

Advanced Composition Word List
Week 4 (*Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005*)

1. **Astringent** – *N.* A drug that causes contraction of body tissues
Adj. Soft or bitter taste
2. **Asymmetric** – *Adj.* Having no balance or symmetry
3. **Atavism** – *N.* The return of a trait of generations of absence
4. **Atrophy** – *V.* A decrease in size of an organ due to disease or disuse
5. **Attenuate** – *V.* To become weaker, or to become less (chemically)
6. **Atypical** – *Adj.* Not conforming to type, unusual or irregular
7. **Augment** – *N.* To enlarge or increase
8. **Augury** – *N.* An event that indicates important things to come; an omen
9. **August** – *Adj.* Profoundly honored (*I'm leaving out the obvious form of August*)
10. **Aureole** – *N.* The outermost region of the sun's atmosphere, also: a halo
11. **Auspicious** – *Adj.* Attended by favorable circumstances
12. **Austerity** – *N.* A trait of great self denial
13. **Autocrat** – *N.* A cruel and oppressive dictator
14. **Automaton** – *N.* The act of being operated on its own
15. **Avarice** – *N.* Extreme greed for material wealth
16. **Aver** – *V.* To declare formally as true
17. **Aversion** – *N.* A feeling of intense dislike
18. **Aviary** – *N.* A large building where birds are kept
19. **Avocation** – *N.* An activity taken up in addition to one's regular work; a hobby
20. **Avuncular** – *Adj.* Like an uncle
21. **Awry** – *Adj.* Turn or twisted to one side
22. **Axiom** – *N.* An established rule, principle, law, or saying
23. **Bacchanalian** – *N.* A drunken, riotous, festivity
24. **Badinage** – *N.* Playful humorous conversation
25. **Baleful** – *Adj.* Deadly or sinister
26. **Ballast** – *N.* Heavy material
27. **Balm** – *N.* Substances used for healing or soothing
28. **Banal** – *Adj.* Obvious and dull
29. **Baneful** – *Adj.* Exceedingly harmful