

Power Synonyms – Book One - by Bruce Stirling

Power Synonyms

**For TOEFL, IELTS, the SAT, the ACT
and the GRE**

**by
Bruce Stirling**



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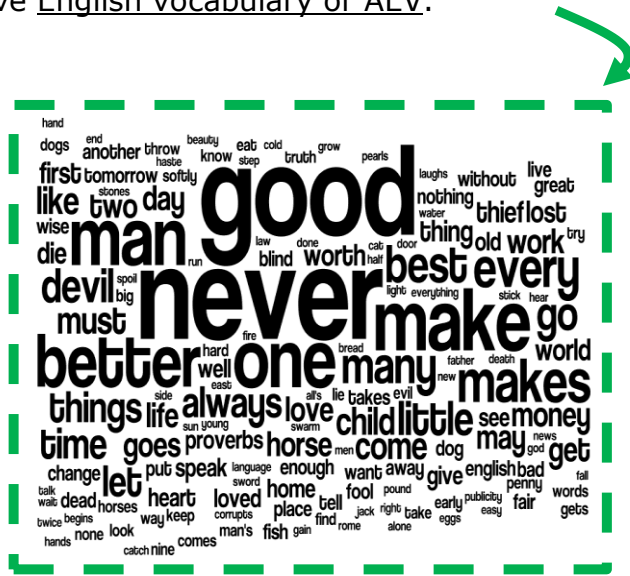
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Hi! My name is Bruce Stirling. *Power Synonyms* is based on my innovative vocabulary strategy I call synonym substitution. This is how it works. First, I look at your active English vocabulary or AEV.



Your active English vocabulary contains English words you know. Because you know them, you use them correctly, for example, a word like MANY. Now here is the problem: On test day, if you use MANY when speaking or writing, will it increase your score? No. Why not? Because MANY does not demonstrate academic language use, the very thing the raters are looking for. But wait. What if you substitute MANY with the power synonym MYRIAD? Compare the two sentences below. Which demonstrates academic word choice when writing and/or speaking? Which will score higher on test day?

1. The world has many problems.

2. The world has myriad problems.

That’s right. Sentence two—and all you did was change MANY to the power synonym MYRIAD! Easy, right? That is how synonym substitution works. I target a word in your active English vocabulary (AEV) and substitute it with a power synonym (PS).

On test day, you might see myriad in a reading passage or hear it in a lecture. If you do, you will know that it means many. This will help you understand readings and lectures, and help you answer questions more quickly and easily for maximum scoring!

Reading Sample

1. Global warming threatens **myriad** species with extinction...

Lecture Sample

“Today, we will be talking about **myriad** American inventions.”

Remember...

- recycle *Power Synonyms* when you speak and write
- look for them as you read articles and essays
- listen for them as you watch movies and the news
- put them to memory—and be test ready!

#1: (AEV) many (PS) myriad

GRAMMAR

adjective → I have **myriad** TOEFL books.

noun → I have **a myriad of** TOEFL books.

USAGE

AEV → I have **many** tasks to complete today.

PS → I have **myriad** tasks to complete today.

SAMPLES

1. The teacher said there will be **myriad** questions about Lincoln on the test.
2. Jane visited **a myriad of** interesting museums when she visited Paris.
3. The lawyer said the contract contains **myriad** errors.
4. If you look inside Andrew's refrigerator, you will find **a myriad of** fresh vegetables.
5. Personally, I believe that global warming is occurring for **myriad** reasons.

#2: (AEV) too much/many (PS) a plethora of

GRAMMAR

noun → Al has **a plethora of** cars. Twenty is way too many.

USAGE

AEV → The new president has **so many** problems to solve.

PS → The new president has **a plethora of** problems to solve.

SAMPLES

1. This essay has **a plethora of** errors. Please rewrite it.
2. Google TOEFL and you will find **a plethora of** TOEFL guides.
3. Climbing Mount Everest is dangerous because **a plethora of** climbers want to reach the top all at the same time.
4. Before antibiotics, people died from **a plethora of** diseases.
5. The world's oceans are experiencing **a plethora of** problems due to global warming.

#3: (AEV) difficult/tough (PS) grueling

GRAMMAR

adjective → The Boston marathon is a **grueling** race.

USAGE

AEV → Working in the hot sun all day was **very difficult**.

PS → Working in the hot sun all day was **grueling**.

SAMPLES

1. For many, speaking in public can be a **grueling** experience.
2. Last summer, Tom went on a **grueling** five-hundred mile hike through the mountains.
3. Four hour tests, like TOEFL and IELTS, can be **grueling**, especially if you're not prepared.
4. Law school is **grueling**. As a result, many law students drop out.
5. After a **grueling** eighty-nine minutes of scoreless play, Team USA finally scored and beat Brazil in the World Cup final.

#4: (AEV) very/really (PS) quite

GRAMMAR

adverb → Ann is **quite** serious about changing her major.

USAGE

AEV → The final exam was **really/very** hard.

PS → The final exam was **quite** hard.

SAMPLES

1. Are you **quite** certain that your car won't start?
2. That last Star Wars movie was **quite** good.
3. Brad is **quite** satisfied with his GRE score.
4. Medical school can be **quite** grueling. As a result, many students drop out.
5. Working fourteen hours a day is not **quite** what I had in mind.

#5: (AEV) think about (PS) contemplate

GRAMMAR

verb + object → Early man **contemplated** the stars with fear and wonder.

verb → Don't bother the professor. She is **contemplating**.

USAGE

AEV → Daisy is **thinking about** applying to Harvard.

PS → Daisy is **contemplating** applying to Harvard.

SAMPLES

1. Betty Ann is **contemplating** the myriad customers she must call today.
2. When you brainstorm an essay, you are **contemplating** the direction of your argument.
3. They have been **contemplating** a move to the west coast for a long time.
4. Contemplation is the noun form of the verb **to contemplate**.
5. Al is contemplating changing his major, yet the more the **contemplates**, the less sure he is.

#6: (AEV) poor (PS) impecunious

GRAMMAR

adjective → When I was a student, I was always **impecunious**.

noun → The **impecunious** are at the bottom of the economic ladder.

USAGE

AEV → The city is building more shelters for the **poor**.

PS → The city is building more shelters for the **impecunious**.

SAMPLES

1. Dave has two grueling jobs. He works hard, but still feels **impecunious**.

2. There are myriad economic reasons why an individual will become **impecunious**.

3. **Impecunious** countries have little or no voice at the United Nations.

4. Before she became a famous writer, J. K. Rowling was quite **impecunious**.

5. In the 1970's, Times Square attracted a plethora of **impecunious** people.

#7: (AEV) problem/mystery (PS) conundrum

GRAMMAR

noun → A **conundrum** is a difficult problem that seems unsolvable.

USAGE

AEV → This **difficult problem** is costing the company time and money.

PS → This **conundrum** is costing the company time and money.

SAMPLES

1. Sherlock Holmes is only happy when he is contemplating myriad **conundrums**.
2. Untying the Gordian Knot was a grueling **conundrum** solved by Alexander the Great.
3. Impecunious people face a plethora of daily **conundrums**, such as finding work and food.
4. Why did Titanic sink so fast? For years, that **conundrum** puzzled marine engineers.
5. Sometimes you just have to sit and contemplate solutions to a **conundrum**.

#8: (AEV) remember (PS) recall

GRAMMAR

verb → Al can **recall** the day when he got married.

USAGE

AEV → Trying to **remember** all these new words is grueling.

PS → Trying to **recall** all these new words is grueling.

SAMPLES

1. Barbara **recalls** seeing George Clooney in London but her husband Tim does not.
2. The lawyer asked the witness to **recall** the events of the day in question.
3. Police are trained to **recall** myriad details when dealing with the public.
4. When Rod **recalls** his days as an impecunious student, he seems quite happy.
5. When you take a test like IELTS, you have to **recall** myriad strategies under pressure.

#9: (AEV) thus/therefore/so (PS) hence

GRAMMAR

adverb → It is raining; **hence**, I will take my umbrella to work.

USAGE

AEV → The GRE is a grueling test; **therefore**, you'd better prepare.

PS → The GRE is a grueling test; **hence**, you had better prepare.

SAMPLES

1. Jill is allergic to flowers; **hence**, she is always taking allergy medicine.
2. The poles are melting at quite a rapid rate; **hence**, the expression "global warming."
3. The school is facing a plethora of financial problems; **hence**, the increase in tuition.
4. The conclusion was quite a conundrum; **hence**, the students are still contemplating it.
5. Ibrahim got a low GMAT score; **hence**, he will take the test again next week.

#10: (AEV) because/since (PS) inasmuch as

GRAMMAR

conj. → Rob went to the doctor **inasmuch as** he felt quite sick.

USAGE

AEV → Paul got a high GRE score **because** he studied a lot.

PS → Paul got a high GRE score **inasmuch as** he studied a lot.

SAMPLES

1. California is experiencing myriad forest fires **inasmuch as** the state is in a drought.

2. Mark is contemplating a new computer **inasmuch as** his keeps crashing.

3. **Inasmuch as** it is quite dangerous, Mount Everest is not for beginners.

4. Myriad graduate students are feeling impecunious **inasmuch as** they have big loans.

5. Why do people smoke? **Inasmuch as** nicotine is quite addictive; hence, they can't stop.

Quiz #1

Task: Substitute the **bold** words with a Power Synonym.

1. myriad 2. a plethora of 3. grueling 4. quite
5. impecunious 6. hence 7. conundrum 8. hence
9. inasmuch as 10. contemplate

1. As a student, Sue is **very** good; she always asks the teacher **many** questions.

2. Sam can't **remember** his Gmail password; **therefore**, he can't use his phone.

3. Karl can't work today **because** he is **very** sick; **thus**, he will stay home.

4. The players had a **tough** workout **because** they have not won a game all year.

5. Why is Sarah **thinking about** a third part-time job? Won't that be too **difficult** for her?

6. New companies face **a lot of** problems, so many that most do not survive.

7. As I **remember**, I gave money to that charity that helps the **poor**.

8. That **problem** is looking for a solution; **therefore**, don't give up. Keep **thinking about it**.

Answer Key – Quiz #1

1. As a student, Sue is **quite** good; she always asks the teacher **myriad** questions.
2. Sam can't **recall** his Gmail password; **hence**, he can't use his phone.
3. Karl can't work today **inasmuch as** he is **quite** sick; **hence**, he will stay home.
4. The players had a **grueling** workout **inasmuch as** they have not won a game all year.
5. Why is Sarah **contemplating** a third part-time job? Won't that be too **grueling** for her?
6. New companies face **a plethora of** problems, so many that most do not survive.
7. As I **recall**, I gave money to that charity that helps the **impecunious**.
8. That **conundrum** is looking for a solution; **hence**, don't give up. Keep **contemplating** it.

#11: (AEV) boring/dull (PS) prosaic

GRAMMAR

adjective → My English professor is so **prosaic**.

USAGE

AEV → My hometown is really **boring**. There is nothing to do.

PS → My hometown is quite **prosaic**. There is nothing to do.

SAMPLES

1. The graduation speech was so **prosaic** that quite a number of students left early.
2. The author changed the title of her new book to something less **prosaic**.
3. Tina loves chemistry, but Phil thinks it is **prosaic**. He prefers art instead.
4. Even though he was impecunious and homeless, his life was not **prosaic**.
5. To be honest, the only thing I can recall of that opera is how **prosaic** it was.

#12: (AEV) beginner/novice (PS) tyro

GRAMMAR

noun → Jack is a **tyro** at tennis.

USAGE

AEV → This tech class is for **beginners** not experts.

PS → This tech class is for **tyros** not experts.

SAMPLES

1. **Tyros** should not sail alone at first inasmuch as it is too dangerous.
2. Andre could tell by Adam's accent that he was quite a **tyro** at French.
3. Eva has been playing the piano for quite a number of years, but she still feels like a **tyro**.
4. Can you recall when you were a **tyro** at something?
5. Hal prefers to teach advanced students. Teaching **tyros** is too prosaic for him.

#13: (AEV) popular/common (PS) ubiquitous

GRAMMAR

adjective → Deer are quite **ubiquitous** in the United States.

USAGE

AEV → Starbucks is **popular**.

PS → Starbucks is **ubiquitous**.

SAMPLES

1. iPads are not as **ubiquitous** as iPhones.
2. Passenger pigeons were once so **ubiquitous** they blocked out the sun. Now they're extinct.
3. Hybrid cars are becoming quite **ubiquitous** inasmuch as their prices are going down.
4. Sushi restaurants, once rare, are now quite **ubiquitous** in North American shopping malls.
5. "Multi-tasking" is a **ubiquitous** phrase that means doing myriad jobs at the same time.

#14: (AEV) while in contrast (PS) whereas

GRAMMAR

conjunction → Dahlia loves tea **whereas** Ahmed prefers coffee.

USAGE

AEV → For Ken, physics is easy **while in contrast** Chinese is hard.

PS → For Ken, physics is easy **whereas** Chinese is hard.

SAMPLES

1. Andrea has a plethora of purses **whereas** Pauline has only has a few.
2. TOEFL tests academic English **whereas** the GRE tests general undergraduate knowledge.
3. The first *Star Wars* film was great **whereas** the sequels have been quite prosaic.
4. Mike is a tyro at repairing cars **whereas** Pat is an expert inasmuch as he is a mechanic.
5. The history exam was easy **whereas** the psychology exam was quite grueling.

#15: (AEV) easy/simple (PS) facile

GRAMMAR

adjective → Using a smartphone is **facile**.

USAGE

AEV → Speaking English is **easy** since I am a native speaker.

PS → Speaking English is **facile** inasmuch as I am a native speaker.

SAMPLES

1. Contemplating a new job is **facile** whereas actually finding one can be quite grueling.
2. For Bert, walking is a **facile** activity whereas for Tad, it is too prosaic. He prefers to jog.
3. Chris thought the test was **facile** whereas Al found the myriad questions quite grueling.
4. The solution to that conundrum was **facile** once I started to contemplate it.
5. Experts make everything look **facile**; hence, they appear confident and in control.

#16: (AEV) reduce/decrease (PS) abate

GRAMMAR

verb → The cold medicine helped **abate** my fever.

USAGE

AEV → The influenza epidemic is finally **decreasing**.

PS → The influenza epidemic is finally **abating**.

SAMPLES

1. Mary's love for chocolate will never **abate**; hence, she will always be a "chocoholic."

2. The weather report says the snow will **abate** soon and tomorrow will be cold but sunny.

3. Pete's smoking has **abated** whereas his drinking problem is getting much worse.

4. How to **abate** the plethora of problems facing the impecunious is a grueling challenge.

5. For some, the fear of seeing a dentist will never **abate** whereas for others, it is no big deal.

#17: (AEV) live in (PS) dwell in

GRAMMAR

verb → Randy **dwells in** a house whereas Jon **dwells in** a condo.

USAGE

AEV → The plains Indians of the western U.S. **lived in** teepees.

PS → The plains Indians of the western U.S. **dwelt in** teepees.

SAMPLES

1. Inasmuch as Mitch **dwells in** a very small house, his monthly bills are quite low.
2. Myriad animals **dwell in** the forest, such as deer, raccoons, bobcats, and coyotes.
3. Impecunious people **dwell in** poverty whereas rich people **dwell in** luxury.
4. Most people want to **dwell in** peace and not recall the evils of this world.
5. Have you ever contemplated **dwelling in** a yurt?

#18: (AEV) conclude/infer (PS) construe

GRAMMAR

verb → From the dark clouds, I can **construe** that it will rain.

USAGE

AEV → After you read her essay, what did you **conclude**?

PS → After you read her essay, what did you **construe**?

SAMPLES

1. Sherlock Holmes has **construed** that, from the plethora of evidence, there were in fact two crimes committed.
2. Yes, Bart does look impecunious but don't **construe** that he is in fact poor.
3. Inasmuch as iPhones are quite ubiquitous, we can **construe** that Apple is making a profit.
4. The students all failed the final exam. From this fact, what can we **construe**?
5. Can we **construe** that Canada is the same as the U.S.? No, and for myriad reasons.

#19: (AEV) confusing/not clear (PS) ambiguous

GRAMMAR

adjective → The professor does not like **ambiguous** answers.

USAGE

AEV → The new president's foreign policy is **not clear**.

PS → The new president's foreign policy is **ambiguous**.

SAMPLES

1. Unfortunately, the survey produced **ambiguous** results while costing quite a bit.
2. From Ray's **ambiguous** reply, his parents construed that he isn't happy at Harvard.
3. Maya's essay was so clear whereas Lou's was **ambiguous** and had myriad errors.
4. In some cultures, **ambiguous** answers are a way of avoiding conflict.
5. This report is so short and **ambiguous**, it seems that it was written by a tyro.

#20: (AEV) likely/appropriate (PS) apt

GRAMMAR

adjective → "Grueling" is an **apt** description of our final exam.

adverb → A long day at work is **apt** to make you tired.

USAGE

AEV → My dog has spots so "Spot" is an **appropriate** name.

PS → My dog has spots so "Spot" is an **apt** name.

AEV → John is **likely** to sleep in on the weekend.

PS → John is **apt** to sleep in on the weekend.

SAMPLES

1. A house in Beverly Hills is **apt** to cost quite a bit; hence, be prepared for sticker shock.

2. The police are **apt** to construe an ambiguous conclusion inasmuch as the witness was drunk.

3. Paul is an **apt** candidate for the job whereas Blane is contemplating other options.

4. Ned eats like a horse. True, but a more **apt** comparison would be "He eats like a pig."

5. Most had concluded that Trump was not **apt** to win the election.

Quiz #2

Task: Substitute the **bold** words with a Power Synonym.

1. prosaic
2. tyro
3. ubiquitous
4. whereas
5. facile
6. abate
7. dwell in
8. construe
9. ambiguous
10. apt

1. Pamela tends to **live in** her dreams and, as a result, is very **unclear** about her future.

2. Joe is **likely** to tell you whom he will vote for **while** Nick's position is rather **less clear**.

3. As a **beginner** at golf, George is quite good **while** Dave does not find it so **easy**.

4. The summer heat is finally **decreasing** but is **likely** to return since it is still August.

5. We can **infer** that igloos are good heat insulators since Eskimos often **live in**.

6. Myriad trends have come and gone, like the once **common** Tamagotchi and Rubik's Cube.

7. Beth needs to **reduce** her stress level or she is **likely** to get sick and miss work.

8. For Liz, museums are so **boring while** Stephanie is **likely** to spend all day in one.

Answer Key – Quiz #2

1. Pamela tends to **dwell in** her dreams and, as a result, is very **ambiguous** about her future.
2. Joe is **apt** to tell you whom he will vote for **whereas** Nick's position is rather **ambiguous**.
3. As a **tyro** at golf, George is quite good **whereas** Dave does not find it so **facile**.
4. The summer heat is finally **abating** but is **apt** to return since it is still August.
5. We can **construe** that igloos are good heat insulators since Eskimos often **dwell in** them.
6. Myriad trends have come and gone, like the once **ubiquitous** Tamagotchi and Rubik's Cube.
7. Beth needs to **abate** her stress level or she is **apt** to get sick and miss work.
8. For Liz, museums are so **prosaic** **whereas** Stephanie is **apt** to spend all day in one.

#21: (AEV) attempt/try hard (PS) endeavor

GRAMMAR

verb → You must **endeavor** to reach your goals.

noun → Bill's business **endeavor** was a great success.

USAGE

AEV → Mick has been **trying hard** to solve that conundrum.

PS → Mick has been **endeavoring** to solve that conundrum.

AEV → Joe is thinking about that dangerous **attempt**.

PS → Joe is contemplating that dangerous **endeavor**.

SAMPLES

1. Columbus was **endeavoring** to discover India when he landed in the Bahamas.

2. Jill is **endeavoring** to dwell in an igloo in order to experience life as an Eskimo.

3. A Mars **endeavor** would be faced with a plethora of scientific challenges.

4. Thrill seekers love dangerous **endeavors** inasmuch as they love challenges.

5. That **endeavor** was quite grueling inasmuch as I was not prepared for such an experience.

#22: (AEV) danger (PS) peril

GRAMMAR

noun → To avoid **peril**, do not drive when the road is icy.

USAGE

AEV → Life is full of **danger**.

PS → Life is full of **peril**.

SAMPLES

1. The workers were ambiguous about the **perils** of the job. All they wanted was to be paid.
2. The hurricane has not yet abated; hence, may **perils** remain so stay sheltered.
3. A Mars endeavor would face a plethora of **perils**.
4. Thrill seekers love dangerous endeavors inasmuch as they love to be put in **peril**.
5. Swimming with sharks is quite popular, yet it sounds like a **perilous** endeavor to me.

#23: (AEV) filled with (PS) fraught with

GRAMMAR

idiom → Space exploration is **fraught with** peril.

USAGE

AEV → Paul's argument was **filled with** basic factual errors.

PS → Paul's argument was **fraught with** basic factual errors.

SAMPLES

1. Jean's decision to drop out of school was not facile. Instead, it was **fraught with** regret.
2. Early man had primitive tools; hence, hunting big animals was **fraught with** peril.
3. Whenever Hal contemplates flying, he becomes **fraught with** nerves.
4. The Prime Minister's economic speech was **fraught with** ambiguities.
5. That new play was **fraught with** prosaic language. Give me Shakespeare any day.

#24: (AEV) necessary/important (PS) essential

GRAMMAR

adjective → The professor discussed many **essential** ideas.

USAGE

AEV → A high TOEFL score is **necessary** if you want to go to MIT.

PS → A high TOEFL score is **essential** if you want to go to MIT.

SAMPLES

1. The **essential** idea expressed by the novel is that life is full of peril.
2. The new government food program is **essential** if we want to help the impecunious.
3. If we want to dwell on Mars, it is **essential** that we be able to produce food and water on the Red Planet.
4. Corey is contemplating a new car, but it is not **essential** inasmuch as his old one runs fine.
5. To maximize scoring, it is **essential** that you recall these power synonyms on test day.

#25: (AEV) avoid/ignore (PS) eschew/shun

GRAMMAR

verb → eschew things → Howard **eschews** fatty food.

verb → shun people → Mary is **shunning** her brother.

USAGE

AEV → To lose weight, you should **avoid** a high carb diet.

PS → To lose weight, you should **eschew** a high carb diet.

AEV → In *Titanic*, Jack was **ignored** by the first class passengers.

PS → In *Titanic*, Jack was **shunned** by the first class passengers.

SAMPLES

1. For Lee, nuts are perilous; hence, she **eschews** them inasmuch as she's allergic to them.
2. In the Middle Ages, you were apt to be **shunned** if you believed in science and not God.
3. For myriad reasons, Jill has been **eschewing** meat for longer than I can recall.
4. It is not hard to construe that Hillary Clinton is **shunning** Donald Trump.
5. Sarah is endeavoring to **eschew** sweets, but it is hard since they are so ubiquitous at the office. Everyone, it seems, is eating them.

#26: (AEV) stubborn/inflexible (PS) intransigent

GRAMMAR

adjective → My new puppy is so sweet and so **intransigent**.

USAGE

AEV → Because management was **stubborn**, they lost the contract.

PS → Because management was **intransigent**, they lost the contract.

SAMPLES

1. Being too **intransigent** can be perilous; hence, you should endeavor to find middle ground.
2. Bob is **intransigent** when eating out; he is not ambiguous about his preferred choices.
3. Teachers are apt to be **intransigent** when students want more time for assignments.
4. The **intransigent** lawyer refused to believe the witness's facile answers.
5. **Intransigent** is an adjective whereas intransigence is a noun, as in, "If it were not for Mary's intransigence, we would not have gotten a raise at work. She kept asking the boss for one, and we all got one. Thank you Mary."

#27: (AEV) lack/shortage of (PS) a paucity of

GRAMMAR

adjective → This town has **a paucity of** good coffee shops

USAGE

AEV → There is **a lack of** compassion in Trump's White House.

PS → There is **a paucity of** compassion in Trump's White House.

SAMPLES

1. The professor told her students, "I've noticed **a paucity of** effort in your essays lately."
2. Don't judge a book by its cover. **A paucity of** money does not mean one is impecunious.
3. The Sahara Desert is quite perilous inasmuch as it is fraught with **a paucity of** water.
4. After the hurricane destroyed the town, there was **a paucity of** help from the government.
5. In *Hamlet*, **a paucity of** family love forces Hamlet to contemplate his choices.

#28: (AEV) really bad/wrong (PS) egregious

GRAMMAR

adjective → Plagiarism is an **egregious** academic offense.

USAGE

AEV → The tyro's mistake was **really bad**.

PS → The tyro's mistake was quite **egregious**.

SAMPLES

1. An **egregious** calculating error could cause a company a plethora of problems.
2. The policeman's **egregious** behavior is unacceptable; hence, he should be fired.
3. Throughout history, dictators have committed **egregious** acts against humanity.
4. I can still recollect Wall Street's **egregious** greed that resulted in the Crash of 2008.
5. There is nothing ambiguous about the **egregious** errors in this essay.

#29: (AEV) opposing (PS) disparate

GRAMMAR

adjective → Tom and Jane have **disparate** opinions about the movie *Titanic*.

USAGE

AEV → Good research includes many **opposing** views.

PS → Good research includes myriad **disparate** views.

SAMPLES

1. **Disparate** solutions to the nation's problems only result in intransigent politicians.
2. I eschew those with **disparate** ideas inasmuch as they tend to have a paucity of patience.
3. Their **disparate** schedules lead to a planning problem; hence, they had to reschedule.
4. Surprisingly, two **disparate** solutions solved the mystery of that grueling conundrum.
5. These days, **disparate** opinions are ubiquitous, especially on the internet.

#30: (AEV) harmless (PS) innocuous

GRAMMAR

adjective → My dog barks a lot, but she is really quite innocuous.

USAGE

AEV → Many viruses are **harmless**.

PS → Myriad viruses are **innocuous**.

SAMPLES

1. Cathy believes that skydiving is perilous whereas Steve thinks it is **innocuous**.
2. Most wild mushrooms are apt to be **innocuous**; however, some can be quite perilous.
3. Tim's speech was so fraught with **innocuous** comments that his point was ambiguous.
4. Years ago, cocaine in Coca Cola was thought to be an **innocuous** brain power medicine.
5. A weasel is a cute little wild animal. Yet don't be fooled. A weasel is far from **innocuous**.

Quiz #3

Task: Substitute the **bold** words with a Power Synonym.

1. endeavor 2. peril 3. fraught with 4. essential
5. eschew/shun 6. intransigent 7. a paucity of
8. egregious 9. disparate 10. innocuous

1. Some think flying is **harmless** whereas others argue that it is **filled with** danger.

2. Even though the job is prosaic, it is **important** that you **try hard** or you are apt to quit.

3. Al **ignores stubborn** people inasmuch as they have **different** views and are apt to argue.

4. Tina **avoids** coffee late at night inasmuch as it keeps her awake.

5. Ron's business plan is **filled with really bad** errors that are financially **dangerous**.

6. Superman saved the world from a plethora of **dangerous** that had refused to abate.

7. Don't be so **stubborn**. If your cold hasn't abated, it is **necessary** that you see a doctor.

8. This test has **a lack of** facile questions. Still, I must **attempt** to answer them all.

Answer Key – Quiz #3

1. Some think flying is **innocuous** whereas others argue that it is **fraught with** danger.
2. Even though the job is prosaic, it is **essential** that you **endeavor** or you are apt to quit.
3. Al **shuns** **intransigent** people inasmuch as they have **different** views and are apt to argue.
4. Tina **eschews** coffee late at night inasmuch as it keeps her awake.
5. Ron's business plan is **fraught with** **egregious** errors that are financially **perilous**.
6. Superman saved the world from a plethora of **perils** that had refused to abate.
7. Don't be so **intransigent**. If your cold hasn't abated, it is **essential** that you see a doctor.
8. This test has **a paucity of** facile questions. Still, I must **endeavor** to answer them all.

#31: (AEV) very happy (PS) ebullient

GRAMMAR

adjective → Alex is **ebullient** because his team just won the cup.

USAGE

AEV → When Jake got his driver's license, he was **very happy**.

PS → When Jake got his driver's license, he was **ebullient**.

SAMPLES

1. Pamela is always **ebullient** whereas Mike tends to be quite somber.
2. The boss's **ebullient** attitude has resulted in a myriad of positive changes at work.
3. **Ebullience** is the noun form of the adjective **ebullient**, as in "Your ebullience puts a smile on everyone's face."
4. President Obama, despite his grueling job, always seemed so **ebullient**.
5. No wonder Mary Ann is so **ebullient**. She just got accepted by Yale.

#32: (AEV) though/even though (PS) albeit

GRAMMAR

conjunction → The trip was fun, **albeit** expensive

USAGE

AEV → Dave finally went to see a dentist, **though** reluctantly.

PS → Dave finally went to see a dentist, **albeit** reluctantly.

SAMPLES

1. The hurricane, **albeit** much weaker now, continues to be a peril for those in Florida.
2. That new movie was great, **albeit** the ending was quite sad and ambiguous.
3. The professor, **albeit** suffering from an unabated cold, endeavored to finish the class.
4. Nancy, **albeit** a tyro, was chosen for the job inasmuch as she is a fast learner.
5. Charlie, **albeit** on a diet, can't resist eating junk food when watching television.

#33: (AEV) oppose/contradict (PS) gainsay

GRAMMAR

verb → You can **gainsay** me all you want but facts are facts.

USAGE

AEV → People with different opinions **oppose** each other.

PS → People with disparate opinions **gainsay** each other.

SAMPLES

1. Socrates was put to death inasmuch as he **gainsaid** all aspects of Athenian society.
2. Shrek is always **gainsaying** the king in order to save his swamp and dwell in peace.
3. Carmen is **gainsaying** the tyro professor again, albeit in a playful way.
4. Long ago, **gainsaying** your teacher was fraught with peril and construed as bad behavior.
5. Gainsaying, the noun form of the verb **gainsay**, is an essential part of arguing.

#34: (AEV) a sign/messenger (PS) harbinger

GRAMMAR

verb → Some think a black cat is a **harbinger** of bad luck.

USAGE

AEV → Blooming flowers are a sign of spring.

PS → Blooming flowers are a **harbinger** of spring.

SAMPLES

1. Long ago, a comet was considered a **harbinger** fraught with evil omens.
2. A stop sign is not a **harbinger**. Do not construe that. A stop sign is, instead, a symbol with meaning.
3. A cough that won't abate might be a **harbinger** of something more serious.
4. Long ago, sailors knew that sea birds were a **harbinger** of land.
5. The melting poles is a **harbinger** of global warming yet many will gainsay that claim.

#35: (AEV) changeable (PS) mercurial

GRAMMAR

adjective → Recently, the weather has been quite **mercurial**.

USAGE

AEV → One second Gordon is sad, the next angry, the next happy.

PS → Gordon is **mercurial**.

SAMPLES

1. That pain medicine, albeit helpful, is making Barb **mercurial**.
She really should eschew it.
2. The dictator's **mercurial** behavior resulted in the death of millions of innocent people.
3. Vincent Van Gogh's **mercurial** behavior was fraught with destructive tendencies.
4. Do you think Donald Trump is **mercurial**?
5. It is hard to predict Deb's mood. She is quite **mercurial**.

#36: (AEV) sounds good but false (PS) specious

GRAMMAR

adjective → Politicians use **specious** arguments to sell themselves.

USAGE

AEV → Carey's argument **sounds goods but is not possible and simply wrong.**

PS → Carey's argument is **specious.**

SAMPLES

1. Lowering taxes will increase consumer spending. That **specious** claim is fraught with lies.
2. The argument that smartphones are perilously addictive is not a **specious** argument.
3. Listen to Rick and Steve arguing. Their disparate claims are fraught with **specious** evidence.
4. The new CEO said no one will be fired. That **specious** claim was soon proven wrong.
5. The student is apt to give his the teacher another **specious** reason for being late again.

#37: (AEV) shocked/surprised (PS) dumbfounded

GRAMMAR

verb → Trump won the election? Myriad are still **dumbfounded**.

USAGE

AEV → Many were **shocked and surprised** when they read that the unsinkable *Titanic* had sunk.

PS → Many were **dumbfounded** when they read that the unsinkable *Titanic* had sunk.

SAMPLES

1. This conundrum has **dumbfounded** some of the greatest minds for centuries.
2. **Dumbfounded** is also an adjective, as in "**Dumbfounded** Bob can't believe he got an A."
3. The doctors were **dumbfounded** when the patient suddenly woke from a coma.
4. I was **dumbfounded** by Ray's argument; it was nothing but specious gainsay.
5. The speech, albeit short, left many **dumbfounded** by its use of slang.

#38: (AEV) approval/praise (PS) approbation

GRAMMAR

noun → Children need parental **approbation**.

USAGE

AEV → The author is not writing for **praise** but for herself.

PS → The author is not writing for **approbation** but for herself.

SAMPLES

1. In the movie *Gladiator*, Maximus did not fight for the emperor's **approbation**.
2. The poet was ebullient when her work won the **approbation** of the New York Times.
3. The plan to one day dwell on Mars has broad **approbation** from scientists and politicians.
4. The new president has demonstrated of paucity of **approbation** for all but himself.
5. At the end of the concert, the pianist appreciated the **approbation** of the audience.

#39: (AEV) make worse (PS) exacerbate

GRAMMAR

verb → Staying out late exacerbated **Carla's** cold.

USAGE

AEV → The hot summer winds have **made** the drought **worse**.

PS → The hot summer winds have **exacerbated** the drought.

SAMPLES

1. The disagreement was **exacerbated** by John's mercurial behavior.
2. North Korea's missiles are **exacerbating** the already tense situation in Asia.
3. If you argue with no evidence, you are apt to **exacerbate** a potentially specious claim.
4. Harvey's intransigence **exacerbated** the negotiations, albeit we did win the contract in the end.
5. Another hurricane in the Caribbean will only **exacerbate** the lives of the islanders.

#40: (AEV) brief and clear (PS) succinct

GRAMMAR

adjective → Paul's presentation was **succinct**.

USAGE

AEV → An executive summary should be **brief and clear**.

PS → An executive summary should be **succinct**.

SAMPLES

1. Andy's ideas are always so **succinct**. There is nothing ambiguous about them.
2. That contract is not **succinct**. It is fraught with a plethora of grammar mistakes.
3. The policeman was **succinct**. He said I was speeding and gave me a ticket.
4. The adverbial form of **succinct** is **succinctly**, as in, "The president spoke **succinctly**."
5. Being able to speak **succinctly** is essential, especially when giving presentations.

Quiz #4

Task: Substitute the **bold** words with a Power Synonym.

1. ebullient 2. albeit 3. gainsay 4. harbinger 5. mercurial
6. specious 7. dumbfounded 8. approbation 9. exacerbate
10. succinct

1. A good email should be **brief and precise**, easy to recall, and not ambiguous.

2. Tom's habit of **contradicting** is only **making worse** his already tense relationship with boss.

3. Terry's best friend Andy, **though extremely changeable**, is generally dependable.

4. Today, Carl was **really happy** inasmuch as he saw a robin, a clear **messenger** of spring.

5. What can we construe from the boss's **approval**? Should we be **really happy** or not?

6. The coach was **shocked and surprised** when his best player shot the ball over the open net.

7. Chase's idea, **though sounding good but false**, was nevertheless quite entertaining.

8. The new CEO's announcement, **though** expected, was **brief and precise**: "Reduce costs. Save money."

Answer Key – Quiz #4

1. A good email should be **succinct**, easy to recall, and not ambiguous.
2. Tom's habit of **gainsaying** is only **exacerbating** his already tense relationship with boss.
3. Terry's best friend Andy, **albeit mercurial**, is generally dependable.
4. Today, Carl was **ebullient** inasmuch as he saw a robin, a clear **harbinger** of spring.
5. What can we construe from the boss's **approbation**? Should we be **ebullient** or not?
6. The coach was **dumbfounded** when his best player kicked the ball over the open net.
7. Chase's idea, **albeit specious**, was nevertheless quite entertaining.
8. The new CEO's announcement, **albeit** expected, was **succinct**: "Reduce costs. Save money."

#51: (AEV) amazing (PS) astounding

GRAMMAR

adjective → The full moon last night was **astounding**.

adjective → The **astounded** audience watched in silence.

USAGE

AEV → Izzy's birthday party was **amazing**.

PS → Izzy's birthday party was **astounding**.

AEV → Noah was **amazed** when he met Lady Gaga.

PS → Noah was **astounded** when he met Lady Gaga.

SAMPLES

1. Sophia can still recollect how **astounding** the Grand Canyon was.
2. Liam got a GPA of 4.0? That is **astounding**, albeit he is a geek.
3. The professor was **astounded** the group's amazing presentation on slavery.
4. I was **astounded** to learn that William had finally resolved that conundrum.
5. The verb form of **astounding** is astound, as in, "That magician will **astound** you."

#52: (AEV) shapeable/changeable (PS) malleable

GRAMMAR

adjective → As a metal, copper is soft thus **malleable**.

USAGE

AEV → My dog is easily trained because she **can be shaped**.

PS → My dog is easily trained inasmuch as she is **malleable**.

SAMPLES

1. Don't expect to change the professor's mind. She is definitely not **malleable**.
2. Those with disparate views are apt to be intransigent since they are not **malleable**.
3. As I recall, Don might be mercurial, but he is definitely not **malleable**.
4. I was **astounded** to learn that Sue had changed her mind. I had no idea she was so **malleable**.
5. Flour and water combined make dough, which is **malleable**; when baked, it becomes bread.

#53: (AEV) outsider/rebel (PS) maverick

GRAMMAR

noun → Hans Solo in *Star Wars* is a **maverick**.

USAGE

AEV → Rock stars are **rebels**. They make their own rules.

PS → Rock stars are **mavericks**. They make their own rules.

SAMPLES

1. Fred, who dwells alone in the Alaskan forest with all its perils, has always been a **maverick**.

2. **Mavericks** do not need anyone's approbation.

3. Americans love **mavericks**. They symbolize freedom and independence from authority.

4. A **maverick** is a rebel, a free thinking outsider whereas a geek is apt to be a shy homebody.

5. Movies today contain a plethora of **mavericks**, such as *Dead Pool* and *Suicide Squad*.

#54: (AEV) from a past time (PS) anachronism

GRAMMAR

noun → Today, a typewriter is considered an **anachronism**.

USAGE

AEV → Do you think paper books will be **from a past time**?

PS → Do you think paper books will become **anachronisms**?

SAMPLES

1. Why don't Americans use trains more? Inasmuch as Americans construe trains as being **anachronisms**.
2. The adjectival form of **anachronism** is anachronistic, as in, "Men are the stronger sex? Really? That idea is so **anachronistic**."
3. Bobby's parents, albeit great people, dress like hippies. They are so **anachronistic**.
4. Fixed up old cars, albeit **anachronisms**, are highly collectible and ubiquitous in the U.S.
5. To say that smartphones are already **anachronisms** is a bit specious, albeit an idea to contemplate.



#55: (AEV) aware/knowledge of (PS) cognizant

GRAMMAR

adjective → Ethan is **cognizant** of the perils of scuba diving.

adjective → Ethan is **cognizant of the fact** that scuba diving is perilous.

USAGE

AEV → Jack is **aware** of the latest internet threats.

PS → Jack is **cognizant** of the latest internet threats.

SAMPLES

1. Is Al **cognizant** of the fact that he is a tyro and that gainsaying his co-workers is not cool?
2. A majority of Americans are **cognizant** that mercurial Trump is a specious president.
3. Once Mia was **cognizant** that she had won the lottery, she was astounded.
4. Dog trainers are **cognizant** of the fact that dogs are malleable; hence, they know the most effective way to quickly train a dog.
5. Movie producers are **cognizant** of the fact that their business is fraught with financial risks.



#56: (AEV) come together (PS) converge

GRAMMAR

verb → The four highways **converge** in Boston.

USAGE

AEV → Nationalism and economic depression **came together** in post-World War One Europe.

PS → Nationalism and economic depression **converged** in post-World War One Europe.

SAMPLES

1. Wellington and Napoleon **converged** at Waterloo, Belgium on June 18, 1815.
2. Art and technology **converge** in Apple products, albeit those same products are quite expensive.
3. A myriad of impecunious people **converged** in the park for free food and clothes.
4. Every fall, gray whales **converge** in the warm waters of Baja California to have babies.
5. The two hurricanes will soon **converge** over Miami and will not abate anytime soon.

#57: (AEV) complex/detailed (PS) convoluted

GRAMMAR

adjective → That movie was so **convoluted**. I didn't understand it.

USAGE

AEV → Succinct instructions are easy to understand because they are not **complex**.

PS → Succinct instructions are easy to understand inasmuch as they are not **convoluted**.

SAMPLES

1. Not all conundrums are **convoluted**. You'd be astounded at how simple some of them are once you figure out the solution.
2. Barb's theory sounds quite **convoluted** and a bit specious. Let's contemplate it first before we respond.
3. Making a copper pot might seem **convoluted**, but since copper is malleable, it's quite facile.
4. Most voters are cognizant of the fact that the maverick senator's tax plan is too **convoluted**.
5. I recall that Rick gave a succinct answer whereas Tyrone's reply was quite **convoluted**.

#58: (AEV) imitate to be like (PS) emulate

GRAMMAR

verb → Children **emulate** their heroes all the time.

USAGE

AEV → If you “follow in your mother’s footsteps,” you’re **imitating her to be like her**.

PS → If you “follow in your mother’s footsteps,” you’re **emulating** her.

SAMPLES

1. Phil grew up **emulating** his uncle, who was an anachronism inasmuch as he eschewed technology.
2. Don’t **emulate** Barb’s writing style. Endeavor to create your own voice and style.
3. The noun form of **emulate** is **emulation**, as in “These days, few politicians are worthy of **emulation**, albeit Obama would be a good example to follow.”
4. **Emulation** is fraught with risks, especially if a child **emulates** a violent movie villain like the Joker.
5. Many think that Microsoft **emulated** Apple’s look and feel when Microsoft introduced Windows in 1995.

#59: (AEV) native to an area (PS) endemic

GRAMMAR

adjective → Deer and pumas are **endemic** to California.

USAGE

AEV → That mushroom species is **native** to this area.

PS → That mushroom species is **endemic** to this area.

SAMPLES

1. Great white sharks are now **endemic** off Cape Cod because of the growing seal colonies.
2. Because of rapid urbanization, mountain lions (pumas) are now **endemic** in some suburban neighborhoods in California.
3. Polar bears, albeit endangered, are **endemic** to the North Pole not the South Pole.
4. Home Sapiens were not **endemic** to Europe whereas Neanderthals were.
5. Al was dumbfounded to find Burmese pythons in Florida. He didn't think they were **endemic** to Florida.

#60: (AEV) basically/pretty much (PS) for all intents and purposes

GRAMMAR

idiom → This class is, **for all intents and purposes**, over. See you tomorrow.

USAGE

AEV → Jon and Josh, albeit twins, are **basically** quite different.

PS → Jon and Josh, albeit twins, are, **for all intents and purposes**, quite different.

SAMPLES

1. Lee, albeit always late for class, is, **for all intents and purposes**, a good student.

2. Yes, the team played egregiously, but, **for all intents and purposes**, they did win.

3. Myriad species, **for all intents and purposes**, will soon be extinct thanks to global warming.

4. **For all intents and purposes**, the medicine the doctor gave me only exacerbated my cough.

5. That bird, albeit pretty, is, **for all intents and purposes**, not endemic to this state.

Quiz #5

Task: Substitute the **bold** words with a Power Synonym.

1. astounded
2. malleable
3. maverick
4. anachronism
5. cognizant
6. converge
7. convoluted
8. emulate
9. endemic
10. for all intents and purposes

1. By **imitating to be like** someone, a child can learn good, as well as, bad behaviors.

2. The horse, **native** to North America, went extinct 8,000 years ago. The Spanish reintroduced it in 1519. Because they were **easy to shape**, the Indians adopted them.

3. Garth, albeit a quiet kid growing up, became a rock star and **amazed** everyone.

4. Where the two rivers **come together**, there is old fish trap that looks quite **complex**.

5. Don't construe my grandmother's love for her old black and white TV to mean she is innocuous **and out of time**. Far from it. **Basically**, she is a **rebel**. Cross her at your peril.

6. **Rebels**, **native** to Hollywood movie screens, are not **changeable**. They are **basically** complex characters whose views will never **come together** with society's.

7. The professor made the students **aware** that Shakespeare is not **out of time and place**, but instead a brilliant writer whose work is fraught with myriad lessons to **imitate and be like**.

8. The scientists were **amazed** when they found a species that was not **native** to the area.

Answer Key – Quiz #5

1. By **emulating** someone, a child can learn good, as well as, bad behaviors.
2. The horse, **endemic** to North America, went extinct 8,000 years ago. The Spanish reintroduced it in 1519. Because they were **malleable**, the Indians adopted them.
3. Garth, albeit a quiet kid growing up, became a rock star and **astounded** everyone.
4. Where the two rivers **converge**, there is old fish trap that looks quite **convoluted**.
5. Don't construe my grandmother's love for her old black and white TV to mean she is an innocuous **anachronism**. Far from it. **For all intents and purposes**, she is a **maverick**. Cross her at your peril.
6. **Mavericks**, **endemic** to Hollywood movie screens, are not **malleable**. They are, **for all intents and purposes**, complex characters whose views will never **converge** with society's.
7. The professor made the students **cognizant** that Shakespeare is not an **anachronism**, but instead a brilliant writer whose work is fraught with myriad lessons to **emulate**.
8. The scientists were **astounded** when they found a species that was not **endemic** to the area.

#61: (AEV) for example/specifically (PS) namely

GRAMMAR

adverb → Wild animals are ubiquitous in the U.S., **namely** deer and squirrels.

USAGE

AEV → Myriad people have helped the homeless, **specifically** Greg, Kathy, and Joe.

PS → Myriad people have helped the homeless, **namely** Greg, Kathy, and Joe.

SAMPLES

1. That bakery makes the best desserts, **namely** apple pie, albeit the bagels are good too.

2. Two politicians, **namely** senators Jones and Smith, gave the president's idea approbation.

3. Jack is so ebullient these days, **namely** because he has a new job and a new boss.

4. Carla is cognizant of the fact that her essay has one egregious error, **namely** no thesis.

5. Times Square is where many streets converge, **namely** Broadway and 42nd Street.

#62: (AEV) examine closely (PS) peruse

GRAMMAR

verb → Sarah loves to **peruse** the New York Times on Sunday.

USAGE

AEV → The professor **examines closely** each student essay before grading it.

PS → The professor **peruses** each student essay before grading it.

SAMPLES

1. Paul needs time to **peruse** and contemplate his new business plan before presenting it.
2. Joan loves to **peruse** bookstores, namely those with old books on cooking.
3. While researching, Rex loves to **peruse** sources whereas Dave just skims for good quotes.
4. **Perusal** is the noun form of the verb **to peruse**, namely, "My perusal lasted one hour."
5. The client's **perusal** of the new contract was, for all intents and purposes, encouraging.

#63: (AEV) an eye for detail (PS) meticulous

GRAMMAR

adjective → Barry's lecture notes are so **meticulous**.

USAGE

AEV → Frank, albeit a bit of a geek, has **an eye for detail**.

PS → Frank, albeit a bit of a geek, is **meticulous**.

SAMPLES

1. Josh is so neat and **meticulous**, he is apt to clean his apartment twice a day.

2. Briana got an A+ on her history essay, namely because her research was so **meticulous**.

3. **Meticulous** people are very organized and eschew being rushed by those less focused.

4. As I recall, Tim, albeit **meticulous**, tended to arrive late for class with lame excuses.

5. Mohammed got a high TOEFL score inasmuch as while preparing, he was **meticulous**.

#64: (AEV) critical interpretation (PS) exegesis

GRAMMAR

noun → Mary's **exegesis** of *Hamlet* was succinct and quite good.

USAGE

AEV → To write a **critical examination**, you must first do meticulous research.

PS → To write an **exegesis**, you must first do meticulous research.

SAMPLES

1. Phil's **exegesis** of the issue is really nothing more than endless gainsaying and not much analysis or research.
2. Kevin is cognizant that his dissertation must contain an **exegesis** on Einstein's theories.
3. When David finally finished his **exegesis**, he was quite ebullient, albeit exhausted.
4. The plural form of thesis is theses while the plural form of **exegesis** is exegeses.
5. The conference received myriad excellent **exegeses** on the topic of standardized testing.



#65: (AEV) false impression/contradict (PS) belie
(the fact that)

GRAMMAR

verb → Ric's smile **belies** the fact that he is worried about the test.

USAGE

AEV → The Rolex **gave a false impression** that he was rich when he was not.

PS → The Rolex **belied** the fact that he was rich when he was not.

SAMPLES

1. Andy's meticulous work on his exegesis **belies** the fact that he hated doing it.
2. Einstein's seemingly simple formula, namely $E=mc^2$, **belies** the genius behind it.
3. Geeky Josh would often **belie** his shy nature by pretending to be always ebullient.
4. Columbus' searching for India **belies** the fact that he started slavery in the New World.
5. A paucity of hurricanes does not **belie** the fact that global warming is not happening.



#66: (AEV) similar/comparable (PS) analogous

GRAMMAR

adjective → Obama and Trump are not **analogous**.

USAGE

AEV → Brad thinks gainsaying is **similar to** constructive arguing, but it is not.

PS → Brad thinks gainsaying is **analogous** to constructive arguing, but it is not

SAMPLES

1. Randy is endeavoring to find an American movie that is **analogous** to *Rome and Juliet*.
2. Contemplating an endeavor to Mars is not **analogous** to going there in fact.
3. Even though Ana and Eva have disparate views, their intransigence is definitely **analogous**.
4. Analogy is the noun form of **analogous**, as in “That analogy will support your claim.”
5. A meticulous exegesis should contain myriad **analogies** to support the analysis therein.

#67: (AEV) cause to occur (PS) precipitate

GRAMMAR

verb → What **precipitated** the stock market crash of 1929?

USAGE

AEV → Disparate views will **cause** an argument **to occur**.

PS → Disparate views will **precipitate** an argument.

SAMPLES

1. Myriad factors **precipitated** World War Two, namely fascism in Europe and in Japan.

2. Terry's excellent exegesis on Greek tragedy **precipitated** quite a debate in class.

3. What **precipitated** that forest fire, do you know? It was apt to be a cigarette, I'm sure.

4. Gary is so mercurial, you never know what will **precipitate** tears.

5. When water droplets freeze high in the atmosphere, they **precipitate** into snow.

#68: (AEV) mysterious/secretive (PS) arcane

GRAMMAR

adjective → The rules of quidditch are **arcane**. Is it really a game?

USAGE

AEV → That club follows **mysterious** rituals established hundreds of years ago.

PS → That club follows **arcane** rituals established hundreds of years ago.

SAMPLES

1. Myriad believe that Halloween is an **arcane** satanic ritual that should be banned.
2. For all intents and purposes, there is nothing **arcane** about Georgette's bread recipe.
3. My doctor's handwriting is so **arcane**. How can the pharmacist under my prescription?
4. For many old people, technology is totally **arcane**.
5. Sir Isaac Newton had a secret passion for the **arcane** practice of alchemy.



#69: (AEV) hard to understand (PS) recondite

GRAMMAR

adjective → Myriad questions on the test were **recondite**.

USAGE

AEV → Al eschews opera, namely because it is too **hard to understand**.

PS → Al eschews opera, namely because it is too **recondite**.

SAMPLES

1. That conundrum is so **recondite** that, for all intents and purposes, I give up.
2. For Richard, high school math was his most **recondite** subject.
3. William's antique book collection is fraught with myriad **recondite** titles.
4. Gwen is endeavoring to peruse Greg's **recondite** exegesis on Twain, albeit slowly.
5. For a tyro learning a new language, everything at first must seem hopelessly **recondite**.

#70: (AEV) argue with/oppose (PS) expostulate

GRAMMAR

verb → At the demonstration, myriad were **expostulating** with the candidate.

USAGE

AEV → Should you **argue** with a police officer? I suggest not.

PS → Should you **expostulate** with a police officer? I suggest not.

SAMPLES

1. Mom and dad spent all night **expostulating** over what kind of new car they should buy.

2. At the start of class, the teacher **expostulated** that being late was no longer acceptable.

3. One climate expert has **expostulated** that global warming is just a natural warming cycle.

4. The students believe that Shakespeare is too recondite; hence, they are **expostulating** with their teacher.

5. A power synonym for **expostulate** is remonstrate.

Quiz #6

Task: Substitute the **bold** words with a Power Synonym.

1. namely
2. peruse
3. meticulous
3. exegesis
4. belie (the fact that)
5. analogous
6. precipitate
7. arcane
8. recondite
9. expostulate
10. convoluted

1. After **carefully reading** the professor's latest **critical interpretation** on the theory of black holes, Rod, albeit a student, concluded that it was totally prosaic.

2. Dave was **arguing** on some **really complex** game theory when Ian entered and started gainsaying him which, albeit comical, was distracting and rude.

3. Myron has **an eye for detail**. It is astounding. I was dumbfounded when he found three egregious errors in my calculus homework.

4. These delicious cookies **give the false impression of goodness when in fact** they are all butter, sugar, and chocolate.

5. Why are there myriad **really hard** English words in this video series? Can't Americans just speak normal English?

6. Britain raising the tax on tea **caused** the American Revolution **to occur**.

7. If you want to join that secret society, you must first learn their **mysterious** hand signals.

8. Californian sushi rice is **comparable** to Japanese sushi rice, albeit much cheaper and more delicious.

9. What **caused** Clinton's loss to Trump **to occur**? Are there any **comparable** defeats?

10. Wait. I want to **read carefully** this **secretive** text. Oh, it is so **highly detailed**.

Answer Key – Quiz #6

1. After **perusing** the professor's latest **exegesis** on the theory of black holes, Rod, albeit a student, concluded that it was totally prosaic.
2. Dave was **expostulating** on some **convoluted** game theory when Ian entered and started gainsaying him which, albeit comical, was distracting and rude.
3. Myron is **meticulous**. It is astounding. I was dumbfounded when he found three egregious errors in my calculus homework.
4. These delicious cookies **belie the fact that** they are all butter, sugar, and chocolate.
5. Why are there myriad **recondite** English words in this video series? Can't Americans just speak normal English?
6. Britain raising the tax on tea **precipitated** the American Revolution.
7. If you want to join that secret society, you must first learn their **arcane** hand signals.
8. Californian sushi rice is **analogous** to Japanese sushi rice, albeit much cheaper and more delicious.
9. What **precipitated** Clinton's loss to Trump? Are there any **analogous** defeats?
10. Wait. I want to **peruse** this **arcane** text. Oh, it is so **meticulous**.

Final Quiz

Task: Substitute the **bold** words with a Power Synonym.

1. fraught with
2. endeavor
3. innocuous
4. facile
5. specious
6. recall
7. a plethora of
8. hence
9. quite
10. grueling
11. contemplate
12. analogous
13. apt to
14. perilous
15. albeit
16. inasmuch as
17. namely
18. myriad
19. eschew
20. egregious
21. whereas
22. emulate
23. exegesis
24. prosaic

1. Studying for a **really hard** test can be **so** difficult. You must study **so much** information, then **remember** it and hope that the questions are **really easy**.

2. That river looks **harmless**, but it is **really very dangerous because** it is fast and cold; **therefore**, if you **attempt to** cross it, you are **likely to** fall in, so you'd better **think about** the risk first.

3. The Atlas moth, **though harmless, imitates to be like** a cobra in order to protect itself.

4. Jessy **avoids many** food types, **specifically** milk and nuts **since** she is allergic to them.

5. The claim made in Mike's **critical interpretation** is **similar to** Pat's **while** the claim in Al's **sounds good but is false** and **filled with really bad** spelling mistakes plus it is quite **boring**.



Answer Key - Final Quiz

1. Studying for a **grueling** test can be **quite** difficult. You must study **a plethora of** information, then **recall** it and hope that the questions are **facile**.

2. That river looks **innocuous**, but it is **quite perilous inasmuch as** it is fast and cold; **hence**, if you **endeavor to** cross it, you are **apt to** fall in, so you'd better **contemplate** the risk first.

3. The Atlas moth, **albeit innocuous**, **emulates** a cobra in order to protect itself.

4. Jessy **eschews myriad** food types, **namely** milk and nuts **inasmuch as** she is allergic to them.

5. The claim made in Mike's **exegesis** is **analogous to** Pat's **whereas** the claim in Al's **is specious** and **fraught with egregious** spelling mistakes plus it is quite **prosaic**.



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Nova Press, Los Angeles USA

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TOEFL Strategies: Quick Reference Guide

Create Space, Amazon.com

Business English: Speaking and Writing Strategies

Create Space, Amazon.com

Business Idioms in America

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EXERCISE #1

Active English Vocab (AEV) many	Power Synonym (PS) myriad
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GRAMMAR

adjective → I have myriad TOEFL books.
noun → I have a myriad of TOEFL books.

USAGE

AEV → I have **many** tasks to complete today.
PS → I have **myriad** tasks to complete today.

SAMPLES

1. The teacher said there will be **myriad** questions about Lincoln on the test.
2. Jane visited **a myriad of** interesting museums when she visited Paris.
3. The lawyer said the contract contains **myriad** errors.
4. If you look inside Andrew's refrigerator, you will find **a myriad of** fresh vegetables.
5. Personally, I believe that global warming is occurring for **myriad** reasons.

EXERCISE #2

Active English Vocab (AEV) many	Power Synonym (PS) myriad
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GRAMMAR

adjective → I have myriad TOEFL books.
noun → I have a myriad of TOEFL books.

USAGE

AEV → I have **many** tasks to complete today.
PS → I have **myriad** tasks to complete today.

SAMPLES

The teacher said there will be **myriad** questions about Lincoln on the test.

Jane visited **a myriad of** interesting museums when she visited Paris.

The lawyer said the contract contains **myriad** errors.

If you look inside Andrew's refrigerator, you will find **a myriad of** fresh vegetables.

