

UNIT 1 VOCAB GUIDE

Lesson 1.0

belief system

Definition	a set of principles which form the base of a philosophy or religion
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Her belief system combined elements of Hinduism and Buddhism.

bureaucracy

Definition	an organized group of hired officials, especially governmental
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The governor is at the head of the state bureaucracy.

dynasty

Definition	a sequence of powerful leaders in the same family
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The 800-year dynasty came to an end when rebel forces attacked the royal palace, killing the last of the imperial family.

hierarchy

Definition	a group of people graded according to their rank or level of authority
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	An admiral ranks at the top of the naval hierarchy.

innovation

Definition	a new method, approach, or idea
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Thanks to the innovation of the Wright brothers, we have aircraft that allow us to travel swiftly and safely today.

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state

Definition	a city, or several cities, plus the surrounding villages and farms, political, social, and economic hierarchies
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The leaders of many foreign states will attend the meeting.

tribute

Definition	payment given by a subordinate person or power to a dominant one, or an obligation to do so
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The ruler paid a tribute every year.

Lesson 1.1

Buddhism

Definition	a spiritual philosophy and religion, founded in the sixth century BCE by Buddha and widespread in Asia, that teaches release from the self and from one's earthly desires
Part of speech	proper noun
Use in sentence	Buddhism teaches that liberation can only be achieved by letting go of all desires.

bureaucracy

Definition	an organized group of hired officials, especially governmental
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The governor is at the head of the state bureaucracy.

Confucianism

Definition	the ethical teachings of Confucius, which emphasize reverence for ancestors, devotion to family and friends, cultivation and discipline of the mind, and social responsibility
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Part of speech	proper noun
Use in sentence	Confucianism and its basis in morality, virtue, and social order was adopted by the Chinese empire as its official belief system.

dynasty

Definition	a sequence of powerful leaders in the same family
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The 800-year dynasty came to an end when rebel forces attacked the royal palace, killing the last of the imperial family.

ritual

Definition	an established and prescribed procedure for a ceremony, especially a religious one
Part of speech	noun/adjective
Use in sentence	Sipping rice wine is part of the traditional marriage ritual in Japan.

tribute

Definition	payment given by a subordinate person or power to a dominant one, or an obligation to do so
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The ruler paid a tribute every year.

Lesson 1.2

caliphate

Definition	the community a caliph (Muslim spiritual and political leader) rules, or the period of time when they rule it
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	As Islam spread throughout Afro-Eurasia in the seventh century CE, a new political structure called the caliphate emerged.

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Christianity

Definition	a monotheistic religion, founded in the first century CE, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ
Part of speech	proper noun
Use in sentence	Over 2 billion people around the world practice Christianity.

dynasty

Definition	a sequence of powerful leaders in the same family
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The 800-year dynasty came to an end when rebel forces attacked the royal palace, killing the last of the imperial family.

Islam

Definition	a monotheistic religion based on the teachings of the prophet Muhammad as set forth in the Qur'an
Part of speech	proper noun
Use in sentence	Islam is very similar to Christianity and Judaism, so Muslims refer to Christians and Jews as "people of the book."

Judaism

Definition	the monotheistic religion of the Jewish people, embodied in the Old Testament of the Bible and in the Talmud
Part of speech	proper noun
Use in sentence	In Judaism, the Sabbath day is very important.

polytheistic

Definition	the belief in more than one god
Part of speech	adjective
Use in sentence	Christianity is not a polytheistic religion because it only accepts the existence of one god.

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Lesson 1.3

Buddhism

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Use in sentence	Islam is very similar to Christianity and Judaism, so Muslims refer to Christians and Jews as "people of the book."

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polytheistic

Definition	the belief in more than one god
Part of speech	adjective
Use in sentence	Christianity is not a polytheistic religion because it only accepts the existence of one god.

scale

Definition	degrees of magnification, or perspective, used to measure time, space, and size
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Cosmology is the study of the Universe on its largest scales, including its origin.

state

Definition	a city, or several cities, plus the surrounding villages and farms, political, social, and economic hierarchies
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The leaders of many foreign states will attend the meeting.

Lesson 1.4

continuity

Definition	things that are constant over time; something in an uninterrupted state
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The film's storyline lacks continuity, so I was often confused about what was going on.

evidence

Definition	a basis for belief or disbelief; knowledge on which to base belief
Part of speech	noun

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Use in sentence	Archaeologists have learned much about early people by studying evidence.
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narrative

Definition	an account, description, or story, or the oral or written work containing such material
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Origin stories are narratives about the beginning of the Universe and humanity.

perspective

Definition	an individual's or group's point of view on or attitude toward something
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Kelly's perspective on the new soccer team was biased because she used to play on the old one.

polytheistic

Definition	the belief in more than one god
Part of speech	adjective
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Part of speech	noun
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matrilineal

Definition	pertaining to tracing one's heritage and ancestry through the mother's family
Part of speech	adjective
Use in sentence	I followed my matrilineal line back four generations, all the way to my great-great grandmother.

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Lesson 1.6

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Use in sentence	Over 2 billion people around the world practice Christianity.

consequence

Definition	that which follows; result
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	The tenant's fall in the stairway was a direct consequence of the landlord's property neglect.

feudalism

Definition	a system of economic and political organization, as in Europe in the Middle Ages, in which one person would pledge to support another person; for example, a knight might pledge to fight when needed in exchange for land from the king
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Serfs were among the lowest class during the age of feudalism.

narrative

Definition	an account, description, or story, or the oral or written work containing such material
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	Origin stories are narratives about the beginning of the Universe and humanity.

serf

Definition	agricultural laborers who cannot not leave their land and are heavily taxed by a lord or king
Part of speech	noun

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Use in sentence	The serfs banded together to revolt against their overbearing lord.
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sourcing

Definition	the act of understanding who wrote a document, where they wrote it, and why they wrote it, for the purposes of analysis or interpretation
Part of speech	noun/verb
Use in sentence	Sourcing is crucial when writing a research essay because you want to understand the goals, purpose, and perspectives of your sources, not simply just what they've written.

Lesson 1.7

causation

Definition	the act or process of causing (to make happen; creating or influencing)
Part of speech	noun
Use in sentence	When looking through articles about the fall of the Han, you want to focus on causation as well as long-term effects.

contextualize

Definition	to put into a context, or provide a context for (context: the set of circumstances or events in which a particular event occurs)
Part of speech	verb
Use in sentence	I can better sympathize with my grandmother when I consider her difficult circumstances and contextualize her decision.

continuity

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Part of speech	noun
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