

## Vocabulary Unit Two

1. **Accost** (v.) to approach and speak to first; to confront in a challenging or aggressive way
2. **Animadversion** (n.) a comment indicating strong criticism or disapproval
3. **Avid** (adj.) desirous of something to the point of greed; intensely eager
4. **Brackish** (adj.) having a salty taste and unpleasant to drink
5. **Celerity** (n.) swiftness, rapidity of motion or action
6. **Devious** (adj.) straying or wandering from a straight or direct course; done or acting in a shifty or underhanded way
7. **Gambit** (n.) in chess, an opening move that involves risk or sacrifice of a minor piece in order to gain a later advantage; any opening move of this type
8. **Halcyon** (n.) a legendary bird identified with the kingfisher; (adj.) of or relating to the halcyon; calm, peaceful, happy, golden; prosperous, affluent
9. **Histrionic** (adj.) pertaining to actors and their techniques; theatrical, artificial; melodramatic
10. **Incendiary** (adj.) deliberately setting or causing fires; designed to start fires; tending to stir up strife or rebellion; (n.) one who deliberately sets fires, arsonist; one who causes strife
11. **Maelstrom** (n.) a whirlpool of great size and violence; a situation resembling a whirlpool in violence and destruction
12. **Myopic** (adj.) nearsighted; lacking a broad, realistic view of a situation; lacking foresight or discernment
13. **Overt** (adj.) open, not hidden, expressed or revealed in a way that is easily recognized
14. **Pejorative** (adj.) tending to make worse; expressing disapproval or disparagement, derogatory, deprecatory, belittling
15. **Propriety** (n.) the state of being proper, appropriateness; (pl.) standards of what is proper or socially acceptable
16. **Sacrilege** (n.) improper or disrespectful treatment of something held sacred
17. **Summarily** (adj.) without delay or formality; briefly, concisely
18. **Suppliant** (adj.) asking humbly and earnestly; (n.) one who makes a request humbly and earnestly, a petitioner, suitor
19. **Talisman** (n.) an object that serves as a charm or is believed to confer magical powers, an amulet; fetish
20. **Undulate** (v.) to move in waves or with a wavelike motion; to have a wavelike appearance or form