

15000
in **WORDS**

15 **MINUTES**
A DAY

Your Week-by-Week
Plan to a Perfect
Vocabulary

- **TARGETED EXERCISES** for every chapter reinforce vocabulary understanding and retention
- **IDEAL VOCABULARY BUILDER** for every high school or college student, standardized test takers, business and professional people
- **COMPREHENSIVE EXERCISES** to sum up all vocabulary

CEIL CLEVELAND

1500 Words in 15 Minutes a Day

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1500 WORDS
IN 15 MINUTES
A DAY A Year-Long Plan
to Learn 28 Words
a Week

CEIL CLEVELAND

McGraw-Hill

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ISBN: 978-0-07-185046-9

MHID: 0-07-185046-5

The material in this eBook also appears in the print version of this title: ISBN: 978-0-07-144325-8,
MHID: 0-07-144325-8.

eBook conversion by codeMantra
Version 1.0

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For Jerry, whose words kept me going . . .

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“Words are too awful an instrument
for good and evil to be trifled with;
they hold above all other external powers
a dominion over thoughts.”

—WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

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Introduction

Reaching for a word? Find it here. Get smart with 28 new words a week.

Do you often suffer from *lethologica* (1)? Do you have that desired word right on the tip of your tongue, and yet it escapes you? Do not *fulminate* (2), develop *alopecia* (3), or *defenestrate* (4) your desk and chair! This book can deliver *anabiosis* (5) without emergency room treatment. An hour and three-quarters a week of brain exercises will get you in shape.

Through the introduction of new words—using *heuristic* (6) methods, *paronomasia* (7), and *mnemonic* (8) devices, we'll make you a *lexical* (9) genius in no time. You will be able to talk to anyone about any subject without embarrassment.

Equivocate (10) no more! Use precise language to sound smarter, work smarter, get smarter.

This book offers 28 new words (at least) in each of 52 chapters. Here you will see words defined and used in context, and will learn a bit about their backgrounds.

Early chapters (Part I, Weeks 1–10) are arranged thematically in areas of the liberal arts and related subjects, which will give you the verbal tools and concepts in a historical context to read, view, listen to, write about, and discuss works in these areas with confidence.

In the early chapters of Part II (Weeks 11–22—in chapters like Cool Words, Hot Words, or Not Words, for example) you will learn when and when not to use certain words. In the same part, in Trick Words and Slick Words, you will find how to use words that often confuse and trip up readers, writers, and speakers.

And in the later chapters of Part II (Weeks 23–52), you will find some words whose definitions will surprise you and make you smile. English words are often wacky and fun: *Wedbedrip*, anyone? *Quakebuttock*?

These useful words will stretch you and increase your vocabulary. You will refine your knowledge of language and become confident in your use of words in a clear, precise, sophisticated manner. Learn and enjoy. Take it from an expert: English is a precise language—and sometimes goofy!

At the end of most chapters, you will find further information about words, clichés, and idioms, and some derivations and startling details about our language.

Do the exercises included here and enjoy the *paronomasia*. Here are the meanings of the ten words we offered you as a starter at the beginning of this introduction.

1. The inability to recall the right word
2. Explode with sudden violence
3. Lose hair and become bald
4. Toss out through a window
5. Bring to life again after a state of suspended animation
6. Learning through discovery
7. Word play, puns, and games
8. Aids to memory
9. One who knows vocabulary and language
10. To hedge or be deliberately ambiguous



Ceil Cleveland, New York, 2004

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