

Key Unit Vocabulary

This report provides a summary of key vocabulary for this unit. For each word, you will find the definition, part of speech, word forms (plurals/tenses), synonyms, and examples of how the word, or forms of the word, are used in a sentence.

administrative

- of or pertaining to administration or management

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	administration, administratively
Synonyms:	managerial, bureaucratic
In a sentence:	Whether or not to hire more workers is an administrative decision.

aristocracy

- a high-ranking social class, having special privileges and influence

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	aristocracies
Synonyms:	nobility, elite
In a sentence:	She was born into the aristocracy and was expected to marry someone of her own class.

biological

- of or pertaining to the growth, development, and functioning of living things

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	biologic, biologically
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Many studies have explored the biological differences between males and females.

bureaucrat

- an official in a government office, especially one who follows rules and routines rather than personal judgment

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	bureaucrats, bureaucratic
Synonyms:	official, politician, civil servant
In a sentence:	The government bureaucrat hosted a public forum to hear from citizen's about how the new healthcare law could affect them.

capital

- money or other wealth owned or used by a business

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	capitalism, capitalist
Synonyms:	finances, funds, working capital
In a sentence:	We will be expanding our business as soon as we get enough capital.

capitalism

- an economic system in which the means of production and distribution are privately owned and prices are chiefly determined by open competition in a free market

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	capitalist, capital
Synonyms:	free enterprise, free market
In a sentence:	The individual's right to pursue material wealth with little interference from government is considered one of the defining principles of capitalism.

cash crop

- a crop grown for sale to others rather than for personal use

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	cash crops
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	During the 1800s, tobacco was one of the biggest cash crops in the United States.

chattel slavery

- the ownership of a person as property or chattel

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	bondage
In a sentence:	The horrific system of chattel slavery endorsed the buying and selling of people as property.

colonization

- the act or process of forming colonies (territories governed by a distant country, often occupied by a number of citizens of that country)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	colonizer, colonize, colony
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The earliest explorations and attempts at colonization of Florida by Europeans were made by the Spanish.

commodity

- a raw material that can be bought and sold

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	commodify, commodities
Synonyms:	goods
In a sentence:	Commodities like sugar and cacao were carried across the Atlantic Ocean to European cities.

confederation

- a group of nations or peoples joined together in an alliance or league

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	confederate, confederacy, confederated
Synonyms:	alliance, coalition
In a sentence:	The tribes formed a confederation to defend themselves against the invaders.

demographic

- of or relating to the study of human populations, involving statistical analysis of size, distribution, density, migration, fertility, and the like

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	demographics, demographically, demography
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Demographic information helps advertisers decide the best locations to launch their ad campaigns.

economic

- of or pertaining to the production and distribution of goods, wealth, and services

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	economy, economies
Synonyms:	fiscal, commercial
In a sentence:	Women's economic position improved during World War II, as they took over jobs previously held by men.

enslave

- to cause to be a slave or to be in a condition of bondage

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	enslavement, enslaved
Synonyms:	subjugate
In a sentence:	The first Spanish adventurers in the Americas sought to enslave indigenous peoples in order to satisfy their desire for silver and gold.

exchange

- the act or result of giving or receiving one thing for another

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	exchanges, exchangeable, exchanger
Synonyms:	bargain, interchange, trade, transaction
In a sentence:	The exchange of rings is a part of some wedding ceremonies.

exploitation

- the selfish or unfair using of someone or something for one's own advantage

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	exploit, exploiting, exploited
Synonyms:	abuse, taking advantage
In a sentence:	The exploitation of slaves kept labor costs down for plantations in early America.

famine

- an extreme and widespread shortage of food

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	famines
Synonyms:	starvation, scarcity
In a sentence:	People were starving due to the famine caused by severe flooding in the region.

finance

- the management of money or other assets

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	finances, financial
Synonyms:	banking, business
In a sentence:	The treasury is that part of a government that is concerned primarily with finance.

free market

- an economic system in which prices are determined by unrestricted competition between privately owned businesses

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	capitalism, laissez-faire
In a sentence:	Much of the world today operates within a free-market economy.

hajj

- the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim is expected to make at least once during Dhul al-Hijjah

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	pilgrimage
In a sentence:	One of the Five Pillars of Islam is the hajj, or the journey to Mecca.

indentured servant

- a person who is bound to work without pay in the service of another for a specified length of time, especially in exchange for the cost of travel, food, and lodging

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	indentured servitude
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	She originally came to the colonies as an indentured servant, but ran away before the end of her contract.

indigenous

- having origin in a country or locality; native

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	indigenity
Synonyms:	aboriginal, endemic, native
In a sentence:	The turkey is indigenous to North and Central America.

invest

- to spend with the intention of gaining some benefit

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	invests, invested, investing, reinvest
Synonyms:	devote
In a sentence:	I've invested ten years of my life building this business.

labor

- the entire body of workers, especially as distinguished from management

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	labors, laborer
Synonyms:	work force
In a sentence:	The suggested compromise wasn't satisfactory to either labor or management.

mercantilism

- the doctrine, developed in the West after the decline of feudalism, that a nation's economy could be strengthened by governmental protection of home industries, by increased foreign exports, and by accumulating gold and silver

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	mercantilist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	England developed many colonies under the economic policy of mercantilism in order to increase its trading territory.

migration

- the act or process of migrating (to move from one region to another)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	migratory, migrate, migrant, migrants
Synonyms:	journey, movement
In a sentence:	Thousands of workers migrate to this area each year to harvest the crops.

missionary

- a person desiring to convert others to a principle or set of beliefs

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	missionaries, mission
Synonyms:	apostle, converter, evangelist, propagandist, proselytizer
In a sentence:	Various missionary societies have established schools tied to a particular faith.

monopoly

- complete control over a service or commodity within a given market, so that competition is eliminated

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	monopolies, monopolistic
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	At the time, one telephone company had a monopoly over phone services in the entire region.

plantation

- a large estate used for cultivating commercial crops such as rubber, tea, cotton, sugar, or coffee

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	plantations
Synonyms:	estate, homestead
In a sentence:	Haiti was once the most profitable island in the Caribbean with many sugar plantations.

plantation system

- a capitalist economic system dependent on enslaved labor

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The plantation system in America forced the enslaved to endure harsh conditions.

sovereign

- having the power of self-government, as a state or country

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	sovereignty
Synonyms:	autonomous, independent
In a sentence:	South Africa is a sovereign nation.

subjugate

- to win mastery (control) over, as by military conquest

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	subjugates, subjugated, subjugating
Synonyms:	subdue, vanquish, conquer
In a sentence:	The Mongols subjugated the lands of Central Asia and Eastern Europe to create the largest land empire in history.

tribute

- payment given by a subordinate person or power to a dominant one, or an obligation to do so

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	tributary
Synonyms:	tax
In a sentence:	The Korean king paid an annual tribute to the Ming emperor of China.