**English 9 Vocabulary: November 16**

1. [**adversary**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/adversary): one's opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute.

*David beat his adversary in the quarterfinals.*

1. [**aplomb**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/aplomb): great coolness and composure under strain

*I wish I had handled it with****aplomb****.
—*[*New York Times (May 18, 2014)*](http://parenting.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/05/18/youre-not-my-real-mother/)

1. [**apprehensive**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/apprehensive): in fear or dread of possible evil or harm

*Virginia still feels****apprehensive****when visiting an unfamiliar zoo.
—*[*New York Times (Jul 3, 2014)*](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/06/magazine/zoo-animals-and-their-discontents.html)

1. [**aptitude**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/aptitude): A natural ability to do something.

*I was recently asked in an interview, what is more valued by companies –****aptitude****or attitude?
—*[*Forbes (Sep 12, 2014)*](http://www.forbes.com/sites/elenabajic/2014/09/12/how-to-adjust-your-attitude-and-keep-your-job/)

1. [**attentive**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/attentive): paying close attention to something.

*You make sure to be extra****attentive****to your friend.
—*[*Time (Oct 2, 2014)*](http://www.xojane.com/relationships/how-to-break-up-with-a-toxic-friend)

1. [**banish**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/banish): send away from a place of residence, as for punishment

*Napoleon loses so big that he is****banished****to an island.
—*[*New York Times (Dec 5, 2014)*](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/07/sports/football/jets-giants-better-ways-to-spend-your-sunday.html)

1. [**barricade**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/barricade): block off with barriers

*The Secret Service ordered nearby streets and parking lots****barricaded****for security.
—*[*Washington Times (Dec 1, 2014)*](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/dec/1/43rd-president-in-suburban-chicago-to-sign-book/)

1. [**bluff**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/bluff): frighten someone by pretending to be stronger than one is

*Sporting a pith helmet, Nixon observed that “whoever is talking the loudest is pretty sure to be****bluffing****.”
—*[*New York Times (Sep 19, 2014)*](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/20/upshot/harry-truman-five-card-stud-and-the-cold-war.html)

1. [**brackish**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/brackish): slightly salty

***Brackish****water can be used, but freshwater is easier and less costly.
—*[*New York Times (May 14, 2014)*](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/15/us/californias-thirst-shapes-debate-over-fracking.html)

1. [**brandish**](http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/brandish): move or swing back and forth

*Hart****brandished****a “Free Hugs” sign as he stood alone in front of a police barricade.
—*[*MSNBC (Nov 30, 2014)*](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/ferguson-hug-between-protester-and-police-office-goes-viral)