

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.

capital

- money or other wealth owned or used by a business

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

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.

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.

enslavement

- the state of being a slave or being in a condition of bondage

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	enslave
Synonyms:	slavery, servitude
In a sentence:	The horrifying mass enslavement of imported Africans was the basis of the American agricultural economy for over a century.

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.

free market

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

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

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.

morality

- principles related to what is right or wrong, or a particular doctrine or ethical system

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	moral, morals
Synonyms:	ethics, principles, values
In a sentence:	People who chose to be vegetarian are often those who question the morality of eating animals.

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.

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 enslaved Africans to endure harsh conditions.

production and distribution

- the joint process of manufacturing a good and getting it to those that purchased it

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	manufacturing and distributing
In a sentence:	Our new CEO has put in place policies that increase the efficiency of our production and distribution.

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.

social justice

- the doctrine that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	equality
In a sentence:	The non-profit group that helps low-income women of color graduate college is fighting for social justice by closing the wage gap.

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.

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.

traditional

- of or pertaining to customs and ways of doing things within a particular culture that are passed down from one generation to the next with little change

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	tradition, traditionalist
Synonyms:	conservative, orthodox
In a sentence:	The kimono is a traditional form of dress in Japan.