

## Word Meanings

For each highlighted word on pages 70–71, the meaning or meanings are given below.

1. **academia** (ak-uh-DEEM-ee-uh) **n.** the field or environment of education, usually at the college level. *Academia* usually refers to life at colleges and universities, especially the lives and works of professors who teach there.  
**SYNONYMS:** school, education
2. **chapter** (CHAP-tur) **n.** a unit of a larger organization. A *chapter* of a professional group is made up of the members of that group who are located in or near a particular region of the country. **SYNONYMS:** division, unit; **n.** a portion of a book. Each *chapter* in a book tells part of the story or discusses a clearly defined subtopic of the main topic. **SYNONYM:** part, section
3. **code** (KODE) **v.** to put into a series of symbols. Someone might *code* a message so that only the receiver can understand it. **SYNONYM:** encode; **n.** a system of symbols. Computer *code* is one kind of system of symbols; other kinds include a secret *code* and the genetic *code* of DNA. **SYNONYM:** language; **n.** a set of rules or laws. A *code* of laws is usually one that is put into writing. **SYNONYMS:** rule, formula, form
4. **cosmos** (KOZ-muhss) **n.** the organization of all existing matter and space. *Cosmos* refers to everything there is. **SYNONYM:** universe
5. **empirical** (em-PIHR-i-kuhl) **adj.** based on observed facts or data. *Empirical* data include all things that can be observed and do not include things that can only be imagined or inferred. **SYNONYMS:** factual, verifiable, experimental
6. **lecture** (LEK-chur) **n.** a planned talk on a serious topic given by an expert to an audience. *Lecture* often implies instruction given to a class by a professor. **SYNONYMS:** lesson, speech; **v.** to deliver a talk to someone. *Lecture* means to give a prepared speech. **SYNONYM:** explain
7. **pulverize** (PUHL-vur-ize) **v.** to reduce to very small pieces. *Pulverize* means to turn a hard substance, such as rock, into a powder or to destroy something by smashing it. **SYNONYM:** smash, crush, grind
8. **ratio** (RAY-shee-oh) **n.** the mathematical relationship between two numbers or amounts. A *ratio* demonstrates how much bigger one amount is than another. **SYNONYM:** proportion

