

Vocabulary Unit Three

pel/puls

Latin pellere, pulsum "to push, to drive"

Compel – to force or strongly persuade, coerce

The pressures of poverty *compel* many people to do things they would not do otherwise.

Impulse – a sudden, involuntary urge to do something.

When Nick saw the rows and rows of candy, he was seized by an *impulse* to spend all of his money.

Expel – to send out or away

The council took a vote on whether to *expel* the treasurer for his accounting mistakes.

jac/ject

Latin jacere, jectum "to throw, to cast"

Conjecture – a guess, often one based on inadequate or faulty evidence

Because you do not know where I was on the night in question, your assertions about what I did are pure *conjecture*.

Dejected – downcast or sad; depressed

After Mac lost the race, he sat in the corner, abandoned and *dejected*.

Abject – lowly, miserable and wretched

Even in the wealthiest countries, some people are forced to live in *abject* poverty.

mit/mis

Latin mittere, missum "send"

Emissary – an agent sent on a mission

During the peace talks, the young Italian diplomat was sent as an *emissary* to Beijing.

Dismissive – showing little regard, scornful

The professor responded to my confused question with a *dismissive* wave of his hand.

Remiss – failing to fulfill one's duty; negligent

Do you think I was *remiss* in not cleaning up after the party?

mot/mov

Latin movere, motus "to move"

Motive – cause for action

The detective had the difficult job of establishing a *motive* for the murder of a popular businessman.

Motif – a recurring theme, subject or idea; also, a recurring symbol

The recurring father-son *motif* in this novel makes me wonder about the author's relationship with his own father.

Emote – to dramatically express emotions

My sister tended to *emote* more than the other members of our shy, socially awkward family.

Vocabulary Unit Four

via

Latin via "road, way"

Viaduct – a bridge that carries a road or railroad over a valley

The ancient *viaduct* washed out in the heavy rains.

Impervious – unable to be affected

Andy seems *impervious* to criticism, but his feelings are very easily hurt.

Deviate – to depart, especially from a path or plan

Once Rick decides on a plan for his business projects, he never *deviates* from it.

Obviate – to make unnecessary; to avoid

If you take safety precautions now, you can *obviate* some future medical expenses.

fer

Latin ferre "to carry, to bring"

Defer - (1) to put aside until later

(2) to yield respectfully

(1) If Mahmoud decides to travel to France, he will have to *defer* his examinations until April.

(2) The younger doctor will *defer* to his senior partner when the patient asks a question

Deference – act or practice of yielding to another's authority

As new soldiers, we were warned to show *deference* to our commander in all matters.

Confer - (1) to discuss something with someone else; consult

(2) to bestow

(1) The trivia show contestant *conferred* with the other members of her team before answering the question.

(2) In a ceremony held earlier today, the government of France *conferred* several honors on the general.

Inference – a conclusion not directly provided by evidence, but able to be drawn from the facts at hand

When I saw the horse tracks across the snow, I made the *inference* that someone had left the gate open, allowing the horses to escape.

Proffer – to present or offer

When the reporter asked for more information, the policeman *proffered* a ten-page document.

Proliferate – to increase greatly in number; multiply

Without natural predators, a species will *proliferate* until it overwhelms its environment.

port

Latin portare, portatum “to carry, to bring”

Comportment – manner in which one acts or behaves

No fault could be found with my *comportment* during the awards ceremony.

Purported – claimed as true, but probably false

Tim’s *purported* illness kept him out of school on the day of the test.