

Vocabulary Unit Ten

1. Askance (adj.) with suspicion, distrust, or disapproval
2. Attenuate (v.) to make thin or slender; to weaken or lessen in force, intensity or value
3. Benign (adj.) gentle, kind; forgiving, understanding; having a favorable or beneficial effect; not malignant
4. Cavil (v.) to find fault in a petty way, carp; (n.) a trivial objection or criticism
5. Charlatan (n.) one who feigns knowledge or ability; a pretender, impostor, or quack
6. Decimate (v.) to kill or destroy a large part of
7. Foible (n.) a weak point, failing, minor flaw
8. Forgo (v.) to do without, abstain from, give up
9. Fraught (adj.) full of or loaded with; accompanied by
10. Inure (v.) to toughen, harden; to render used to something by long subjection or exposure
11. Luminous (adj.) emitting or reflecting light, glowing; illuminating
12. Obsequious (adj.) marked by slavish attentiveness; excessively submissive, often for purely self-interested reasons
13. Obtuse (adj.) blunt, not coming to a point; slow or dull in understanding; measuring between 90 and 180 degrees; not causing a sharp impression
14. Oscillate (v.) to swing back and forth with a steady rhythm; to fluctuate or waver
15. Penitent (adj.) regretful for one's sins or mistakes; (n.) one who is sorry for wrongdoing
16. Peremptory (adj.) having the nature of a command that leaves no opportunity for debate, denial, or refusal; offensively self-assured, dictatorial; determined, resolute
17. Rebuff (v.) to snub; to repel, drive away; (n.) a curt rejection, a check
18. Reconnoiter (v.) to engage in reconnaissance; to make preliminary inspection
19. Shambles (n.) a slaughterhouse; a place of mass bloodshed; a state of complete disorder and confusion, mess
20. Sporadic (adj.) occurring at irregular intervals, having no set plan or order