Vocabulary Unit 1

Quiz date: Wednesday, 8/8/12

1. adulterate

- To corrupt, make worse by the addition of something of lesser value
- Verb
- Synonyms: contaminate, pollute, sully
- Antonyms: purify, purge, expurgate
- Hospitals take strict precautions to assure that nothing <u>adulterates</u> the blood supply.

2. ambidextrous

- Able to use both hands equally well; very skillful; deceitful, hypercritical
- Adjective
- Synonyms: versatile, facile
- Antonyms: clumsy, all thumbs, maladroit
- Occasionally a teacher will come across a child who displays <u>ambidextrous</u> abilities when taught to write.

3. augment

- To make larger, increase
- Verb
- Synonyms: enlarge, supplement, amplify
- Antonyms: decrease, diminish
- Many couples have to <u>augment</u> their income in order to pay the mortgage on a new home.

4. bereft

- Deprived of; made unhappy through a loss
- Adjective
- Synonyms: bereaved
- Antonyms: replete, well provided
- Individuals who live to be very old may eventually find themselves bereft of friends and family.

5. deploy

- To position or arrange; to utilize; to form up
- Verb
- Synonyms: station, organize
- A bugle call is a signal used to <u>deploy</u> troops fro inspection, parade, or battle.

6. dour

- Stern, unyielding, gloomy, ill-humored
- Adjective
- Synonyms: harsh, bleak, forbidding, saturnine
- Antonyms: cheery, inviting, genial
- Dicken's Mr. Gradgrind in the novel Hard Times is an example of a character with a dour and sullen disposition.

7. fortitude

- Courage in facing difficulties
- Noun
- Synonyms: resolve, steadfastness, mettle
- Antonyms: fearfulness, timidity, faintheartedness
- The residents of the Mississippi delta showed remarkable fortitude during and after the flood that destroyed their homes and businesses.

8. gape

- To stare with open mouth; to open the mouth wide; to open wide
- Verb
- Synonyms: gawk, ogle
- First-time visitors to Niagara Falls can be expected to gape at the spectacular sights nature has provided for them.

9. gibe

- Verb: to utter taunting words
- Noun: an expression of scorn
- Synonyms: ridicule, mock, deride, jeer
- Antonyms: compliment, praise
- The recruits rushed into battle so that no one could gibe at them for cowardice.
- Voters may reject a candidate who resorts to personal gibes instead of discussing the issues.

10. guise

- An external appearance, cover, mask
- Noun
- Synonyms: costume, semblance, pretense
- The thieves gained entry to the home by presenting themselves in the guise of police officers.