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Let's be realistic about vocabulary study. Learning words cannot guarantee you admission to college or propel you toward automatic success. But knowing the meanings of important words can be useful. If a word you don't understand keeps cropping up in your reading, you must stop to look it up or sacrifice understanding the text. If you find yourself having to make do with a general word like *nice* or *pleasant* because you don't know a more specific word, you may feel frustrated, and your speaking and writing will lack precision.

Vocabulary study, therefore, can be of value to you if the words you learn are commonly used in the kind of reading you'll be doing or will help you say what you mean in more interesting ways. Learning the meanings of obscure words may make you feel sophisticated but will do little to enhance your ability to read and communicate.

VOCABULARY B is a book that avoids the pitfalls of teaching obscure words. It presents words that have use in the real world. It requires that you learn only two words per lesson and furnishes you with what you need to know about using the words.

After reading the explanatory matter, you confront two kinds of practice with the new words. In the first kind of practice (Exercise A), you test your ability to *recognize* the meanings of the words as you must do when you encounter them in reading a magazine or a newspaper article. In the second kind of practice (Exercise B), you test your ability to *recall* the words and use them in the proper way. This practice prepares you to use the new words in your own speaking and writing.

Words from previous lessons keep showing up in the practice exercises, and so you never have a chance to forget them. By devoting ten minutes a day to this kind of vocabulary study, you will take command of approximately two hundred useful new words as well as hundreds of synonyms and antonyms of the vocabulary words.

But that's not all. As a bonus, this book includes lessons that introduce you to more than forty Latin and Greek word parts on which several hundred English words are based. Learning these word parts will give you the keys to the meanings of countless other unfamiliar words.

# lesson 1

## spite ■ picket

<b>spite</b>	(n) (spīt)
ORIGIN:	Latin <i>despectus</i> (a looking down upon)
MEANING:	Petty ill will with the desire to irritate, annoy, or thwart another
CONTEXT:	“Billy showed <i>spite</i> toward his cousin by calling him ugly names.”
SYNONYMS:	malice, ill will, spleen, grudge
ANTONYMS:	benevolence, kindness, goodwill
OTHER FORMS:	spite (v), spiteful (adj.), spitefully (adv.)

<b>picket</b>	(v) (ˈpik-ət)
ORIGIN:	Middle French <i>piquet</i> (a stake)
MEANING:	To place protesters around a factory, store, or building, as during a strike or demonstration against policies, practices, or actions
CONTEXT:	“Many <i>picketed</i> the Russian Embassy because they did not like Russia’s policy toward Iran.”
SYNONYMS:	demonstrate against, protest against
OTHER FORMS:	picket (n. or adj.)

### A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

- spiteful: a) happy b) restrictive c) malicious d) hopeless
- picket: a) demonstrate against b) compete c) retire d) remove
- spite: a) observe b) annoy c) study d) accept
- spite: a) happiness b) shyness c) ability d) ill will
- picket: a) protester b) corridor c) courtyard d) family
- picket: a) display b) encourage c) praise d) march against

### B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

picket    spite

- The freshmen stomped their feet when the principal entered the auditorium to \_\_\_\_\_ her for insisting that they sit together in the front section.
- The freshmen class officers said they would \_\_\_\_\_ the principal’s office if she continued to insist that they occupy those seats.
- To react with \_\_\_\_\_ toward a school requirement is foolish behavior.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ might be suspended from school.
- Would you be willing to join a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ line in front of the office?
- I would have to feel \_\_\_\_\_ to do so.

### Shades of Meaning

- spite
- ill will
- rancor
- malice
- grudge

# lesson 2

## agile ■ swagger

**agile** (adj) ('aj-əl)  
**ORIGIN:** Latin *agilis* (easily moved)  
**MEANING:** Able to move quickly and easily  
**CONTEXT:** "Maria is a very *agile* girl and should be an excellent athlete."  
**SYNONYMS:** nimble, lithe, athletic, graceful  
**ANTONYMS:** awkward, clumsy, sluggish  
**OTHER FORMS:** agility (n.), agilely (adv.)

**swagger** (v) ('swag-ər)  
**ORIGIN:** Norwegian dialect *svagga* (to sway)  
**MEANING:** To walk or strut with a defiant or arrogant manner  
**CONTEXT:** "The conceited young man *swaggered* into the room and propped his feet up on the coffee table."  
**SYNONYMS:** strut, parade  
**OTHER FORM:** swagger (n.)

### A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

1. agile: a) easily upset b) nimble c) generous d) brave
2. swagger: a) strut b) bow one's head c) praise d) predict
3. spiteful: a) thankful b) young c) curious d) mean
4. agility: a) freedom b) length c) liteness d) promptness
5. picket: a) demonstrate against b) ask questions of  
c) give reasons for d) ignore

### B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

agile picket spite swagger

1. A group of employees, carrying posters calling for better wages and working conditions, will \_\_\_\_\_ the store beginning on Tuesday.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of antelopes helps them to escape from their enemies.
3. After losing the race to Sylvia, Sammie acted \_\_\_\_\_ toward her.
4. Sylvia's \_\_\_\_\_ and her boastful attitude did nothing to help restore her friendship with Sammie.
5. My grandmother, who often defeats younger women at tennis, is quite \_\_\_\_\_ at seventy.
6. The new student \_\_\_\_\_ into the dressing room and began boasting about what a good basketball player he was.
7. Have you ever watched a squirrel move from tree to tree through the upper branches? Their \_\_\_\_\_ is truly amazing.