

Knowsys Vocabulary Alpha List

Grade 8

abet	Card # 202	Group #21	Charge:	Sound: ə bet´	POS: V
Def: to assist in some activity, especially a questionable one					
Sent: It did not take much encouragement for Abe to abet his brothers in raiding the refrigerator.					
Var:					
abhor	Card # 118	Group # 12	Charge: -	Sound: ab hor´	POS: V
Def: to hate					
Sent: I abhor the fact that most Americans are completely ignorant of the details of the Constitution.					
Var: abhorrent					
abject	Card # 93	Group # 10	Charge: -	Sound: ab´ jekt	POS: A
Def: totally miserable					
Sent: Many people live in abject conditions of poverty and distress because they live in a country run by a dictator.					
Var:					
abrasion	Card # 172	Group # 18	Charge: -	Sound: ə brā´ zhən	POS: N
Def: a scraped or worn area					
Sent: Antwan's skateboard accident resulted in a huge abrasion on his leg.					
Var: abrasive, abrade					
accede	Card # 132	Group # 14	Charge: +	Sound: ak sēd´	POS: V
Def: to agree, often after urging from another					
Sent: The worn out mother finally acceded to the child's demand for candy.					
Var:					
accord	Card # 133	Group # 14	Charge: +	Sound: ə kord´	POS: N
Def: 1) a feeling of agreement or harmony or 2) a formal agreement					
Sent: The accords were signed by the representatives of all three countries involved in the negotiations.					
Var: accordance					
adept	Card # 213	Group # 22	Charge: +	Sound: ə dept´	POS: A
Def: highly skilled					
Sent: The class clown was adept at making her classmates laugh with her acts of buffoonery.					
Var:					

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*advocate	Card # 203	Group #21	Charge:	Sound: ad' vè kèt	POS:N
Def: one who pleads for or defends someone or something					
Sent: Animal rights activists serve as advocates for animals, pleading for people to treat animals humanely.					
Var:					
affable	Card # 164	Group # 17	Charge: +	Sound: a' fè bəl	POS:A
Def: friendly					
Sent: The affable child made friends quickly upon entering kindergarten.					
Var: affability					
affirm	Card # 135	Group # 14	Charge: +	Sound: ə fɜrm'	POS:V
Def: to declare positively					
Sent: Alice affirmed every statement she made was true to the best of her memory.					
Var: affirmation					
affluent	Card # 152	Group # 16	Charge: +	Sound: a' flü ənt	POS:A
Def: wealthy					
Sent: The affluent suburb had very expensive houses and very strict deed restrictions.					
Var: affluence					
agenda	Card # 208	Group #21	Charge:	Sound: ə jen' də	POS:N
Def: a list of things to be done or considered					
Sent: The motion was not voted on because it was not on the formal agenda, but it was added to next week's list.					
Var:					
agile	Card # 35	Group # 4	Charge: +	Sound: a' jəl	POS:A
Def: able to move or think quickly and easily					
Sent: Ballerinas and gymnasts must be athletic and agile.					
Var: agility					
alienate	Card # 119	Group # 12	Charge: -	Sound: ā' lē ə nāt	POS:V
Def: to create unfriendly feelings or to make someone feel isolated					
Sent: As Allen became more argumentative, he began to alienate more and more of his friends.					
Var: alienation					

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alleviate	Card # 147	Group # 15	Charge: +	Sound: ə lē' vē āt	POS: V
Def: to relieve					
Sent: Aspirin is designed to alleviate the pain of headaches.					
Var: alleviation					
allot	Card # 233	Group # 24	Charge:	Sound: ə lāt'	POS: V
Def: to assign or distribute as a portion or share					
Sent: The town wished to allot the donated land for a town hall and picnic area.					
Var: allotment					
amiss	Card # 209	Group # 21	Charge: -	Sound: ə mis'	POS: A
Def: out of order or wrong					
Sent: Things began to go amiss with the party even before the electricity went off.					
Var:					
*anarchy	Card # 254	Group # 26	Charge: -	Sound: ə' nār kē	POS: N
Def: 1) total confusion or lack of order or 2) total absence of government					
Sent: Anarchy erupted in the classroom as soon as the students saw the substitute teacher.					
Var:					
*anonymous	Card # 223	Group # 23	Charge:	Sound: ə nā' nə mēs	POS: A
Def: of an unknown source or unrevealed name					
Sent: Every year someone makes an anonymous donation to the Salvation Army by putting a gold coin in a kettle.					
Var: anonymity					
anthology	Card # 260	Group # 26	Charge:	Sound: ən thā' lə jē	POS: N
Def: a collection of various writings, such as songs, stories, or poems					
Sent: The anthology of nineteenth-century literature includes selections from Dickens and Hardy.					
Var: anthologize					
antidote	Card # 192	Group # 20	Charge:	Sound: ən' ti dōt	POS: N
Def: a remedy, especially to the effects of a poison					
Sent: The antidote to boredom is to develop an engaging and creative hobby.					
Var:					

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aperture	Card # 278	Group #28	Charge:	Sound: ap' ə r chər	POS:N
Def: an opening or hole					
Sent: When I went shark diving, the aperture between the bars was large enough for a small shark to pass through.					
Var:					
*apprehend	Card # 229	Group #23	Charge:	Sound: a pri hend'	POS:V
Def: 1) to understand or 2) to arrest					
Sent: Anna was unable to apprehend the complexities of the philosophical theory until someone explained it in simple terms.					
Var: apprehension					
arbitrary	Card # 46	Group # 5	Charge:	Sound: är' bi trer ē	POS:A
Def: determined by chance or whim					
Sent: The selection of the team leader was arbitrary and completely without reason or forethought.					
Var:					
ardent	Card # 94	Group #10	Charge: +	Sound: är' dənt	POS:A
Def: intensely eager or passionate					
Sent: Arthur's ardent feelings for Amanda made her feel uncomfortable since he wanted to spend all his time with her.					
Var: ardor					
arraign	Card # 205	Group #21	Charge:	Sound: ə rān'	POS:V
Def: to bring before a court to face charges					
Sent: Since the high-profile suspects are scheduled to be arraigned today, the court will be full of reporters and spectators.					
Var: arraignment					
artisan	Card # 157	Group #16	Charge:	Sound: är' tə zən	POS:N
Def: one able to do skilled work with the hands					
Sent: Once it became known that the local artisan made the most elegant clay pottery, her products were in demand worldwide.					
Var:					

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Grade 8

ascertain	Card # 295	Group # 30	Charge:	Sound: a sər tăn´	POS: V
Def: to find out for certain					
Sent: Hoping you would accept my invitation, I took the liberty of ascertaining whether concert tickets were still available.					
Var:					
assimilate	Card # 57	Group # 6	Charge:	Sound: ə sí´ mə lāt	POS: V
Def: to absorb a part into a whole					
Sent: Many politicians and leaders worried that immigrants from Southern Europe would not be able to assimilate into the U.S. culture.					
Var: assimilation					
atrocious	Card # 1	Group # 1	Charge: -	Sound: ə trās´ ə tē	POS: N
Def: an act of great cruelty and wickedness					
Sent: The genocide committed in Cambodia by Pol Pot is one of the great atrocities of the 20th century.					
Var: atrocious					
audacious	Card # 296	Group # 30	Charge: -	Sound: o də´ shəs	POS: A
Def: 1) extremely bold or daring or 2) recklessly brave					
Sent: The audacious boy continued to call the girl even though her father had forbidden it.					
Var: audacity					
audible	Card # 67	Group # 7	Charge:	Sound: o´ də bəl	POS: A
Def: capable of being heard					
Sent: Although he thought his whispers could not be heard, they were audible to everyone in the room.					
Var:					
augment	Card # 285	Group # 29	Charge:	Sound: og ment´	POS: V
Def: to make larger					
Sent: The band director augmented the horn section by adding six more trumpets.					
Var: augmentation					

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avid **Card # 13** **Group # 2** **Charge:** **Sound: a' vid** **POS:A**

Def: eager or greedy

Sent: Avid for the promotion, Abe continuously went out of his way to please his superiors.

Var: avidity

azure **Card # 14** **Group # 2** **Charge:** **Sound: a' zhər** **POS:N**

Def: the blue color of a cloudless sky

Sent: The azure waters of Playa del Carmen turned a murky brown as the hurricane approached.

Var:

balmy **Card # 162** **Group # 17** **Charge: +** **Sound: bäl' mē** **POS:A**

Def: soothing or mild

Sent: The balmy breezes of the tropical island were a soothing change from working in the office.

Var: balm

banter **Card # 171** **Group # 17** **Charge: +** **Sound: ban' tər** **POS:N**

Def: the exchange of playful, teasing remarks

Sent: The easy banter between the good friends was playful and light.

Var:

bedlam **Card # 255** **Group # 26** **Charge: -** **Sound: bed' ləm** **POS:N**

Def: a very confused and noisy scene

Sent: Bedlam broke out in the stands when the batter hit the game-winning home run.

Var:

benign **Card # 165** **Group # 17** **Charge: +** **Sound: bi nīn'** **POS:A**

Def: kind and gracious

Sent: The benign smile on her face made her the perfect welcoming hostess.

Var: benignant

bequeath **Card # 153** **Group # 16** **Charge: +** **Sound: bē kwēth'** **POS:V**

Def: 1) to pass on to others or 2) to leave to another in one's will

Sent: In his will, Ben bequeathed everything to his nephew, Brad.

Var: bequest

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Grade 8

bizarre	Card # 224	Group # 23	Charge: -	Sound: bi zär´	POS:A
Def: odd or peculiar					
Sent: It was rather bizarre to see the escaped ostrich looking into my car window.					
Var:					
brevity	Card # 84	Group # 9	Charge:	Sound: bre´ vi tē	POS:N
Def: shortness in time or words					
Sent: The brevity of the speech surprised everyone since the speaker was known for being long-winded.					
Var:					
brusque	Card # 244	Group # 25	Charge: -	Sound: brusk	POS:A
Def: abrupt or rude					
Sent: The brusque reply of the lawyer offended the judge.					
Var:					
bulwark	Card # 123	Group # 13	Charge:	Sound: bul´ wærk	POS:N
Def: a wall, person, or thing that defends or protects					
Sent: The earthen mound on the edge of the river was constructed as a bulwark to help defend the nearby inhabitants from attack.					
Var:					
cache	Card # 261	Group # 26	Charge:	Sound: kash	POS:N
Def: anything hidden or stored in a secret place					
Sent: The pirates kept their cache of stolen goods hidden in a chest in their hideout.					
Var:					
cajole	Card # 270	Group # 27	Charge: -	Sound: kæ jöl´	POS:V
Def: to persuade by flattery or promises					
Sent: Carol cajoled her parents into buying a puppy by promising to care for it herself.					
Var: cajolery					
calamity	Card # 173	Group # 18	Charge: -	Sound: kæ la´ mē tē	POS:N
Def: a disaster					
Sent: The hurricane was a great calamity for those living on the beach whose homes were destroyed.					
Var: calamitous					

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capacious	Card # 286	Group # 29	Charge:	Sound: kə pā' shəs	POS: A
Def: roomy					
Sent: The ballroom booked for the election rally was capacious enough to hold the thousands of people expected to attend.					
Var:					
chaperon	Card # 158	Group # 16	Charge:	Sound: sha' pə rōn	POS: N
Def: a person who accompanies younger people to ensure they behave properly					
Sent: Each school function must have one chaperon for every 10 students.					
Var:					
chastise	Card # 264	Group # 27	Charge: -	Sound: chas' tīz	POS: V
Def: 1) to criticize strongly or 2) to punish by beating					
Sent: The United Nations chastised the country for its human rights violations.					
Var: chastisement					
citadel	Card # 124	Group # 13	Charge:	Sound: si' tə dəl	POS: N
Def: 1) a fortress on a hill or 2) a stronghold					
Sent: All medieval towns constructed citadels to protect against the threat of roving marauders.					
Var:					
clad	Card # 15	Group # 2	Charge:	Sound: klad	POS: A
Def: clothed or covered					
Sent: The convict was clad in a bright orange jumpsuit.					
Var:					
claustrophobia	Card # 112	Group # 12	Charge: -	Sound: klo strə fō' bē ə	POS: N
Def: an abnormal fear of narrow, enclosed spaces					
Sent: Claudette's claustrophobia would not allow her to attend meetings in rooms without windows.					
Var: claustrophobic					
colleague	Card # 239	Group # 24	Charge:	Sound: kā' lēg	POS: N
Def: an associate or coworker of similar status					
Sent: I never have time to socialize with my colleagues from work outside of the office.					
Var:					

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combustible Card # 16 Group # 2 Charge: Sound: kəm bəs' tə bəl POS: A

Def: capable of catching fire or burning

Sent: Liquid hydrogen is a highly combustible material used to launch rockets.

Var: combust, combustion

commemorate Card # 72 Group # 8 Charge: Sound: kə me' mə rāt POS: V

Def: 1) to serve as a memorial to or 2) to remember in a ceremony

Sent: The post office released a new stamp to commemorate the achievements of actor Henry Fonda.

Var: commemorative

concise Card # 287 Group # 29 Charge: Sound: kən sīs' POS: A

Def: short and to the point

Sent: Carol's concise explanation made everything clear without wasting extra words, time, or energy.

Var: concisely

condescend Card # 245 Group # 25 Charge: - Sound: kən də send' POS: V

Def: 1) to waive the privileges of rank or 2) to act superior

Sent: Her ability to condescend to the level of those to whom she served food made her a favorite with the patrons at the soup kitchen.

Var: condescending, condescension

***confer** Card # 291 Group # 30 Charge: Sound: kən fur' POS: V

Def: 1) to consult or 2) to grant

Sent: The university board voted to confer an honorary doctorate degree on the scientist for her work in the field of chemistry.

Var:

confiscate Card # 236 Group # 24 Charge: - Sound: kən' fə skāt POS: V

Def: 1) to seize by force or 2) to take possession of

Sent: Until recently, a governmental agency could not confiscate your land except for public works projects.

Var: confiscation

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***congenial** **Card # 166** **Group # 17** **Charge: +** **Sound: kən jē nē' əl** **POS: A**

Def: pleasant and agreeable

Sent: Connie's congenial nature made her pleasant to be around.

Var: congeniality

congregate **Card # 262** **Group # 26** **Charge:** **Sound: käng' gri gāt** **POS: V**

Def: to come together in a group

Sent: Every Friday night, the teenagers congregate in the parking lot across from the movie theater.

Var: congregation

conjecture **Card # 73** **Group # 8** **Charge:** **Sound: kən jək' chər** **POS: V**

Def: to form an unsupported opinion

Sent: Many conspiracy theorists conjecture that the mafia had a part in President Kennedy's assassination.

Var:

connoisseur **Card # 214** **Group # 22** **Charge: +** **Sound: kä nə sur'** **POS: N**

Def: a person with refined tastes or extensive knowledge

Sent: Sister Wendy Beckett is an art connoisseur with a popular art program on PBS.

Var:

conscientious **Card # 136** **Group # 14** **Charge: +** **Sound: kän shē en' shə** **POS: A**

Def: 1) very careful or 2) honest

Sent: Carl's conscientious attention to detail made him an excellent accountant.

Var:

conspire **Card # 204** **Group # 21** **Charge: -** **Sound: kən spīr'** **POS: V**

Def: to join together, often secretly and for something illegal

Sent: In the movie, The Perfect Score, the students conspire to get the answers to the SAT.

Var: conspiracy

***contemplate** **Card # 74** **Group # 8** **Charge:** **Sound: kän' təm plāt** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to consider carefully or 2) to intend

Sent: Before you write your essay, contemplate the topic and then write out your outline.

Var: contemplation

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contingent	Card # 240	Group #24	Charge:	Sound: kən tin´ jənt	POS:A
Def: 1) possible, 2) unpredictable, or 3) depending on something else					
Sent: The picnic is planned for Friday; of course, this is contingent on the weather.					
Var: contingency					
copious	Card # 102	Group # 11	Charge: +	Sound: kō´ pē əs	POS:A
Def: abundant or plentiful					
Sent: His copious wealth afforded him the pleasure of yearly European vacations.					
Var:					
corroborate	Card # 206	Group #21	Charge: +	Sound: kə rā´ bə rāt	POS: V
Def: to support with evidence or authority					
Sent: The neighbor's statement corroborated that the boy had in fact walked the dog that morning.					
Var: corroboration					
coup	Card # 249	Group #25	Charge:	Sound: kü	POS:N
Def: 1) the overthrow of a government or 2) a successful action that brings about a striking change					
Sent: The coup to take over Germany failed when Hitler discovered the plot.					
Var:					
crucial	Card # 198	Group #20	Charge: +	Sound: krü´ shəl	POS:A
Def: extremely important					
Sent: The first week of the language course is the most crucial; if you miss the first week, you will never catch up.					
Var:					
cull	Card # 176	Group # 18	Charge:	Sound: kul	POS: V
Def: to select and remove weak or inferior members from					
Sent: Wolves were re-introduced to Yellowstone National Park to help cull the buffalo herds there.					
Var:					
culminate	Card # 44	Group # 4	Charge:	Sound: kul´ mi nāt	POS: V
Def: to reach or bring to the highest point					
Sent: The conference is to culminate with an address by the president of the convention.					
Var: culmination					

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cursory **Card #** 85 **Group #** 9 **Charge:** **Sound:** kur' sə rē **POS:** A

Def: done in a hurry with little attention to detail

Sent: With only a cursory glance, she decided she would never go out with Curtis.

Var:

daunt **Card #** 246 **Group #** 25 **Charge:** - **Sound:** dont **POS:** V

Def: to discourage or intimidate

Sent: The goal of a bully is to daunt those around him into doing what he wants them to do.

Var: daunting

decelerate **Card #** 175 **Group #** 18 **Charge:** **Sound:** dē se' lə rāt **POS:** V

Def: to slow down

Sent: You should always decelerate when driving around a sharp curve in the road.

Var:

decipher **Card #** 24 **Group #** 3 **Charge:** **Sound:** dē sī fər **POS:** V

Def: to decode or to solve

Sent: Duong was unable to decipher the secret note Cheryl had written him in code.

Var: cipher

***defer** **Card #** 219 **Group #** 22 **Charge:** **Sound:** dē fur' **POS:** V

Def: 1) to postpone or 2) to yield to out of respect for another

Sent: I will defer to your greater knowledge on this issue.

Var: deference

dehydrate **Card #** 193 **Group #** 20 **Charge:** **Sound:** dē hī' drāt **POS:** V

Def: to remove the water from

Sent: The tri-athlete began to dehydrate in the hot, humid conditions during the cycling portion of the race.

Var: dehydration

delegate **Card #** 159 **Group #** 16 **Charge:** **Sound:** de' li get **POS:** N

Def: a representative (as a verb = to assign)

Sent: The delegates from the different countries of the convention spoke on behalf of their nations.

Var: delegation

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deluge	Card # 103	Group # 11	Charge: -	Sound: del' yūj	POS: N
Def: a flood					
Sent: Many ancient texts speak of a great deluge in which the floodwaters caused total destruction and devastation.					
Var:					
demean	Card # 247	Group # 25	Charge: -	Sound: di mēn'	POS: V
Def: to put someone down					
Sent: Do not demean yourself by saying you are stupid when everyone knows you are very smart.					
Var: demeaning					
depict	Card # 25	Group # 3	Charge:	Sound: dē pikt'	POS: V
Def: to describe or give a picture of					
Sent: The person I know is not the same person you depict in your journal; your descriptions make him out to be greedy and cold.					
Var: depiction					
deploy	Card # 234	Group # 24	Charge:	Sound: di ploi'	POS: V
Def: 1) to arrange troops or equipment in position for battle or 2) to put into use					
Sent: On the eve of the battle, the commander deployed the troops to surround the enemy camp.					
Var: deployment					
derive	Card # 75	Group # 8	Charge:	Sound: di rīv'	POS: V
Def: 1) to take or receive from a source or 2) to obtain through reasoning					
Sent: Many medicines derive their active ingredient from common plants.					
Var: derivative, derivation					
desist	Card # 177	Group # 18	Charge:	Sound: di zist'	POS: V
Def: to refrain from continuing something					
Sent: The goal of the therapist was to convince people to desist in their ineffective attempts to control uncontrollable situations.					
Var:					

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***despicable** **Card # 11** **Group # 1** **Charge: -** **Sound: di spi' kə bəl** **POS:A**

Def: deserving contempt or scorn

Sent: The man was arrested for his despicable treatment of his cat.

Var:

despondent **Card # 95** **Group # 10** **Charge: -** **Sound: də spän' dənt** **POS:A**

Def: discouraged or depressed from loss of hope or confidence

Sent: After hours of searching, the parents of the child lost in the forest were despondent until the ranger radioed she had been found.

Var: despondency

deter **Card # 178** **Group # 18** **Charge:** **Sound: di tər'** **POS:V**

Def: to discourage or prevent from taking action

Sent: The bright orange warning signs are supposed to deter trespassers.

Var: deterrent

dialect **Card # 26** **Group # 3** **Charge:** **Sound: dī' ə lɛkt** **POS:N**

Def: a particular form of a language spoken in a certain geographical region

Sent: The dialect spoken in the German Alps is Swabish.

Var:

dignitary **Card # 160** **Group # 16** **Charge:** **Sound: dig' ni ter ē** **POS:N**

Def: a person who holds a high rank or position of honor

Sent: The visiting dignitary was not able to understand much of the meeting because he had a bad interpreter.

Var: dignity

dire **Card # 2** **Group # 1** **Charge: -** **Sound: dīr** **POS:A**

Def: 1) having terrible consequences or 2) urgent or desperate

Sent: The superhero saved the earth from the dire predicament that threatened to destroy it.

Var:

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discern	Card # 230	Group # 23	Charge:	Sound: di sɜrn´	POS: V
Def: 1) to understand, 2) to see, or 3) to recognize as different					
Sent: We were able to discern the pattern and break the code after studying it for several hours.					
Var: discerning					
discredit	Card # 265	Group # 27	Charge: -	Sound: dis kre´ dit	POS: V
Def: 1) to damage someone's reputation or 2) to destroy confidence in					
Sent: The popular theory was discredited by the recently discovered evidence proving it to be wrong.					
Var:					
dismantle	Card # 36	Group # 4	Charge:	Sound: dis mant´ l	POS: V
Def: to take apart					
Sent: After the party, the chaperons stayed behind to dismantle the background for the photographs.					
Var:					
dispel	Card # 37	Group # 4	Charge:	Sound: di spel´	POS: V
Def: to clear away, remove, or scatter					
Sent: The politician was able to dispel all the rumors by releasing his military service record.					
Var:					
disposition	Card # 96	Group # 10	Charge:	Sound: dis pə zi´ shən	POS: N
Def: 1) a person's usual mood or 2) a regular tendency or inclination					
Sent: Danny's disposition is usually optimistic and friendly.					
Var:					
dissect	Card # 228	Group # 23	Charge:	Sound: di sekt´	POS: V
Def: 1) to analyze or 2) to cut into in order to study					
Sent: The literature class carefully dissected and analyzed the poems of Robert Burns.					
Var: dissection					
*dissension	Card # 134	Group # 14	Charge: -	Sound: di sen´ shən	POS: N
Def: a disagreement or a difference of opinion					
Sent: Dissension in the U.S. Senate is a normal and healthy state of affairs when discussing controversial new proposals.					
Var: dissent					

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Knowsys Vocabulary Alpha List

Grade 8

divert	Card # 235	Group # 24	Charge:	Sound: də vɜrt´	POS: V
Def: 1) to turn aside or 2) to entertain					
Sent: Desiree needed to divert the water from the canal to her corn field.					
Var: diversion					
dub	Card # 27	Group # 3	Charge:	Sound: dub	POS: V
Def: to give a title, nickname, or description					
Sent: Because he had several minor fender-bender accidents, Dan was dubbed "Crash" by his friends.					
Var:					
elapse	Card # 86	Group # 9	Charge:	Sound: ē laps´	POS: V
Def: to pass or slip by (used with time)					
Sent: Because he was not paying attention, he did not complete the exam before time elapsed.					
Var: lapse					
electrify	Card # 97	Group # 10	Charge:	Sound: ē lek´ trə fī	POS: V
Def: 1) to thrill or shock or 2) to equip with electricity					
Sent: The Beatles really knew how to electrify an audience; their concerts were thrilling events.					
Var: electricity, electric					
elite	Card # 263	Group # 26	Charge: +	Sound: e lēt´	POS: N
Def: a group that enjoys superior status to others					
Sent: The powerful elite of the major corporations were present at the exclusive briefing held for the country's elite powerbrokers.					
Var:					
embark	Card # 220	Group # 22	Charge:	Sound: em bärk´	POS: V
Def: 1) to board a ship or plane or 2) to begin					
Sent: The passengers were very upset when the last person to embark was the captain, and he was 30 minutes late.					
Var: disembark					

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Grade 8

embellish **Card # 111** **Group # 11** **Charge: +** **Sound: im be´lish** **POS: V**

Def: to beautify or enhance

Sent: Her grandmother's wedding dress was embellished with lace trimming.

Var: embellishment

embroil **Card # 125** **Group # 13** **Charge: -** **Sound: em broil´** **POS: V**

Def: to involve in an argument or conflict

Sent: Edward and Elliot have been embroiled in a feud over Eloise since high school.

Var:

emulate **Card # 271** **Group # 27** **Charge:** **Sound: em´ye la´t** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to imitate or 2) to strive to equal or surpass

Sent: Teens often emulate their favorite stars in dress and mannerisms.

Var: emulation

encompass **Card # 55** **Group # 6** **Charge:** **Sound: en kum´pæs** **POS: V**

Def: to enclose, encircle, or include

Sent: A liberal education should encompass the fields of religion, art, history, mathematics, literature, and science.

Var:

encroach **Card # 58** **Group # 6** **Charge: -** **Sound: in kröch´** **POS: V**

Def: to infringe or advance beyond the proper limits

Sent: When the cat encroached on the nest, the feisty mockingbird swooped in to defend her territory.

Var: encroachment

endeavor **Card # 182** **Group # 19** **Charge: +** **Sound: en de´vər** **POS: V**

Def: to attempt earnestly

Sent: Eleanor endeavored to become the first woman to walk on the moon by training to be an astronaut.

Var:

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engulf	Card # 59	Group # 6	Charge:	Sound: en gulf´	POS: V
Def: 1) to swallow up by covering completely or 2) to overwhelm					
Sent: The new assistant was completely engulfed by the backlog of filing; it took her over a week to get everything in order.					
Var:					
enhance	Card # 142	Group # 15	Charge: +	Sound: en hans´	POS: V
Def: to make greater or better					
Sent: Most women can enhance their attire by adding a simple scarf to their ensemble.					
Var: enhancement					
enigma	Card # 76	Group # 8	Charge:	Sound: ə nig´ mə	POS: N
Def: something puzzling or mysterious					
Sent: Fermat's Last Theorem written in 1630 was an enigma for number theorists until it was solved in 1994 by Andrew Wiles.					
Var: enigmatic					
entreat	Card # 292	Group # 30	Charge:	Sound: en trēt´	POS: V
Def: to beg					
Sent: The child entreated his parents for a quarter to get candy out of the machine.					
Var: entreaty					
epoch	Card # 87	Group # 9	Charge:	Sound: e´ pək	POS: N
Def: an extended period of time marked by a series of related events					
Sent: The epoch of colonialism began in the 1500s and did not end until the 20th century.					
Var: epochal					
*evoke	Card # 77	Group # 8	Charge:	Sound: ē vōk´	POS: V
Def: 1) to bring to mind or 2) to produce					
Sent: Studies have shown that smell evokes strong memories.					
Var: evocative					

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Grade 8

excruciating **Card # 279** **Group # 28** **Charge: -** **Sound: ik skrú' shē át i** **POS:A**

Def: very painful

Sent: Burns are generally considered the most excruciating type of injury because the pain is intense and long-lasting.

Var:

execute **Card # 38** **Group # 4** **Charge:** **Sound: ek' sə kyüt** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to perform, 2) to create, or 3) to put to death as a legal penalty

Sent: The soldiers were expected to execute orders immediately.

Var: execution

exemplify **Card # 148** **Group # 15** **Charge:** **Sound: ek zem' pli fī** **POS: V**

Def: to illustrate by being an example of

Sent: Monet's paintings of water lilies exemplify the typical works of the Impressionist movement.

Var:

extricate **Card # 39** **Group # 4** **Charge: +** **Sound: ek' stri kāt** **POS: V**

Def: to untangle or free

Sent: The man could not extricate himself from the web of lies he told the police.

Var:

facilitate **Card # 170** **Group # 17** **Charge: +** **Sound: fə sí' læ tāt** **POS: V**

Def: to make easier

Sent: The classroom was designed to facilitate small groups and discussions.

Var: facilitator, facility

fanfare **Card # 104** **Group # 11** **Charge:** **Sound: fan' fer** **POS: N**

Def: 1) a sounding of trumpets or other brass instruments or 2) any showy display

Sent: The loud fanfare from the musicians silenced the crowd and announced the arrival of the visiting dignitaries.

Var:

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Grade 8

fastidious **Card # 137** **Group # 14** **Charge: +** **Sound: fa sti' dē əs** **POS: A**

Def: 1) paying close attention to detail or 2) difficult to please

Sent: When choosing a doctor, select one so fastidious that no details will ever slip by.

Var:

feasible **Card # 45** **Group # 5** **Charge:** **Sound: fē' zə bəl** **POS: A**

Def: possible or likely

Sent: Due to advancements in technology, it is feasible for the U.S. to send a manned mission to Mars in the next decade.

Var: feasibility

fervent **Card # 187** **Group # 19** **Charge: +** **Sound: fur' vənt** **POS: A**

Def: intensely eager or warm

Sent: He stated his affection in such a fervent manner that the girl could not help but be moved.

Var: fervor

fitful **Card # 40** **Group # 4** **Charge: -** **Sound: fit' fəl** **POS: A**

Def: irregular or unsteady

Sent: Franklin had a fitful night's sleep since he dreamed he was being tormented by mosquitoes.

Var:

flagrant **Card # 3** **Group # 1** **Charge: -** **Sound: flā' grənt** **POS: A**

Def: deliberately offensive and shocking

Sent: She was charged with contempt of court because of her flagrant disregard for authority.

Var:

flair **Card # 215** **Group # 22** **Charge: +** **Sound: fler** **POS: N**

Def: talent

Sent: Fred has such a flair for dramatic presentation that I think he would make a great actor.

Var:

fledgling **Card # 216** **Group # 22** **Charge:** **Sound: flej' ling** **POS: N**

Def: an inexperienced person or a new venture

Sent: The fledgling company had only two employees and a very small amount of cash on hand.

Var:

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Grade 8

forbearance **Card # 17** **Group # 2** **Charge: +** **Sound: for ber' əns** **POS:N**

Def: patience

Sent: The gymnastics teacher had to show a lot of forbearance when working with young girls prone to silliness and inattentiveness.

Var: forbear

foreboding **Card # 113** **Group # 12** **Charge: -** **Sound: for bō' ding** **POS:N**

Def: a strong feeling something bad is about to happen

Sent: My sense of foreboding was confirmed when I got home and saw my puppy had destroyed my new pillows.

Var:

***generation** **Card # 241** **Group # 24** **Charge:** **Sound: je ne rā' shən** **POS:N**

Def: 1) all the people born about the same time or 2) a span of about 30 years

Sent: The baby boom generation is getting close to retirement age.

Var:

gingerly **Card # 138** **Group # 14** **Charge:** **Sound: jin' jər lē** **POS:A**

Def: very careful

Sent: The cat walked gingerly around the sleeping dog in an effort to not wake the dog.

Var:

glib **Card # 28** **Group # 3** **Charge: -** **Sound: glib** **POS:A**

Def: insincere or superficial

Sent: The insincerity of the clerk's glib apology angered the offended customer.

Var:

glut **Card # 105** **Group # 11** **Charge: -** **Sound: glut** **POS:N**

Def: a much larger supply than is needed

Sent: The oil glut of the 1980s caused oil prices to drop below \$15 a barrel.

Var: glutton, gluttony

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Grade 8

grapple	Card # 126	Group # 13	Charge: -	Sound: gra' pəl	POS: V
Def: to wrestle or come to grips with					
Sent: You will need to grapple with your conflicting feelings about Gina before she arrives.					
Var:					
grimace	Card # 98	Group # 10	Charge: -	Sound: gri' mæs	POS: V
Def: to make a face expressing feelings of pain, disgust, or contempt					
Sent: Greg grimaced as he attempted to eat the slimy raw oyster.					
Var:					
grotesque	Card # 114	Group # 12	Charge: -	Sound: grō tesk'	POS: A
Def: so distorted or strange as to appear bizarre or comical					
Sent: The grotesque faces of the gargoyles on the roof of the building supposedly ward off evil spirits.					
Var:					
gruesome	Card # 115	Group # 12	Charge: -	Sound: grū' səm	POS: A
Def: causing shock or horror					
Sent: Many of the horror movies today are more gruesome and bloody than frightening.					
Var:					
guile	Card # 109	Group # 11	Charge: -	Sound: gīl	POS: N
Def: deceitful cunning					
Sent: The guile of the sly young woman allowed her to deceive even those who knew her best.					
Var: guileless					
gullible	Card # 217	Group # 22	Charge: -	Sound: gə' lə bəl	POS: A
Def: easily tricked or cheated					
Sent: Gilda was so gullible that she always fell for the "What's that on your shirt?" trick.					
Var: gull					
haggard	Card # 186	Group # 19	Charge: -	Sound: ha' gərd	POS: A
Def: worn out					
Sent: I was shocked by the haggard appearance of my grandfather after his recent illness.					
Var:					

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Grade 8

hallowed	Card # 243	Group #24	Charge: +	Sound: ha´ löd	POS:A
Def: greatly respected, holy, or sacred					
Sent: Graveyards are considered hallowed ground by almost all the world's religions, and to desecrate them is considered sinful.					
Var:					
haunt	Card # 116	Group # 12	Charge: -	Sound: hont	POS:V
Def: 1) to stay in one's mind continually, 2) to visit frequently, or 3) to appear in the form of a ghost					
Sent: Haunted by painful memories, Henry could hardly sleep or rest at all.					
Var:					
havoc	Card # 256	Group #26	Charge: -	Sound: ha´ vøk	POS:N
Def: great confusion or widespread destruction					
Sent: The sudden lightning storms wreaked havoc on the electrical systems all over the town.					
Var:					
hindrance	Card # 179	Group # 18	Charge: -	Sound: hin´ dræns	POS:N
Def: an impediment or blockade					
Sent: My four-year old niece insisted on helping me bake a cake; unfortunately, her help was actually a hindrance to the work.					
Var: hinder					
humane	Card # 167	Group #17	Charge: +	Sound: hyü män´	POS:A
Def: kind to other human beings or animals					
Sent: The humane treatment of the elderly was a top priority of the commission.					
Var:					
humdrum	Card # 225	Group #23	Charge: -	Sound: hum´ drum	POS:A
Def: boring or monotonous					
Sent: Many people have a humdrum summer instead of being creative and useful during the summer months.					
Var:					

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Grade 8

immaculate **Card # 282** **Group # 29** **Charge: +** **Sound: i ma´ kyə lət** **POS: A**

Def: perfectly clean or flawless

Sent: The antique doll house was kept in such immaculate condition that I was afraid to touch it for fear of damaging it.

Var:

immerse **Card # 60** **Group # 6** **Charge:** **Sound: i mɜrs´** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to cover with liquid or 2) to completely engage the attention of

Sent: Ivan was so immersed in the video game that he did not realize he had missed dinner.

Var: immersion

imminent **Card # 47** **Group # 5** **Charge:** **Sound: i´ mə nɛnt** **POS: A**

Def: about to happen

Sent: The thunder, lightning, and cloudy sky signaled the imminent rainstorm.

Var:

impeccable **Card # 283** **Group # 29** **Charge: +** **Sound: im pek´ ə bəl** **POS: A**

Def: flawless or perfect

Sent: Ian has impeccable timing; he always arrives just before we begin to eat.

Var:

impel **Card # 41** **Group # 4** **Charge:** **Sound: im pel´** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to drive or propel or 2) to force

Sent: The blackmailers impelled me to steal the company's secrets for them.

Var:

imperative **Card # 201** **Group # 20** **Charge:** **Sound: im per´ ə tiv** **POS: A**

Def: necessary

Sent: It is imperative you bring your book to class each and every meeting so you can participate in the lesson.

Var:

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Grade 8

impersonate Card # 149 Group # 15 Charge: Sound: im pur' sə nāt POS: V

Def: 1) to assume the character or appearance of or 2) to mimic

Sent: He was able to impersonate all the characters from the TV show, Friends.

Var: impersonation

impregnable Card # 127 Group # 13 Charge: + Sound: im preg' nə bəl POS: A

Def: impossible to attack successfully

Sent: Having withstood many attacks, King Herod's palace at Masada is one of the few impregnable forts in Israel.

Var:

inane Card # 78 Group # 8 Charge: - Sound: i nān' POS: A

Def: empty, shallow, or silly

Sent: Despite the seriousness of the topic under debate, Ivan's comments were inane, making everyone else roll their eyes.

Var: inaneness, inanity

inaugurate Card # 221 Group # 22 Charge: Sound: i no' gyə rāt POS: V

Def: 1) to begin officially or 2) to install into office with a formal ceremony

Sent: Many celebrities were in attendance to inaugurate the DVD version of the movie.

Var: inauguration

incessant Card # 48 Group # 5 Charge: Sound: in se' sənt POS: A

Def: without interruption or continual

Sent: The incessant noise of the squirrels gnawing on the bark of the tree kept me awake all night.

Var:

inclement Card # 4 Group # 1 Charge: - Sound: in' kle mənt POS: A

Def: stormy, harsh, or unmerciful

Sent: Many Northerners flee to the South during the winter to escape the inclement weather.

Var: clement, clemency

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indefatigable Card # 183 Group # 19 Charge: + Sound: in di fa' ti gə bəl POS: A

Def: tireless

Sent: The boss rewarded his employees for their indefatigable efforts to meet the critical deadline.

Var: fatigue

indelible Card # 83 Group # 9 Charge: Sound: in de' lə bəl POS: A

Def: permanent

Sent: The indelible marker left stains on the furniture that would never come out.

Var:

indulgent Card # 21 Group # 2 Charge: Sound: in dul' jənt POS: A

Def: 1) inclined to give in easily or 2) lenient

Sent: The indulgent parents bought their child every new computer game that came out.

Var: indulge

***ineffectual** Card # 12 Group # 1 Charge: - Sound: in ə fek' chü əl POS: A

Def: not bringing about the desired result

Sent: My attempts at breaking the boulder with my small hammer were ineffectual.

Var:

infallible Card # 284 Group # 29 Charge: + Sound: in fa' lə bəl POS: A

Def: 1) incapable of being wrong or 2) unlikely to fail

Sent: The Baseball Almanac is the infallible source for all Major League Baseball records and statistics.

Var: infallibility

***inflammatory** Card # 120 Group # 12 Charge: - Sound: in fla' mə tor ē POS: A

Def: causing anger or disorder

Sent: The university president was fired after making inflammatory comments to the press.

Var: inflame

influx Card # 61 Group # 6 Charge: Sound: in' fluks POS: N

Def: a flowing or pouring in

Sent: The influx of refugees from the war soon outstripped the country's available medical supplies.

Var:

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inkling **Card # 79** **Group # 8** **Charge:** **Sound: ing' kling** **POS:N**

Def: a vague idea or a slight suspicion

Sent: I had no inkling Iris was engaged, so I was shocked when I received her wedding invitation.

Var:

innovation **Card # 143** **Group # 15** **Charge:** **Sound: i nə vā' shən** **POS:N**

Def: something new

Sent: The innovation in computer technology has made my current computer obsolete.

Var: innovative

instill **Card # 54** **Group # 6** **Charge:** **Sound: in stil'** **POS:V**

Def: to introduce gradually in order to establish securely

Sent: Morals and proper behavior are instilled at a very early age.

Var:

institute **Card # 222** **Group # 22** **Charge:** **Sound: in' stə tüt** **POS:V**

Def: to establish or begin

Sent: The school board voted to institute an ROTC program this academic year.

Var: institution

integral **Card # 199** **Group # 20** **Charge:** **Sound: in' tə grəl** **POS:A**

Def: essential

Sent: Typing and word processing are integral skills needed by all graduate students.

Var:

intellect **Card # 231** **Group # 23** **Charge: +** **Sound: in' tə lekt** **POS:N**

Def: the ability to think and understand

Sent: You should use your intellect to decipher the clues and complete the puzzle.

Var: intellectual

***interminable** **Card # 88** **Group # 9** **Charge:** **Sound: in tər' mə nə bəl** **POS:A**

Def: having or seeming to have no end

Sent: The exhausted student thought the interminable lecture would never end.

Var: terminate, terminal

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Grade 8

interrogate **Card # 293** **Group # 30** **Charge:** **Sound: in ter' ə gāt** **POS: V**

Def: to ask questions of, especially in a thorough or formal manner

Sent: The FBI wished to interrogate the witness since he was the only one to actually see the entire episode.

Var: interrogation

intricate **Card # 22** **Group # 2** **Charge:** **Sound: in' tri kət** **POS: A**

Def: complicated

Sent: German watchmakers pride themselves on creating analogue watches with intricate gears, cogs, and springs.

Var:

inventory **Card # 212** **Group # 21** **Charge:** **Sound: in' vən tor ē** **POS: N**

Def: 1) a list of possessions or goods on hand or 2) the supply of goods on hand

Sent: The corner store kept no inventory; goods were delivered to it fresh every day.

Var:

irascible **Card # 99** **Group # 10** **Charge: -** **Sound: i ra' sə bəl** **POS: A**

Def: quick-tempered and irritable

Sent: The nurses tried to avoid the irascible patient as much as possible since he was always ready to complain and criticize.

Var:

irksome **Card # 5** **Group # 1** **Charge: -** **Sound: urk' səm** **POS: A**

Def: annoying and tedious

Sent: The irksome task of cleaning the bathroom always fell to Irma.

Var:

irrational **Card # 80** **Group # 8** **Charge: -** **Sound: i ra' shə nəl** **POS: A**

Def: lacking sound judgment or reason

Sent: Having a crush on someone is an irrational, unexplainable emotional response.

Var:

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Grade 8

irrepressible Card # 250 Group # 25 Charge: Sound: ir rē pre' sə bəl POS: A

Def: incapable of being controlled or held back

Sent: His excitement about going to the theme park was irrepressible.

Var: repress

lackadaisical Card # 188 Group # 19 Charge: - Sound: la kə dā' zi kəl POS: A

Def: lacking spirit or enthusiasm

Sent: Larry was lackadaisical about doing his homework, so he had to repeat 8th grade.

Var:

languish Card # 189 Group # 19 Charge: - Sound: lang' gwish POS: V

Def: to become feeble, weak, or depressed

Sent: The political prisoner languished in jail, forgotten by all but his friends and family.

Var:

legacy Card # 154 Group # 16 Charge: + Sound: le' gə sē POS: N

Def: 1) money or property given in a will or 2) something passed on to those who come after

Sent: Many think that Tiger Woods will follow Jack Nicklaus' legacy in the golf world.

Var:

lionize Card # 298 Group # 30 Charge: Sound: lī' ə nīz POS: V

Def: to treat as a celebrity

Sent: Neil Armstrong was lionized after he was the first man to set foot on the moon.

Var:

loll Card # 190 Group # 19 Charge: Sound: lāl POS: V

Def: to sprawl or droop

Sent: The tourist lolled lazily in his hammock while on vacation.

Var:

luminous Card # 273 Group # 28 Charge: Sound: lū' mə nəs POS: A

Def: 1) giving off light or 2) clear and easy to understand

Sent: Fireflies are luminous only part of the time because they are able to control the chemical reaction that makes them light up.

Var:

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Grade 8

lurid **Card # 117** **Group # 12** **Charge: -** **Sound: lur'əd** **POS:A**

Def: causing horror or revulsion

Sent: The news of Jack the Ripper was so lurid that many social circles forbade the mention of it.

Var:

***malady** **Card # 194** **Group # 20** **Charge: -** **Sound: ma'lədē** **POS:N**

Def: a sickness or unhealthy condition

Sent: Malaria is a malady prevalent in tropical areas.

Var:

***malevolent** **Card # 6** **Group # 1** **Charge: -** **Sound: məle'vələnt** **POS:A**

Def: producing harm or evil

Sent: With all of the bad things happening, Melody was sure there was a malevolent spirit haunting her.

Var: malevolence

memento **Card # 81** **Group # 8** **Charge:** **Sound: məmen'tō** **POS:N**

Def: a souvenir

Sent: I always keep a small portion of the currency of every country I visit as a memento of my trip.

Var:

memoir **Card # 29** **Group # 3** **Charge:** **Sound: mem'wär** **POS:N**

Def: an account based on the author's personal experiences

Sent: The newly-discovered memoirs of the general will assist historians in reconstructing the events of the war.

Var:

meticulous **Card # 139** **Group # 14** **Charge:** **Sound: mətik'yələs** **POS:A**

Def: very careful and attentive to small details

Sent: The engraver was highly recommended because he was so meticulous with his work that he always did a good job.

Var:

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Knowsys Vocabulary Alpha List

Grade 8

mettle	Card # 297	Group # 30	Charge: +	Sound: me´ təl	POS: N
Def: spirit or courage					
Sent: The rookie fireman's mettle was tested when he was called upon to rescue someone trapped in a burning building.					
Var:					
millennium	Card # 89	Group # 9	Charge:	Sound: mə le´ nē əm	POS: N
Def: a period of one thousand years					
Sent: Many people erroneously believed the year 2000, rather than 2001, was the beginning of the third millennium.					
Var: millennial					
mire	Card # 274	Group # 28	Charge: -	Sound: mi´ ə	POS: N
Def: 1) wet, swampy ground or 2) a problematic situation					
Sent: After years of unwise and wasteful spending, the couple found themselves in a mire of debt.					
Var:					
modify	Card # 144	Group # 15	Charge:	Sound: mə´ də fi	POS: V
Def: 1) to make less extreme or 2) to change					
Sent: You will need to modify this homework essay to make it appropriate to submit with your application.					
Var: modification					
mute	Card # 68	Group # 7	Charge:	Sound: myüt	POS: V
Def: to soften or tone down the sound of					
Sent: On a car, a muffler is supposed to mute the sound of the exhaust system.					
Var:					
mutiny	Card # 251	Group # 25	Charge: -	Sound: myü´ tə nē	POS: N
Def: deliberate refusal to obey orders given by those in command					
Sent: The mutiny was led by the first mate because of the abusive ways of the captain.					
Var: mutinous					

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Grade 8

negligible	Card # 288	Group # 29	Charge:	Sound: ne´ gli jə bəl	POS: A
Def: small, unimportant, or not worth noticing					
Sent: The change in cabin pressure was negligible, so the oxygen masks did not deploy.					
Var:					
ogle	Card # 63	Group # 7	Charge:	Sound: ō´ gəl	POS: V
Def: to stare at, often in a flirtatious and bold manner					
Sent: Oliver was offended when he caught Oscar ogling his girlfriend from a distance.					
Var:					
onslaught	Card # 128	Group # 13	Charge: -	Sound: än´ slot	POS: N
Def: a fierce attack					
Sent: The onslaught of the mosquitoes quickly drove us into the house.					
Var:					
ordain	Card # 210	Group # 21	Charge:	Sound: or dān´	POS: V
Def: 1) to order or prearrange or 2) to install as a minister					
Sent: After years of studying for the ministry, the man was ordained by his home church and called to pastor in a nearby town.					
Var: ordination					
ornate	Card # 18	Group # 2	Charge: +	Sound: or nāt´	POS: A
Def: elaborately or excessively decorated					
Sent: The ornate cathedrals of the 15th century were adorned with expensive and beautiful stained glass.					
Var:					
ostentatious	Card # 106	Group # 11	Charge: -	Sound: os tən tā´ shəs	POS: A
Def: showy					
Sent: The royal family's ostentatious display of wealth was tasteless in the face of the widespread poverty in the country.					
Var: ostentation					

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Grade 8

ovation **Card # 169** **Group # 17** **Charge: +** **Sound: ō vā´ shən** **POS: N**

Def: an enthusiastic reception or long and loud applause

Sent: The cellist received an enthusiastic ovation as he came out to begin the concert.

Var:

overt **Card # 23** **Group # 2** **Charge:** **Sound: ō vurt´** **POS: A**

Def: not hidden

Sent: Her overt reaction was one of disgust at the man's remark; her feelings were plainly visible on her face.

Var:

pang **Card # 280** **Group # 28** **Charge: -** **Sound: pang** **POS: N**

Def: a sudden sharp feeling of pain or distress

Sent: During my third period class, I felt a pang of hunger since I did not eat any breakfast.

Var:

panorama **Card # 64** **Group # 7** **Charge:** **Sound: pa nə ra´ mə** **POS: N**

Def: 1) a complete view of an area or 2) a thorough presentation of a subject

Sent: A panoramic view of the Dead Sea and the Sis-Jordan mountain range can only be found at Masada.

Var: panoramic

paramount **Card # 200** **Group # 20** **Charge: +** **Sound: par´ ə maunt** **POS: A**

Def: primary or superior in importance

Sent: During the interview, the stuntman stressed that safety is paramount on a movie set and should always be put first.

Var:

pastoral **Card # 275** **Group # 28** **Charge:** **Sound: pas´ tə rəl** **POS: A**

Def: 1) relating to country life or 2) having to do with shepherds

Sent: I hung the pastoral painting on the wall to remind me of the summer I spent tending sheep in Turkey.

Var:

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Grade 8

***patriarch** **Card # 242** **Group # 24** **Charge:** **Sound: pā' trē ärk** **POS:N**

Def: the male founder or ruler of a group

Sent: My grandfather, Patrick Peabody, is the patriarch of our family.

Var: patriarchy

perpetuate **Card # 90** **Group # 9** **Charge:** **Sound: pər pe' chü wāt** **POS:V**

Def: to cause to continue indefinitely

Sent: The lack of a definite cause of the accident perpetuates the conspiracy theory.

Var: perpetually, perpetuity

pervade **Card # 56** **Group # 6** **Charge:** **Sound: pər vād'** **POS:V**

Def: to spread throughout

Sent: The smell of the rotting fish began to pervade the boat from the bow to the stern.

Var: pervasive

pestilence **Card # 195** **Group # 20** **Charge: -** **Sound: pes' tə ləns** **POS:N**

Def: a rapidly spreading and usually fatal disease

Sent: Smallpox was a harmful pestilence the Europeans brought to the new world.

Var:

phenomenon **Card # 49** **Group # 5** **Charge:** **Sound: fi nă' mə nän** **POS:N**

Def: 1) anything that can be observed or described or 2) something unusual

Sent: The phenomenon of Halley's Comet appears about every 75 years.

Var: phenomenal

philanthropy **Card # 155** **Group # 16** **Charge: +** **Sound: fi lan' thrə pē** **POS:N**

Def: the attempt to improve the well-being of those in need by donating money or aid

Sent: Because of the philanthropy of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Colonial Williamsburg is a first-class living history museum.

Var: philanthropist, philanthropic

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Grade 8

picturesque **Card # 65** **Group # 7** **Charge: +** **Sound: pik chə resk'** **POS:A**

Def: 1) like a picture or 2) pleasing or charming to observe

Sent: When I lived in Germany, there was a picturesque view of the town's castle from my apartment window.

Var:

pilfer **Card # 237** **Group # 24** **Charge: -** **Sound: pil' fər** **POS:V**

Def: to steal repeatedly small amounts or things of little value

Sent: Last year three employees were fired because they were caught pilfering coins from the charity change bucket.

Var:

pittance **Card # 289** **Group # 29** **Charge: -** **Sound: pi' təns** **POS:N**

Def: a very small amount, especially of money

Sent: The college student was glad the burrito cost a pittance since he was down to only a few dollars in his pocket.

Var:

pivot **Card # 42** **Group # 4** **Charge:** **Sound: pi' vət** **POS:N**

Def: the hinge on which something turns (can be a person)

Sent: The pivot on the gate made a squeaking noise whenever the gate opened or closed.

Var: pivotal

precarious **Card # 7** **Group # 1** **Charge: -** **Sound: pri ker' ē əs** **POS:A**

Def: dependent on uncertain premises

Sent: The jungle tour guide tried to avoid precarious situations by sticking to the well-known path.

Var:

precede **Card # 211** **Group # 21** **Charge:** **Sound: prē sēd'** **POS:V**

Def: to come before in time, rank, or position

Sent: In a formal dinner, the salad precedes the entrée.

Var:

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Grade 8

prestige	Card # 299	Group #30	Charge: +	Sound: pre stēzh´	POS:N
Def: high standing or respect earned by accomplishments					
Sent: Priscilla was owed the prestige that comes with earning two doctorates and making great contributions to her field.					
Var: prestigious					
prevalent	Card # 226	Group #23	Charge:	Sound: pre´ vә lәnt	POS:A
Def: commonly occurring or widely accepted					
Sent: Polio was a prevalent childhood malady before the discovery of the polio vaccine.					
Var: prevalence					
profound	Card # 227	Group #23	Charge:	Sound: prō faund´	POS:A
Def: 1) having deep insight or 2) intense					
Sent: Gandhi's profound observations on the nature of humanity sparked a peaceful revolution in India.					
Var:					
profusion	Card # 107	Group #11	Charge:	Sound: prō fyü´ zhәn	POS:N
Def: a plentiful supply					
Sent: The profusion of crops in the fields was a result of the plentiful rains.					
Var: profuse					
*prolific	Card # 184	Group #19	Charge: +	Sound: prә lí´ fik	POS:A
Def: fertile or highly productive					
Sent: Having sat at the helm of over 60 movies, Alfred Hitchcock was a highly prolific director.					
Var: proliferate, proliferation					
proprietor	Card # 161	Group #16	Charge:	Sound: prә prī´ ә tәr	POS:N
Def: an owner of a business					
Sent: The proprietor of the shoe store was thrilled to get the Nike account because it would triple his income.					
Var:					
protracted	Card # 91	Group # 9	Charge:	Sound: prō trak´ tәd	POS:A
Def: drawn out or lengthened					
Sent: Although they took six months, the protracted negotiations ultimately produced a satisfactory contract.					
Var: protract					

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Grade 8

prudent **Card # 140** **Group # 14** **Charge: +** **Sound: prü' dənt** **POS: A**

Def: 1) very careful or 2) showing judgment and wisdom

Sent: It was not very prudent for the student to copy the encyclopedia and turn it in as his own work.

Var: prudence

***pseudonym** **Card # 110** **Group # 11** **Charge: -** **Sound: sü' də nim** **POS: N**

Def: a fictitious name

Sent: Stephen King wrote under the pseudonym Richard Bachman.

Var:

pungent **Card # 71** **Group # 7** **Charge:** **Sound: pun' jənt** **POS: A**

Def: 1) having a sharp taste or smell or 2) sharply critical

Sent: The pungent odor of the skunk wafted through the neighborhood.

Var:

query **Card # 294** **Group # 30** **Charge:** **Sound: kwir' ē** **POS: N**

Def: a question

Sent: The query about the problem with the computer program was sent to the code specialist.

Var:

rankle **Card # 121** **Group # 12** **Charge: -** **Sound: rang' kəl** **POS: V**

Def: to cause continuing anger or irritation

Sent: Rhonda was rankled every time she drove by the house she had been unfairly evicted from.

Var:

rapport **Card # 168** **Group # 17** **Charge: +** **Sound: ra por'** **POS: N**

Def: a harmonious relation

Sent: Raven had an immediate rapport with Rene; from the very first time they met, they were fast friends.

Var:

raze **Card # 174** **Group # 18** **Charge: -** **Sound: rāz** **POS: V**

Def: to destroy or demolish

Sent: The old market square was razed to make room for a modern commercial building.

Var:

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Grade 8

rebuff **Card # 129** **Group # 13** **Charge: -** **Sound: rē buf´** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to reject bluntly or 2) to drive back

Sent: Renee broke Ron's heart when she rebuffed his invitation to the school dance.

Var:

rebuke **Card # 266** **Group # 27** **Charge: -** **Sound: ri byük´** **POS: V**

Def: to reprimand or criticize sharply

Sent: Exemplary behavior never needs to be rebuked or corrected.

Var:

recant **Card # 30** **Group # 3** **Charge:** **Sound: rē kant´** **POS: V**

Def: to take back a statement or to confess to being wrong

Sent: The senator refused to recant his unflattering statements about the reporter.

Var:

recluse **Card # 238** **Group # 24** **Charge:** **Sound: re´ klüs** **POS: N**

Def: someone who withdraws from society

Sent: The recluse surprised everyone by attending the town council meeting.

Var: reclusive

rectify **Card # 145** **Group # 15** **Charge: +** **Sound: rek´ tə fī** **POS: V**

Def: to correct or adjust

Sent: Roger did his best to rectify the accounting error before his boss found out about it.

Var:

recur **Card # 50** **Group # 5** **Charge:** **Sound: rē kur´** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to happen again or 2) to come to mind again

Sent: When the symptoms began to recur, the parents took their daughter to the emergency room.

Var: recurrence

rejoinder **Card # 31** **Group # 3** **Charge:** **Sound: rē join´ dər** **POS: N**

Def: a reply to what has been said

Sent: What made the comedian so popular was his unscripted rejoinders to the audience's questions.

Var:

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Grade 8

renounce **Card # 267** **Group # 27** **Charge: -** **Sound: rē nouns´** **POS: V**

Def: to reject or abandon

Sent: In middle school we signed a pledge to renounce violence, drugs, and smoking.

Var: renunciation

renown **Card # 300** **Group # 30** **Charge: +** **Sound: rē noun´** **POS: N**

Def: fame or honor

Sent: The actor Henry Fonda gained renown as a result of the popularity of his many movies.

Var: renowned

replica **Card # 150** **Group # 15** **Charge:** **Sound: re´ pli kə** **POS: N**

Def: a copy, especially on a smaller scale than the original

Sent: There is a replica of the Statue of Liberty on the Seine River in Paris.

Var: replicate, replication

reprisal **Card # 8** **Group # 1** **Charge: -** **Sound: ri prī zəl** **POS: N**

Def: a retaliation for an injury

Sent: The judicial system was created in order to prevent individuals from exacting reprisals whenever they are injured by others.

Var:

reproach **Card # 268** **Group # 27** **Charge: -** **Sound: rē prōch´** **POS: V**

Def: to blame

Sent: My sister reproached me for not taking the books back to the library on time.

Var: reproachful

requisite **Card # 252** **Group # 25** **Charge:** **Sound: re´ kwə zət** **POS: A**

Def: necessary

Sent: When baking cookies, either baking soda or powder is requisite to make the cookies rise; without it, the cookies will be flat.

Var: requisition

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Grade 8

resilient	Card # 19	Group # 2	Charge: +	Sound: rē zil' yənt	POS:A
Def: able to recover quickly from misfortune or to return to the original state					
Sent: The woman proved herself resilient in the face of misfortune; she quickly recovered and went on to be quite successful.					
Var: resilience, resiliency					
restive	Card # 180	Group # 18	Charge: -	Sound: res' tiv	POS:A
Def: showing impatience because of restrictions or delays					
Sent: The passengers grew restive when the plane had to circle the airport once again.					
Var:					
reticent	Card # 32	Group # 3	Charge:	Sound: re' tə sənt	POS:A
Def: quiet and reserved					
Sent: Reginald was reticent to discuss political hot topics because he did not enjoy political debates.					
Var: reticence					
reverberate	Card # 69	Group # 7	Charge:	Sound: rē vur' bə rāt	POS:V
Def: to echo, reflect, or resound					
Sent: My yodeling reverberated through the mountains for at least five minutes.					
Var: reverberation					
rhetoric	Card # 33	Group # 3	Charge:	Sound: re' tə rik	POS:N
Def: 1) the art of using language skillfully or 2) insincere language					
Sent: The rhetoric coming from the candidates was ignored by the voters who were planning to vote the party line.					
Var: rhetorical					
risqué	Card # 9	Group # 1	Charge: -	Sound: ris kā'	POS:A
Def: bordering on being indecent or improper					
Sent: In Victorian England, it was considered risqué for a woman to show a bare ankle in public.					
Var:					

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Grade 8

rue	Card # 100	Group # 10	Charge: -	Sound: rü	POS: V
Def: to feel regret or sorrow over					
Sent: The small boy shook his fist at the bully and said, "You will rue the day you bullied me!"					
Var: rueful					
sage	Card # 232	Group # 23	Charge: +	Sound: sāj	POS: A
Def: wise					
Sent: I always appreciate Grandpa's sage advice; he is the wisest man I know.					
Var: sagacity, sagacious					
serene	Card # 163	Group # 17	Charge: +	Sound: sə rēn´	POS: A
Def: peaceful or calm					
Sent: The small stream was so serene that Sarah often chose to meditate there.					
Var: serenity					
servile	Card # 272	Group # 27	Charge: -	Sound: sərvīl´	POS: A
Def: submissive or menial					
Sent: The boss surrounded herself with servile people who jumped at her beck and call and never disagreed with her.					
Var: servility					
shackle	Card # 43	Group # 4	Charge: -	Sound: sha´kəl	POS: N
Def: a ring or band put around the arm or leg to prevent free movement					
Sent: The shackles on the elephant kept it from escaping.					
Var:					
simulate	Card # 151	Group # 15	Charge:	Sound: sim´yü lāt	POS: V
Def: to imitate					
Sent: The investigation board wished to simulate the accident to help determine what happened.					
Var: simulation					
simultaneous	Card # 92	Group # 9	Charge:	Sound: sī məl tā´nē əs	POS: A
Def: happening or existing at the same time					
Sent: The mentor played many simultaneous roles: teacher, friend, and guardian.					
Var:					

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Grade 8

slovenly **Card # 141** **Group # 14** **Charge: -** **Sound: slă'vən** **POS:A**

Def: messy or careless

Sent: The slovenly painter splattered paint all over the floor.

Var: sloven, slovenliness

spontaneous **Card # 51** **Group # 5** **Charge:** **Sound: spăn tă' nē əs** **POS:A**

Def: 1) unplanned or 2) produced without human labor

Sent: When the puppy bit his own tail and yelped, spontaneous laughter rang out from those nearby.

Var: spontaneity

sporadic **Card # 52** **Group # 5** **Charge:** **Sound: spə ra' dik** **POS:A**

Def: happening occasionally

Sent: The sporadic power outages gave us an excuse to tell ghost stories around a lone candle a few times a year.

Var:

squeamish **Card # 196** **Group # 20** **Charge: -** **Sound: skwē' mish** **POS:A**

Def: easily nauseated

Sent: Suzi became squeamish whenever she saw blood or needles.

Var:

stagnate **Card # 146** **Group # 15** **Charge: -** **Sound: stag' nāt** **POS:V**

Def: to fail to develop, change, or move

Sent: Water caught in a low spot will stagnate and become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Var: stagnant, stagnation

stamina **Card # 197** **Group # 20** **Charge: +** **Sound: sta' mə nə** **POS:N**

Def: physical strength or courage to resist hardship, illness, or fatigue

Sent: You must have good stamina to make it through Marine Corps boot camp.

Var:

staple **Card # 276** **Group # 28** **Charge:** **Sound: stă' pəl** **POS:N**

Def: a basic food item used frequently and in large amounts

Sent: Bread is a staple in the diets of people around the world.

Var:

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Grade 8

stipulate **Card # 253** **Group # 25** **Charge:** **Sound: stip' yū lāt** **POS: V**

Def: to require as part of an agreement or contract

Sent: The contract stipulates that only one pet under 20 pounds can be in the apartment.

Var: stipulation

strident **Card # 70** **Group # 7** **Charge: -** **Sound: strī' dənt** **POS: A**

Def: harsh or loud

Sent: The strident sound of the fire alarm jolted the kids out of their chairs.

Var:

stymie **Card # 181** **Group # 18** **Charge: -** **Sound: stī' mē** **POS: V**

Def: to thwart or make difficulties for

Sent: Sherlock Holmes was momentarily stymied by the lack of evidence at the crime scene.

Var:

sublime **Card # 82** **Group # 8** **Charge: +** **Sound: sə blīm'** **POS: A**

Def: great, noble, or splendid

Sent: The sublime view of the majestic sun setting over the ocean was a great end to the cruise.

Var:

succumb **Card # 185** **Group # 19** **Charge: -** **Sound: sə kum'** **POS: V**

Def: 1) to give up or give in to or 2) to die

Sent: Since she was on a diet, Sue fought not to succumb to her craving for chocolate.

Var:

surmise **Card # 207** **Group # 21** **Charge:** **Sound: sə r mīz'** **POS: V**

Def: to suppose something from little evidence

Sent: I surmise from your guilty expression and the fact that you won't look me in the eye that you broke your promise.

Var:

surpass **Card # 62** **Group # 6** **Charge:** **Sound: sə r pas'** **POS: V**

Def: to exceed or go beyond

Sent: Most parents want their children to surpass them in education and fortune.

Var:

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surveillance	Card # 66	Group # 7	Charge:	Sound: sər vā' ləns	POS:N
Def: close observation of a person or area					
Sent: Most major stores have cameras in strategic locations to conduct surveillance.					
Var: surveil					
susceptible	Card # 218	Group # 22	Charge: -	Sound: sə səp' tə bəl	POS:A
Def: easily influenced					
Sent: Her allergies made her very susceptible to getting colds in the winter.					
Var:					
swelter	Card # 108	Group # 11	Charge: -	Sound: swel' tər	POS:V
Def: to suffer from or to be overcome by great heat					
Sent: The survivors of the hurricane sweltered in the humid conditions until the electricity was restored.					
Var: sweltering					
tirade	Card # 122	Group # 12	Charge: -	Sound: tī' rād	POS:N
Def: a long, angry speech					
Sent: Thomas' tirade against the selling of lottery tickets was well received by those who wanted to make the lottery illegal.					
Var:					
tract	Card # 277	Group # 28	Charge:	Sound: trakt	POS:N
Def: 1) an area of land or water, 2) an anatomical system, or 3) a persuasive pamphlet					
Sent: The farm was divided into 25 one-acre tracts and then sold to a housing developer.					
Var:					
tremulous	Card # 20	Group # 2	Charge: -	Sound: trem' yə ləs	POS:A
Def: trembling or quaking					
Sent: Her shaky, tremulous voice indicated the depth of her fear.					
Var:					
tribulation	Card # 281	Group # 28	Charge: -	Sound: trib yū lā' shən	POS:N
Def: great trouble or suffering					
Sent: The lost hikers went through many tribulations in the wilderness before being rescued.					
Var:					

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Knowsys Vocabulary Alpha List

Grade 8

tumult	Card # 257	Group # 26	Charge: -	Sound: tü' mælt	POS: N
Def: a riot or uprising					
Sent: The police put an end to the tumult caused by the angry rioters.					
Var: tumultuous					
turbulent	Card # 258	Group # 26	Charge: -	Sound: tər' byə lænt	POS: A
Def: causing disturbance or agitation					
Sent: Although I am fine in smooth waters, I get seasick whenever I sail through turbulent waves.					
Var: turbulence					
turmoil	Card # 259	Group # 26	Charge: -	Sound: tur' moil	POS: N
Def: a state of confusion or agitation					
Sent: When the car crashed into the building, there was so much turmoil and confusion that no one remembered to call the police.					
Var:					
tycoon	Card # 156	Group # 16	Charge:	Sound: tī kün'	POS: N
Def: a wealthy and powerful businessperson					
Sent: Jaclyn Kennedy married the Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis in 1968.					
Var:					
unseemly	Card # 10	Group # 1	Charge: -	Sound: un sēm' lē	POS: A
Def: inappropriate or improper					
Sent: Nguyen and Toni began an unseemly argument at the reception dinner.					
Var:					
vehement	Card # 101	Group # 10	Charge: -	Sound: vē' ə mənt	POS: A
Def: expressing strong feeling					
Sent: Valerie's vehement speech against the proposal helped to defeat the bill.					
Var: vehemence					
vie	Card # 131	Group # 13	Charge:	Sound: vī	POS: V
Def: to compete for, as in a contest					
Sent: In March, the top eight tennis players will vie for the championship.					
Var:					

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Knowsys Vocabulary Alpha List

Grade 8

vignette	Card # 34	Group # 3	Charge:	Sound: vin yet´	POS:N
Def: a short sketch that provides a clear picture					
Sent: The movie begins with a series of two-minute vignettes about life in Los Angeles.					
Var:					
vilify	Card # 269	Group # 27	Charge: -	Sound: vi´ lə fi	POS:V
Def: to slander or libel					
Sent: The innocent man was vilified by the press based on circumstantial evidence.					
Var: vilification					
vivacity	Card # 191	Group # 19	Charge: +	Sound: və va´ sə tē	POS:N
Def: liveliness of manner or appearance					
Sent: My grandmother has great vivacity and energy despite her advanced age.					
Var: vivacious					
voluminous	Card # 290	Group # 29	Charge:	Sound: və lū´ mə nə s	POS:A
Def: large or full					
Sent: Despite its size, the Louvre is only able to display about 20 percent of its voluminous antiquities artifacts.					
Var: volume					
wrangle	Card # 248	Group # 25	Charge: -	Sound: rang´ gəl	POS:V
Def: to quarrel or argue					
Sent: The cab driver and his fare wrangled over the price of the ride.					
Var: wrangler					
wreak	Card # 53	Group # 5	Charge:	Sound: rēk	POS:V
Def: to bring about or inflict					
Sent: The heavy rains caused flooding that wreaked devastation on the riverside businesses.					
Var:					
wrest	Card # 130	Group # 13	Charge: -	Sound: rest	POS:V
Def: 1) to pull away from with a twist or 2) to take by force					
Sent: Despite his best effort, the boy could not wrest the bone from the dog's mouth.					
Var: wrestle					

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