

Cambridge 11, test 1, passage 1:

Crop growing skyscrapers

Demographic:

- 1 information about a group such as the people who live in a particular area:
- *the demographics of a newspaper's readership*
- 2 a part of the population that is considered as a group, especially by advertisers who want to sell things to that group:
- CBS has been trying to attract the 18-to-49 demographic with its hipper new shows.

Hothouse:

Heated building, usually made of glass, where delicate plants can grow → GREENHOUSE:

- For almost two weeks, Saigon was a hothouse that bred a combustion of burning chemicals and fuel.
- He was cold, very cold despite the hothouse temperature of the atrium.

Vogue:

A popular and fashionable style, activity, method.

- People's fondness for wearing black and other dark colors was a vogue I never really liked.
- If you want to control the vogue for greed and exploitation, then start using local suppliers.

Verdant:

Verdant land is thickly covered with fresh green plants SYN lush.

- Here in the verdant environs of Forest House is unchanged rural Essex.
- Just out of the sound of the sea, it is as verdant and gently rolling as Mr. Inshaw's image.

Arid:

Arid land or arid climate is very dry because it has very little rain.

- In the arid summer, the landscape becomes brown and dusty.
- The birds inhabit tropical forests, savannah, and arid semi-desert conditions.

Rigour:

The problems and difficulties of a situation or great care and thoroughness in making sure that something is correct.

- Ferguson has restored the rigour of self-scrutiny to history.
- This limits the potential rigour of design because the anchor of skill training is the specification of the objectives.

Monsoon:

The season, from about April to October, when it rains a lot in India and other southern Asian countries.

- But trips home for Arizona firefighters this summer promise to be as rare as a monsoon rain on Memorial Day.
- During our interview, a monsoon rain was drenching his small, 1920s house in Sam Hughes.

Plough:

A piece of farm equipment used to turn over the earth so that seeds can be planted.

- Inland, the rich red of the plough fields glowed in the sunshine.
- The introduction of the plough made possible much greater density of population, concentrated in villages and manors.

Stack:

A neat pile of things or a large amount of something.

- The whole stack fell over, and half the plates got broken.
- After he had gone, she stared blankly at the stack of boxes he had left.

Tray:

A flat piece of plastic, metal, or wood, with raised edges, use for carrying things such as plates, food.

- If bulbs look shriveled when unpacked, immerse in trays of damp peat until plumped out.
- She heard Stephen order Sally to take a tray upstairs to Mrs. Winters and she said nothing.

Reading passage 2:

The Falkirk wheel

Dismantle:

To take machine or piece of equipment apart so that it is in separate pieces or to gradually get rid of a system or organization.

- No one is suggesting that we dismantle the Social Security system
- Before a technician dismantled the device, a nearby restaurant, a post office and City Hall were evacuated.

Commemoration:

Something that makes you remember and respect someone important or an important event in the past SYN remembrance

- A 50th anniversary commemoration is planned for November.

- It is a commemoration and ensures that people remember the event because it was out of the ordinary, and special.

Tilt:

To move a part of your body, especially your head or chin, upwards or to the side.

- He made another round of the tower, standing on tiptoe to tilt the angle of the glasses downward toward the valley.
- She tilted her chin upwards and put on her loftiest expression.

Axe:

A tool with a heavy metal blade on the end of a long handle, used to cut down trees or split pieces of wood.

- A dozen men and women clad in furs were polishing axes and broadswords monotonously, mindlessly.
- In Crete, we also find the double axe engraved on stalactite columns in caves.

Propeller:

A piece of equipment consisting of two or more blades that spin around, which makes an aircraft or ship move.

- Designer William Towns rides the Water bike, propeller driven in various configurations.
- He sat there looking at the dead propeller all the way to Cleveland.

Painstaking:

Very careful and thorough SYN meticulous.

- They began the long and painstaking task of compiling a bibliography.
- A delicate and painstaking examination with her fingertips yielded nothing.

Bolt:

To suddenly run somewhere very quickly, especially in order to escape or because you are frightened.

- Before I could say a word, she turned and bolted out the front door.
- The dog bolted into the road, into the oncoming traffic.

Crane:

A large tall machine used by builders for lifting heavy things → hoist

Or a tall water bird with very long legs.

- A heron or crane had been made out of solid bronze by an artist commissioned by the cultural society.
- A little way off, under the clouds, I could see cranes moving.

Robust:

A robust person is strong and healthy or a robust system, organization etc. is strong and not likely to have problems:

The formerly robust economy has begun to weaken.

- He was a robust little boy, with curly dark hair.
- Less robust persons might need a siesta, but Eva worked right through from dawn till dusk.

Weld:

To join metals by melting their edges and pressing them together when they are hot or to join or unite people into a single strong group.

- It is not possible, for example, to weld brackets or stiffening materials directly to the surface.
- It is not possible, for example, to weld brackets or stiffening materials directly to the surface

Gondola:

A long narrow boat with a flat bottom and high points at each end, used on the canals in Venice in Italy.

The place where passengers sit that hangs beneath an airship or balloon

The enclosed part of a cable car where the passengers sit.

- Allow 40 minutes for the gondola ride up the mountain.
- The gondola that contains the payload has been spotted from the air and is believed to be undamaged.

Basin:

A round container attached to the wall in a bathroom, where you wash your hands and face
SYN sink.

- Water splashed in the basin of the fountain.
- It was a naturally sheltered basin, a trick of the undulating meadows along the Comer.

Hydraulic:

Moved or operated by the pressure of water or other liquid.

- One of the hydraulic stand pipes, seen before being enclosed in a cabin.
- The hydraulic specialists were organized in the same manner, as were the aircraft mechanics, and so on.

Dock:

A place in a port where ships are loaded, unloaded, or repaired.

- The boat crossed the bay and let them off at the dock, directly below the hotel.
- Cyril sat on the dock and stared out over the water.

Axle:

The bar connecting two wheels on a car or other vehicle.

- After fetching the wagon bed, they rolled out the wheels and axles and assembled the vehicle.
- A string led from the axle, via a pulley held by another patient pupil, to a dangling weight.

Cog:

1 a wheel with small bits sticking out around the edge that fit together with the bits of another wheel as they turn in a machine.

2 one of the small bits that stick out on a cog.

3 a cog in the machine/wheel someone who only has a small unimportant job in a large

organization.

- I hear them in there pry up his forehead like a manhole cover, clash and snarl of jammed cogs
- They were like cogs working together, fitting into place when and where they were needed.

Orbit:

To travel in a curved path around a much larger object such as the Earth, the Sun etc.

- The satellite will orbit the Earth for the next 15 years.
- Venus orbits the sun once every 225 Earth days.

Aqueduct:

A structure like a bridge that carries water across a river or valley.

- A miniature aqueduct led water from the spring into a well at the garth's center.
- After another island with half blocked off by Hamstead Wharf there are two aqueducts.

Reading passage 3:

Reducing the effects of climate change

Stride:

A long step you make while you are walking.

An improvement in a situation or in development of something.

- In four angry strides, Stuart was through the front gate.
- Sainsbury has really hit its stride with its Pinot Noirs, which seem to be getting better each year.

Stem:

The long thin part of a plant, from which leaves, flowers, or fruit grow.

- But the plant continually produces new stalks through the year, so there always should be some new stems to pick.
- It looked like something pulled from the earth, a tuberous stem or fungus esteemed by gourmets.

Parade:

A public celebration when bands, brightly decorated vehicles etc. move down the street.

- A lot of soldiers were missing from the Victory parade.
- When Johnson arrived home after the championships a big parade was held in his honor.

Arctic:

Relating to the most northern part of the world → Antarctic.

- The Arctic island of Novaya Zemlya.
- Arctic condition.

Replenish:

To put new supplies into something, or to fill something again:

- As more workers retire, new employees are needed to replenish the workforce.
- In an emergency, water can be pumped from the well to replenish the irrigation canals.

Scrutinize:

To examine someone or something very carefully.

- For example, unlike the United States, mergers should be very closely scrutinized.
- But one thing is certain, they will be the most scrutinized players in franchise history.

Birch:

A tree with smooth bark (= outer covering) and thin branches, or the wood from this tree.

- An imperceptible breeze forced the leaves of a regiment of birch trees into anxious quaking.
- Dark pines and yellow birches lay ahead, as the shoreline curved to meet me.

Test 2, reading passage 1:

Raising the Mary Rose

Fleet:

A group of ships, or all the ships in a navy or a group of vehicles that are controlled by one company.

- There are unconfirmed reports that the seventh fleet is moving into the area.
- The ban was imposed on the grounds that dolphins were being killed by the tuna fleet.

Overladen:

Filled with too many people or things.

- Overladen buses.

Seabed:

The seabed the land at the bottom of the sea SYN sea floor.

Starboard:

The side of a ship or aircraft that is on your right when you are facing forwards → port.

- Another column dashed up her starboard side and carried off her smokestack.
- He would have had to have panicked, turned her starboard against a westward storm.

Clay:

A type of heavy sticky earth that can be used for making pots, bricks etc.

- Here we find the features of the deceased preserved in clay masks.
- In that case the sellers had warranted that a clay pulverizing machine would process clay at six tons per hour.

Sunken:

Having fallen to the bottom of the sea, a lake, or a river.

- After Charlotte's death in 1943, the villagers all noticed how extraordinarily frail and sunken Shaw looked.
- In one corner there is a sunken Jacuzzi with a young person in it, moving sinuously in the bubbling waters.

Timber:

Wood used for building or making thing SYN lumber.

- Adjustable shelving is still a very popular choice; timber and glass shelves are ideal for displaying ornaments.
- Along the length of the railway line were timber yards, rope works, malting and an iron foundry.

Wreck:

To completely spoil something so that it cannot continue in a successful way.

- He came home drunk again, threatening to wreck the apartment.
- His confrontational speech has wrecked any chances of a peace settlement.

Stray:

To move away from the place you should be.

- A number of Charles's men were killed because they had strayed out of formation.
- An antimatter atom that strays and touches the container wall would set off a chain-reaction annihilation.

Treasure:

A group of valuable things such as gold, silver, jewels etc.

- A husband that cooks and cleans is a real treasure.

- Your old furniture could be a treasure to a growing number of collectors.

Salvage:

1 to save something from an accident or bad situation in which other things have already been damaged, destroyed, or lost.

- If you no longer care for your partner, it is time to ask what can be salvaged from your relationship.
- Retailing and tourism can't salvage an ailing economy.

Hull:

The main part of a ship that goes in the water.

- A glass tide tinkled on the hull of the receiver, its echoing obsidian.
- As the temperature rises in the museum under the hot sun moisture evaporates from the ship's wooden hull.

Bolt:

A metal bar that you slide across a door or window to fasten it.

- Atop a mountain he slew his daughter, then was immediately struck dead by a bolt of lightning.
- Investigators could not check the bolts because they had fallen into the sea.

Suck:

To pull someone or something with great power and force into or out of a particular place.

- She's got long fair hair and a little white face and she sucks her thumb a lot.
- The eighth time the hand enters the mouth, the thumb alone is retained and sucking continues.

Cradle:

A small bed for a baby, especially one that moves gently from side to side.

- The baby rested peacefully in his cradle.
- He put the phone down on the cradle and stared at it.

Cushioning:

- Something soft that protects someone or something when they hit a surface.
- But the cushioning has to be in the mid or forefoot, where the foot hits, rather than the heel.
- Each key has a full travel with good cushioning for the heavy handed

Test 2, reading passage 2:

What destroyed the civilization of Easter Island?

Ethnography:

The scientific description of different races of people.

- A series of individual observation and interview measures will be derived on the basis of this ethnography.
- The ordinary methods of Hellenistic ethnography would have been sufficient.

Inca:

An ancient people who lived in Peru, South America, and who ruled a large area of the Andes mountains, from Ecuador to Chile, until the Spanish arrived in the 16th century and destroyed their civilization. They are known especially for building impressive cities, such as Machu Picchu, building roads, and having advanced methods of farming. Their capital was Cuzco, and their language was Quechua.

Extraterrestrial:

A creature that people think may exist on another planet.

- Since none of these meteorites had been observed to fall, proof of their extraterrestrial origin was impossible.
- These in turn tend to point to extraterrestrial phenomena.

Grassland:

A large area of land covered with wild grass SYN prairie.

- In my village there also rice fields, grassland and wetland.
- It's found in lowland areas on chalk grassland and among sand dunes.

Scrawny:

A scrawny person or animal looks very thin and weak SYN skinny.

- A few scrawny chickens were searching for scraps of food in the dry earth.
- A few scrawny chickens were searching for scraps of food in the dry earth.

Pollen:

A fine powder produced by flowers, which is carried by the wind or by insects to other flowers of the same type, making them produce seeds.

- However, it is important to remember that the pollen zones are not uniform across large areas.
- The pollen of one flower is transferred to another by means of a fine brush

Lush:

1 plants that are lush grow many leaves and look healthy and strong.

2 very beautiful, comfortable, and expensive SYN luxurious.

- First, we need a long, warm, unbroken growing season to provide a plentiful diet of lush herbage.
- It was green, lush and luxuriant, ringed by the mountains with snowy peaks

Scarce:

If something is scarce, there is not very much of it available.

- After the war, food and clothing were scarce.
- Cheap, clean hotel rooms are scarce in this city, especially in the summer.

Canoe:

A long light boat that is pointed at the ends and which you move along using a paddle.

- In my sixth year I did make myself a smaller canoe, but I did not try to escape in it.
- Memories merge with reality now as we beach the canoe near the ledges under the still-standing thick hemlock.

Cannibal:

1 a person who eats human flesh

2 an animal that eats the flesh of other animals of the same kind

- After the fish have spawned, remove the adults to prevent them from turning cannibal and eating the eggs.
- A cannibal track for me to find and stare at.

Dominance:

The fact of being more powerful, more important, or more noticeable than other people or things.

- In this culture, establishing dominance is often exalted.
- There, too, Theseus and the Minotaur struggle for dominance.

Sledge:

A small vehicle used for sliding over snow, often used by children or in some sports.

- They're good men - they're pulling their sledges themselves.
- Walter did not use a sledge to raise the action.

Topple:

To become unsteady and then fall over, or to make something do this

Topple over or to take power away from a leader or government, especially by force SYN overthrow.

- Political corruption threatens to topple the regime.
- Clinging to each other, Melanie laughing, they toppled in slow motion to the floor.

Chieftain:

The leader of a tribe or a Scottish clan.

- Arturo Silvio, the modelling agency's Milan chieftain, was bustling across the floor towards her.
- At last Achilles called an assembly of the chieftains.

Haul:

To pull something heavy with a continuous steady movement.

- At about five o'clock the beach was full of activity, with the fishermen hauling in their nets.
- Somehow we managed to haul the boat out of the water and onto the bank.

Belly:

The middle part of an animal's body, near its stomach.

- Half way up the drive, Wayne started pawing his belly and rolling the whites of his eyes.
- He kicked Charlie in the belly as soon as they got out of the car.

Overrun:

An amount of time or money that is larger than was planned or intended.

- Cost overruns for overtime for both the police and fire departments has been a chronic problem for years.
- Naturally shortfalls and overruns occur when one year is compared with the next.

Shrivel:

If something shrivels, or if it is shrivelled, it becomes smaller and its surface becomes covered in lines because it is very dry or old.

- Profits have shriveled since the start of the economic crisis.
- How it had shrivelled her to the point of annihilation.

Steward:

A man whose job is to serve food and drinks to passengers on a plane or ship.

- Not all ranchers are good stewards of the land.
- He turned smartly on his heel and trotted into the foyer, greeting the stewards with indiscriminate effusion.

Reading passage 3:

Neuroaesthetics

Splash:

If a liquid splashes, it hits or fall on something and makes a noise.

- A motorcycle sped past, splashing all the spectators with mud.
- He knocked over her cup and splashed coffee all over her new dress.

Canvas:

1 strong cloth used to make bags, tents, shoes etc.

2 a painting done with oil paints, or the piece of cloth it is painted on.

- And from somewhere beneath a cupboard she produced an enormous canvas draped in a sheet and showed it to me.
- He tried out the Helen Frankenthaler technique of staining raw canvas with diluted paint.

Fuzzy:

1 if a sound or picture is fuzzy, it is unclear → blurred.

2 unclear or confused **OPP** clear.

- Clarence had only a few fuzzy memories of his grandparents.
- Police have only a fuzzy videotape of the bank robbery.

Doodle:

To draw shapes, lines, or patterns without really about what you are doing.

- I always doodle while I'm talking on the phone.
- Simon was lying on the floor, doodling on a sheet of paper.

Messy:

Making someone or something dirty or untidy.

- My desk isn't always this messy - I've been working on a major project.
- She felt uncomfortable in such a messy house.

Scrutiny:

Careful and thorough examination of someone or something.

- Closer scrutiny of the document revealed a number of interesting facts.
- Once you become famous your private life comes under public scrutiny.

Decipher:

1 to find the meaning of something that is difficult to read or understand.

2 to change a message written in a code into ordinary language so that you can read it **SYN** decode

- Illiterate people may be able to recognize and decipher signs.
- From then on the Chamber began following closely each development as the messages were in turn deciphered and translated.

Encase:

To cover or surround something completely.

- But the cool grape leaves that encase the rice like gift wrapping are fork tender.
- He was encased in a great deal of expensive burgundy metal, and his car was coming right at me.

Flit:

To move lightly or quickly and not stay in one place for very long.

- In the greenhouse birds flit among the plants.
- He lowered his fork and stopped eating, astonished at the idea that had flitted through his mind.

Fractal:

A pattern, usually produced by a computer that is made by repeating the same shape many times in smaller and smaller sizes.

Motif:

1 an idea, subject, or image that is regularly repeated and developed in a book, film, work of art etc.

2 a small picture or pattern used to decorate something plain.

- She was wearing a plain white T-shirt with a fish motif in blue and green.
- Between these two mosaics, however, there are few obvious similarities of motif.

Intrigue:

1 if something intrigues you, it interests you a lot because it seems strange or mysterious.

2 to make secret plans to harm someone or make them lose their position of power.

- One question has particularly intrigued those working on this study.
- The final part of the letter intrigued him greatly.

Test 3, passage 1:

The story of silk

Cocoon:

1 a silk cover that young moths and other insects make to protect themselves while they are growing.

2 something that wraps around you completely, especially to protect you.

3 a place or situation in which you feel comfortable and safe, and are protected from anything unpleasant.

- These children live outside the cocoon of the middle class.
- But it was clear to all that the then Massachusetts governor would have fit snugly into the capital cocoon.

Mulberry:

A dark purple fruit that can be eaten or a dark purple color.

- I leant against the mulberry tree clutching Radish in my fist and had a bit of a cry there
- I still stop at the mulberry garden every day.

Sip:

To drink something slowly, taking very small mouthfuls.

- She sipped water all the way through the interview.
- As we sat and sipped our half-pint shandies I reflected on what a lucky choice of company I had made

Grove:

A piece of land with trees growing on it.

- His island, she mused, as she drove through almond and olive groves.
- I am in the sacred grove with a priestess in the last surviving matriarchal, communal culture on earth.

Rear:

The back part of an object, vehicle, or building.

- A small porch at the rear can be used for other small items, although access is only from inside.
- That's all, apart from the domestic quarters at the rear.

Reel:

To be confused or shocked by a situation.

- The drunk reeled across the road, talking loudly to nobody.
- When we left, Volkov was reeling from a mixture of liquor and exhaustion, but he remained in high good humor.

Weave:

To make cloth, a carpet, a basket etc. by crossing threads or thin pieces under and over each other by hand or on a loom.

- The old highway weaved its way through Tucson.
- The river weaved across the plain, towards the sea.

Peasant:

A poor farmer who owns or rents a small amount of land, either in past times or in poor countries.

- The economic crisis caused famine, epidemics, and peasant revolt.
- In response peasants cultivate bulkier but less nutritious crops, such as cassava.

Noble:

Morally good or generous in a way that is admired.

- The Siberian tiger is regarded as a noble creature.
- He was rough as a bear in manner, but withal a noble, tender-hearted fellow and a splendid soldier.

Commodity:

A product that is bought and sold.

- Food shopping takes time, a commodity of which most of us have precious little.
- He might want her as a doctor, but as a woman, it seemed, she was a disposable commodity.

Merchandise:

Goods that are being sold.

- The merchandise is attractively displayed and the assistants are friendly and helpful.
- The town has a tiny general store with wildly overpriced merchandise

Monk:

A member of an all-male religious group that lives apart from other people in a monastery.

- And the next thing he remembered was the minibus stopping and the monks helping him into it.
- Each monk received good clothing, although bathing took place only irregularly unless they were ill.

Monopoly:

If a company or government has a monopoly of a business or political activity, it has complete control of it so that other organizations cannot compete with it.

- It is not good for consumers if one company has a monopoly in any area of trade.
- It was not easy to persuade the monarchy to let go of its monopoly of power.

Sweep:

To clean the dust, dirt etc. from the floor or ground, using a brush with a long handle.

- It was not easy to persuade the monarchy to let go of its monopoly of power.
- I just finished sweeping the kitchen floor.

Parachute:

A piece of equipment fastened to the back of people who jump out of planes, which makes them fall slowly and safely to the ground.

- Earth arrival is accomplished by aero capture, followed by descent of the sample container under a parachute.
- Make a rough sketch of a parachute on the board.

Stifle:

To stop something from happening or developing.

- *Apparently satisfied, the man leaned back, stifling a choking, coughing fit.*
- *She leapt to her feet with a cry which was instantly stifled by a mouthful of insects.*

Metric:

Using or connected with the metric system of weights and measures.

- *Commercial facilities within the state manage 733, 515 metric tons of material.*
- *In terms of this new time coordinate the Schwarzschild metric becomes.*

Reading passage 2:

Great migration

Mission:

An important job that involves travelling somewhere, done by a member of the air force, army etc.

- Bush flew bomber missions for the Navy in World War II.
- He volunteered to embark on a dangerous secret mission into occupied France.

Tern:

A black and white sea bird that has long wings and a tail with two points.

- Only the egrets, spoonbill, and least tern, however, faced actual extinction before help arrived.
- The tern is swift, turning tightly among the flock to avoid the pirate.

Herring:

A long thin silver sea fish that can be eaten.

- A few dozen herring here or there; nobody troubled: every child went home with a few dozen herring on a string.
- One issue between these parties was whether the herring meal supplied corresponded with the description.

Gull:

A large common black and white sea bird that lives near the sea SYN seagull

- I walked around the lake three times, looking for the gull.
- The herring gulls are local resident birds, and great opportunists, able to change their feeding habits to whatever is available.

Voracious:

Eating or wanting large quantities of food.

- A voracious reader, Veia is adamant about the pursuit of writing excellence.
- It was a Dorado or dolphin fish, a voracious predator which feeds mostly on flying fish.

Gravelly:

A gravelly voice has a low rough sound.

- Home, she thought dismally as she drove up the gravelly drive.
- The bank on each side of the oak tree was bare and consisted of a light, gravelly soil.

Terrestrial:

1 relating to the Earth rather than to the moon or other planet.

2 living on or relating to land rather than water.

- A statistical analysis based on this data suggests that well over half the stars are being orbited by rocky terrestrial material.
- Rain forests are home to numerous species, terrestrial and epiphytes.

Onward:

Moving forward or continuing.

- From the age of six onward, Vologsky had been able to apply almost total recall to figures of any sort.
- Given his rate of drift, within ten or fifteen minutes the home-base would pass onward beneath him.

Aphid:

A type of small insect that feeds on the juices of plants.

- An hour and there was a speck of yellow on the horizon as tiny as an aphid.
- Some of the alders held overwintering white patches of woolly aphids on their gray stems.

Wildebeest:

A large Southern African animal with a tail and curved horns SYN gnu.

- I cannot look at another zebra, another wildebeest, and certainly no more armadillos!
- The lionesses on the flanks may well drive some of the wildebeest towards their companions in the center of the line.

Antelope:

An animal with long horns that can run very fast and is very graceful.

- A small antelope races away into the bush.
- Across the plain, a herd of antelope ran, and then pivoted all at once like a school of fish.

Plain:

Very clear, and easy to understand or recognize SYN obvious.

- Do you have any plain white shirts?
- She spoke slowly and carefully, using plain simple language.

Sagebrush:

A small plant that is very common in dry areas in the western US.

- Insects clicking softly in the sagebrush.
- We turned down a fence line through high sagebrush.

Bounty:

An amount of money that is given to someone by the government as a reward for doing something, especially catching or killing a criminal.

- It's this seasonal bounty to which the Eleonora's breeding cycle is geared, and the falcons harvest it in abundance.
- President Davis assured the men he had plans that would soon regain for them the bounty of the green fields of Tennessee.

Gaze:

To look at someone or something for a long time, giving it all your attention, often without realizing you are doing so SYN stare.

- I lay back on the sand and gazed at the stars above.
- She sat gazing out the windows at the people walking by.

Bottleneck:

A place in a road where the traffic cannot pass easily, so that there are a lot of delays.

- Automatic packing machines should get rid of the bottlenecks in the process.
- If we don't hire more people in production we're going to have a huge bottleneck in a few months.

Forested:

Forested areas are covered in forests SYN wooded

- Soon after setting off we came to a forested valley along the banks of the Gwaun.
- The landscape was flat, forested and every so often there were small wooden villages.

Hill:

An area of land that is higher than the land around it, like mountain but smaller.

- The hotel is up on the hill, overlooking the town.
- For a while it looks like the red earth, green vegetation and gentle hills of Sedona.

Choke:

To be unable to breathe properly because something is in your throat or there is not enough air.

- "I guess we choked," said Coach Landers after his team's last minute defeat.
- He grabbed her around the neck and choked her to death.

Jurisdiction:

The right to use an official power to make legal decisions, or the area where this right exists.

- It's not within our jurisdiction to tell people what to do in the privacy of their own homes.
- The council has no jurisdiction over these matters.

Reading passage 3:

Preface to how the other half thinks: adventures in mathematical reasoning.

Algebra:

A type of mathematics that uses letters and other signs to represent numbers and values.

- Good understanding of most concepts up to and including algebra
- He hoped to be an engineer, and he was taking algebra and trigonometry and falling behind in both.

Geometry:

Of the angles and shapes formed by the relationships of lines, surfaces, and solid objects in space → geometric.

- The biometric security market also includes voice recognition and hand geometry devices
- There are also a few experiments in Earth geometry that gain from the rapid transfer of data between distant schools.

Trigonometry:

The part of mathematics concerned with the relationship between the angles and sides of TRIANGLES.

- By itself, it is easy to interpret this ability as some sort of mindless, automatic exercise in trigonometry.
- He hoped to be an engineer, and he was taking algebra and trigonometry and falling behind in both

Arithmetic:

The science of numbers involving adding, multiplying etc. Mathematics.

- Of course that simple arithmetic may be wrong.
- Once, multiplying or dividing by zero had terrifying results, reducing orderly arithmetic to instant nonsense.

Alleged:

An alleged crime, fact etc. is one that someone says has happened or is true, although it has not been proved.

- *an alleged conspiracy to murder President Kennedy*
- *Death was the alleged penalty for those who divulged the secrets of the order.*

Tantalize:

To show or promise something that someone really wants, but then not allow them to have it.

- It goes as far as it can and waits there for a while, its big eyes staring up, tantalized.
- What were her many mysteries, she tantalized herself, replaying all the loves she'd ever known.

Subatomic:

Smaller than an atom or existing within an atom.

- It investigates phenomena which range in size from subatomic particles to the universe itself.

- The B mesons can now be assured of a place in the tables of known subatomic particles.

Episode:

An event or a short period of time during which something happens.

- Brad Pitt made a guest appearance on last week's episode.
- That was one of the best episodes - I wish I'd got it on tape.

Aficionado:

Someone who is very interested in a particular activity or subject and knows a lot about it.

- Aspirants and aficionados alike ought to be queuing up outside bookstores to lay hands on it.
- But true opera aficionados were perhaps less surprised.

Testimonial:

1 a formal written statement describing someone's character and abilities → reference.

2 something that is given or done to someone to thank or praise them, or show admiration for them.

- But first, a few words of caution, a few more words about Bogdanovich, and a testimonial.
- The testimonials that follow speak to all these matters.

Test 4 reading passage 1:

Research using twins

Fraternal:

Showing a special friendliness to other people because you share interests or ideas with them.

- The fraternal spirit seems to be declining in relations between our churches.
- Identical twins, clearly, are far more concordant in general than are fraternal twins.

Ailment:

An illness that is not very serious.

- Patients who often complain of minor ailments might have something more important on their minds.
- The medicine was supposed to cure all kinds of ailments, ranging from colds to back pains.

Pinpoint:

To discover or explain exactly the real facts about something or the cause of a problem.

- Investigators are trying to pinpoint the cause of the fire.
- Scientists have been unable to pinpoint the exact causes of cancer.

Epigenetics:

The scientific study of changes in the behavior of genes that are caused by things that a living thing experiences.

Hardwired:

1 computer systems that are hard-wired are controlled by hardware rather than software and cannot be easily changed by the user.

2 if an attitude, way of behaving etc. is hard-wired, it is a natural part of a person's character that they are born with and cannot change.

- *The aim should be to have hard-wired network data connections in close proximity to all potential computer users.*

Reading passage 2:

An introduction to film sound

Banal:

Ordinary and not interesting, because of a lack of new or different ideas SYN trivial.

- It was just another banal newspaper story.
- Everybody says sorry and life goes on - it's that banal.

Whirlwind:

1 an extremely strong wind that moves quickly with a circular movement, causing a lot of damage SYN tornado.

2 a situation in which you experience a lot of different emotions, or a lot of different things happen, one after another.

- A black whirlwind, they fill the air with the click of leathery wings as they spiral through the trees.
- Living in Manhattan is such a whirlwind.

Frenetic:

Frenetic activity is fast and not very organized.

- Every frenetic gesture engendered tenderness in her heart
- His expressions range from that of a contented Cheshire cat, to a somewhat frenetic frown.

Ominous:

Making you feel that something bad is going to happen.

- Another wave crashed onto the deck and the mast made an ominous creaking sound.
- Katy answered the phone. There was an ominous silence.

Nuance:

A very slight, hardly noticeable difference in manner, color, meaning etc.

- There are layers of nuance and humor in her writing.
- His voice is measured, but I invent my own tones, the nuances of criticism.

Siren:

A piece of equipment that makes very loud warning sounds, used on police cars, fire engines.

- I fall asleep to the drone of sirens and helicopters overhead.
- I howl with the blaring of the air raid sirens.

Ubiquitous:

- Seeming to be everywhere_ sometimes used humorously.
- Plastic containers are ubiquitous nowadays.
- Energy-and water-saving technologies are ubiquitous.

Dissonance:

A combination of notes that sound strange because they are not in harmony or lack of agreement.

- A choral piece full of dissonance and odd rhythms.
- The party faithful might be willing to put up with such dissonance among their candidates.

Salient:

The salient points or features of something are the most important or most noticeable parts of it.

- Before commenting, let me now briefly sketch out by way of summary the salient points of the monist argument.
- In Chapter 9, we examine some of the more salient differences in their experiences.

Motif:

An idea, subject, or image that is regularly repeated and developed in a book, film, work of art etc.

- Between these two mosaics, however, there are few obvious similarities of motif.
- In this case we find a classic call-refusal motif.

Chase:

To quickly follow someone or something in order to catch them.

- He's been chasing some cute girl he met at the ice rink.
- I chased around all day looking for a birthday present to give her.

Creaky:

Something such as a door, floor, or bed that is creaky creaks when you open it, walk on it, sit on it etc. especially because it is old and not in good condition.

- He kept his jeans and sweaters in a plastic suitcase under the creaky bed.
- When they are successful a bell rings and a mechanical Buddha lights up and makes a creaky obeisance.

Reading passage 4:

This marvelous invention

Distill:

To make a liquid such as water or alcohol more pure by heating it so that it becomes a gas and then letting it cool.

- Water could be extracted by distilling or melting blocks of permafrost.
- But it does distill the issue to the question on which tax policy should stand or fall: fairness.

Essence:

The most basic and important quality of something.

- His speech was, in essence, a plea for understanding and conciliation.
- he essence of his argument is that human character is formed by society

Eloquent:

Able to express your ideas and opinions well, especially in a way that influences people.

- He gave an eloquent speech after dinner.
- Few will forget his eloquent defense of individual freedom.

Hymn:

A song of praise to God.

- He liked the hymns and ever afterwards admired the Congregational hymn book.
- There were two organs in the Great Chamber and hymns were often sung.

Homage:

Something you do to show respect for someone or something you think is important.

- Memorial Day is when Americans pay homage to those killed in the nation's wars.
- I am here to receive your homage in dark silence.

Paradox:

A situation that seems strange because it involves two ideas or qualities that are very different.

- Fortunately, a way out of this apparent paradox exists.
- It is this paradox, according to Brooks, that is the main point of the poem.

Craftsman:

Someone who is very skilled at a particular craft.

- The original designs were made by highly skilled craftsmen.
- And like all craftsmen, they were not always taken seriously by the intellectually fashionable people of their times.

Splutter:

To talk quickly in short confused phrases, especially because you are angry or surprised.

- Shaw is like saltwater in the face and Margaret was apt to splutter.
- Shells from our gunboats on the James came hoarsely spluttering over the heads of our troops.

Cog:

A wheel with small bits sticking out around the edge that fit together with the bits of another wheel as they turn in a machine.

- Our cog was a sturdy merchantman escorted by a small man-of-war.
- The lime kiln belly rotated on giant cogs into the dark of the next chamber.

Savanna:

A large flat area of grassy land, especially in Africa.

- Seems like there were early records of savanna blazing star in the state.
- When the savanna grass shouldered out cactus, they weeded fiercely.

Sprawl:

To lie or sit with your arms or legs stretched out in a lazy or careless way.

- The middle-class neighborhoods sprawl outward from the city center.
- Gallagher drove his fist into his face and sent him sprawling on his back.

Exertion:

A lot of physical or mental effort.

- A little physical exertion helps me think more clearly at work.
- After some exertion, I decided the track was too rutted for me to have a hope.

Stunt:

A dangerous action that is done to entertain people, especially in a film.

- Lockiear was the first pilot to do aerial stunts for the movies.
- The hunger strike is thought to be just another political stunt.

Monstrosity:

Something large and ugly, especially a building.

- I rented a Spanish-style monstrosity in Beverly Hills while my apartment was redecorated.
- This building is another monstrosity celebrated as a brilliant piece of architecture.

Squashed:

Broken or made flat by being pressed hard.

- He held out a squashed packet of cigarettes and offered me one.
- We can't give her those chocolates - they're all squashed.

Colossal:

Used to emphasize that something is extremely large.

- A crane arrived, its colossal arm reaching out of the sky toward the building.
- Children are failing exams and dropping out of school in colossal numbers.

Sleek:

A vehicle or other object that is sleek has a smooth attractive shape.

- Linda looked wonderful at the party; her hair was long and sleek, her make-up perfect.
- The cat purred as Ben stroked its sleek fur.