

# Vocabulary Dungeon

A Serious Compilation of Advanced English Vocabulary

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## Authors' note

This book is a compilation of advanced English vocabulary. We worked on it for about a year, and the result revealed as a book you are reading. In writing this book we used legitimate sources of English language learning such as, Oxford Advanced Learner's, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate and Cambridge International dictionaries. We gathered different information from mentioned sources and put them right in your sight on paper.

This book includes 50 dungeons and each dungeon covers 30 words. There is a part of speech, phonetic, meaning and synonym and antonyms (as available as possible) for each word. In addition, a series of exercises has been designed by which not only can you test your understanding of words but you can use it as a means of review.

Given the important role vocabulary knowledge plays in English language learning process, it may be hoped that you will find this book useful as a part of this process.

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(December, 2013)

## How to use this book?

We recommend you to follow this procedure for each dungeon to get the most benefit out of your vocabulary learning:

1

Learn how to pronounce the word correctly.

2

Read the English meaning carefully with special attention to details.

3

When you do the above-mentioned phases for a dungeon, go through the examples of that dungeon. Read the examples for each word several times and pin them to your memory.

4

Now, you have learnt the vocabularies of that dungeon; so, review can be done through thesaurus. Stick in mind that synonyms and antonyms provide a situation for keeping words in your mind; so, they should be considered an indispensable part of learning process.

5

When you finish studying the thesaurus, you need to go through the exercises. This phase has a considerable importance because it is the phase in which information will be fixed in your mind.

**Note:** When you finish the third phase, it is better to step into phases 4 and 5 a day or two later as a review process.

## Brief on pronunciation

Pronunciation is not an intrinsic part of a vocabulary-teaching book or a dictionary, but in English due to the inconsistency in sound and spelling, considerable attention should be devoted to the pronunciation of lexicons. The pronunciations in this book are chiefly informed by the Merriam-Webster pronunciation file. This file contains citations that are transcriptions of words used by American native speakers in the course of utterances heard in speeches, interviews and conversations. But why Merriam-Webster pronunciation phonetics? Throughout this book not only do you augment your domain of high English lexis, but also you get familiarized with correct American pronunciation. The emphasis on American is just a matter of interest and has got nothing to do with other dialects or accents. In addition, the insufficiency of IPA system in showing what we aim, urged us to utilize Merriam-Webster phonetics which is very exact in presenting American pronunciation. Consider the following example: " Britain " : Br /'brɪn/ and NAmE /'brɪt̪n/ (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 8th edition).

As you see the phonetic transcriptions of both British and American are the same, but indeed they are not. Native American Pronunciation is \brɪt̪n\ (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> edition). This small symbol above the line of next shows a unique feature of American pronunciation which is missing in British accent and IPA. This presents nasalization that occurs in enunciating this word. There are, of course, other instances which, because of space problem, we cannot deal with here. We wish this single example could convince you to accept our pronunciation strategy.

## Pronunciation guide

\ ə \ as a in about

\ 'ə , ə \ as u in about

\ ^ \ as e in kitten

\ ər \ as ur/er in further

\ a \ as a in ash

\ ā \ as a in ace

\ ä \ as o in mop

\ au \ as ou in out

\ b \ as in baby

\ ch \ as ch in chin

\ d \ as d in did

\ e \ as e in bet

\ 'ē , ē \ as ea in easy

\ ē \ as y in easy

\ f \ as f in fifty

\ g \ as g in go

\ h \ as h in hat

\ i \ as i in hit

\ ī \ as i in ice

\ j \ as j in join

\ k \ as k in king

\ l \ as l in lily

\ m \ as m in murmur

\ n \ as n in own

\ ŋ \ as ng in sing

\ ō \ as o in go

\ ó \ as aw in law

\ ói \ as oy in boy

\ p \ as p in pen

\ r \ as r in red

\ s \ as s in less

\ sh \ as sh in my

\ t \ as t in te

\ n \ as tn in thin

\ t \ as th in the

\ ū \ as oo in loot

\ ū \ as oo in foot

\ v \ as v in vivid

\ w \ as w in away

\ y \ as y in yet

\ yū \ as you in youth

\ yū \ as u in curable

\ z \ as z in zone

\ zh \ as si in vision

## List of abbreviations and symbols

sth something

sb somebody

esp. especially

etc. et cetera

(n) noun

(v) verb

(adj) adjective

(adv) adverb

Syn synonym

Ant antonym

/ separates the first meaning from the second