

Week Nine Words

facetious

Pronunciation: \fə-□sē-shəs\

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Middle French *facetieux*, from *facetie* jest, from Latin *facetia*

not serious about a serious subject, in an attempt to be amusing or to appear clever:
facetious remarks; He's just being facetious.

fallacy

Pronunciation: \□fa-lə-sē\

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Latin *fallacia*, from *fallac-*, *fallax* deceitful, from *fallere* to deceive

1. an idea that a lot of people think is true but which is false: *It is a common fallacy that women are worse drivers than men.*
2. an often plausible argument using false or invalid inference

fortuitous

Pronunciation: \fo□r-□tü-ə-təs, -□tyü-, fər-\

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Latin *fortuitus*; akin to Latin *fort-*, *fors* chance

- 1: occurring by chance
- 2 **a:** **FORTUNATE**, **LUCKY**: from a cost standpoint, the company's timing is *fortuitous* — *Business Week*
b: coming or happening by a lucky chance: belted down the stairs, and there was a *fortuitous* train — Doris Lessing

futile

Pronunciation: \ˈfjuː-tl̩, ˈfjuː-tī(-ə)\

Function: *adjective*

Etymology:

Middle French or Latin; Middle French, from Latin *futilis* brittle, pointless, probably from *fu-* (akin to *fundere* to pour)

1 : serving no useful purpose : completely ineffective: efforts to convince him were *futile*

2 : occupied with trifles : [FRIVOLOUS](#)

[FUTILE](#) may connote completeness of failure of undertaking: Resistance had proved so *futile* that surrender was the only choice left.

gratuitous

Pronunciation: \grə-ˈtjuː-əs, -ˈtyü-\

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Latin *gratuitus*, from *gratus*

1 a: given unearned or without recompense

b: not involving a return benefit, compensation, or consideration

c: costing nothing : [FREE](#)

2: not called for by the circumstances : [UNWARRANTED](#): *gratuitous* insolence;
a *gratuitous* assumption