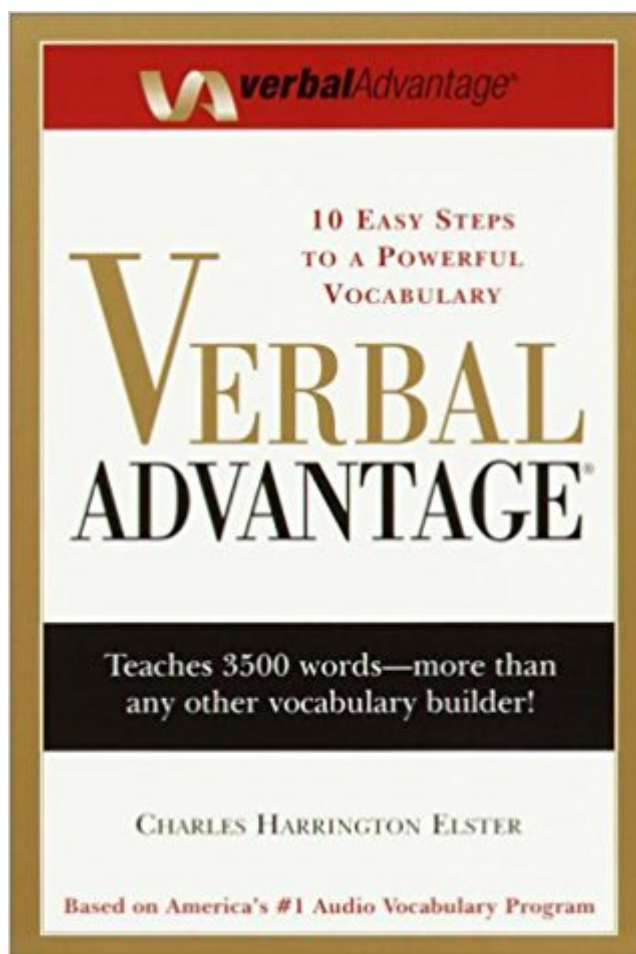


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Verbal Advantage: 10 Steps To A Powerful Vocabulary



Synopsis

First time in book form! A successful program for teaching 3,500 vocabulary words that successful people need to know, based on America's #1 bestselling audio vocabulary series. "People judge you by the words you use." Millions of Americans know this phrase from radio and print advertising for the Verbal Advantage audio series, which has sold over 100,000 copies. Now this bestselling information is available for the first time in book form, in an easy-to-follow, graduated vocabulary building program that teaches an outstanding vocabulary in just ten steps. Unlike other vocabulary books, Verbal Advantage provides a complete learning experience, with clear explanations of meanings, word histories, usages, pronunciation, and more. Far more than a cram session for a standardized test, the book is designed as a lifetime vocabulary builder, teaching a vocabulary shared by only the top percentage of Americans, with a proven method that helps the knowledge last. A 10-step vocabulary program teaches 500 key words and 3,000 synonyms. Lively, accessible writing from an expert author and radio personality.

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Customer Reviews

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CHARLES HARRINGTON ELSTER is the author of numerous books on language, including the SAT/ACT vocabulary-building novels TOOTH AND NAIL and TEST OF TIME. His latest book is THE ACCIDENTS OF STYLE: Good Advice on How Not to Write Badly. His articles have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Wall Street Journal, and other publications. Find out more at charlesharringtonelster.com.

I grew up in a few single wide trailers and had the vocabulary that you would expect. After my military career and over 10 years in the corporate world, my vocabulary increased just by association with my peer groups (even before I ever purchased Verbal Advantage). I still have many friends who I care about deeply that never left that small town I grew up in. When I communicate with them today I can't help but to think they are not as intelligent as I am. I don't want to feel that way, but it's true. If I owned a company, the chances are I would not hire them. Verbal Advantage made me realize that successful Executives probably view my current communication ability in the same regard as I view my childhood friends from the trailer parks. As much as that Executive may like me and believe I have a high aptitude, I doubt he would give me a Vice President job. There is a communication gap between executives and myself in the same way there is between myself and my old buddies. Is this fair? Probably not... But not much in life is fair. In reality however, we all play by the same rules. One of those rules is that people in a position to hire you need to be able to see you in that role before they will put you into that role. Vocabulary is one facet that will help. Two other details that you should investigate are 1) Your appearance, including your attire and physical looks and 2) The way you carry yourself. I despised vocabulary and grammar in school. For some reason Verbal Advantage is really enjoyable for me. Maybe it's because now I can see the correlation between success and vocabulary? Not sure, either way I thoroughly enjoy Verbal Advantage. I suggest getting both the audio program and this book. I've went through this entire program more than once. It's not a fast process. I never realized how many words I just glossed

over while reading or talking with others. I've reread books from a few years ago and noticed the author used many words that I had never seen until I went through VA. How did I not notice that I didn't know these words the first time I read the books? You'll be amazed at how many words you gloss over without even slowing down. Even at times when the learning curve feels slow, all of a sudden during a conversation you'll whip out a brand new word you learned weeks ago and didn't even realize you were ready to use it. It's a great feeling when you use the precise word to communicate effectively. There are no downsides to improving yourself. Success is not something you pursue; Success is something you become...

I love this book (though I doubt the author's assertions of being at the 95 percentile of all English native -speakers once reading the whole book. . Nor do I like the way in which the author's intended purpose is to present a pre-test much more difficult than the ensuing post-test). The etymology accompanying each word and word , and the lengthy disquisition about the Latin root from which each word is derived from , make a fascinating and enlightening read. Yet I think this book would be more helpful if for each word there would be an illustrative sentence showing the word used in contex (though it is sometimes done) . I recommend this book for the wordsmith ! A wonderful job !

This book is well written and fulfills my quest to have a more polished vocabulary. I am an avid reader and am always trying to learn the new words that are written into the stories, but sometimes it is fun to just sit and learn some new words in a systematic way. Between reading historical fiction and biographies, I try to study this book. I keep going back over the chapters to help me memorize the new words. The book is worth the money.

Not just a typical book of cool vocabulary words, VERBAL ADVANTAGE is a full vocabulary course in a book. Not just words, but roots, prefixes, and suffixes; this book doesn't stop at the covers, it teaches you how to learn new words not presented here. I have a very good vocabulary, but VERBAL ADVANTAGE surprised and sometimes humbled me. Highly recommended.

Any great writer, presenter, management leader, or anyone else in a position where people are looking to you for answers, YOU NEED THIS BOOK! We choose a word each day and make it a game at our house where everyone must come up with a sentence using the word. Fantastic boost up in the competitive world and one of the better vocabulary books out there. When you want the upper hand in a conversation, you'll want to have studied the night before.

This book and audio set are just great. I used to think my English is good till one day I opened up the book and found that most of the words I don't understand. Then I started a daily listening routine while walking my dog for over 2 years. 10 or 20 words a day, over and over again and gradually I understand them all. Helps a lot when reading articles and novels. Highly recommend! Its sequel, Word Workout, is great too.

This is the single best vocabulary book I've ever tried. My only negative comment would be that I think Elster is fighting a losing battle on some of his preferred pronunciations. After years of people watching Xena The Warrior Princess I'm not sure that anyone is going to go back to saying ZEN - a - phobia and not ZEEN - a - phobia. But overall a great book and if you want to buy just one vocabulary book this is the one to get.

This book is a great read and it is filled with examples to help guide you with improving your verbal skills.

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