

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.

abolition

• the act of doing away with something (in many instances the term refers to doing away with slavery)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	abolitionist
Synonyms:	elimination, repeal, termination
In a sentence:	In many of Frederick Douglass' speeches, he called for the abolition of slavery.

activist

• one who passionately advocates for a cause

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	activists, activism
Synonyms:	advocate, supporter
In a sentence:	Nineteenth-century activists led the fight against low wages and poor working conditions for the workers.

consumer

• one who purchases goods or services; a person or thing that consumes

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	consumers
Synonyms:	buyer, customer, purchaser, user
In a sentence:	The farm depended on the consumer to buy their corn to stay in business.

de-industrialization (also deindustrialization)

• the reduction or destruction of a nation's or region's industrial capacity

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	deindustrialize, deindustrialized
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The country went through de-industrialization as they began to import more manufactured goods from foreign nations.

debt

· something owed to another, such as money or services

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	debts
Synonyms:	liability, burden, obligation
In a sentence:	Your debt to the bank is now \$20,000.



export

• to send or transport abroad, usually for sale or trade (v.); the act or practice of sending goods abroad for sale or trade (n.); of or pertaining to the sending or transporting abroad of goods for sale or trade, or to the goods that are or can be sent abroad (adj.)

Part of speech:	verb, noun, adjective
Word forms:	exports, exporting, exported
Synonyms:	transporting
In a sentence:	The country exports goods to other countries around the world.

factory

• a building or set of buildings where products are manufactured

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	factories
Synonyms:	plant, mill
In a sentence:	I pass by the bread factory on my way to work every morning and it always smells delicious.

feminist

• a person who advocates for the same social, political, and economic rights for women as for men

Part of speech:	noun, adjective
Word forms:	feminists, feminism
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The feminist movement advocates for equal pay for women.

fossil fuel

 any carbon-containing fuel formed from the remains of prehistoric plants and animals, such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	fossil fuels
Synonyms:	energy source, fuel
In a sentence:	The burning of fossil fuels has been directly linked to climate change.

gender

• the biological and/or cultural and psychological characteristics that are associated with different sexes

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	genders
Synonyms:	sex, identity
In a sentence:	The hiring guidelines are designed to reduce discrimination based on gender.



industrial capitalist

• a person who advocates for an economic system in which industry, trade, and capital are all privately owned and operated for profit

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	industrial capitalists
Synonyms:	capitalist
In a sentence:	The industrial capitalists wanted Congress to pass an act to reduce government regulations on businesses and trade practices.

Industrial Revolution

a complex mix of economic and social changes caused by the shift of production from hand or physical labor at home or
in small workshops to mechanized systems in large factories, as in the weaving of textiles, especially in England in the
eighteenth century

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The Industrial Revolution brought about enormous changes including the creation of factories, machines, railroads, and steamships.

industrialization

· the process of introducing industry into a country, region, or the like, usually on a widespread scale

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	industrializes, industrializing, industrialized
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Industrialization in nineteenth-century Britain dramatically changed the ways people worked and lived.

innovation

• a new method, approach, idea, or the like

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	innovations, innovative, innovator
Synonyms:	originality, invention
In a sentence:	Major tech companies are known as hubs of innovation, where new technology and software are born.

locomotion

• the act of moving or the power to move from one place to another

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	locomotive
Synonyms:	movement, activity, travel
In a sentence:	The steam engine and the creation of railways led to the revolutionary beginning of mechanical locomotion.



manufacturing

• the process or business of producing a large quantity of products, often from raw materials, using machines and human labor

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	manufacturer, manufacture, manufacturing, manufactured
Synonyms:	production, construction, assembly
In a sentence:	Many jobs in manufacturing were lost last year, when a large car maker had to close down.

middle class

• the social class between the very rich or the aristocracy and lower-class laborers, that includes business people, professionals, farmers, skilled workers, and the like

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	bourgeoisie
In a sentence:	Most Americans view themselves as being a part of the middle class, neither poor nor rich.

patent

• a government grant to an inventor, giving for a specified period of time the exclusive right to make, use, or sell an invented device, process, or the like

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	patents
Synonyms:	copyright, permit, license
In a sentence:	The inventor has applied for a patent.

patriarchal

· a cultural, social, or governmental system in which men hold most societal power

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	patriarchy
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	In their patriarchal society, women had limited rights and no voice in government.

proletariat

• the working class, especially those that lack capital and must sell their usually unskilled labor in order to survive

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	working class
In a sentence:	The revolutionaries declared that factories and other means of production should be handed over to the proletariat.



reform

• verb: to improve or enhance through moderate change; noun: the improvement of wrong or bad conditions, especially by political means

Part of speech:	verb, noun
Word forms:	reforms, reforming, reformed
Synonyms:	improve, amend, change, enhance, reclaim, reorganize
In a sentence:	They chose to reform their agreement rather than cancel it.

sepoy

• in India, formerly, a native soldier who served in a European army, especially the British army

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	sepoys
Synonyms:	soldier
In a sentence:	Many indigenous men from India were given military training to become sepoys in British-controlled India.

socialism

• a political or economic theory in which community members own all property, resources, and the means of production, and control the distribution of goods.

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	socialist, socialists
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Individuals who think community members should own and control property, production, and distribution prescribe to socialism.

steam engine

· an engine in which pressurized steam supplies mechanical energy, usually by moving a piston in a closed cylinder

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	steam engines
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Many historians consider the steam engine to be a critical invention in the early ages of the Industrial Revolution.

suffrage

• the right to vote in a political election

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	suffragist, suffragette
Synonyms:	voting rights
In a sentence:	Some states imposed obstacles to restrict the suffrage of African-Americans.



tariff

• a government tax on imports or exports, or a rate or schedule of such taxes; duty

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	tariffs, tariffing, tariffed
Synonyms:	tax, duty
In a sentence:	The president is threatening to impose extreme tariffs if the country refuses to honor the peace treaty.

textile

• a woven or knitted fabric; a fiber or yarn that can be woven or knitted

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	textiles
Synonyms:	fabric, yarn, cloth
In a sentence:	Many of our textiles today are manufactured in Asian nations such as India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.