

Eighth Grade Vocabulary List

Week 1

FORM is the Latin root meaning “shape” or “form.” Marching in *formation* is marching in ordered patterns. A *formula* is a standard form for expressing information, such as a recipe or a rule written in mathematical symbols.

1. conform: (v) To be similar or identical; to be in agreement or harmony.
2. formality: (n) An established custom or way of behaving that is required or standard.
3. formative: (adj) Giving or able to give form or shape; constructive.
4. format: (n) The shape, size, and general makeup of something.

Week 2

TUT/TUI from the Latin verb *tueri*, originally meant “to look at,” but the English meaning of the root gradually came to be “to guide, guard, or teach.” A *tutor* guides a student (or *tutee*) through a subject, saving the most careful tutoring for the most difficult areas.

1. intuition: (n) The power of knowing something immediately without mental effort; quick insight.
2. tuition: (n) The fee for instruction. The act of teaching; instruction.
3. tutelage: (n) Instruction or guidance of an individual; guardianship.
4. tutorial: (n) A class for one student or a small group of students.

Week 3

CENTR/CENTER comes from the Greek *kentron* and the Latin *centrum*, meaning “sharp point” or “exact middle of a circle.” A centrifuge is a spinning machine that throws things outward from the center; the apparent force that pushes them outward is called centrifugal force.

1. eccentric: (adj) Not following an established or usual style or conduct. Straying from a circular path; off-center.
2. epicenter: (n) The location of the earth’s surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.
3. egocentric: (adj) Overly concerned with oneself; self-centered
4. ethnocentric: (n) Marked by or based on the attitude that one’s own group is superior to others.

Week 4

HABIT/HIBIT comes from the Latin *habere*, “to have” or “to hold.” A *habit*, bad or good, has hold on you. To *prohibit* is to “hold back” or prevent.

1. exhibitionist: (n) Someone who acts to attract attention.
2. habitation: (n) The act of living in a place or occupying it.
3. habitual: (adj) Practiced or done on a regular basis

4. inhibit: (v) To hold in check or restrain

Week 5

SERV means “to be subject to.” A *servant* is the person who *serves* you with meals and provides the other necessary *services*. A tennis or volleyball *serve* puts the ball in play much as a servant puts food on the table.

1. serviceable: (adj) Helpful or useful
2. servile: (adj) Suitable to a servant
3. servitude: (n) A state or condition of subjection to another
4. subservient: (adj) Serving or useful in an inferior situation or capacity.

Week 6

PRE, one of the most common of all English *prefixes*, comes from *prae*, the Latin word meaning “before” or “in front of.”

1. precept: (n) A command or principle that is a general rule of action or conduct.
2. precocious: (adj) Showing the qualities or abilities of an adult at an unusually early age.
3. predispose: (v) To influence in advance in order to create a particular attitude.
4. prerequisite: (n) Something that is required in advance to achieve a goal or to carry out a function.

Week 7

CLUD/CLUS comes from the Latin *cludere*, “to close,” and appears in *include*, which originally meant “to shut up or enclose” and now means “to contain.” *Exclude*, its opposite, means “to expel or keep out”- that is, to close the door to something.

1. occlusion: (n)An obstruction or blockage; the act of obstructing or closing off.
2. preclude: (v)To make impossible or rule out in advance; prevent.
3. recluse: (n)A person who lives withdrawn from society.
4. seclusion: (n)A screening or hiding from view; a place that is isolated or hidden.

Week 8

PLIC comes from the Latin verb *plicare*, “to fold.”

1. implicit: (adj.) Understood though not put clearly into words.
2. explicate: (v) To explain in detail.
3. replicate: (v) To copy or reproduce
4. supplication: (n) A humble and earnest request or prayer.

Week 9

VAL has as its basic meaning “strength,” from the Latin verb *valere*, meaning “to be worthy, strong, or healthy” and “to have power or influence.” A valid proof is one that provides strong evidence and can be used to validate or invalidate a claim. Of course, the evidence must be evaluated to confirm its validity.

1. equivalent: (adj.) Equal in force, amount, value, area, or volume. Similar or virtually identical in effect or function.
2. prevalent: (adj.) widely accepted, favored, or practiced; widespread.
3. valorous: (adj.) Courageous, brave, heroic.
4. validate: (v) To make legally valid; give official approval to. To support or confirm the validity of.

Week 10

Crypt/Cryph comes from the Greek word for “hidden.”

1. apocryphal (adj.): of doubtful genuineness or authenticity
2. cryptic (adj.): mysterious; puzzlingly short; acting to hide or conceal
3. cryptography (n): secret writing; the encoding and decoding of messages
4. crypt (n): a room completely or partially underground, especially under the main floor of a church; a room or area in a large above-ground tomb

Week 11

NOM comes from the Latin word for “name.”

1. ignominious (adj.): marked with shame or disgrace; dishonorable; humiliating or degrading
2. misnomer (n): wrong name or the use of a wrong name
3. polynomial (n); an algebraic equation involving several terms
4. nominal (adj.): existing in name or form only and not in reality; so small as to be unimportant; trifling or insignificant

Week 12

SPHERE comes from the Greek word for “ball,” and it appears in words for things that have something round about them.

1. stratosphere (n): the part of the earth’s atmosphere that extends from about seven to about thirty-one miles above the surface
2. biosphere (n): the part of the world in which life can exist; living things and their environment
3. hemisphere (n): half a sphere, especially half the global sphere as divided by the equator or a meridian
4. spherical (adj.) relating to a sphere; shaped like a sphere or one of its segments

Week 13

TERM/TERMIN comes from the Latin verb *terminare*, “to limit, bound, or set limits to,” or the related noun *terminus*, a “limit or boundary.”

1. indeterminate (adj.): not precisely determined; vague
2. interminable (adj.): having or seeming to have no end; tiresomely drawn out
3. terminal (adj.): forming or related to an end or limit; fatal
4. terminology (n): the words with specialized or precise meanings used in a field or subject

Week 14

VER comes from the Latin word for “truth.” A verdict in a trial is “the truth spoken.”

1. aver (v): to state positively as true; declare
2. verify (v): to prove to be true or correct; to check or test the accuracy of.
3. verisimilitude (n): the appearance of being true or probable; the depiction of realism in art of literature
4. verity (n): a true fact or statement

Week 15

TURB comes from the Latin verb *turbare*, “to throw into confusion or upset,” and the noun *turba*, “crowd” or “confusion.” A disturbance, for example, confuses and upsets normal order or routine.

1. perturb (v): to upset, confuse, or disarrange
2. turbulent (adj.): stirred up, agitated
3. turbine (n): a rotary engine with blades made to turn and generate power by a current of water, steam, or air under pressure
4. turbid (adj.): thick or murky, especially with churned –up sediment; unclear, confused, muddled.

Week 16

AM/ IM comes from the Latin word *amare*, “To love.” Amiable means “friendly or good-natured,” and *amigo* is Spanish for “friend.”

1. amicable (adj): Friendly, peaceful
2. enamored (v): charmed or fascinated; inflamed with love
3. inimical (adj): hostile, unfriendly, or harmful
4. paramour (n): a lover, often secret, not allowed by law or custom

Week 17

AG comes from the Latin word for “do, go, lead, drive.” An *agenda* is a list of things to be done. An *agent* is usually someone who does things on behalf of another.

1. agitate (v): to move something with an irregular, rapid, violent action; to stir up or excite.
2. litigate (v): to carry on a lawsuit by judicial process.
3. prodigal (adj): recklessly or wastefully extravagant; spendthrift
4. synagogue (n): the center of worship and communal life of a Jewish congregation; temple

Week 18

CATA comes from the Greek *kata*, one of whose meanings was “down.” A *catalogue* is a list of items put down on paper. A *catapult* is an ancient military weapon for hurling missiles down on one’s enemy.

1. cataclysm (n): a violent and massive change of the earth’s surface; a momentous event that results in great upheaval and destruction
2. catacomb (n): an underground cemetery of connecting passageways with recesses for tombs.
3. catalyst (n): a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction or lets it take place under different conditions; someone or something that brings about or speeds significant change or action
4. catatonic (adj): relating to or suffering from a form of schizophrenia; showing an unusual lack of movement, activity, or expression

Week 19

PLE comes from a Latin word meaning “to fill.” It can be seen in the word *complete*, meaning “possessing all necessary parts.” The *ple* root has a Greek equivalent *pleth*, seen in the word *plethora*, which means “multitude or abundance.”

1. complement (n): something that fills up or makes perfect; the amount needed to make something complete; a counterpart
2. deplete (v): to reduce in amount by using up
3. implement (v): to take steps to fulfill or put into practice
4. replete (adj): fully or abundantly filled or supplied

Week 20

NEC/NIC/NOX from the Latin verb *necare* and the noun *nox*, have to do with killing or slaying. These roots are related to the Greek *nekros*, “corpse,” found in such words as *necrology*, “a list of the recently dead,” and *necromancy*, “the art of conjuring up spirits of the dead.”

1. internecine (adj): deadly; mutually destructive; involving conflict within a group

2. necrosis (n): the usually localized death of living tissue

3. noxious (adj): harmful or destructive to living things

4. pernicious (adj): extremely harmful or destructive

Week 21

PART from the Latin word *pars*, meaning “part,” comes into English most obviously in our word *part* but also in words like *apartment*, *compartment*, and *particle*, all of which are parts of a larger whole.

1. impart (v): to give from one’s store or abundance; to make known; disclose

2. impartial (adj): fair and not biased; treating or affecting all equally

3. participle (n): a word that is formed from a verb but used like an adjective

4. partisan (n): a person who is strongly devoted to a particular cause or group; a guerrilla fighter

Week 22

CORD from the Latin word for “heart,” turns up in many common English words. For example, the word *concord* (which includes the prefix *con*,- “with”) means literally that one heart is with another heart, and thus that they are in agreement. So *discord* (with its prefix *dis*,- “apart”) means “disagreement” or “conflict.”

1. accord (v): to grant; to be in harmony; agree
2. concordance (n): an index of the important words in a book or in an author’s works, with the passages in which they occur
3. cordial (adj): warm, friendly, gracious
4. discordant (adj): being at odds, conflicting, not in harmony

Week 23

PROT/PROTO comes from Greek and has the basic meaning “first in time,” or “first formed.” *Protozoa* are one-celled animals, such as amoebas and paramecia that are among the most basic members of the biologic kingdom.

1. Protagonist (N): The main character in a literary work.
2. Protocol (N): An original copy or record of a document; a code of diplomatic or military rules of behavior
3. Protoplasm (N): The substance that makes up the living parts of cells
4. Prototype (N): An original model on which something is patterned; A first, full-scale, usually working version of a new type or design

Week 24

SENT/SENS from the Latin verb *sentire*, meaning “to feel,” or the noun *sensus*, meaning “feeling” or “sense,” can signify different kinds of feeling. *Sentimental* has to do with emotions, whereas *sensual* relates more to physical *sensations*.

1. sensational (adj): Exciting an intense but usually brief interest or emotional reaction
2. sentient (adj): Aware of and responsive to sense impressions.
3. sentiment (n): A thought or attitude colored by feeling; opinion.
4. sensuous (adj): Highly pleasing to the senses.

Week 25

GNI/GNO from the Greek and Latin verb meaning “to know” (and led to the word *know* itself). In the group of words built from this root, you may *recognize* (“know again”) some and be *ignorant* of (“not know”) others. An *agnostic* is someone who claims that whatever is divine cannot be known. An *ignoramus* is a person who knows absolutely nothing.

1. cognitive (adj): Having to do with the process of knowing, including awareness, judgment, and understanding.
2. diagnosis (n): The identification of a disease by its symptoms.
3. incognito (adj): In disguise or with one's identity concealed.
4. prognosis (n): The chance of recovery from a given disease or condition.

Week 26

CIS from the Latin verb meaning "to cut, cut down, or slay" An *incisor* is one of the big front biting teeth; beavers and woodchucks have especially large ones. A *decision* "cuts off" previous discussion and uncertainty.

1. concise (adj): Brief and condensed, especially in expression or statement.
2. excise (v): To cut out, especially surgically.
3. incisive (adj): Impressively direct and decisive.
4. precision (n): Exactness of definition or statement.

Week 27

PON/POS from the Latin verb *ponere*, means "put" or "place." You *expose* film by "placing it out" in the light. You *oppose* an *opponent* by "putting yourself against" him or her. You *postpone* a trip by "placing it after" its original date.

1. component (n): A separate part of a whole; an ingredient or element.
2. disposition (n): Tendency, inclination; basic outlook or attitude.
3. repository (n): A place or container where something is stored.
4. superimpose (v): To put or place one thing over something else.

Week 28

TEN/TIN/TAIN from the Latin verb *tenere* and the related word *tenax*, basically means "hold" or "hold on to." A *tenant* is the "holder of an apartment, house, or land, but not necessarily the owner. A *lieutenant* governor may "hold the position" or "serve in lieu" of the government when necessary.

1. abstinence: (n) Holding oneself back voluntarily from indulging an appetite or craving.
2. tenacious: (adj) Stubborn or persistent in clinging to a thing.
3. tenable: (adj) Capable of being held or defended; reasonable.
4. sustenance: (n) Something that gives support or strength.

Week 29

VINC/VICT comes from the Latin verb *vincere*, which means “to conquer” or “to overcome.” The *victor* defeats an enemy, whether on a battlefield or a football field. To convince someone that you’re right is a *victory* of another kind.

1. evince: (v) To be outward evidence of; show or reveal.
2. invincible: (adj) Incapable of being conquered or overcome.
3. provincial: (adj) Having to do with a province; lacking polish, culture, and broad experience.
4. victimize: (v) To make a victim of; trick, deceive, or injure.

Week 30

VER/VERS from the Latin verb *vertere* means “to turn” or “to turn around.” An *advertisement* turns your attention to a product or service. *Vertigo* is the dizziness that results from turning too rapidly or that makes you feel as if everything else is turning.

1. divert: (v) To turn from one purpose or course to another.
2. perverse: (adj) Corrupt, improper, incorrect.
3. avert: (v) To turn away or aside (especially one’s eyes).
4. versatile: (adj) Turning easily from one skill to another.