




Word of the Day  
SECONDARY Schools  
2023-2024  
1<sup>st</sup> Semester

**\*\*Beginning Friday, September 01, an IDIOM of the Day will be introduced on each of the following Fridays.**



DAY	DATE	WORD	DEFINTION, WORD-IN-CONTEXT, SYNONYMS
THURSDAY	August 03	<b>acolyte</b> (n.)	<p><b>*a person who assists in some religious services by carrying out minor duties; one who attends or assists; a follower</b></p> <p>*The movie director's <b>acolytes</b> hung on his every word.</p> <p>*syn.: attendant; retainer; disciple; minion</p>
FRIDAY	August 04	<b>coalesce</b> (v.)	<p><b>*to grow together; to unite to form a whole</b></p> <p>*Dissatisfied members of both parties <b>coalesced</b> behind the third-party candidate.</p> <p>*syn.: fuse; meld; converge; amalgamate</p>
MONDAY	August 07	<b>covert</b> (adj.)	<p><b>*not openly acknowledged; secret</b></p> <p>*The intelligence operation was supposed to be <b>covert</b>, but sophisticated technology revealed it.</p> <p>*syn.: clandestine; surreptitious; furtive</p>
TUESDAY	August 08	<b>declaim</b> (v.)	<p><b>*to recite something in the style of a public speech; to speak in a loud, theatrical manner</b></p> <p>*The actress <b>declaimed</b> her lines with passion</p> <p>*syn.: orate; decry</p>
WEDNESDAY	August 09	<b>delineate</b> (v.)	<p><b>*1. to describe vividly and in detail</b></p> <p>*The report clearly <b>delineates</b> the steps that must be taken.</p> <p>*syn.: depict; portray</p> <p><b>*2. to draw an outline of; to represent by drawing</b></p> <p>*In her studio, the architect <b>delineated</b> her plan for the new wing of the building.</p> <p>*syn.: trace</p>
THURSDAY	August 10	<b>demagogue</b> (n.)	<p><b>*a leader who seeks power by appealing to people's emotions and prejudices and by making false claims and promises</b></p> <p>*During the 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy was a <b>demagogue</b> who played on people's fear of communism.</p> <p>*syn.: agitator; rabble-rouser</p>
FRIDAY	August 11	<b>encomium</b> (n.)	<p><b>*an expression of warm and enthusiastic praise; a tribute</b></p> <p>*At a dinner in his honor, the philanthropist received <b>encomiums</b> (encomia) for his generous financial gift to the cancer center.</p> <p>*syn.: accolade; tribute; homage</p>
MONDAY	August 14	<b>obdurate</b> (adj.)	<p><b>*1. resistant to persuasion; inflexible; stubborn</b></p>



			<p>*Despite our pleading, Maisie remained <b>obdurate</b> in her determination to hike the hazardous trail.</p> <p>*syn.: unyielding; intractable; adamant</p> <p><b>*2. persistent in wrongdoing</b></p> <p>*The judge reasoned that the <b>obdurate</b> high school student would benefit more from focused education and community service than from prolonged incarceration.</p> <p>*syn.: intransigent</p>
TUESDAY	August 15	<b>prescience</b> (n.)	<p><b>*foresight; knowledge beforehand of events</b></p> <p>*The ancient Greeks consulted oracles because they believed them to have the power of <b>prescience</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: clairvoyance</p>
WEDNESDAY	August 16	<b>protagonist</b> (n.)	<p><b>*1. the chief character in a drama or story</b></p> <p>*The <b>protagonist</b> in Shakespearean tragedy is usually a person destroyed by a character flaw such as jealousy or excessive ambition.</p> <p>*syn.: principal</p> <p><b>*2. An advocate or champion of a particular cause or idea</b></p> <p>*She was a leading <b>protagonist</b> in the civil rights movement.</p> <p>*syn.: adherent; proponent; advocate</p>
THURSDAY	August 17	<b>sedulous</b> (adj.)	<p><b>*completed with careful perseverance; diligent</b></p> <p>*Through their <b>sedulous</b> efforts, workers in Project HOPE delivered medicine and supplies to doctors and patients in the disaster zone.</p> <p>*syn.: diligent; meticulous; assiduous</p>
FRIDAY	August 18	<b>trenchant</b> (adj.)	<p><b>*expressed with vigor and penetrating insight; keenly perceptive</b></p> <p>*The reviewer's <b>trenchant</b> criticism did not please the book's author.</p> <p>*syn.: incisive; acute; piercing</p>
MONDAY	August 21	<b>utopia</b> (n.)	<p><b>*a place or state of perfect social and political conditions</b></p> <p>*The <b>utopia</b> promised by communism failed to materialize in Eastern Europe.</p> <p>*syn.: idyll; seventh heaven; the Elysian Fields</p>
TUESDAY	August 22	<b>valedictory</b> (n.)  <b>valedictory</b> (adj.)	<p><b>*1. a farewell address, especially one given at a graduation ceremony</b></p> <p>*The <b>valedictory</b> is usually given by a student who has achieved great distinction.</p> <p>*syn.: goodbye; departing</p> <p><b>*2. of or relating to an occasion or expression of farewell</b></p> <p>*He made a <b>valedictory</b> address after serving two years as chairman of the charity.</p> <p>*syn.: final</p>
WEDNESDAY	August 23	<b>absolve</b> (v.)	<p><b>*to clear of guilt; or free from a promise or a responsibility</b></p> <p>*The jury's innocent verdict appears to <b>absolve</b> the defendant of any guilt.</p> <p>*syn.: exonerate; vindicate</p>
THURSDAY	August 24	<b>apothegm</b> (n.)	<p><b>*a short, instructive saying</b></p> <p>*What do you think of the <b>apothegm</b> "Easy come; easy go"?</p> <p>*syn.: proverb; aphorism; axiom; maxim</p>

FRIDAY	August 25	<b>aspersion</b> (n.)	<b>*a defamatory expression; an attack on the reputation or integrity of someone</b> *His opponents cast <b>aspersions</b> on his patriotism. *syn.: slander; censure; opprobrium
MONDAY	August 28	<b>congenital</b> (adj.)	<b>*1. existing at or dating from birth</b> *He was born with a <b>congenital</b> heart defect. *syn.: inborn; natural <b>*2. being an essential characteristic of someone</b> *He is a <b>congenital</b> liar. *syn.: intrinsic; innate
TUESDAY	August 29	<b>élan</b> (n.) [ā län]	<b>*a lively spirit with a distinctive style</b> *The band played with such <b>élan</b> that it was invited to lead the parade. *syn.: flair; finesse; panache
WEDNESDAY	August 30	<b>germane</b> (adj.)	<b>*pertinent and fitting; relevant to a subject under consideration</b> *During her press conference, the governor refused to answer questions that weren't <b>germane</b> to her proposed budget. *syn.: apropos; analogous; felicitous
THURSDAY	August 31	<b>hiatus</b> (n.)	<b>*an interruption or gap in space, continuity, or time; a break from the normal routine</b> *After his accident, the actor took a brief <b>hiatus</b> from the television series. *syn.: respite; break
FRIDAY	September 01 	<b>break even</b> (informal)	<b>*make just enough money to pay for one's expenses or investment</b> *When my parents started their restaurant, they had to use their savings to cover their expenses, and they were actually losing money. This year they're taking in enough money to pay their bills, and it looks as if they're going to <b>break even</b> , and even earn a profit. *syn.: balanced; equivalent
MONDAY	September 04	XXXX	<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</b>
TUESDAY	September 05	<b>*ardent</b> (adj.)	<b>*showing or having warmth of feeling; passionate; showing strong feelings</b> *When the rock star checks his mail, he almost always finds one or two bizarre gifts from some of his most <b>ardent</b> fans. *syn.: zealous; fervent; vehement; torrid
WEDNESDAY	September 06	<b>*scrutinize</b> (v.)	<b>*to examine in detail with careful or critical attention</b> *I carefully <b>scrutinized</b> my opponent's every move. *syn.: analyze; inspect; investigate
THURSDAY	September 07	<b>*regale</b> (v.)	<b>*to entertain lavishly or agreeably</b> *After the wedding we were <b>regaled</b> with an array of food, drink, and music. *syn.: entertain; delight; feast
FRIDAY	September 08	<b>stick it out</b> (informal)	<b>*remain in a negative situation until the end (used to encourage someone not to give up)</b>



	 <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>		<p>*I know your first few months at university have been difficult, but I'd really encourage you to <b>stick it out</b> until the end of the year. If you're still unhappy then, you can think seriously about transferring elsewhere.</p> <p>*syn.: persist; persevere</p>
MONDAY	September 11	* <b>procure</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>To obtain or get by care, effort, or the use of special means</b></p> <p>* In order to make sandwiches to feed the homeless, we will need to <b>procure</b> donations from local businesses.</p> <p>*syn.: solicit; get; purchase</p>
TUESDAY	September 12	* <b>dreary</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>sorrowful; sad</b></p> <p>* The family struggled through <b>dreary</b> economic times.</p> <p>*syn.: bleak; somber; cheerless</p>
WEDNESDAY	September 13	* <b>lament</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to feel or express sorrow or regret for</b></p> <p>* I deeply <b>lament</b> the lost opportunity to reconnect with my grandmother before she died.</p> <p>*syn.: bemoan; regret; wail</p>
THURSDAY	September 14	* <b>instill</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to infuse slowly or gradually into the mind or feelings</b></p> <p>* They have <b>infused</b> a love of music in their children.</p> <p>*syn.: insinuate; diffuse; inspire</p>
FRIDAY	September 15  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>give way to</b> (formal)	<p>*<b>be replaced by, usually over a long period</b></p> <p>*Older technologies inevitably grow obsolete as newer ones are invented and become more established. For example, typewriters <b>gave way to</b> computers as the 1980s progressed.</p> <p>*syn.: succumb; yield; acquiesce</p>
MONDAY	September 18	* <b>procrastinate</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to defer action; delay</b></p> <p>* He <b>procrastinated</b> and missed the submission deadline.</p> <p>*syn.: postpone; suspend; stall</p>
TUESDAY	September 19	* <b>aloof</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>at a distance, especially in feeling or interest; reserved</b></p> <p>* She seemed rather <b>aloof</b> when in fact she was just shy.</p> <p>*syn.: detached; indifferent; unsociable</p>
WEDNESDAY	September 20	* <b>ponder</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>To consider something deeply and thoroughly; meditate</b></p> <p>* Take a few minutes to <b>ponder</b> the question before you jump to a conclusion.</p> <p>*syn.: contemplate; speculate; evaluate</p>
THURSDAY	September 21	* <b>mediocrity</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>Average ability or accomplishment; unexceptionality</b></p> <p>* We were disappointed by the <b>mediocrity</b> of the meal.</p> <p>*syn.: normality; commonness; averageness</p>
FRIDAY	September 22  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>make a concerted effort</b> (formal)	<p>*<b>make a strong and deliberate effort to accomplish or complete something</b></p> <p>*To reduce harmful emissions in urban areas, city governments must <b>make a concerted effort</b> to develop reliable public's transit options and reduce people's reliance on cars.</p> <p>*syn.: collaborate; unite</p>
MONDAY	September 25	* <b>marginal</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>of minor importance, significance, relevance, or effect</b></p>

			<p>* There has only been a <b>marginal</b> improvement in her condition.</p> <p>*syn.: insignificant; minor; negligible</p>
TUESDAY	September 26	* <b>benighted</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>intellectually or morally ignorant; unenlightened</b></p> <p>* Many English invasions were staged as missionary enterprises designed for the good of <b>benighted</b> natives.</p> <p>*syn.: uncultivated; crude; primitive</p>
WEDNESDAY	September 27	* <b>bourgeois</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>a member of the middle class</b></p> <p>* He is accusing them of having a <b>bourgeois</b> and limited vision.</p> <p>*syn.: common; materialistic; conventional</p>
THURSDAY	September 28	* <b>gloat</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to think about with great or excessive, and often smug or malicious, satisfaction</b></p> <p>*If you are the winner of a contest, you should not <b>gloat</b> and make your competitors feel inferior.</p> <p>*syn.: exult; relish</p>
FRIDAY	September 29	<b>crunch time</b> (informal)	<p>*<b>period of great pressure at work/school due to upcoming deadlines</b></p> <p>*A particularly stressful time for me is usually mid- to late December. It's <b>crunch time</b> at my office because there are always many reports that need to get submitted before the end of the year, and some of them haven't even been started.</p> <p>*syn.: critical; pivotal</p>
MONDAY	October 02	* <b>chicanery</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>clever deception through the use of misleading or confusing words/acts</b></p> <p>*Suspect some kind of <b>chicanery</b> if the offer seems too good to be true.</p> <p>*syn.: duplicity; subterfuge; fraud</p>
TUESDAY	October 03	* <b>approbation</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>approval or commendation; conclusive proof</b></p> <p>* A murmur of <b>approbation</b> and satisfaction ran through the crowd.</p> <p>*syn.: endorsement; approval; support</p>
WEDNESDAY	October 04	* <b>naïve</b> (adj.) [nie-eev]	<p>* <b>having or showing a lack of experience, judgment, or information</b></p> <p>* If you're <b>naïve</b> enough to believe him, you'll believe anyone.</p> <p>*syn.: childlike; gullible; innocent</p>
THURSDAY	October 05	* <b>chronic</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>constant; continuing a long time or recurring frequently</b></p> <p>* He suffers from <b>chronic</b> arthritis.</p> <p>*syn.: habitual; persistent; enduring</p>
FRIDAY	October 06	XXXX	Professional Development for Teachers
MON.-FRI.	October 9-13	XXXX	FALL BREAK
MONDAY	October 16	* <b>loathe</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>unwilling; reluctant; disinclined</b></p> <p>* They were rivals who bitterly <b>loathed</b> each other.</p> <p>*syn.: reluctant; hesitant; resisting</p>
TUESDAY	October 17	* <b>skeptic</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>a person who questions the validity or authenticity of something purporting to be factual</b></p> <p>* You can believe in ghosts if you like, but I'm still a <b>skeptic</b>.</p>


			*syn.: cynic; dissenter; unbeliever
WEDNESDAY	October 18	* <b>assert</b> (v.)	* <b>to state with assurance, confidence, or force; state strongly or positively</b> *He <b>asserted</b> his innocence of the crime. *syn.: affirm; proclaim; cite
THURSDAY	October 19	* <b>diminutive</b> (adj.)	* <b>small; little; tiny</b> * My grandmother was a <b>diminutive</b> woman, less than five feet tall. *syn.: miniature; undersize; minute
FRIDAY	October 20  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>a long shot</b> (informal)	* <b>something very unlikely</b> *I have great news: I've been accepted into the music program at Julliard. I knew it was <b>a long shot</b> when I applied, so I was really shocked to find out that I'd been admitted. *syn.: unpromising; shaky; precarious
MONDAY	October 23	* <b>tyrant</b> (n.)	* <b>any person in a position of authority who uses power oppressively or unjustly.</b> * Often when one <b>tyrant</b> is deposed in a rebellion, another takes his place. *syn.: despot; bully
TUESDAY	October 24	* <b>vile</b> (adj.)	* <b>highly offensive, unpleasant, or objectionable</b> * The bus driver was astonished by the <b>vile</b> words that came out of the child's mouth. *syn.: repulsive; disgusting
WEDNESDAY	October 25	* <b>succumb</b> (v.)	* <b>to give way to superior force; yield</b> * We should try not to <b>succumb</b> easily to the views of news media. *syn.: capitulate; submit; quit
THURSDAY	October 26	* <b>novelty</b> (n.)	* <b>state of being new or unique</b> * The toy's <b>novelty</b> soon wore off. *syn.: fresh; original; innovation
FRIDAY	October 27  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>off the beaten path/track</b> (informal)	* <b>a location that is not well known; away from major attractions</b> *I know you like to visit big cities like New York or Chicago, but maybe next time we could try somewhere a bit more <b>off the beaten</b> path. We don't have to go camping, but a smaller city that doesn't get many tourists might be nice. *syn.: isolated; secluded; remote
MONDAY	October 30	* <b>uncouth</b> (adj.)	* <b>awkward, clumsy, or unmannerly</b> * The <b>uncouth</b> young man did not know which fork to use during the salad portion of the formal dinner. *syn.: coarse; crude; rude
TUESDAY	October 31	* <b>peruse</b> (v.)	* <b>to read through with thoroughness or care</b> * He leant forward to <b>peruse</b> the document more closely. *syn.: analyze; inspect; scrutinize
WEDNESDAY	November 01	* <b>remorse</b> (n.)	* <b>a deep and painful regret for wrongdoing</b> * She felt a sharp pang of <b>remorse</b> after her outburst. *syn.: repentance; guilt; shame
THURSDAY	November 02	* <b>destitute</b> (adj.)	* <b>without means of subsistence; lacking food, clothing, shelter</b>

			<p>* In many countries around the world, because of military, social, and political turmoil, the general population is <b>destitute</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: impoverished; indigent; poor</p>
FRIDAY	November 03  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>fall out of fashion</b> (formal)	<p>*<b>become outdated</b></p> <p>*Some trends persist and become a permanent part of a culture while others quickly <b>fall out of fashion</b>. For example, bell-bottom jeans were extremely popular during the 1960s but declined in popularity afterward.</p> <p>*syn.: unpopular; out-of-date; obsolete</p>
MONDAY	November 06	* <b>susceptible</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>capable of being affected emotionally</b></p> <p>* These plants are particularly <b>susceptible</b> to frost.</p> <p>*syn.: vulnerable; impressionable</p>
TUESDAY	November 07	* <b>liable</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>legally responsible</b></p> <p>* The court ruled he could not be held personally <b>liable</b> for his wife's debts.</p> <p>*syn.: accountable; obligated</p>
WEDNESDAY	November 08	* <b>authentic</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>not false or copied; genuine</b></p> <p>* Experts have confirmed that the signature on the letter is <b>authentic</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: real; true; legitimate</p>
THURSDAY	November 09	* <b>wane</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to decrease in strength, intensity, importance</b></p> <p>*The scandal caused the politician's popularity to <b>wane</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: decrease; dim; fade</p>
FRIDAY	November 10  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>try one's hand at</b> (informal)	<p>* <b>try out an activity to see if one is good at it or enjoys it</b></p> <p>* My friends are really into paddle boarding right now, and they keep asking me to come with them. I'd like to <b>try my hand at it</b> and see whether I like it before I buy my own equipment, though.</p> <p>*syn.: try; attempt; endeavor</p>
MONDAY	November 13	* <b>ominous</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>portending evil or harm; foreboding; threatening</b></p> <p>* The car engine had been making an <b>ominous</b> sound all the way from my friend's house.</p> <p>*syn.: sinister; threatening; perilous</p>
TUESDAY	November 14	* <b>paramount</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>chief in importance or impact; supreme; preeminent</b></p> <p>* In today's competitive job market, it is <b>paramount</b> that one obtains a specialized work license or a college degree.</p> <p>*syn.: predominant; foremost</p>
WEDNESDAY	November 15	* <b>assimilate</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to take in and incorporate; to bring into conformity</b></p> <p>*Students have a lot of information to <b>assimilate</b> on the first day of school.</p> <p>*syn.: integrate; join</p>
THURSDAY	November 16	* <b>discern</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to perceive by the sight or some other sense or by the intellect</b></p> <p>* It was not difficult to <b>discern</b> that the defendant killed her husband for the million dollar life insurance policy.</p> <p>*syn.: distinguish; ascertain; judge</p>
FRIDAY	November 17	<b>(to be) like pulling teeth</b> (very informal;	* <b>extremely difficult; used when a person is very unwilling to do something</b>



	 <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>speaking only)</b>	<p>* I love my dad, but he is so stubborn when it comes to his health. When he had Covid, he kept insisting he could take care of everything on his own. Getting him to go to the doctor was <b>like pulling teeth</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: arduous; gruelling; problematical</p>
MON.-FRI.	November 20-24	<b>XXXX</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>
MONDAY	November 27	<b>*feign</b> (v.) [fayn]	<p>* <b>to put on an appearance of; to represent fictitiously</b></p> <p>* My sister can <b>feign</b> illness and my mom will let her stay home from school.</p> <p>*syn.: dissemble; fabricate; bluff</p>
TUESDAY	November 28	<b>*quest</b> (n.)  <b>*quest</b> (v.)	<p>*<b>1. a search or pursuit made in order to find something</b></p> <p>* The Forty-Niners went on a <b>quest</b> for gold.</p> <p>*syn.: adventure; pursuit; crusade</p> <p>*<b>2. to seek; search</b></p> <p>* They were <b>questing</b> for gold. I respectfully <b>quest</b> your assistance in this matter.</p> <p>*syn.: pursue; search; probe</p>
WEDNESDAY	November 29	<b>*subtle</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>fine or delicate in meaning or intent; difficult to perceive or understand</b></p> <p>* He didn't seem to understand my <b>subtle</b> hints.</p> <p>*syn.: slight; indirect; ingenious; indistinct</p>
THURSDAY	November 30	<b>*serenity</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>the quality of being calm or tranquil</b></p> <p>* The relaxed, comfortable atmosphere adds to the feeling of <b>serenity</b> inside the cabin.</p> <p>*syn.: composure; patience; stillness</p>
FRIDAY	December 01  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>take something at face value</b> (formal or informal)	<p>*<b>accept something as true based on initial or superficial appearance</b></p> <p>* Marketers often exaggerate the benefits of a product in order to gain sales. As a result, their claims should not generally be <b>taken at face value</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: accredit; assume; expect</p>
MONDAY	December 04	<b>*benevolent</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>characterized by or expressing goodwill or kindly feelings</b></p> <p>* The good work that the American Red Cross has done has earned them the reputation of being a <b>benevolent</b> organization.</p> <p>*syn.: compassionate; philanthropic; generous</p>
TUESDAY	December 05	<b>*brash</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>impertinent; impudent; tactless</b></p> <p>* The <b>brash</b> reporter offended the celebrity with his insistent manner and lost out on getting an interview.</p> <p>*syn.: bold; brazen; rude</p>
WEDNESDAY	December 06	<b>*dwindle</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to become smaller and smaller; shrink</b></p> <p>* Our energy <b>dwindled</b> as the meeting dragged on.</p> <p>*syn.: decline; decrease; diminish</p>
THURSDAY	December 07	<b>*miser</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>A person who lives in wretched circumstances in order to save and hoard money</b></p> <p>*To save money, the <b>miser</b> ate only one meal a day.</p> <p>*syn.: hoarder; tightwad; cheapskate</p>



FRIDAY	December 08  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>Barking up the wrong tree</b> (informal)	<p>* <b>following the wrong course of action</b></p> <p>* In the initial months of Covid-19, scientists were sometimes <b>barking up the wrong tree</b> in their recommendation on preventative steps.</p> <p>*syn.: misstep; confound; miscalculation</p>
MONDAY	December 11	* <b>agile</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>Quick and well coordinated in movement</b></p> <p>* Leopards are sure-footed, <b>agile</b>, and graceful in their movements.</p> <p>*syn.: athletic; limber; nimble; dexterous</p>
TUESDAY	December 12	* <b>ensue</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to follow in order or as a consequence</b></p> <p>* After one athlete shouted insults at another, the referees separated them quickly so that a fight would not <b>ensue</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: derive; follow; proceed</p>
WEDNESDAY	December 13	* <b>distraught</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>deeply agitated or anxious</b></p> <p>* She slung a sisterly arm around her friend's shoulders, understanding how <b>distraught</b> she was.</p> <p>*syn.: distressed; perturbed; troubled</p>
THURSDAY	December 14	* <b>embark</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>1. to board a vehicle as a journey</b></p> <p>* They <b>embarked</b> on their trip to America with high hopes.</p> <p>* syn.: launch; said; board</p> <p>* <b>2. to start an enterprise, business, etc.</b></p> <p>* The company has <b>embarked</b> upon a risky new adventure.</p> <p>*syn.: establish; institute; initiate</p>
FRIDAY	December 15  <b>IDIOM OF THE DAY</b>	<b>On and off again</b> (informal)	<p>* <b>inconsistently</b></p> <p>* The weather in my hometown can be pretty unpredictable. It usually rains <b>on and off again</b> for most of the spring, and it can be kind of hard to know what to wear.</p> <p>*syn.: unpredictable; uncertain; erratic</p>
MONDAY	December 18	* <b>scour</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>1. to rub hard especially with a rough material for cleansing</b></p> <p>* He <b>scoured</b> the pan with steel wool.</p> <p>*syn.: scrub; rub; cleanse</p> <p>* <b>2. to go through or range over in or as if in a search</b></p> <p>* Detectives <b>scoured</b> the country for their witness.</p> <p>*syn.: dig; search; comb; scan</p>
TUESDAY	December 19	* <b>emaciated</b> (adj.)	<p>* <b>very thin and feeble especially from lack of nutrition or illness</b></p> <p>* He was deadly pale and terribly <b>emaciated</b>, with the protruding, brilliant eyes of a man whose spirit was greater than his strength.</p> <p>*syn.: gaunt; skeletal; thin; wizened</p>
WEDNESDAY	December 20	* <b>abound</b> (v.)	<p>* <b>to be present in large numbers or in great quantity: to be prevalent</b></p> <p>* They live in a region where oil <b>abounds</b>.</p> <p>*syn.: overflow; burst; teem</p>
THURSDAY	December 21	* <b>manifestation</b> (n.)	<p>* <b>a perceptible, outward, or visible expression</b></p> <p>* The first <b>manifestations</b> of her behavior problems occurred soon after she left home.</p>

			*syn.: embodiment; epitome; avatar; image
FRIDAY	December 22	XXXX	End of Semester 1 – 60% Day