

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.

authority

- the right, power, or ability to give orders, make decisions, or demand or compel obedience

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	authorities, authoritative, authoritatively
Synonyms:	command, control, power
In a sentence:	As the principal, she has the greatest amount of authority in this school.

caravan

- a band of people traveling together for safety, especially across a desert

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	caravans, caravanserai
Synonyms:	convoy, procession
In a sentence:	The travelers rejoiced as their caravan neared the entrance to the city.

commerce

- the exchange of goods or services for money

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	commercial
Synonyms:	business, trade, dealings
In a sentence:	The trade agreement is expected to increase commerce between the two nations.

culture

- the sum of the language, customs, beliefs, and art considered characteristic of a particular group of people

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	cultures, cultural, culturing, cultured
Synonyms:	civilization, folkway
In a sentence:	The Catholic Church has played a large role in the development of French culture.

diaspora

- a scattering of any people with a common culture

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	diasporas, diasporic
Synonyms:	exodus, dispersal, exile
In a sentence:	When war broke out in their home country, a large diaspora settled in a neighboring nation.

diffusion

- the spreading or wide scattering of something, such as technology or belief systems

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	diffusional
Synonyms:	dispersion, spread
In a sentence:	The diffusion of new technologies increased as trade routes expanded.

economy

- the system, within a particular country, or region, of handling wealth and resources, producing goods and services, and consuming goods and services

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	economic, economically, economies
Synonyms:	kingdom, domain
In a sentence:	The American economy was particularly strong in the 1950s.

empire

- territory controlled by a central government, with one supreme ruler, who governs a diverse population

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	empires
Synonyms:	kingdom, domain
In a sentence:	The Ottoman Empire ruled over a vast territory with multiple ethnicities and belief systems.

indigenous

- having origin in a country or locality

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	indigenously, indigenusness
Synonyms:	native, aboriginal
In a sentence:	The indigenous people of Hawaii suffered illnesses brought by missionaries and other settlers.

maritime

- of or concerning seagoing vessels, or intended for use in navigation at sea

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	mariner
Synonyms:	marine, nautical, naval
In a sentence:	Ship captains must obey maritime laws.

merchant

- one who buys goods and sells them for a profit

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	merchants
Synonyms:	dealer, trader, vendor, salesperson
In a sentence:	We order our food from whichever merchant gives us the best price.

migration

- the act or process of moving from one region into another

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	migrations, migrant, migratory, migrate
Synonyms:	journey, movement, exodus
In a sentence:	Their ancestors' migration from the east finally led to them settling in this small western mining town.

monsoon

- predictable winds that indicated the arrival of the rainy season, facilitating fast sailing and assisting maritime travelers

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	monsoons
Synonyms:	deluge, rainstorm
In a sentence:	Reoccurring monsoons allowed sailors to predict the direction of winds across the Indian Ocean.

navigate

- to direct the course of a vessel, especially a boat or ship

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	navigates, navigation, navigator
Synonyms:	steer, direct, pilot
In a sentence:	Indian Ocean sailors learned to navigate currents and monsoon winds to reach their destination.

network

- any physical system of interconnected roads, lines, canals, or the like; a process that involves a number of persons, groups, or organizations

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	networks, networking, networked
Synonyms:	web, organization
In a sentence:	Networks of exchange and trade have existed in Africa for thousands of years.

pastoral

- of or relating to the country or country life

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	pastoralist
Synonyms:	rural, agrarian
In a sentence:	She liked to paint pastoral scenes with meadows, streams, and fields with cows grazing.

plague

- any disaster that affects a large population, especially a disease epidemic or the sudden influx of harmful insects

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	plagues
Synonyms:	contagion, infection
In a sentence:	The crops were destroyed by a plague of locusts.

society

- a community or group of people who live in the same country or area and are linked with each other by such things as laws and customs

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	societies, societal
Synonyms:	community, association, network, group
In a sentence:	Every society considers some behaviors acceptable and others unacceptable.

subjugation

- the act of winning mastery over, as by military conquest

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	subjugate
Synonyms:	conquest, invasion
In a sentence:	Raids by the Mongols led to their subjugation of Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

syncretism

- an attempted combination or reconciliation of different principles, beliefs, or practices, especially in religion or philosophy

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	syncretic, syncretistic, syncretist
Synonyms:	unification, consolidation
In a sentence:	The syncretism of the two religions was made possible by their shared goal to unite the people of the river valley.

technology

- the various inventions and means of solving problems that result from research for use of industrial arts and applied science to achieve practice objectives

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	technologies, technological
Synonyms:	machinery, tools, automation
In a sentence:	The compass, a new technology that traveled from China to the Indian Ocean and beyond, helped merchants and sailors navigate on land and by sea.

trade

- the act of buying and selling commodities, or all such acts collectively

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	tradeable, tradeless
Synonyms:	commerce, business, exchange
In a sentence:	The new treaty will strongly affect trade between the two countries.

trade network

- a series of roads, waterways, railroads, and air routes that allow groups to trade goods with one another; a loose organization of societies that exchange goods with each other

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	trade networks
Synonyms:	exchange network
In a sentence:	In both ancient and modern times, trade networks have allowed for cultural exchange between societies.

urbanization

- the process whereby towns and cities grow and societies become more urban

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	urban, urbanize, urbanizing
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Many trading posts and towns went through the process of urbanization as more merchants settled in these areas.