**Ailment**: *(noun)* a bodily disorder or chronic disease

-Suzanna’s neighbor was afflicted with a crippling bone **ailment**.

**Atone:** *(verb)* to make amends; to provide or serve as reparation or compensation for something bad or

 unwelcome

-The judge ordered the juvenile delinquent to **atone** for his crimes by performing one hundred hours of

 community service.

**Brigade:** *(noun)* a group of people organized for special activity

-An entire **brigade** of students descended upon the cafeteria in protest of the tasteless school

 lunches.

**Cesspool:** *(noun)* a filthy, evil, or corrupt place or state

-The judicial system had become a **cesspool** of corruption and bribery.

**Dais:** *(noun)* a raised platform (as in a hall or large room)

-The speaker ascended the **dais** and looked out over the crowd.

**Heed:** *(verb)* to pay attention; to give consideration to

-Parker did not **heed** the warnings of his teacher, and thus spent his evening in detention.

**Mandate**: *(noun)* an authoritative command; a formal order

-The school board handed down its new **mandate** concerning attendance to the building principals.

**Preference:** *(noun)* the power or opportunity of choosing; the act of preferring

-For lunch, conference-goers had their **preference** of chicken or fish.

**Scholar:** *(noun)* a person who has done advanced study in a special field; a learned person

-Professor Smidgens was the foremost **scholar** on ancient Peruvian archaeology.

**Transgression:** *(noun)* infringement or violation of a law, command, or duty

-Because of Tillie’s **transgression** of the college’s policy on academic honesty, she was placed on probation for two semesters.