ACT Word of the Day/1st Nine Weeks

Date	word	part of speech/definition/sentence
Thurs., 8/11	inception	noun/beginning/"This will be the greatest year in the history of Hillwood High School since its inception."

Week 1

Mon., 8/15	zenith	noun/highest point or peak/"Bill Gates quickly rose to the zenith in the world of software and personal computers."
Tues., 8/16	languish	verb/to lose vigor and vitality; to become weak/"The prisoner was left to languish in his jail cell with very little food or water."
Wed., 8/17	tangible	adj./that which can be touched or felt/"The glistening dew drop was tangible."
Thurs., 8/18	emulate	verb/to try to equal by imitating or copying "Tony spent his free time trying to emulate the dance moves he saw on music videos."
Fri., 8/19	pallid	adj./unusually pale, weak, or lacking intensity "After Mr. Simpson had been in bed for a week with the flu, his family remarked on his pallid color."

Week 2

Mon., 8/22	ominous	adj./threatening or suggesting something bad is on the way/"The ominous clouds overhead made us fear we might not be able to finish the baseball game."
Tues., 8/23	chastise	verb/to discipline, criticize sharply, or scold "After our dog dug a giant hole in the front yard. I chastised him for at least twenty minutes."
Wed., 8/24	maverick	noun/someone who takes an independent stand; a wild, unbranded animal/"During a political debate, there is always a maverick who takes an unpopular stand on certain issues."

Thurs., 8/25 bawdy adj./funny, but indecent or vulgar humor/"The film received n "R" rating because of its bawdy humor and violence."

Fri., 8/26 trepidation noun/fearful uncertainty or anxiety/"Tanya felt trepidation about rounding the corner after she thought she heard a burglar in her house."

Week 3

Mon., 8/29 abysmal adj./terrible or awful/"After her abysmal performance in the race, Darla gave up running forever."

Tues., 8/30 palpitate v./to beat rapidly, especially one's heart/"The vendor's heart palpitated as the beautiful woman strolled past his cart."

Wed., 8/31 scrutinize v./to look at very closely or inspect/The geologist scrutinized the rock, hoping to find fossils imbedded in it."

Thurs., 9/01 glutton n./a greedy eater, or someone with a large capacity/"Burt was overweight because he was a glutton who continued to eat long after he was full."

Fri., 9/02 recluse n./someone who live apart from society/"The monk lived a spiritual life as a recluse in a small hut on the outskirts of town."

Week 4

Mon., 9/05 ***Labor Day Holiday/No school***

Tues., 9/06 complacent adj./being self-satisfied and uncritically pleased with one's circumstances/"Complacent people seldom improve their condition since their will to make things better has essentially died."

Wed., 9/07 euphemism n./a mild-sounding word or phrase used to describe something that's actually much worse/"Saying that someone has "passed away" is a common euphemism for death."

Thurs., 9/08 lethargy n./a great lack of energy; sluggishness or dullness/"Jackson's lethargy became apparent when he fell asleep during his history exam."

Fri., 9/09 mortify v./to degrade or cause to feel shame or humiliation/"The school bully often mortified his classmates with needlessly humiliating pranks."

Week 5

Mon., 9/12 panacea noun/a cure-all, a solution for everything "Politicians like to claim they have a panacea for all our problems."

Tues., 9/13 ubiquitous adj./appearing to be everywhere at the same time/"The ubiquitous fog slowly enveloped the entire forest."

Wed. 9/14 deter verb/to prevent, discourage, or keep from doing something/"An important strategy of war is to deter the enemy from attacking you in the first place."

Thurs., 9/15 futile adj./that which could not succeed despite great effort/"Oscar's efforts to hit the bull's-eye during his dart game were futile."

Fri., 9/16 motley adj./containing great variety, such as being multi-colored/"The motley colors of the rainbow are quite striking to see."

Week 6

Mon., 9/19 rebuff verb/to refuse bluntly, reject, or repulse/"Time and time again, Dylan was rebuffed by passersby who refused to take his pamphlet."

Tues., 9/20 inscrutable adj./difficult to understand or unreadable/Not only did Nick have the most inscrutable handwriting in the class, but it was also impossible to tell what he was thinking."

Wed., 9/21 grovel verb/to plead, beg, or act humbly/"Please, sir, give me another chance," Charles pleaded, as he groveled before his boss.

Thurs., 9/22 iota noun/a very small amount or quantity/"The dog looked into her bowl, which contained not a single iota of food."

Fri., 9/23 vulnerable adj./unprotected, easily injured/"When boxers fight, they cover their heads since it is most vulnerable to punches."

Week 7

Mon., 9/26 harangue noun/a long, blustering speech or rant/"The mischievous children were subjected to a thirty-minute harangue by their mother about wandering too far from home."

Tues., 9/27 utilitarian adj./having or stressing usefulness over beauty; being practical/"The utilitarian work that a handyman performs around the house is very valuable."

Wed., 9/28 rift noun/an opening or break caused by a split/ "The violent strength of the earthquake caused a large rift in the asphalt."

Thurs., 9/29 myriad noun/variety, a great number of things/"The library is filled with a myriad of books on every possible subject."

Fri., 9/30 gloat verb/to show mean-spirited happiness about someone's bad luck or misfortune/"Lauren gloated for days after her ex-boyfriend was dumped by another woman."

Week 8

Mon., 10/03 candor noun/the quality of being straight-forward, honest, or frank/"Eva's mother was known for her candor an could be counted on to be forthcoming with advice and opinions."

Tues., 10/04 leery adj./cautious, skeptical, or attentive/"The customs agent was leery of allowing the suspicious-looking traveler to pass through customs."

Wed., 10/05 knoll noun/a small incline, slope, or hill/"The old house sat on a knoll overlooking a small stream."

Thurs., 10/06 meander verb/to take a winding or aimless course/ "Floating atop a large log, Joe slowly meandered down the river."

Fri., 10/07 travail noun/hard physical exertion or agony "Completing the marathon became quite a travail for Tim, but he took pride in his accomplishment."

Week 9

Mon., 10/10 bask verb/to relax in warmth or be satisfied/"The beach is a great choice for vacation if you love to bask in the sun."

Tues., 10/11 wily adj./clever or crafty/"Being wily can be an advantage if you want to profit from deceiving people."

Wed., 10/12 mercenary adj./working for money only or motivated by the desire for money/"Some armies hire mercenary soldiers to fight alongside their enlisted men."

Thurs., 10/13 svelte adj./elegantly slim or slender/"Because of the athletic nature of their work, ballet dancers are often svelte."

Fri., 10/14 ***Professional Development/No students***