

Vocabulary: Week 6

1. **belated** *adj.* Done too late; having been delayed beyond the usual time.
[Alisha's *belated* birthday card arrived one month after my birthday.]
2. **caliber** *n.* 1. Degree of importance or excellence.
[The college faculty is of the highest *caliber* and includes several Nobel Prize winners.]
2. The diameter of a bullet or inside of a gun barrel.
[A *.45-caliber* bullet is 45/100 of an inch in diameter.]
3. **chagrin** *n.* A feeling of embarrassment or annoyance caused by having failed or being disappointed.
[To my *chagrin* I twisted my ankle as I attempted to negotiate a turn while skating.]
v. To cause to feel unease.
[I was quite *chagrined* by my date's failure to meet me as planned.]
4. **contravene** *v.* To act against or be counter to.
[The personnel director reprimanded the employee for *contravening* the company policy of no smoking.]
5. **default** *n.* 1. Failure to do what is required by duty or law.
[When her opponent failed to appear, Heather won the chess game by *default*.]
2. An automatic selection made according to a computer program when the user does not make a choice.
[The *default* was to close the file before quitting.]
v. To fail to pay what or when one should.
[The bank will repossess the car if you *default* on your car loan.]
6. **doldrums** *n. pl.* A condition of feeling sad, bored, or sluggish.
[I was in the *doldrums* about my career until I received an exciting job offer in Costa Rica.]
7. **emblazon** *v.* To inscribe or decorate conspicuously.
[The team sponsor's name was *emblazoned* across the backs of the players' jerseys.]
8. **eminent** *adj.* Standing above others in worth, rank, or fame.
[In the late 1700s, *eminent* inventor and engineer Eli Whitney constructed the cotton gin, an invention that changed the way cotton crops were harvested.]
9. **expend** *v.* To use up; consume.
[Sedentary office workers do not *expend* much physical energy on the job.]
10. **expire** *v.* 1. To come to an end.
[Unless I renew it, my fishing license will *expire* next month.]
2. To die.
[The patient *expired* before he could be rushed to the hospital.]
11. **exponent** *n.* A person who explains, interprets, or works to make something popular.
[Alvin Ailey, who founded the American Dance Theatre in 1958, was an *exponent* of a kind of modern dance that often incorporated African elements.]
12. **novice** *n.* A person new at something; a beginner.
[Although I am only a *novice* at downhill skiing, I find the sport exhilarating.]
13. **spry** *adj.* Moving with quickness and ease; lively.
[The lethargic cat lay curled up in front of the fire while the *spry* kitten leaped from the chair, to the table, to the countertop.]