**Vocabulary**

**diversity**

**noun**

the state of being diverse

**there was considerable diversity in the style of the reports**

**layout   
noun**

the way in which the parts of something are arranged or laid out

**the road layout**

**symmetrical**

**adjective**

made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis; showing symmetry

**the shape of a hill, smooth and symmetrical**

**urban  
adjective**

in, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city

**the urban population**

**replica**

**noun**

an exact copy or model of something, especially one on a smaller scale

**a replica of the Empire State Building**

**buffer**

**noun**

a person or thing that reduces a shock or that forms a barrier between incompatible or antagonistic people or things

**family and friends can provide a buffer against stress**

**verb**

lessen or moderate the impact of (something)

**the massage helped to buffer the strain**

**almanac  
noun**

an annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information such as astronomical data and tide tables.

**boisterous  
adjective**

noisy, energetic, and cheerful

**a group of boisterous lads**

**architectural  
adjective**

noisy, energetic, and cheerful

**a group of boisterous lads**

**emblem**

**noun**

a heraldic device or symbolic object as a distinctive badge of a nation, organization, or family

**America's national emblem, the bald eagle**

**span**

**noun**

the full extent of something from end to end; the amount of space that something covers

**a warehouse with a clear span of 28 feet**

**Verb**

(of a bridge, arch, etc.) extend from side to side of

**the stream was spanned by a narrow bridge**

**govern**

**verb.**

conduct the policy, actions, and affairs of (a state, organization, or people) with authority

**he was incapable of governing the country**

**shrine**

**noun**

a place regarded as holy because of its associations with a divinity or a sacred person or relic, marked by a building or other construction

**a Hindu shrine at which offerings are placed twice a day**

**verb**

enshrine

**a goddess shrined in every tree**

**archery  
noun**

shooting with a bow and arrows, especially at a target as a sport.

**ancestral  
adjective**

of, belonging to, or inherited from an ancestor or ancestors

**the family's ancestral home**

**bid**

**verb**

offer (a certain price) for something, especially at an auction

**guests will bid for pieces of fine jewellery**

**noun**

an offer of a price, especially at an auction

**at the fur tables, several buyers make bids for the pelts**

**ascension**

**noun**

the action of rising to an important position or a higher level

**his ascension to the presidency**

**moat**

**noun**

a deep, wide ditch surrounding a castle, fort, or town, typically filled with water and intended as a defence against attack.

**verb**

surround (a place) with a moat

**a moated castle**

**intricate  
adjective**

very complicated or detailed

**an intricate network of canals**

**harmonious**

**adjective**

tuneful; not discordant

**harmonious music**

**sphere  
noun**

a round solid figure, or its surface, with every point on its surface equidistant from its centre.

**verb**

enclose in or as if in a sphere

**mourners, sphered by their dark garb**

**contrast  
noun**

the state of being strikingly different from something else in juxtaposition or close association

**Kos is an island of contrasts**

**verb**

differ strikingly

**his friend's success contrasted with his own failure**

**tentative**

**adjective**

not certain or fixed; provisional

**a tentative conclusion**

**innovative**

**adjective**

(of a product, idea, etc.) featuring new methods; advanced and original

**innovative ways to help unemployed people**

**etiquette  
noun**

the customary code of polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession or group

**the rules of etiquette are changing**

**neatness  
noun**

the quality or condition of being neat

**his obsessive neatness**

**distinctive  
adjective**

characteristic of one person or thing, and so serving to distinguish it from others

**juniper berries give gin its distinctive flavour**

**lush  
adjective**

(of vegetation, especially grass) growing luxuriantly

**lush greenery and cultivated fields**

**noun**

a heavy drinker, especially a habitual one

**a lush who doesn't make very much sense most of the time**

**verb**

make (someone) drunk

**Mr Hobart got so lushed up he was spilling drinks down his shirt**

**(Beijing text lexile range: 1010L-1200L)**