# Key Unit Vocabulary

This guide 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

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| --- | --- |
| 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. |

## barbarian

* a person in a culture believed by those in another culture to be savage, primitive, or uncivilized

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | barbarians, barbaric |
| Synonyms: | primitive, savage |
| In a sentence: | The Romans fought the barbarians to the north. |

## bureaucrat

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

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| --- | --- |
| 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. |

## canal

* a man-made waterway for transportation or irrigation

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | canals |
| Synonyms: | waterway, aqueduct |
| In a sentence: | The two lakes are connected by a canal. |

## caravan

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | caravans |
| Synonyms: | convoy, procession |
| In a sentence: | The travelers rejoiced as their caravan neared the oasis. |

## catastrophe

* a disaster with widespread effects

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | catastrophic, catastrophically |
| Synonyms: | calamity, cataclysm, disaster |
| In a sentence: | An earthquake represents a catastrophe not only for humans but for all forms of life. |

## chronology

* the order of events in time

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | chronological, chronologies |
| Synonyms: | chronicle, calendar |
| In a sentence: | She tried to remember the chronology of these various incidents in order to help the police solve the crime. |

## clergy

* the group or body of people authorized to conduct religious services, such as ministers, priests, or rabbis

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | clergies |
| Synonyms: | ministry |
| In a sentence: | Nuns were an important part of the clergy. |

## collapse

* to fall down or give way; to stop functioning or end suddenly; fail

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | verb |
| Word forms: | collapses, collapsing, collapsed |
| Synonyms: | break down, fail, crumble |
| In a sentence: | After the recent bombings, the peace talks collapsed. |

## Crusades

* any of the several attempts of medieval European Christians to recover and then defend the Holy Land in and around Jerusalem from the Muslims

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | proper noun |
| Word forms: | Crusaders |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | Pope Urban II encouraged the Crusades by urging Christians to reclaim the Holy Land from the Muslims. |

## decline

* a falling off or loss, a movement downward

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | declines, declined, declining, declination |
| Synonyms: | deterioration, drop, loss, drop-off |
| In a sentence: | The rapid decline in population was due to the spread of the plague. |

## feudalism

* a system of economic and political organization, as in Europe in the Middle Ages, in which one person would pledge to support another person; for example, a knight might pledge to fight when needed in exchange for land from the king

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | feudal, feudalistic, feudalist |
| Synonyms: | manorialism, manor system |
| In a sentence: | Serfs were among the lowest class during the age of feudalism. |

## immunity

* the state or condition of being immune (resistant) to a disease

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | immunities |
| Synonyms: | resistance, exemption |
| In a sentence: | I get the flu shot each year in hopes of building my immunity against the virus. |

## imperial

* of or pertaining to an empire or its ruler

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | imperially |
| Synonyms: | royal, sovereign |
| In a sentence: | The imperial army fought hard for their emperor. |

## influx

* a continuous coming in of things or people

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | influxes |
| Synonyms: | torrent, avalanche |
| In a sentence: | Every fall there is an influx of students in our town. |

## mosque

* a Muslim place of worship

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | mosques |
| Synonyms: | temple, church, place of worship |
| In a sentence: | The Muslim family made their way to the neighborhood mosque when they heard the call to prayer. |

## Pax Romana

* Roman Peace; a 200-year-long period in Roman history in which it experienced relative peace

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | proper noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The Pax Romana allowed Rome to regularly trade overseas. |

## Pax Sinica

* Chinese Peace; a period of relative peace during Han Dynasty China that lasted until c. 200 CE

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | proper noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The Pax Sinica allowed the Han Dynasty to regularly trade across the Silk Road routes. |

## province

* the administrative divisions of a country or empire

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | provinces |
| Synonyms: | county, domain, territory |
| In a sentence: | The western province supplies most of the country's food source. |

## religious pluralism

* an acceptance of religious diversity

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The country adopted policies that favored religious pluralism in hopes of minimizing violence and conflict amongst the many different religious groups. |

## restructure

* to change the structure or organization of

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | verb |
| Word forms: | restructuring, restructured, restructures |
| Synonyms: | reorganize |
| In a sentence: | After James filed for bankruptcy, he was forced to restructure his business and make his financial decisions more transparent to investors. |