

Model of Vocabulary Notebook entries

**Compelled** (p xxi) (adj). “*All it requires are [beings (who are) compelled . . . to make more of themselves (by whatever means *trial and error* **present**.]” Some creatures are compelled to improve themselves.*

*Dictionary.* to compel (verb): to force someone to do something. “Harris felt compelled to resign.” “The law will compel employers to provide health insurance.”

*My sentences.*

Active voice: The Constitution compels us to consider each individual as equal.

Passive voice: All animals are naturally compelled to reproduce. I feel compelled to tell you the truth, even though you may not want to hear it. Students are compelled to listen to their instructors’ lectures, even when they’re boring.

*(Different word forms)*

Compelling (adj) – I enjoy my history class because the teacher’s lectures are so compelling. I attend regularly because I am interested – not because I am compelled to go.

More sentences:

**Premise** (noun). (p. xvii) “My premise is [that *these human desires form* a part of natural history [in the same way (that) *the hummingbird’s love of red does*.”

(p.xxv) “... all of them [stories about nature vs. man] share a premise (that) we know to be false.”

*Dictionary.* A statement or idea that you accept as true and use as a base for developing other ideas. . . . *a false premise. . . . the premise that . . .*  
. . . like a thesis. . . . a basic idea.

*My sentences.* Some people believe that anyone can succeed in America, but others feel this is a false premise.

If you try to write an essay about an uninteresting premise, the paper probably won’t be very compelling (to readers).

More sentences:

**to appreciate** (p 16) (verb). It’s hard “to appreciate just how much the apple meant to people living two hundred years ago.” In other words,

Dictionary.

My sentences.

Other vocab for first day (work on in notebook)

**by the same token**

**domesticated**

(who typically domesticates whom? In what contexts do we talk about humans as being domesticated?)

**supposedly**