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Vocabulary Masterclass: Ultimate Cheat Sheet

1. Etymology & Word Roots

roots, prefixes, and suffixes allows you to decode unfamiliar words instantly.

- **Bene-** (Good/Well): *Benevolent, Benefactor*
- **Mal-** (Bad/Evil): *Malicious, Malady*
- **Chron-** (Time): *Chronological, Synchronize*
- **Phobia-** (Fear): *Claustrophobia, Xenophobia*
- **Graph-** (Write): *Autograph, Bibliography*

2. Advanced Synonyms

your writing by replacing basic terms with precise alternatives.

- **Angry:** Livid,irate, Indignant
- **Boring:** Monotonous, Tedious, Mundane
- **Clever:** Astute, Shrewd, Perspicacious

- **Doubtful:** Dubious, Skeptical, Apocryphal
- **Friendly:** Affable, Amiable, Genial

3. High-Frequency GRE/CAT Words

terms frequently tested in competitive examinations.

- **Ephemeral** (adj.): Lasting a very short time.
- **Garrulous** (adj.): Excessively talkative.
- **Iconoclast** (n.): One who attacks cherished beliefs.
- **Paucity** (n.): Scarcity; smallness of number.
- **Sycophant** (n.): A person who acts obsequiously to gain advantage.

4. Confusables (Pairs)

between commonly confused vocabulary items.

- **Affect vs. Effect:** *Affect* is a verb (to influence); *Effect* is a noun (result).
- **Compliment vs. Complement:** *Compliment* is praise; *Complement* completes something.
- **Discreet vs. Discrete:** *Discreet* means careful; *Discrete* means separate.

5. Idioms & Expressions

language for stylistic depth.

- **Bite the bullet:** To get through a difficult situation.
- **A dime a dozen:** Something common.
- **Let the cat out of the bag:** Reveal a secret.
- **Once in a blue moon:** Rarely.