ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY

Vocabulary Notes

1. gossip *n* 1) *(uncount.)* idle talk, often ill-natured, about persons or events, also what appears in newspapers about people well-known in society, *as* the gossip column, a gossip writer, e. gr. Don't believe all the

gossip you hear. 2) *(count.)* a person who is fond of talking about other people's affairs, *as* the town gossips.

**gossip** *vi* (over smth.) to talk about the affairs of others, to spread rumours, e. *g.* Aren't you ashamed of gossiping over his affairs?

1. **wind** [waind] **(wound** [waund] *vt/i* **1)** to turn round and round:  
   to wind the handle; 2) to make into a ball or twisted round shape, *as* to  
   wind wool; 3) to follow a direction in a twisting shape, *e.* g. The path winds  
   through the wood. 4) to tighten the working parts by turning, *as* to wind  
   a clock; 5) to bring or come to an end, e. *g.* It's time he could wind up (his  
   speech), **to wind someone round one's little finger** to make someone do  
   what one wants.
2. **peel** *vt/i* 1) to take off the skin, *as* to peel oranges (apples, potatoes,  
   bananas, etc.); 2) to come off in thin layer or strips, e. *g.* The skin peels off  
   the nose or face when a person gets sunburnt. The wallpaper is peel­  
   ing (off).

**peel** л the outer skin of fruit or vegetables, *as* orange peel, potato peel; **candied peel** the peel of oranges, lemons, etc., preserved and coated with sugar.

4. **scrape** *vt/i* 1) to remove (material) from a surface by pulling or  
pushing an edge firmly across it repeatedly, e. *g.* I scraped the skin off the  
vegetables. 2) to clean or make (a surface) smooth in this way, e. *g.* She  
scraped the door (down) before painting it again. He scraped his boots  
clean before coming in the house. 3) to rub roughly *(esp.* on, against):  
a chair scraping on the floor, *e. g.* He scraped his chair against the wall.

1. to hurt or damage in this way, *e. g.* He scraped his knee when he fell.
2. to succeed in a class by doing work of the lowest acceptable quality,  
   *e. g.* She just scraped through the examination, **to scrape a living** to get  
   just enough food or money to stay alive; **to scrape up** also **to scrape  
   together** to gather (a total, *esp.* of money) with difficulty by putting small  
   amounts together.

5. **steady** *adj* 1) firmly fixed, not likely to fall, *as* a steady foundation, to  
make a chair or table steady, with a steady hand, *e. g.* The chair is steady  
enough, *syn.* **firm,** *as* firm ground, foundation, steps, muscles;  
2) regular in life, work, etc.; industrious, *as* a steady person; 3) constant, *as*a steady wind (rain, growth, increase), steady progress.

**steadily** *adv* in a steady manner, e. *g.* It has been raining steadily since the morning.

**steady** *vt/i* to make or become steady, *e. g.* With an effort he steadied the boat. The boat soon steadied again.

6. **mess** л (rarely *pi.) a* state of confusion, dirt or disorder; **to be in  
a mess,** *e. g.* The room was in a mess, **to make a mess of smth.** to do it  
badly, *e. g.* You've made a mess of the job. **to get into a mess** to get into  
trouble or into a dirty state, e. *g.* You'll get into a mess if you are not  
more careful.

12

7. **crack** *vt/i* 1) to break or cause to break, in such a way, however,  
that the pieces remain together, *e. g.* A vase may crack if washed in  
boiling water. You've cracked the window. 2) to make or cause a thing to  
make a loud noise, *as* to crack a whip, e. *g.* His rifle cracked and the deer  
fell dead, **to crack a joke** *(si)* to make a somewhat rough joke, *e. g.* There  
is no one like him to crack jokes.

**crack** л an incomplete break; a sharp noise, *as* a wide (small, loud, sudden) crack, e. *g.* The walls are covered with cracks. I heard a crack as if of a branch.

8. **contribute** *vt/i* 1) to give money, supply help, etc. to a common  
cause, e. *g.* The development of friendly ties with other countries contri­  
butes to mutual understanding of their peoples. Good health contributes  
to a person's success in work. 2) to write articles or other material for  
newspapers, magazines, etc., *as* to contribute articles to a wall-newspa­  
per, to contribute a poem to a magazine.

**contribution** л the act of contributing; that which is contributed, e. g. Montmorency brought a dead water-rat as his contribution to the dinner.

9. **spirit** n 1) moral condition, tendency, *as* the spirit of the army,  
the spirit of the times (age), the spirit of the law, to take smth. in the right  
(wrong) spirit, to show a proper spirit, e. *g.* That's the right spirit! He  
found himself in conflict with the spirit of the time. 2) energy, courage,  
liveliness, e. *g.* Put a little more spirit into your work. He spoke with spirit.  
3) *pi.* mood, *as* to be in high (low) spirits, e. g. His spirits rose (fell or sank).  
**to raise smb.'s spirits; out of spirits** depressed, unhappy, e. *g.* You seem  
to be out of spirits today.

10. **taste** л 1) flavour; quality of any substance as perceived by the taste organs, e. g. The doctor prescribed her some pills with a bitter taste. I don't care for this bread, it has a very bitter taste. I dislike the taste of olives. 2) liking, e. g. You may choose any flowers to your taste here. There is no accounting for tastes. Tastes differ. 3) ability to form judge­ments in questions of beauty and manners, e. g. The room was furnished in good taste. They say she dresses in poor taste. I was ashamed of you, your jokes were in very bad taste.

**taste** *vt/i* 1) to try by eating or drinking; to recognize after taking into the mouth, e. g. There we found some strange meals and made up our minds to taste them all. Can you distinguish types of apples by tasting them? I have a bad cold and cannot taste anything. 2) to have a particular flavour, *e. g.* This orange tastes bitter. 3) to experience, e. g. There she tasted the joys of privacy.

**tasteful** *adj* showing good taste, *as* a tasteful person, work of art.

**tasteless** *adj* 1) having no taste; 2) having or showing poor taste. *Usage:* When tasteless is used of food it means "having no taste". When it is used of people, furniture, ornaments, etc., it means "having or showing bad taste", e. g. The potatoes were tasteless without salt.