

# Vocabulary Booster, Volume II

## A

ABHOR (v.) to strongly detest or dislike  
ABSTEMIOUS (adj.) sparing in food and drink  
ABSTRACT (adj.) theoretical, not concrete  
ACQUIESCE (v.) to agree with, to go along with  
ADVERSARY (n.) opponent or enemy  
ADVOCATE (v. / n.) to support / a supporter  
ALLEVIATE (v.) to relieve, to lessen  
AMBIGUOUS (adj.) unclear in meaning  
AMBIVALENT (adj.) torn between two conflicting emotions  
AMORPHOUS (adj.) lacking a definite shape or form  
ANACHRONISTIC (adj.) obsolete, outdated  
ANECDOTE (n.) a short story intended to instruct or amuse  
ARBITRARY (adj.) random, by chance  
ARCHAIC (adj.) outdated, obsolete, ancient  
ARTICULATE (adj.) skillful in the use of language, well-spoken  
ASCENDANCY (n.) the state of rising or ascending; domination  
ASSENT (n. / v.) agreement / to agree or consent

ASSIDUOUS (adj.) hard working, diligent  
ASTUTE (adj.) smart, perceptive  
AUGMENT (v.) to increase in size, to swell  
AUSPICIOUS (adj.) favorable, fortunate, boding well for the future  
AUSTERE (adj.) stark, severely simple  
AUTOCRATIC (adj.) having total power, dictatorial  
AUTONOMY (n.) independence  
AVARICIOUS (adj.) greedy  
AVUNCULAR (adj.) having the qualities of an uncle

## B

BEHEMOTH (n.) something that is huge, gigantic  
BENEFACTOR (n.) one who provides financial support  
BENEVOLENT (adj.) kind, good-hearted

## C

CANTANKEROUS (adj.) ornery, agitated, mean-spirited  
CASTIGATE (v.) to scold severely, berate  
CAUSTIC (adj.) biting, scornful  
CLICHE (n.) an overused saying or expression  
COLLOQUIAL (adj.) pertaining to everyday language or speech  
COMMEMORATE (v.) to honor the memory of

COMPLACENT (adj.) peaceful, easygoing  
CONDONE (v.) to allow something to happen, to give approval to a questionable act  
CONFLAGRATION (n.) a huge fire  
CRYPTIC (adj.) secretive, hidden, hard to understand

## D

DEFINITIVE (adj.) defining; held up as the ultimate example of something  
DELINEATE (v.) to mark with a line (or lines)  
DESECRATE (v.) to violate, to make impure, to defile  
DESTITUTE (adj.) extremely poor, poverty stricken  
DETERRENT (n.) something that prevents something from happening  
DETRIMENTAL (adj.) harmful  
DEVIOUS (adj.) tricky, crafty, unprincipled  
DIATRIBE (n.) a lengthy and accusatory speech  
DIGRESS (v.) to turn away from the main point, to get off track  
DILATORY (adj.) tending to delay  
DIMINUTION (n.) a decrease or diminishing  
DISDAIN (v.) contempt or scorn; bitter dislike  
DIVERGE (v.) to split or move apart

DOFF (v.) to take off an item of clothing  
DON (v.) to put on an item of clothing  
DRACONIAN (adj.) extremely harsh, severe, oppressive

## E

EBULLIENT (adj.) extremely joyful  
EDIFY (v.) to instruct, to educate  
EGREGIOUS (adj.) extremely bad or mistaken  
ELOQUENT (adj.) well spoken, marked by expressive and persuasive speech  
ELUSIVE (adj.) hard to capture or grasp  
EMISSARY (n.) agent or messenger  
ERUDITION (n.) deep learning, scholarship  
ESCHEW (v.) to avoid  
ETYMOLOGY (n.) the study of word origins  
EUPHEMISM (n.) a pleasant way of saying something unpleasant  
EVANESCENT (adj.) vanishing quickly, fleeting  
EXALTED (adj.) holding a high position, greatly respected  
EXEMPLARY (adj.) serving as a good example  
EXONERATE (v.) to free from blame

EXPATRIATE (n.) someone who leaves their native land to settle elsewhere  
EXPEDITE (v.) to quicken, hasten

EXTRANEIOUS (adj.) extra and unnecessary  
EXTRICATE (v.) to extract, free, disentangle, remove

## F

FACILITATE (v.) to make easier  
FALLOW (adj.) barren, uncultivated  
FEASIBLE (adj.) doable, possible, able to be accomplished  
FLORID (adj.) flowery  
FOOLHARDY (adj.) daring in a foolish way  
FRIVOLOUS (adj.) lacking in importance or seriousness  
FURTIVE (adj.) sneaky, hidden, stealthy

## G

GERMANE (adj.) pertinent, related to the point at hand  
GLUTTON (n.) habitual overeater  
GRANDIOSE (adj.) overly grand  
GREGARIOUS (adj.) sociable  
GULLIBLE (adj.) unquestioning, easily fooled

## H

HIERARCHY (n.) power structure  
HYPERBOLE (n.) exaggeration, overstatement

## I

IDIOSYNCRASY (n.) odd personality trait, quirk  
IDOLATRY (n.) worship of false idol(s)  
IMMUTABLE (adj.) unable to change or be changed  
INCONGRUOUS (adj.) not congruent, dissimilar  
INCORRIGIBLE (adj.) not able to be corrected, beyond redemption

INDIFFERENT (adj.) making no difference, not caring one way or the other  
INDOMITABLE (adj.) unable to be defeated  
INGENIOUS (adj.) pertaining to a genius; very clever  
INGENUOUS (adj.) genuine, honest, open  
INHERENT (adj.) natural, innate; pertaining to the essential nature of something  
INNOVATION (n.) new development  
INSURMOUNTABLE (adj.) unable to be overcome  
INTRACTABLE (adj.) extremely stubborn, not able to be solved  
INTREPID (adj.) brave, fearless, lacking trepidation  
INVOKE (v.) to call upon

## J

JOVIAL (adj.) good natured, merry, given to joking

## K

KINETIC (adj.) pertaining to motion

## L

LACONIC (adj.) sparing in words  
LAUD (v.) to praise  
LISTLESS (adj.) lacking energy  
LOQUACIOUS (adj.) talkative

## M

MALICE (n.) evil intent  
MELLIFLUOUS (adj.) smooth-flowing  
MENDICANT (adj. / n.) extremely poor and given to begging / a beggar  
METICULOUS (adj.) paying very close attention to detail  
MISER (n.) a person who is extremely stingy or cheap  
MITIGATE (v.) to lessen or moderate the severity of something  
MNEMONIC (adj.) pertaining to memory  
MOLLIFY (v.) to soothe, soften, pacify  
MOROSE (adj.) sad, gloomy  
MYOPIC (adj.) near sighted, lacking foresight

## N

NOXIOUS (adj.) harmful  
NURTURE (v.) to care for, to raise

## O

OPAQUE (adj.) impossible to see through  
OPTIMISTIC (adj.) having a positive outlook

## P

PARSIMONY (n.) stinginess, cheapness  
PECUNIARY (adj.) pertaining to money  
PENURY (n.) poverty  
PERFIDIOUS (adj.) treacherous, disloyal  
PERPETUAL (adj.) continuous, without end  
PESSIMISM (n.) a gloomy or negative outlook  
PHILANTHROPIST (n.) a person who donates large sums of money to charitable causes  
PIECEMEAL (adj. / adv.) bit by bit / in a gradual way  
PINE (v.) to miss, to long for, to yearn for  
PLATITUDE (n.) overused saying, trite remark  
POSTERITY (n.) future generations  
POTENTATE (n.) ruler, monarch, very powerful person  
PRECOCIOUS (adj.) characterized by early development, advanced at an early age  
PRIVATION (n.) a condition or result of deprivation or loss  
PRODIGAL (adj.) wasteful; reckless with money  
PROFLIGATE (adj.) reckless in spending  
PROFOUND (adj.) deep, deeply moving  
PROPENSITY (n.) tendency  
PROTEGE (n.) a person who is groomed for a position

PROVINCIAL (adj.) pertaining to a province; narrow-minded  
PRUDENT (adj.) wise, marked by good judgment  
PUGNACIOUS (adj.) combative, tending to fight

## Q

QUIESCENT (adj.) quiet, dormant, temporarily inactive

## R

RACONTEUR (n.) a person who tells witty and amusing stories  
RAMIFICATION (n.) a branching out; a consequence of a problematic situation  
RANCID (adj.) foul, putrid, disgusting  
RANCOR (n.) anger, ill will  
REBUFF (v.) to snub, beat back  
RECTIFY (v.) to fix, correct  
RECTITUDE (n.) uprightness, moral virtue  
REDOLENT (adj.) fragrant, scented  
REMEDIAL (adj.) pertaining to a remedy  
REMISS (adj.) at fault, negligent  
REMUNERATIVE (adj.) resulting in monetary gain, profitable  
REPARATIONS (n.) money to be paid for injury or damage  
REPLETE (adj.) full of or filled with  
REPRIMAND (v. / n.) blame  
REPROACH (n.) blame, disapproval  
RESCIND (v.) to take back, recall, nullify, repeal

RESPIRE (n.) a brief break or rest  
REVILE (v.) to hate or detest  
RHETORIC (n.) skillful use of language, or just language in general  
RIBALD (adj.) vulgarly humorous, lewd, crude  
ROBUST (adj.) strong, hearty, vigorous

## S

SCANT (adj.) minimal  
SCRUTINIZE (v.) to examine closely (visually)  
SEEMLY (adj.) proper, suitable  
SERPENTINE (adj.) serpent-like, snake-like  
SLUGGISH (adj.) slow moving, hard to arouse  
SOPHOMORIC (adj.) of or pertaining to a sophomore; wise and foolish at the same time  
STAID (adj.) bland, boring  
STRIDENT (adj.) loud, harsh, shrill  
SUBSIDIZE (v.) to assist financially  
SUBTLE (adj.) not overt, nuanced, subject to fine distinctions  
SUPERCILIOUS (adj.) haughty, arrogant, overly proud  
SUPERFLUOUS (adj.) unnecessary, extraneous  
SURREPTITIOUS (adj.) secretive, stealthy  
SYCOPHANT (n.) brown-noser, servile flatterer

## T

TACITURN (adj.) quiet, reserved  
TEMPETUOUS (adj.) of or pertaining to a tempest or storm  
TENACIOUS (adj.) unyielding, forceful  
TENET (n.) a key belief or principle  
TENTATIVE (adj.) possible but subject to change, not definite  
THEOLOGY (n.) the study of religion  
TIMOROUS (adj.) timid, fearful  
TIRADE (n.) a lengthy and abusive verbal attack  
TORPOR (n.) lack of energy, listlessness  
TRANSCEND (v.) to surpass, go beyond  
TRITE (adj.) overused, unoriginal  
TRUNCATE (v.) to shorten, reduce

## U

UTOPIA (n.) a perfect place

## V

VENERATE (v.) to hold in high regard, to greatly respect, to revere  
VERACITY (n.) truthfulness  
VERBOSE (adj.) wordy  
VERDANT (adj.) lush with greenery  
VILIFY (v.) to make into or portray as a villain  
VIRULENT (adj.) poisonous, toxic  
VOLATILE (adj.) explosive; tending to evaporate quickly

## W

WARY (adj.) cautious  
WANE (v.) to decrease, diminish  
WHIMSICAL (adj.) fickle, changeable, moody  
WISTFUL (adj.) filled with regret and longing