# 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.

## biological

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

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

## 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

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

## caravel

* a small, lightweight ship developed by the Portuguese in the fifteenth century to explore the coast of West Africa and used by the Spanish to cross the Atlantic Ocean

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | caravels |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | Two of the three ships used by Christopher Columbus in his journey across the Atlantic Ocean were caravels. |

## cash crop

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

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

## 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

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

## conquistador

* one of the Spanish conquerors of the sixteenth century

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | conquistadores, conquistadors |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The Spanish conquistador Cortés made alliances with indigenous peoples to defeat the Aztecs. |

## 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

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

# epidemic

* an outbreak, usually of disease, that spreads rapidly, afflicting many individuals

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | epidemics |
| Synonyms: | outbreak, plague, pandemic |
| In a sentence: | With a mortality rate of 70 percent, the more cases that arise, the deadlier this epidemic becomes. |

## exchange

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

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

## 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

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| --- | --- |
| 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

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| --- | --- |
| 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

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

## innovation

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | innovations, innovator, innovative |
| Synonyms: | creation, invention |
| In a sentence: | Thanks to the innovation of the Wright brothers, we have aircraft that allow us to travel swiftly and safely today. |

## invest

* to spend with the intention of gaining some benefit

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

## khanate

* the area or region ruled by a khan (a Mongol warrior chosen as leader)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | khanates |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | Upon the death of Chinggis Khan (Genghis Khan), Mongol territory was divided into four khanates. |

## labor

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

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

## maritime

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

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

## 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

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

## missionary

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

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

## monsoon

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

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

## plantation

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

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| --- | --- |
| 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

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

## Pax Mongolica

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

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | proper noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The Pax Mongolica led to an increase in trade along the Silk Road routes. |

## samurai

* member of the warrior caste in feudal Japan

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | Samurai were usually members of the aristocracy and the title was passed down through the family line. |

## tribute

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

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