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rivulet: A small stream or brook.

The ancient rivulet was conducted according to customs that were centuries old. The children enjoyed wading in the rivulet. The manuscript needed only minor rivulets before publication. A pleasant rivulet trickled through the fields.

firth: A narrow inlet or arm of the sea. (A firth may refer to any narrow arm of the sea or more particular to the opening of a river into the sea. Because the coast of Scotland is dotted with so many firths, the word has come to be associated with that country.)

The soldier explored the firths that cut into the coastline. The young child was severely reprimanded for having committed the firth. After swimming across the firth, he was completely exhausted. The coast was cut with many narrow firths, which were ideal hideouts for smugglers.

fiord: A narrow, steep banked inlet of the sea. (A variant spelling of fiord is fjord, from the Norwegian. Like a firth, a fiord is a narrow inlet, but it is usually quite deep and situated between high cliffs or rocks. Fiords are most commonly found on the coasts of Norway and Alaska.)

When its wood was refinished and its cracks patched, the fiord looked as good as new. The bank of the fiord dropped steeply to the water. Wilson planned to explore the fiords of Alaska. The hikers wanted to fiord the stream.

bayou: A marshy inlet or outlet of a body of water. (A bayou is a sluggish stream with a slow current and a winding course through low lands or swamps.)

The sound of the hound's eerie bayou raving through the clear night. The old man lived on the shore of the bayou throughout the year. She sat down on the comfortable old bayou in the curve of the window. A moonlight ride on a bayou can be romantic.

archipelago: A body of water studded with many islands; or a group of such islands.

The small islands in the archipelago supplied ships with fresh water and fruits. He tried for five days to climb the archipelago. The music critics praised his performance of the archipelagos. The boat sailed through the archipelago on the way to its home port.

spume: Foam, scum, or froth on liquids. (When used as a verb, spume means to spout or discharge something like foam.)

Good fishermen always spume their nets before using them. The volcano tossed up great chunks of rock, molten lava, and volcanic spume with enormous force. The elderly gentleman complained that the spume in his gouty toe was painful. The boys liked nothing better than to run about on the spume at midday.

undercurrent: (1) A current below the surface. (2) an underlying tendency.

Millions of microscopic plants drift along with the ocean's undercurrent. The powerful undercurrent upset the canoe. He was under great undercurrent to complete his book by March. Outwardly it was a gay group, but there seemed to be a sad undercurrent present.

crag: A steep, rugged rock, or a rocky projection.

He was such a craggy person that no one could deceive him. The agile crag climbed over the highest peaks of the Tibetan mountains. The mountain goat leaped from crag to crag.

butte: An isolated hill with steep sides and a flat top. (Buttes abound in the Rocky Mountain region, as evidenced by a city in Montana named Butte.)

The Arab wore a white butte over his head and shoulders. The large wooden butte could hold two hogsheads of beverage. Hidden behind the butte, the outlaws awaited the approaching stagecoach. The high butte could be seen for miles.

escarpment: A steep, sharp rise of a hill or wall, usually part of a fortification. (An escarpment may be either natural or man-made.)

The housewife searched the stores for escarpments. The sergeant rang the escarpment to summon the recruits. The runaway horse was stopped by the escarpment, which it could neither climb nor get around. To ward off an enemy attack, the engineers cut an escarpment all around the foot of the hill.



steppe: A vast, level treeless tract of land. (The word is most often used in the plural, referring to the grasslands of Russia.)

The expedition successfully climbed the highest peaks of the steppes. Throughout the day, a cold wind blew across the frozen steppes. Before surgery, the steppes were carefully sterilized. In his novels, Leo Tolstoy describes the steppes of his native Russia.

zephyr: A soft, gentle breeze, or the gentle west wind.

The igneous rock was rich with zephyr. In the evening a soothing zephyr came from the west. The grass rippled slightly as the zephyr blew through it. A zephyr blew gentle over the dozing picnickers.

clime: Climate; or a region, with reference to its climate. (Clime, an elevated or poetic word for country, realm, region, or climate, is not often used in ordinary conversation.)

Their long clime over mountainous paths was exhausting. Other times and other climes attracted him more than the here and now. In his imagination, he often roamed in other climes and among strange people. The clime, like other percussion instruments, can be very effective in a symphony orchestra.

antipodes: Places opposite one another on the globe; or two opposites or contraries.

John enjoyed studying the lives of the antipodes of the Middle Ages. The prison admitted light through two small antipodes side by side in the wall. Antipodes should never be used on dumb animals. The North Pole and the South Pole are antipodes.

insular: Isolated or narrow-minded. (Insular can mean like an island or pertaining to an island; but more commonly means narrow-minded, as the attitudes of people on islands or other isolated places are apt to be.)

England's insular position no longer saves it from attack. None of us was able to solve the insular problem in geometry. Randolph grew up in a small, insular town.

corona: A circle of light around the sun or moon.

Vitamin C is the only known cure for corona. The corona of the sun consists of great eruptions of hot gas. When the conductor gave the signal, the musician put the corona to his mouth and blew with all his might. The troop's flag was carried by a corona.

equinox: The date on which day and night are of equal length. (The vernal equinox is on March 21, and the autumnal one is on September 22 or 23.)

The knight checked the strength of his equinox before he rode into battle. As equinox, he was in charge of the duke's horses. A few areas return to standard time at the autumnal equinox.

A man-made excavament served as a fortification for the troops.

The mountaineer stood on the topmost crag of Mt. Whitney.

The Indians used the isolated butte as their watchtower.

They explored the many small islands of the archipelago.

During the Eclipse he studied the sun's corona.

There are very few, if any trees on the steppe of Siberia.

Weary of the insular ways of her small town, she eagerly moved to the big city.

The water in the marshy bayou had no perceptible current.

The group seemed relaxed, but I detected a slight undercurrent of tension in some members.

September 22 is the date of the autumnal equinox.

They saw some tiny fish swimming in a small creeklet that flowed through the woods.

The mild zephyr blowing from the west caused a slight movement of the leaves.

How I love to roam in distant climes.

The explorer had made voyages to both antipodes.

The Norwegian fjord provided anchorage for fishing boats.

Small boats could sail up the Scottish firth for several miles.

The spume of the waves dampened the boaters' clothing.



consul, freeholder, chamberlain, bey, grandee, signor, prefect, bourgeois, proletarian, aborigines

consul: A government official who presides in a foreign country for the purpose of aiding citizens of his country. (Counsel-advice, to advise, or legal advisor; council, a group of people called together to discuss, advise, or legislate.)

The American consulate in London is a very busy place. They tried to consul each other in order to ease their grief. Unfortunately the foolish behavior of the new consul reflected upon his country. Angry citizens wrote letters to protest to their consul.

freeholder: A holder of land or high office.

The audience cheered as the freeholders and their trainers entered the wrestling room. The freeholder owns his land by inheritance. The freeholder, who had held the post for twenty years, was found to have embezzled the county's funds. Recently the county freeholders voted themselves a \$1,000 raise in salary.

chamberlain: A steward, treasurer, or officer in the court of a king or nobleman. (A chamberlain was originally a bedchamber attendant for royalty or nobility. The word has now come to refer to any high officer in a royal or noble household.)

See the chamberlain if you want to get the king's approval. I think that the bill will be defeated in the house of Chamberlains. The old and trusted chamberlain had access to many of the prince's secrets. The king suspected his chamberlain of having taken part in the revolt.

bey: A Turkish ruler. (A bey is the governor of a district or minor province in the Turkish capitol more specifically, bey is the title given to the rulers of Tunis since about 1795. It is something used generally as a Turkish title of respect.)

The life of a bey carries responsibilities as well as privileges. The loyalty of the present bey's subjects is unparalleled in local history. The coyote beyed at the full moon rising over the desert. The ships sailed silently across the calm unruffled bey.

grandee: A nobelman, or a person of high rank. (Although grandee is occasionally used to refer to any important personage, it is usually the title of Spanish or Portuguese noblemen of the highest rank.)

His grandee, granted by the president amounted to ten acres. Under communism, which does not recognize nobility, grandees do not exist. Have there been any new grandees in Spain under the present regime? The conductor indicated that the music should be played grandee.

signor: A gentleman, or an Italian title of respect. (Signor, which corresponds to the English mister, is used before a name. When no name follows the proper form is signore. Remember that it is a foreign term and must therefore be underlined or italicized.) Because they felt signor toward him, they turned their backs on him. Signor Voce's home in Milan was a marvel of the 17th century architecture. Signor Amado always traveled in his private car. "Signore," he asked, "have you ever been in Venice?" His face bore the signor of the smallpox he had contracted as a youth.

prefect: A high official, or a monitor. (In ancient Rome, prefects were highranking officials in charge of various government departments. Prefects still exist in modern France and in some church organizations. A prefect may also be a student monitor, especially in English schools and in some American private schools.)

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John Collins Page

Richard Henry Dana

GOVERNMENT PEOPLE (Cont.)  
LESSON 22

He was prefect of the congregation of cardinals. Joe is a Democratic committeeman in his prefect. Our speaker was a Frenchman who had been the prefect of the Paris police. The distinguished soldier prefected and went over to the side of the enemy.

bourgeois: Pertaining to the middle class, the commonplace, or the respectable. (As a noun, bourgeois refers to a person of the middle class, such persons collectively are known as the bourgeois acquaintances. The members of the labor party rejected many bourgeois standards. Barbara purchased a pair of baby shoes at the bourgeois. Bourgeois standards of conduct often imitate upper-class standards.

proletarian: A worker or member of the lower class. (Proletarians collectively are known as proletariats.) The statesman was noted for his defense of the proletariat during the 1930's. Proletarian taste in home furnishings is seldom copied by the upper classes. He tried to arouse the proletariat to revolt. The soothsayer's daily proletarian became Mr. Walker's principal business guide.

aborigines: Natives, or the first born inhabitants of a region. (Although it is possible to speak of a single aborigine, the word is usually used in its plural form.) The doctor reported that Mr. Johnson had too many aborigines in his blood. Lucille wore a ring set with genuine aborigine. The aborigines of that area still follow their ancient rites. Aborigines have often adopted customs from their invaders.