

Vocabulary Unit Eight

1. **Allege** (v.) to assert without proof or confirmation
2. **Arrant** (adj.) thoroughgoing, out-and-out, shameless, blatant
3. **Badinage** (n.) light and playful conversation
4. **Conciliate** (v.) to overcome the distrust of, win over; to appease, pacify; to reconcile, make consistent
5. **Countermand** (v.) to cancel or reverse one order or command with another that is contrary to the first
6. **Echelon** (n.) one of a series of grades in an organization or field of activity; an organized military unit; a step-like formation or arrangement
7. **Exacerbate** (v.) to make more violent, severe, bitter, or painful
8. **Fatuous** (adj.) stupid or foolish in a self-satisfied way
9. **Irrefutable** (adj.) impossible to disprove; beyond argument
10. **Juggernaut** (n.) a massive and inescapable force or object that crushes whatever is in its path
11. **Lackadaisical** (adj.) lacking spirit or interest, halfhearted
12. **Litany** (n.) a prayer consisting of short appeals to God recited by the leader alternating responses from the congregation; any repetitive chant; a long list
13. **Macabre** (adj.) grisly, gruesome; horrible, distressing; having death as a subject
14. **Paucity** (n.) an inadequate quantity, scarcity, dearth
15. **Portend** (v.) to indicate beforehand that something is about to happen; to give advance warning of
16. **Raze** (v.) to tear down, destroy completely; to cut or scrape off or out
17. **Recant** (v.) to withdraw a statement or belief to which one has previously been committed, renounce, retract
18. **Saturate** (v.) to soak thoroughly, fill to capacity; to satisfy fully
19. **Saturnine** (adj.) of a gloomy or surly disposition; cold or sluggish in mood
20. **Slough** (v.) to cast off, discard; to get rid of something objectionable or unnecessary; to plod through as if through mud; (n.) a mire; a state of depression