

VERBAL ADVANTAGE

Level I

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Verbal Advantage Success Edition

About This Guide

This guide is an abstract-or condensed version- of all the lessons and information presented in Verbal Advantage. It is designed to serve both as a reference to the contents of the program and as a study aid.

Here are several ways you can use this guide in conjunction with the audio program:

1. Follow along in this guide as you listen.
2. After every ten key-word discussions in the program, there is an aural review quiz. Read the abstracts of the key-word discussions in the guide either before or directly after taking each review quiz.
3. Verbal Advantage contains ten levels of instructions, each more challenging than the last. When you finish listening to a level, review it in the guide before beginning the next level.

Using this guide in any (or all) of the above ways will reinforce what you learn by listening, accelerate your vocabulary growth rate, and enhance your enjoyment of the program.

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Vowel Sounds

A, a - flat, back, pass, exact

Y, y and **EYE, eye** - by, nice, pie, right, aisle

AH, ah - spa, father, odd, not

Note: Y is used in combination with other letters to form a syllable: SLYT-lee (*slightly*). EYE is used when this sound by itself forms a syllable: EYE-land (*island*).

AHR, ahr - car, jar, alarm

OH, oh - go, sew, coat

AIR, air - hair, stare, bear

OO, oo - do, ooze, rule

AY, ay - hay, wait, came, state

OR, or - for, door, born, war

AW, aw - raw, all, walk

OOR, oor - poor, tour, lure

E, e - yes, let, step

OW, ow - cow, out, tower, doubt

EE, ee - see, beat, key

OY, oy - oil, loin, boy, ahoy

EER, eer - pier, beer, fear

UH, uh - up, dull, some, color; also ago, allow

I, i - in, hit, sip

UR, ur - turn, stir, were, learn

UU, uu - pull, full, good, took, would

Obscure, Unstressed, Lightened, or Variable Vowel Sounds

A, a - ago, final, woman, librarian

O, o - connect, polite, gallop, carrot

E, e - item, taken, shipment, difference

U, u - focus, circus, lettuce, raucous

I, i - edible, policy, charity, nation

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Consonant Sounds

B, b - *boy, cab, bubble*

NG, ng - *sing, anger, tank*

CH, ch - *chip, catcher, peach*

P, p - *pen, pepper, pop*

D, d - *dog, add, sudden*

R, r - *red, arrive, car*

F, f - *fat, effort, staff*

S, s - *sit, ask, pass*

G, g - *get, bigger, bogus, tag*

SH, sh - *she, rush, nation, conscious*

H, h - *hit, hope, behind*

T, t - *top, bitter, list*

HW, hw - *wheat, whale, whet, awhile*

TH, th - *thin, thirst, nothing, bath*

J, j - *jug, juice, tragic, age*

TH, th - *there, this, brother, bathe*

K, k - *king, cup, take, actor, pack*

V, v - *very, even, live*

L, l - *leg, also, bell*

W, w - *will, wait, power*

‘l - *ladle, cattle, turtle, apple*

Y, y - *yes, you, layer*

M, m - *my, humble, emblem*

(Y), (y) - indicates that some speakers employ the Y sound of *you* and others do not: N(Y)OO, *new*; D(Y)OO *tee, duty*; uh-ST(Y)OOT, *astute*

‘m - *spasm, prism, chasm, sarcasm*

Z, z - *zoo, daze, please*

N, n - *no, knee, end, winner*

ZH, zh - *vision, measure, azure, or French je*

‘n - *hidden, cotton, open, satin, reason*

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Foreign Sounds

KH, kh - German *ach*, Scottish *loch*, Hebrew *lechayim* A guttural sound, like that of clearing the throat

(N), (n) - French *vin, bon, blanc, garcon* A nasalized sound-the N is stopped in the nose.

KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

Syllables are separated by a hyphen [-]

Syllables printed in CAPITAL letters are stressed.

Syllables printed in small (lower-case) letters are not stressed.

Words of one syllable are printed in CAPITALS.

Words of more than two syllables that have a primary and manner secondary stress are transcribed in the following:

The syllable with secondary stress is printed in CAPITALS, and the syllable with primary stress is printed in **BOLDFACED CAPITALS**: ED-i-fi- **KAY**-shin.

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With Pronunciations, Synonyms, Antonyms and Related Information Listed in Order of Presentation, by Level and Number. The abbreviation N.B. stands for the Latin nota bene and means "note well, take good note of."

1. PARAPHRASE (PAR-uh-frayz)

To restate, put what someone else has expressed into different words.

2. OSTENSIBLE (ah-STEN-suh-buul)

Apparent, appearing or seeming to be true, professed or declared as true without being demonstrated or proved.

Synonyms: *plausible, specious.*

3. DIGRESS (di-GRES or dy-GRES)

To wander, stray from the point, ramble, deviate, go off in another direction.

Corresponding noun: *digression.*

Related words: *ingress*, the place you walk in, the entrance; *egress*, the place you walk out, the exit.

Additional useful word: *archaic* (ar-KAY-ik), old-fashioned.

4. UNCANNY (uhn-KAN-ee)

Eerie, strange, weird, mysterious.

5. CANDOR (KAN-dur)

Frankness, openness, sincere expression.

Synonyms: *straightforwardness, outspokenness, forthrightness, ingenuousness* (in-JEN-yoo-us-nis).

Corresponding adjective: *candid*, frank, open, sincere. Synonyms of *candid* include *forthright* and *ingenuous*.

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6. MOROSE (muh-ROHS)

Gloomy, moody, glum, grumpy, ill-tempered, depressed.

Synonyms: *sullen, dolorous, lugubrious, saturnine.*

Antonyms: *optimistic, jovial, sanguine.*

Corresponding noun: *moroseness.*

Additional useful word: *misanthropy*, hatred of humankind.

7. ADEPT (uh-DEPT)

Skilled, handy.

Synonyms: *clever, able, deft, expert, dexterous, proficient, adroit* (Level 3, Word 41).

Corresponding noun: *adept* (AD-ept), a highly skilled person, an expert.

8. SATURATED (SACH-uh-ray-tid)

Soaked, drenched, thoroughly wet, full of moisture.

Synonyms: *steeped, permeated, impregnated, imbued, sodden.*

Corresponding noun: *saturation.*

9. PRAGMATIC (prag-MAT-ik)

Practical, having to do with actual practice, concerned with everyday affairs as opposed to theory or speculation.

10. CONGENIAL (kun-JEE-nee-ul)

Sympathetic, agreeable, having the same taste, nature, or temperament.

Synonyms: *compatible, kindred, harmonious.*

Antonyms: *alien, dissident, incongruous* (in-KAHNG-groo-us).

11. CAPRICIOUS (kuh-PRISH-us)

Unpredictable, tending to change abruptly for no apparent or logical reason.

Synonyms: *flighty, changeable, impulsive, fickle, erratic, whimsical, volatile, mercurial.*

Antonyms: *stable, reliable, unwavering, steadfast, abiding.*

Corresponding noun: *caprice*, a sudden change of mind or change in the emotions.

Pronunciation tip: *caprice* is pronounced kuhPREES; *capricious* should rhyme with *delicious*.

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12. **BLATANT** (BLAY-tɪnt)

Noisy, disagreeably or offensively loud, boisterous, clamorous; also, sticking out in a glaring way, obtrusive, flagrant.

13. **OBLIGATORY** (uh-BLIG-uh-tor-ee)

Required, necessary, binding, mandatory.

Antonyms: *optional, voluntary.*

14. **NEGLIGIBLE** (NEG-lɪ-juh-buul)

Unimportant, trifling, of little consequence.

Synonyms: *trivial, insignificant*

15. **ADAMANT** (AD-uh-mɪnt)

Unyielding, immovable, inflexible, refusing to give in.

Synonyms: *unshakable, unrelenting, implacable.*

16. **SPORADIC** (spor-RAD-ik)

Occasional, infrequent, irregular, not constant, happening from time to time, occurring in scattered or random way.

Antonyms: *constant, incessant, unremitting.*

17. **VANGUARD** (VAN-gard)

The forefront of an action or movement, leading position or persons in a movement.

18. **CONCUR** (kʌn-KUR)

(1) To agree, be in accord with, unite in opinion.

(2) To act together, combine in having an effect.

(3) To happen together, occur at the same time, coincide.

Etymology tip: One meaning of the Latin prefix *con-* is "together." By derivation, that which *concur*s happens together, acts together, or is together in opinion.

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19. **PRECOCIOUSNESS** (pruh-KOH-shus-nis)

Early development or maturity, especially in mental ability.

Antonym: *retardation*.

Corresponding adjective: *precocious*.

20. **ALOOF** (uh-LOOF)

Apart, at a distance, removed, withdrawn, not wishing to speak or associate with others.

Synonyms: *unsympathetic, unapproachable, standoffish, indifferent*.

21. **CREED** (KREED, rhymes with *seed*)

Belief, professed faith or opinion, especially a system of religious belief.

Synonyms: *doctrine, dogma, credo* (KREE-doh or KRAY-doh).

Related words: *incredible, credible, credulous*. *Credulous* means willing to accept something as true without questioning. *Credulous* and *gullible* are synonymous.

22. **TAWDRY** (TAW-dree)

Cheap and showy, gaudy, garish, sleazy.

Etymology: *Tawdry* comes from the phrase "tawdry lace," a corruption of "Saint Audrey lace," an inferior type of lace sold at Saint Audrey's fair in England.

23. **PEEVISH** (as spelled, PEE-vish)

Irritable, cross, complaining, fretful, ill-humored and impatient, difficult to please, full of complaints.

Corresponding noun: *peeve*, something that irritates or annoys.

N.B. Compare *cantankerous* (Level 1, Word 41).

24. **ARDUOUS** (AHR-joo-us)

Very difficult, hard to achieve or accomplish, requiring great effort.

Synonyms: *strenuous, laborious, toilsome*.

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25. REASONABLE (PUR-suh-nuh-buul)

Attractive, pleasing in appearance.

Synonyms: *handsome, comely, fair, presentable.*

Usage tip: Avoid using *personable* to mean having nice personality. *Sociable, affable,* and *amiable* already suggest people who are friendly, pleasant, and approachable. An awkward or unbecoming person, no matter how friendly and pleasant, cannot correctly be *personable*. Reserve *personable* either for someone who is attractive in appearance or attractive both in appearance and personality.

26. RESOLUTE (REZ-uh-loot)

Firmly determined or settled, resolved, having a set opinion or purpose.

Synonyms: *steadfast, unwavering, persevering.*

Antonyms: *irresolute, unsteady, vacillating.*

Corresponding verb: *resolve*, to decide, determine, settle once and for all.

27. SUPPOSITION (SUHP-uh-ZISH-un)

An assumption, theory, hypothesis, conjecture.

28. ARBITRARY (AHR-bi-trair-ee)

(1) Unreasoned; based on personal feelings or preferences rather than on reason, logic, or law; making discretionary judgments or decisions that may or may not be fair or reasonable.

(2) Determined or arrived at in a random or illogical manner.

(3) Exercising unrestrained or absolute power.

Related words: *Arbiter* and *arbitrator* both mean a judge or umpire who makes a final decision or resolves a dispute.

29. MONOTONOUS (muh-NAH-tub-nus)

Lacking variety, tediously uniform, unvarying and dull; literally, having one continuous sound or tone.

Etymology tip: The prefix *mono-* means "one, single," as in the related words *monogamy, monocle,* and *monogram.*

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30. **LEGACY** (LEG-uh-see)

Something handed down from the past.

Synonyms: *inheritance, bequest.*

31. **MANIFOLD** (MAN-i-fohld)

Numerous and varied, consisting of many kinds, containing many elements, features, or characteristics.

Synonyms: *multifarious, multitudinous.*

32. **PLIANT** (PLY-int)

Bending easily, flexible.

Synonyms: *adaptable, workable, pliable, supple.*

33. **RETORT** (ri-TORT)

A quick reply, especially one that is cutting or witty.

Synonym: *rejoinder.*

34. **OBSTINATE** (AHB-sti-nit)

Stubborn, inflexible, unwilling to give in or compromise, not yielding to argument or persuasion.

Synonyms: *hidebound, intractable, intransigent, adamant* (Level 1, Word 15).

Pronunciation tip: *Obstinate* is sometimes mispronounced as if it were spelled *obstant*. Take care to spell *obstinate* correctly and pronounce it AHB-sti-nit.

35. **LACERATE** (LAS-ur-ayt)

Literally, to tear, cut roughly, rend, mangle. Figuratively, to wound, afflict, cause pain.

36. **OMNIPOTENT** (ahm-NIP-uh-tint)

All-powerful, almighty, having unlimited power or authority.

Etymology tip: The element *omni-* means "all," as in *omnidirectional, omnipresent, and omniscient* (ahm-NISH-int), all-knowing.

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37. **UNSCRUPULOUS** (uhn-SKROO-pyoo-lus)

Untrustworthy, dishonorable, deceitful, corrupt, lacking integrity or moral principles.

Related words: *scruple*, something that causes hesitation or doubt in determining what is appropriate and proper; *scrupulous*, having scruples-hence, taking pains to do something exactly right.

38. **RENAISSANCE** (ren-uh-SAHNS orREN-uh-sahns)

A revival, renewal of life or vigor.

Synonyms: *rebirth, resurgence*

39. **GENESIS** (JEN-i-sis)

A coming into being, beginning.

Synonyms: *origin, birth, creation.*

40. **WARRANT** (WAH-rint or WAR-int)

(1) To justify, give good reason for, authorize, sanction.

(2) To guarantee, promise, give formal assurance of.

Related word: *unwarranted*, without good reason or authorization, unjustifiable.

41. **CANTANKEROUS** (kan-TANGK-uh-rus)

Difficult to deal with, disagreeable, argumentative, quick to quarrel or to exhibit ill will.

Synonyms: *contentious, malicious, irascible* (i-RAS-uh-buul).

N.B. Compare *peevish* (Level 1, Word 23).

42. **FLIPPANT** (FLIP-int)

Disrespectful in a frivolous way, treating something serious in a trivial manner.

Synonyms: *cheeky, fresh, thoughtless, impertinent.*

Antonyms: *solemn, sober, sedate, grave.*

43. **SUBJUGATE** (SUHB-juh-gayt)

To conquer, defeat, vanquish, overwhelm completely, bring under rigid control, make submissive, dominate, enslave.

Corresponding noun: *subjugation.*

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44. **WRY** (like *rye*, rhymes with *why*)

Twisted, crooked, lopsided, askew, distorted in an odd, amusing way.

45. **URBANE** (ur-BAYN)

Polished, sophisticated, suave, cosmopolitan.

Related word: *urban*, pertaining to or living in a city. *Urbane* suggests the polished sophistication of a city dweller.

46. **JARGON** (JAHR-gun)

Specialized and often pretentious language; unnecessarily complex phraseology; speech or writing that is highly technical and difficult to understand; specifically, obscure language or a private vocabulary used and understood only by members of a particular group or profession.

47. **PRUDENT** (PROO-djnt)

(1) Cautious, careful, planning wisely, exercising sound judgment in practical matters.

Synonyms: *discreet, circumspect* (Level 3, Word 21).

(2) Spending carefully, using one's resources wisely.

Synonyms: *thrifty, economical, frugal* (Level 2, Word 35).

Related words: *provide, provident* (Level 4, Word 1).

48. **INVIOLEABLE** (in-VY'l-uh-buul)

Secure; safe from assault, infringement, or destruction.

Synonyms: *sacred, untouchable, unassailable, incorruptible*.

Etymology tip: *Inviolable* combines the prefix *in-*, not, the suffix *-able*, and the verb to *violate*, and means literally "not able to be violated."

49. **COMMODIOUS** (kuh-MOH-dee-us)

Spacious, having plenty of room, comfortably convenient.

Synonyms: *ample, capacious* (kuh-PAY-shus).

Related words: *commode, accommodate, accommodations*.

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50. PROXIMITY (prahk-SIM-i-tee)

Nearness, closeness, the state of being in the vicinity of something.

Usage tip: Avoid using the common phrase "close proximity." It's a redundancy. Proximity means closeness; therefore "close **proximity**" means "**close closeness.**" Drop *close* and let proximity do its work alone.

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N.B. Level I ends with a discussion of the proper use of the verbs to lay and to *lie*.

Also discussed is the useful expression *sotto voce* (SAW-toh VOH-chay), an Italian phrase meaning "under the breath," uttered in a soft voice so as not to be overheard.

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