

Advanced Placement Vocabulary  
Week 1 (Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2006)

1. **Bijou** – *N.* A small, elegant, delicately made piece of jewelry
2. **Calumny** – *N.* A malicious attack, often false and destructive to one's reputation; slander
3. **Charlatan** – *N.* A person who often deceives or attracts others with tricks or jokes
4. **Concierge** – *N.* In France, the doorman who assists residents with their luggage, delivering messages, and making reservations
5. **Connoisseur** – *N.* A person with expert knowledge or training, especially in the fine arts
6. **Conundrum** – *N.* A paradoxical, insoluble, or difficult problem; a dilemma
7. **Debauch** – *V.* To corrupt morally, often with excessive drinking and promiscuity
8. **Dilettante** – *N.* An amateur  
also, A connoisseur
9. **Fiat** – *N.* A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record
10. **Gauche** – *Adj.* Lacking social polish; tactless
11. **Gossamer** – *N.* Something characterized by its delicately light flimsiness fabric, often used to describe cobwebs
12. **Hubris** – *N.* Overbearing pride or presumption; arrogance
13. **Imprimatur** – *N.* Official approval or license to print or publish, especially under conditions of censorship
14. **Insouciant** – *Adj.* Marked by blithe unconcern; nonchalant
15. **Juggernaut** – *N.* A massive unstoppable force that crushes everything in its way  
also, Used as a title for the Hindu deity Krishna
16. **Ken** – *N.* The range of perception of what one can comprehend
17. **Kudos** – *N.* Acclaim or praise for exceptional achievement
18. **Macabre** – *Adj.* Suggesting the horror of death and decay; gruesome
19. **Milieu** – *N.* An environment's condition or its setting
20. **Mountebank** – *N.* A charlatan, A person who often deceives or attracts others with tricks or jokes
21. **Nepenthe** – *N.* A drug mentioned in the *Odyssey* as a remedy for grief
22. **Opprobrium** – *N.* Disgrace arising from exceedingly shameful public conduct
23. **Paramour** – *N.* A lover, especially one in an adulterous relationship
24. **Peccadillo** – *N.* A small sin or fault
25. **Phalanx** – *N.* A body of troops in close array  
also, A bone of a finger or toe; phalange
26. **Philatelist** – *N.* A person who collects stamps, or the art of collecting stamps
27. **Queue** – *N.* A line of people or vehicles  
also, A braid of hair at the back of the head  
also, A sequence of stored data or programs waiting processing
28. **Quotidian** – *Adj.* Recurring daily, often used to describe attacks of malaria
29. **Raconteur** – *N.* One who tells stories and anecdotes with skill and wit
30. **Spelunker** – *N.* One who explores caves chiefly as a hobby
31. **Succedaneum** – *N.* A substitute, especially used in terms of medicine
32. **Yen** – *N.* A strong desire or inclination; a yearning or craving  
Japanese currency, equivalent to .85 of a US penny (as of 5 PM on 9.11.06)
33. **Zepplin** – *N.* A rigid airship with a long cylindrical body supported by internal gas cells