wardens. To compound* their problems, the officials were badgered* by *irate* citizens who accused the guards of accepting bribes from convicts whose motto was: "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage."

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

- The _____ contest winner was unable to locate the lucky ticket.
- My uncle was _____ when the drunken driver swerved in front of us.
- In a _____ manner she removed her shoes and tiptoed up to her room.
- When the teacher asked why the homework had not been done, he was greeted by a _____ of incredible alibis.
- When his wife learned that Bob associated with a dangerous _____, she divorced him.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 6. furtive | _____ | a. angry, incensed |
| 7. felon | _____ | b. person guilty of a major crime |
| 8. plethora | _____ | c. unfortunate |
| 9. hapless | _____ | d. excess |
| 10. irate | _____ | e. secret, stealthy |

TODAY'S IDIOM

***Pyrrhic* ('pir - ik) victory**—a too costly victory
(King Pyrrhus defeated the Romans, but his losses were extremely heavy)

In heavy fighting the troops managed to recapture the hill, but it could only be considered a *Pyrrhic victory*, given the significant loss of life.

NEW WORDS
pretext

ˈprē - tekst

fabricate

ˈfa - brə - kāt

adroit

ə - ˈdrɔɪt

gesticulate

ʒe - ˈsti - kyə - lāt

vigilant

ˈvi - jə - lənt

DR. JEKYLL OR MR. HYDE?

Under the *pretext* of being a surgeon he gained entry to the hospital. When interviewed by the director, he had to *fabricate* a tale of his medical experience, but he was so *adroit* at lying that he got away with it. It was not until the phony "doctor" began to *gesticulate* wildly with his scalpel, that a *vigilant* nurse was able to detect the fraud. In the *annals** of medical history there have been a number of such cases.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

- The shootings at Columbine High School made educators much more _____.
- My nephew is quite _____ at making model airplanes.
- Most fishermen can _____ a story about the size of the one that got away.
- Her _____ of being tired did not fool us for an instant.
- It's difficult to miss the traffic officer when he _____ at the onrushing cars.

Definitions Pick the letter of the definition that matches your new word and write it in the answer space.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 6. pretext | _____ | a. to lie, construct |
| 7. fabricate | _____ | b. skillful |
| 8. adroit | _____ | c. an excuse |
| 9. gesticulate | _____ | d. watchful |
| 10. vigilant | _____ | e. to move the arms energetically |

TODAY'S IDIOM
wet blanket—one who spoils the fun

Everyone wanted the party to go on, but Ronnie, the *wet blanket*, decided to go home to bed.

WEEK 2 ❖ DAY 4

YOU'VE GOT TO BE A FOOTBALL EXPERT

As an *avid* football fan, I try to see every game the Jets play. Whenever I can *cajole* my father into accompanying me, I try to do so. He has only a *rudimentary* knowledge of the game, and since I am steeped* in it, I enjoy explaining its intricate details to him. It certainly does *enhance* your appreciation of football when you are aware of every *nuance* of the sport.

a - vid

 cajole
kə - 'jöl

 rudimentary
rū - də - 'men - tə - rē

 enhance
in - 'hans

 nuance
'n(y)ū - äns

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences. You may have to change the ending of a word.

1. Since my grasp of calculus is _____, I cannot solve the problem.
2. The parakeet refused to be _____ into entering her cage.
3. It will _____ your enjoyment of an opera if you know what the plot is about in advance.
4. In reading the satires of Jonathan Swift, one must be vigilant* in order to catch each _____.
5. President Trump was an _____ user of social media, regularly tweeting comments about issues and people.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--|
| 6. avid | _____ | a. eager |
| 7. cajole | _____ | b. slight variation in meaning, tone, etc. |
| 8. rudimentary | _____ | c. to coax |
| 9. enhance | _____ | d. to intensify, heighten |
| 10. nuance | _____ | e. elementary |

TODAY'S IDIOM

the stars align—when an unexpected event takes place

It seemed *the stars had aligned* when Demetrius got his wish to play first violin in the orchestra.

REVIEW

WEEK 2 ❖ DA

Keep adding to your vocabulary, as it is one of the most useful tools a student can possess. Let's go over the twenty new words and four idioms you studied during this week.

In the following quiz, match the best possible definition with the word you have studied. Write the letter that stands for that definition in the appropriate answer space.

REVIEW WORDS

- _____ 1. accost
- _____ 2. adroit
- _____ 3. avid
- _____ 4. cajole
- _____ 5. enhance
- _____ 6. fabricate
- _____ 7. felon
- _____ 8. furtive
- _____ 9. gesticulate
- _____ 10. hapless
- _____ 11. intrepid
- _____ 12. irate
- _____ 13. laconic
- _____ 14. nuance
- _____ 15. plethora
- _____ 16. pretext
- _____ 17. reticent
- _____ 18. rudimentary
- _____ 19. throng
- _____ 20. vigilant

DEFINITIONS

- a. uncommunicative
- b. enthusiastic
- c. alert
- d. overabundance
- e. courageous
- f. to aggressively approach
- g. an excuse
- h. unlucky
- i. angry
- j. criminal
- k. basic, elementary
- l. clever
- m. to make up a lie
- n. great number of people
- o. concise, pithy
- p. to use lively gestures
- q. shade of difference
- r. sly
- s. to coax, wheedle
- t. to make greater

IDIOMS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ 21. sword of Damocles | u. an expensive conquest |
| _____ 22. Pyrrhic victory | v. spoilsport |
| _____ 23. wet blanket | w. a happy and unexpected event |
| _____ 24. the stars align | x. any threatening danger |

WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

MEANINGS

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |

Now check your answers on page 295. Make a record of those words you missed. You can learn them successfully by studying them and using them in your own original sentences. If you expend the effort in building up your vocabulary, it will be worth your while.

A BARRON'S BEST-SELLER FOR 50 YEARS!

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR—

- High school students preparing for the SAT, ACT, and other tests
- College students who need to improve their grades
- Adults who want to get more out of their reading, the Internet, movies, and TV

Every new word is placed in the context of a sentence selected from a well-known novel, play, poem, or even from an interesting newspaper editorial or popular TV show. Students will also find *The Lighter Touch 100*, an enduring and popular collection of 100 funny one-liners that help build vocabulary, as well as indexes of idioms, which appear throughout the book and are entirely new to this edition.

BARRON'S

