

# Vocabulary Handbook

*The Westing Game*  
by Ellen Raskin

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	WORD PART	MEANING	PART OF SPEECH
-able	suffix	able to, can be done	adjective
ac- (ad-)	prefix	toward, near	
-acy	suffix		noun
-ade	suffix		noun or verb
amb	Latin root	both, on both sides	
-ance	suffix		noun
angu(sti)	Latin root	tight, choking	
ant-	prefix	before, prior to	
-ant	suffix		adjective
-ary	suffix	person who	noun
-ate	suffix	to make, do, cause	verb
bene	Latin root	good, well	
centr	Latin root	center, middle, focus	
cept	Latin root	to catch, take hold, receive	
charite	root (French origin)	liberal in treatment of the poor	
clus	Latin root	to close, to shut	
cor- (com-)	prefix	together, with	
de-	prefix	opposite of	
demp / deem	Latin root	belief, opinion	
dign	Latin root	worthy of respect	
dis-	prefix	opposite of	
divis / divid	Latin root	to separate	
ec- (ex-)	prefix	out, upward, complete, remove	
-ed	inflectional ending		past tense verb
-ed	suffix		adjective
-ent	suffix		adjective
-er	suffix	a person who does something	noun
ex-	prefix	out, upward, complete, remove	
fi	Latin root	belief, trust	
fic	Latin root	to make, to do, to build	
fin	Latin root	the end, the last	

fit	Latin root	to produce	
-ful	suffix	full of	adjective
grac	Latin root	beloved, pleasing, agreeable	
grat	Latin root	thankful, pleased	
hum	Latin root	human beings, mankind	
hyster	Greek combining form	womb, emotion	
ia	Greek combining form	condition of	
-ic	suffix		adjective
-ice	suffix		noun
im-	prefix	not	
in-	prefix	not	
-ing	inflectional ending		present tense verb
inter-	prefix	between, among, together, inside, internal	
-ious	suffix		adjective
irrita	Latin root	to anger, to provoke	
-ish	suffix		noun or adjective
it	Latin root	to travel, to journey	
-ity	suffix		noun
-ive	suffix		adjective
-ize	suffix	to treat in a certain way	verb
leg	Latin root	law, legal	
liber	Latin root	free, freedom	
memor	Latin root	memory, remember	
menac	Latin root	to threaten	
-ment	suffix		noun
migr	Latin root	to wander, to move	
mis-	prefix	bad, wrong, harsh	
noo	Greek combining form	mind, intellect	
op- (ob-)	prefix	against	
-or	suffix		noun
par	Latin root	to get ready, prepare	
para	Greek combining form	contrary, wrong, abnormal	
pati	Latin root	suffering, enduring	
patri	Latin root	fatherland, country, nation	
per-	prefix	through, across, over	

port	Latin root	to bear	
pos / posit	Latin root	to place, to position	
pre-	prefix	before	
priv	Latin root	belonging to an individual, not for the public	
pro-	prefix	before, forward	
re-	prefix	back, again	
rect	Latin root	to make right, to remedy, make straight, to rule	
rog	Latin root	to ask, request, beg	
rupt	Latin root	to break, to tear	
-s	inflectional ending		plural noun
se-	prefix	by itself, aside, apart from	
semble	Latin root	the same, to appear, to seem	
sent	Latin root	to feel, mental perception	
serve	Latin root	to keep safe, to protect	
-ship	suffix		noun
spair / sper	Latin root	hope	
squal	Latin root	dirty	
stem	Greek combining form	to start from, to originate from	
sur-	prefix	on top, over, higher	
Sur	root	to rise	
sy	Greek combining form	with, together	
-tion	suffix		noun
tor	Latin root	to bend , to twist	
un-	prefix	not	
volut	Latin root	to bend, to turn around	

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## chain of events

Context:

“A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing’s will.” (blurb)

“This started a chain reaction of confessions, denuncements, and arrests.”  
(“Seeds of Paranoia: The Salem Witch Trials”, paragraph 2)

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What it is not...

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I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## intrigue

Context:

“Ellen Raskin has entangled a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense.” (blurb, 2008 Speak edition)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## exclusive

Context:

“Sunset Towers stood at the far edge of town. It was, indeed, an exclusive neighborhood.” (p. 5)

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## Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# façade

Context:

“Crow’s clothes were black; her skin, dead white. She looked severe. Rigid, in fact. Rigid and righteously severe. No one could have guessed that under the stern façade her stomach was doing flip-flops as Dr. Wexler cut out a corn.” (p. 11)

“ ‘I’ll keep my furs with me,’ Grace said. She did not want to be taken for one of the poor relatives.” (façade is inferred, p. 22)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# patriot

Context:

“A great patriot, Samuel Westing was famous for his fun-filled Fourth of July celebrations. Whether disguised as Ben Franklin or a lowly drummer boy, he always acted a role in the elaborately staged pageants.” (p. 19)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# legacy

Context:

“ ‘...old man Westing left you some money,’ [Otis Amber] explained...The other heirs were too stunned by the unexpected legacy to bother him with questions.” (p. 21)

“One of the captains of industry of 19th century America, Andrew Carnegie helped build the formidable American steel industry, a process that turned a poor young man into the richest man in the world.” (legacy is inferred, “Andrew Carnegie,” paragraph 2)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## beneficiary

Context:

“As named beneficiary in the estate of Samuel L. Westing, your attendance is required in the south library of the Westing house tomorrow at 4 p.m. for the reading of the will.” (p. 21)

“The rich always reward servants in their wills, and her Uncle Sam was a generous man.”  
(beneficiary is inferred, p. 24)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## perception

Context:

“At least her crippled partner could not be the murderer, but it was embarrassing being paired with such a...no, she shouldn’t feel that way. It was her mother who was upset; her perfect daughter was paired with a freak.”  
(perception is inferred, p. 35)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## eccentric

Context:

“Although the will you are about to hear may seem eccentric, I pledge my good name and reputation on its legality.” (p. 27)

“Sydelle Pulaski waved a gaily painted crutch in the air...She pursed her bright red mouth, painted to a fullness beyond the narrow line of her lips...Everyone was staring; she knew they would notice.” (eccentric is inferred, p. 26)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# ambition

Context:

“I began to learn what poverty meant...It was burnt into my heart then that my father had to beg for work. And then and there came the resolve that I would cure that when I got to be a man.”  
(ambition is inferred, “Andrew Carnegie,” paragraphs 3–4)

“The only child of immigrant parents, orphaned at the age of twelve, self-educated, hard-working, Samuel Westing saved his laborer’s wages and bought a small paper mill. From these meager beginnings he built the giant Westing Paper Products Corporation.” (ambition is inferred, p. 18)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## defiant

Context:

“ ‘You know, sweetheart, I’m rather hurt that you won’t tell your own mother about your clues.’  
So that was it. She should have known. ‘My lips are sealed,’ Turtle said defiantly.” (p. 55)

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## Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# divisive

Context:

“The game: a tricky, divisive Westing game. No matter how much fear and suspicion he instilled in the players, Sam Westing knew that greed would keep them playing the game.” (pp. 47–48)

“*Heirs, beware*, Sam Westing had warned... The suspicious heirs gathered in the lobby around the police captain called in by Judge Ford. One of them was a murderer, they thought, and one of them was a bomber, and one of them was a thief. But which was which and who was who? Or could it be one and the same?” (divisive is inferred, p. 96)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# hysteria

Context:

“The Salem story began in 1692 when a few girls...began acting very strangely—hysterical screaming, falling into convulsions, barking like dogs.”  
(“Witch Hunts and Persecution in America,” paragraph 2)

“Soon other girls began acting in a similar manner... The result was much like the European experience, with a chain-reaction of confessions, denunciations, and more arrests.”  
(hysteria is inferred, “Witch Hunts and Persecution in America,” paragraph 2)

**What it is...**

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# pretentious

Context:

“ ‘I’ll keep my furs with me,’ Grace said. She did not want to be taken for one of the poor relatives.”  
(pretentious is inferred, p. 22)

“...we don’t have as much money as my mother pretends.” (pretentious is inferred, p. 74)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## resemblance

Context:

“But Flora Baumbach was right about the resemblance. Violet Westing did look like Angela Wexler.”  
(p. 93)

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## Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# interrogate

Context:

“Hoping to interrogate both George Theodorakis and James Shin Hoo, they alternated their dinner orders. One night they would order up, they next night they would order down.” (p. 92)

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(word, phrase, sketch)

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

**refine**

Context:

“Each pair in attendance will now receive a check for the sum of \$10,000...  
Spend it wisely or go for broke. May God thy gold refine.” (p. 36)

“America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine.” (p. 85)

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# deliverance

Context:

“We are sinners, yet shall we be saved. Let us pray for deliverance, then you must go to your angel, take her away.” (p. 103)

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(word, phrase, sketch)

## Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# redemption

Context:

“Carnegie wrote of the obligations of the wealthy—how they should return their money to the societies where they made it. But then almost inadvertently, Carnegie as a kind of aside, tosses in a very revealing sentence. He wrote, ‘and besides it provides a refuge from self-questioning.’

In other words, this old internal and eternal torment was still going on. Maybe with the giving away of his money he would justify what he had done to get that money.”  
(redemption is inferred, “The Richest Man in the World,” program transcript)

“Maybe [Sam Westing] wanted his enemies to forgive him.” (redemption is inferred, p. 157)

**What it is...**

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**(word, phrase, sketch)**

# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

# disgraced

Context:

“Carnegie was fond of saying ‘The man who dies rich dies disgraced.’ He made his fortune and then, unlike any industrialist of his time, began systematically to give it away.”  
(“The Richest Man in the World,” program transcript)

**What it is...**

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**What it is not...**

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# Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

## paranoia

Context:

“Mr. Hoo said the tea tasted funny, maybe they had all been poisoned. Denton Deere diagnosed paranoia. The doorman, who was pacing the room, replied that anyone who was not paranoid, after being told that the murderer would kill again, was really crazy.” (p. 148)

What it is...

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I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)