Unit #24 English for Programmers, Part I

Below is a list of the vocabulary needed to pass this unit with a good score.

argument
a value passed to a function when it is called
"Value1 and value2 are both arguments in the expression sum(value1, value2)."

array
a data structure such as a variable that holds other variables in a particular order; For example: $a = ($b, $c, $d)
"The programmer decided to store all her variables in an array so she could loop through them and perform a callback function."

attribute
a property such as order, size, or color
"The web designer could not remember the hexadecimal code for the table background cell color attribute and had to look it up."

callback
code that is passed as an argument to other code
"Programmer use callbacks in tedious situations such as asynchronous programming or running an array of values through a function designed to take a string."

for loop
a sequence of instructions set to be repeated a specified amount of times until a condition is met
"The student programmed the for loop to run until the value of "x" was greater or equal to 100."

function
a named sequence of procedural code statements that perform a certain task
"The CS student spent all night working on a function to compute the average rainfall in Alaska."

global scope
usable anywhere in a program
"The veteran programmer said using global scope variables is easier but sometimes less secure."

goto statement
an instruction in older procedural programming languages that specifies that the instruction execution is to jump to specified location, normally a line number
"The professor said that using goto statements is considered bad practice with the possible exception of breaking out of nested loops."

if/else statement
a decision making process wherein a block of code may or may not be executed based on pre-existing condition
"The professor told us the heart of the program logic was simply a long line of if/else statements."

local scope
usable only in a limited section of program text such as a function
"For security reasons the bank password variable had a local scope and was confined to a single function."

operand
a value from which an operator derives another value
""2" and "1" are examples of an operand in the equation "2 + 1 = 3". "

operator
a symbol that represents a arithmetical calculation.
"The plus sign (+) is the operator in the mathematical expression "1 + 3 = 4"."

parameter
a variable specified inside a function or subroutine definition which may set by the code which calls it
"the program returned a fatal error because a required parameter was missing."

regex (regular expression)
a string that describes or matches a set of strings, according to certain syntax rules
"Search engines use regular expressions to match many kinds of similar words, even misspelled ones."

statement
a sentence of code in a programming language, usually ending with a semi-colon
"a computer program is simply a collection of valid statements which provide a result."

string
a series of letters and/or numbers
"The teacher asked us to type a search string into the Google text box and press "enter"."

subroutine
an independent block of code, separate from the main program, which performs a specific task necessary to the program
"The Pascal software program was buggy due an incorrectly performing subroutine."

switch
a block of code or function causing a program to change its default behavior
"The programmer preferred using a switch statement to many if/else statements."

variable
a symbol used to represent data which can be changed while the program is running.
"Without variables, programs would not be able to accept user input."

while loop
a sequence of instructions set to continue until a certain expression is false
"The while loop continued until the value of "x" was greater than "y"."