1. **paradox (noun), paradoxical (adj.)** a seemingly contradictory statement that may be true, an assertion that is essentially self-contradictory, though based on a valid deduction from acceptable premises
   a. It was the **paradoxical** beauty of a nuclear bomb, she had thought or a fire aboard a ship. A **conflagration** of earth and sea and air together.
   b. He shouted a **paradoxical** statement, “You’re always the same- you’re always changing your mind.”
   c. The great **paradox** about getting your first professional job is that people don’t want to hire you until after you have work experience in the field. As a result of this, I had to be **evasive** when the manger asked me about prior work. I avoided answering the question.

2. **conflagration (noun)** an inferno, a big destructive fire, a heated argument
   a. The **conflagration** in the Coronado National Forest burned for over a week and firefighters worked twenty four hours a day to try and stop the spread of destruction.
   b. The Police studied the fire to discern the cause of the **conflagration**. They concluded that it was started **inadvertently** by someone who hadn’t put out their campfire.

3. **dissonance (noun)** a harsh disagreeable combination of sounds, discord, lack of agreement or harmony, a situation that suggests unrelieved tension
   a. The realization created **dissonance**, a screeching in her ears, as though this woman she had never met were holding Kathryn’s child.
   b. Over time, people’s ideas of **dissonance** in music change. Chords that sounded harsh and grating to previous generations now seemed pleasant to us.
   c. The **dissonance** in the room was **palpable**. You could see her shake nervously when he walked through the door.

4. **evasive (adj.)** tending or seeking to avoid, elusive, not straightforward or definite
   a. But there was, possibly, an **evasive** note in her voice, and she seemed noticeably more pale.
   b. Teenagers often don’t want to answer their parents’ questions. They become **evasive**, giving general, vague responses that don’t really answer the question.
   c. Since I still had not found my **niche** in life, I was rather **evasive** when my uncle asked me “What is your major in college?”

5. **unperturbed (adj.)** unable to be alarmed, agitated, troubled or upset
   a. Like the steady hum of the engine, the driver seemed **unperturbed** by the wait.
   b. Kindergarten teachers manage to appear **unperturbed** by the noise, commotion and confusion in their classrooms.
   c. The coach seemed **unperturbed** when the referees didn’t call a **flagrant** foul against the opposing player who purposely hit his star shooter. I don’t know why he didn’t object.
Vocabulary, Set 3, Page 2

6. precariously (adj.) dangerously lacking in security or stability, subject to chance, based on uncertain, or unproved premises
   a. A leather toilet kit was perched precariously on the small porcelain sink.
   b. The private eye was in a precarious position. If he discovered the evidence he could make a lot of money. However, he could also get killed in the process.
   c. Breaking into the National Archives would put the lawyer in a precarious position. If he were caught he could be arrested. But he needed these records to win his case.

7. subliminal (adj.) below the threshold of conscious perception, inadequate to produce conscious awareness but able to evoke a response.
   a. It was a subliminal picture, no different from thousands of subliminal pictures that enter the brain but fail to interest the consciousness.
   b. Many television commercials have subliminal messages. They are not straightforward and obvious.
   c. The subliminal message in the reporter’s comments was that the alleged murderer was guilty.

8. oblivion (noun), oblivious (adj.) a forgetting or having forgotten, unmindful
   a. It seemed at the very least, a monumental act of naiveté, of oblivion.
   b. I was oblivious to the fact that my speedometer did not work. I was totally unaware that I was speeding.
   c. I didn’t know he was bleeding profusely therefore, I was oblivious to the seriousness of his condition.

9. unprecedented (adj.) unheard of, novel, having no precedent, or parallel
   a. It wasn’t absolutely unprecedented. It had happened once or twice before.
   b. When Neil Armstrong walked on the moon for the first time, it was unprecedented. No one had ever done that before.
   c. When they tried a seven year old child for murder, it was unprecedented. His lawyer claimed that he had only succumbed to the demands of the drug dealers in his neighborhood.

10. peripheral (adj.) related to or pertaining to the outer limit or boundary, of minor relevance or importance, auxiliary, on the surface, external
    a. He had involved himself in Northern Ireland’s complex conflict, thus causing Kathryn and Mattie to be peripheral, if unwitting participants.
    b. The less serious issues would remain on the peripheral, while they dealt with the most pressing problems.
    c. Although he only had a peripheral role in the crime, the prosecutor claimed that he would be tried for murder like the rest of the group who had actually been at the scene. At this point, he grudgingly relented and told the police what they wanted to know in hopes of getting a reduced sentence.