BARRON’S

1100 WORDS
You Need to Know

MURRAY BROMBERG AND MELVIN GORDON

SIXTH EDITION

New in This Edition—
THE LIGHTER TOUCH 100
100 funny one-liners using words you need to know

Written Especially for—
• High school students preparing for the SAT, ACT, and other tests

A BEST SELLER FOR OVER 45 YEARS!
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• Adults who want to get more out of their reading, the Internet, movies, and TV

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PANORAMA OF WORDS
INTRODUCTION

The study of the English language has spread all over the world, and high school and college students everywhere have come to realize that language mastery depends on the possession of a comprehensive vocabulary. This is just what *1100 Words You Need to Know* has been offering through the five earlier editions and continuing on this sixth one.

We are proud that Amazon.com has rated this book as the number one best seller in its category. In addition to the various exercises that help readers learn challenging vocabulary, we have now added a section called “The Lighter Touch 100,” which shows that vocabulary can be taught with a sense of humor. By investing a mere 15 minutes with this new book, you will soon see a dramatic improvement in your vocabulary.

*Murray Bromberg*

*Melvin Gordon*
FULL PRONUNCIATION KEY

a  bat, trap  j  just, enjoy  ü  bull, pull
ä  rage, lace  k  kin, talk  ü  dual, sue
ä  jar, farther  l  lose, hurl
   m  mice, cram  v  vast, have
b  bag, sob  n  not, into  w  wish, wood
ch  chill, such  ng  song, ring  y  youth, yes
d  done, said  z  zoo, zest
   o  rot, cot  zh  pleasure, treasure
e  met, rest  ō  tow, blow
ē  ease, see  ō  cord, lord  a  stands for:
er  fern, learn  oi  toil, boil  a  in around
   ou  mouse, bout  e  in waken
f  feel, stiff  i  in cupid
g  gone, big  p  pest, cap  o  in demon
h  him, hold  r  red, art  u  in brush
   s  see, best
i  inch, pin  sh  crush, crash
ī  ivy, hive  t  time, act
   th  this, math
   ð  they, booth
Since this is an eBook, please record all your Answers separately.

* All questions contain a link to their Answers/Explanations.
NEW WORDS

voracious
və rā´ shəs

indiscriminate
in´ dis krim´ ə nit

eminent
em´ ə nənt

steeped
stēpt

replete
ri´ plēt´

WEEK 1 • DAY 1

READING WISELY

The youngster who reads voraciously, though indiscriminately, does not necessarily gain in wisdom over the teenager who is more selective in his reading choices. A young man who has read the life story of every eminent athlete of the twentieth century, or a coed who has steeped herself in every social-protest novel she can get her hands on, may very well be learning all there is to know in a very limited area. But books are replete with so many wonders that it is often discouraging to see bright young people limit their own experiences.

Sample Sentences On the basis of the above paragraph, try to use your new words in the following sentences. Occasionally it may be necessary to change the ending of a word; e.g., indiscriminate to indiscriminately.

1. The football game was __________________ with excitement and great plays.
2. The ________________ author received the Nobel Prize for literature.
3. My cousin is so ________________ in schoolwork that his friends call him a bookworm.
4. After skiing, I find that I have a ________________ appetite.
5. Modern warfare often results in the ________________ killing of combatants and innocent civilians alike.

Definitions Now that you have seen and used the new words in sentences, and have the
definitions “on the tip of your tongue,” try to pair the words with their meanings.

6. voracious  a. of high reputation, outstanding
7. indiscriminate  b. completely filled or supplied with
8. eminent  c. choosing at random without careful selection
9. steeped  d. desiring or consuming great quantities
10. replete  e. soaked, drenched, saturated

**Today’s Idiom**

_to eat humble pie_— _to admit your error and apologize_

After his candidate had lost the election, the boastful campaign manager had _to eat humble pie._
SOLVING THE SERVANT PROBLEM

The worlds of science-fiction abound with wonders. Yet modern technology progresses so rapidly that what may be today’s wild dream may be next year’s kitchen appliance. A British scientist has prognosticated that within ten years every suburban matron will have her own robot servant. One task this domesticated automaton will not have to contend with will be scouring the oven because even today the newest ranges can be “programmed” to reduce their own baked-on grime to easily disposed of ashes.

Sample Sentences Now that you’ve seen the words used in context, and—hopefully—have an idea of their meanings, try to use them in the following sentences. Remember that a word-ending may have to be changed.

1. The mayor refused to __________ as to his margin of victory in the election.
2. The time is approaching when human workers may be replaced by __________.
3. A clever salesman will always ask a __________ if her mother is at home.
4. The western plains used to __________ with bison before those animals were slaughtered by settlers.
5. Man may be freed from backbreaking labor by the products of scientific __________.

Definitions Test yourself now by matching the new words with the definitions. If you are not
sure of yourself, cover the top half of this page before you begin.

6. abound
7. technology
8. prognosticate
9. automaton
10. matron

a. an older married woman
b. branch of knowledge dealing with engineering, applied science, etc.
c. a robot; a mechanical “person”
d. to exist in great numbers
e. to predict or foretell a future event

**Today’s Idiom**

*a pig in a poke*—an item you purchase without having seen; a disappointment

The mail order bicycle that my nephew bought turned out to be a *pig in a poke*, and he is now trying to get his money back.
New Words

paradox
parˊə doks

realm
relm

annals
anˊ nəlz

compound
kom poundˊ

tinge
tijn

Week 1 ♦ Day 3

It’s a Man’s World

How paradoxical that the world’s greatest chefs have all been men! Cooking would clearly seem to be a field that lies exclusively within women’s realm, yet the annals of cookery are replete* with masculine names: Brillat Savarin, Ritz, Diat, Larousse. To compound the puzzle, there has rarely been a tinge of rumor or scandal casting doubts on the masculinity of these heroes of cuisine.

(*replete—if you’ve forgotten the meaning, click here)

Sample Sentences Try your hand now at using your new words by writing them in their correct form (change endings if necessary) in these sentences:

1. His gloom was now ______________ by the failing mark on his geometry test.

2. The ______________ of sports are replete* with the names of great black athletes.

3. One of the great ______________ of American life is that though minority groups have suffered injustices, nowhere in the world have so many varied groups lived together so harmoniously.

4. A ______________ of garlic is all that’s necessary in most recipes.

5. The cruel king would not allow the prince to enter his ______________ , restricting him to the forest, which abounded* with wild animals.

(*abounded—studied previously, click here)
**Definitions** If you are having trouble in picking the right definitions, it may be best *not* to do them in the order given, but to do the ones you are surest of first.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. paradox</strong></td>
<td><strong>a.</strong> a trace, smattering, or slight degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. realm</strong></td>
<td><strong>b.</strong> a statement that at first seems to be absurd or self-contradictory but which may in fact turn out to be true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. annals</strong></td>
<td><strong>c.</strong> to increase or add to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9. compound (v.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>d.</strong> historical records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10. tinge (n.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>e.</strong> special field of something or someone; kingdom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*a flash in the pan*—promising at the start but then disappointing

The rookie hit many home runs in spring training, but once the season began he proved to be *a flash in the pan.*
**NEW WORDS**

**badger**
baj´ər

**implore**
im plôr´

**drudgery**
druj´ər é

**interminable**
in ter´mənəbəl

**perceive**
pər sēv´

**WEEK 1 ✶ DAY 4**

**HOW NOT TO GET YOUR WAY**

It is difficult to change someone’s opinion by badgering him. The child who begs his mother to “get off his back” when she implores him for some assistance with the household drudgery, may very well plead interminably for some special privilege when he wants something for himself. How paradoxical* that neither is able to perceive that no one likes being nagged.

(*paradoxical—studied previously, click here)

**Sample Sentences** Getting the hang of it? Now go on to use the five new words in the following sentences—remember, past tenses may be required.

1. She does her homework on Fridays to save herself from the ______________ of having to do it during the weekend.
2. The teacher continually ______________ the pupil for the missing assignments.
3. The eminent scientist ______________ difficulties in putting the invention into practice.
4. The sick child’s mother ______________ the doctor to come immediately.
5. I listened to the boring lecture for what seemed an ______________ fifty minutes.

**Definitions** Pick the letter of the definition that matches your new word.
6. badger (v.)  a. unpleasant, dull, or hard work
7. implore  b. unending
8. drudgery  c. to plead urgently for aid or mercy
9. interminable  d. to understand, know, become aware of
10. perceive  e. to pester, nag, annoy persistently

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

to pour oil on troubled waters— to make peace, to calm someone down

When I tried to pour oil on troubled waters, both the angry husband and his wife stopped their quarrel and began to attack me.
WEEK 1 • DAY 5

REVIEW

You have accomplished something worthwhile this week. In learning twenty useful words and four idioms, you have taken a step toward a greater mastery of our language. As a result of today’s lesson, you will become aware of those words that require greater study on your part for complete success in these first lessons.

Take the following quiz by matching the best possible definition with the word you have studied. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. abound
2. annals
3. automaton
4. badger
5. compound
6. drudgery
7. eminent
8. implore
9. indiscriminate
10. interminable
11. matron
12. paradox
13. perceive
14. prognosticate
15. realm
16. replete
17. steeped
18. technology
19. tinge
20. voracious

**DEFINITIONS**

a. to be completely soaked in something
b. to be able to tell what will happen in the future
c. someone’s special field
d. to continually nag
e. carelessly chosen
f. related to science of engineering
g. to add to
h. beg for assistance
i. of outstanding reputation
j. a mature woman
k. small amount of
l. dull, difficult work
m. desiring huge amount
n. existing in great number
o. historical records
p. to come to have an understanding of
q. completely filled with
r. machine that behaves like a person
s. seemingly self-contradictory situation
t. unending

**IDIOMS**

21. to eat humble pie
22. a pig in a poke

u. a blind item; poor purchase
v. admit to defeat
23. a flash in the pan  w. a star today, a flop tomorrow
24. to pour oil on troubled waters  x. to try to make peace

Make a record of those words you missed. You can learn them successfully by studying them and by using them in your own original sentences. If you neglect them, then the effort you have put into your vocabulary building campaign up to this point will have been wasted.

*For reference only*

**WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

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</table>
SENSIBLE SENTENCES?
(From Week 1)

Choose the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. The huge football player had a (voracious, replete) appetite.
2. After a seemingly (interminable, indiscriminate) wait, the surgeon came to give us the news.
3. Without a (paradox, tinge) of evidence, the coroner could not solve the murder.
4. In the (realm, annals) of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.
5. We invited the (eminent, steeped) engineer to address our club.
6. In the Catskill Mountains, the woods (abound, implore) with deer.
7. I cannot (perceive, prognosticate) why people voted for the corrupt senator.
8. Night and day my kid brother (badgers, compounds) me for money.
10. With his expertise in (drudgery, technology), my uncle is able to earn a good salary.

Do these sentences make sense? Explain why.

11. The rookie was amazing during spring training but he turned out to be a flash in the pan.
12. I complained to the salesperson because he had sold me a pig in a poke.
13. When I tried to pour oil on troubled waters, I only made matters worse.
14. After the election, when my candidate conceded his loss, I had to eat humble pie.
WORDSEARCH 1

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 1st Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 4th Day

Reggie the Con Man

In the ①________ of crime, there are few scoundrels who could match the exploits of Reggie Hayes, who also used the names of Reginald Haven, Ricardo Hermosa, Father Harris, and dozens of other aliases. Reggie’s police record, principally in Chicago and Baltimore, is ②________ with scams that he perpetrated upon gullible people. Generally, his favorite target was a ⑤________ who should have known better.

Dressed as a priest (“Father Harris”), he was most convincing, however. His method of operation was to “find” a wallet stuffed with hundred dollar bills outside a supermarket and then ④________ an unsuspecting woman to share his good fortune, since there was no identification in the wallet. But first, to establish her credibility, his victim had to put up a sum of money as a testimonial to her good faith. Mrs. Emma Schultz, age 72, tearfully told the police that she had withdrawn $14,000 from her bank and placed it in a shopping bag supplied by the helpful priest. He told her to hold onto the bag while he went next door to a lawyer’s office to make the sharing of their good fortune legal.

After a seemingly ⑤________ wait, Mrs. Schultz discovered to her chagrin that the heartless thief had skipped out the back way, leaving her “holding the bag”—a switched bag containing shredded newspaper—while he made his getaway with her life savings.
New Words

laconic
la konˈ ik

throng
thrông

intrepid
in trepˈ id

accost
ə kôstˈ

reticent
retˈ a sənt

WEEK 2 • DAY 1

TO THE POINT

Calvin Coolidge, our thirtieth president, was named “Silent Cal” by reporters because of his laconic speech. One Sunday, after Mr. Coolidge had listened to an interminable* sermon, a throng of newsmen gathered around him. An intrepid reporter accosted the Chief Executive: “Mr. President, we know that the sermon was on the topic of sin. What did the minister say?” “He was against it,” the reticent Coolidge replied.

(*interminable—click here.)

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences:

1. His speech was usually rambling, but this time I found it brief and ________________ .
2. If a surly panhandler should ________________ you, keep on walking.
3. Even under repeated questioning, the witness remained ________________ .
4. A howling ________________ of teenage girls surrounded the rap artists.
5. The corporal received the Silver Star for his ________________ deeds in combat.

Definitions Match the new words with their dictionary meanings.

6. laconic   a. expressing much in few words
7. throng    b. brave
TODAY'S IDiom

the sword of Damocles—any imminent danger (a king seated one of his subjects underneath a sword that was hanging by a hair, in order to teach him the dangers a king faces)

Although the president of the company seemed quite secure, he always complained that there was a sword of Damocles hanging over his head.
New Words

furtive
fərˈtiv

felon
felˈən

plethora
pleθə rə

hapless
hapˈlis

irate
əˈræt or ə rætˈ

Week 2 • Day 2

If I Had The Wings Of An Angel

Casting a furtive glance over his shoulder, the felon slipped out the main prison gate to be swallowed up in the British fog. A plethora of escapes from supposedly secure prisons embarrassed the hapless wardens. To compound* their problems, the officials were badgered* by irate citizens who accused the guards of accepting bribes from convicts whose motto was: “Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage.”

(*compound—click here; *badgered—click here)

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The __________________ contest winner was unable to locate the lucky ticket.
2. My uncle was _______________ when the drunken driver swerved in front of us.
3. In a ______________ manner she removed her shoes and tiptoed up to her room.
4. When the teacher asked why the homework had not been done, he was greeted by a ______________ of incredible alibis.
5. Since the boss learned that Bob associated with a known ______________, he fired him.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
**Today’s Idiom**

*Pyrrhic victory*—a too costly victory (King Pyrrhus defeated the Romans but his losses were extremely heavy)

In heavy fighting the troops managed to recapture the hill, but it could only be considered a *Pyrrhic victory*. 
Week 2 • Day 3

Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde?

Under the pretext of being a surgeon he gained entry to the hospital. When interviewed by the director, he had to fabricate a tale of his medical experience, but he was so adroit at lying that he got away with it. It was not until the phony “doctor” began to gesticulate wildly with his scalpel, that a vigilant nurse was able to detect the fraud. In the annals of medical history there have been a number of such cases.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The shootings at Columbine High School made educators much more ________________
2. My nephew is quite ________________ at making model airplanes.
3. Most fishermen can ________________ a story about the size of the one that got away.
4. Her ________________ of being tired did not fool us for an instant.
5. I often marvel as I watch the traffic officer ________________ at the onrushing cars.

Definitions Pick the letter of the definition that matches your new word.

6. pretext a. to lie; to construct
7. fabricate b. skillful
8. adroit  
9. gesticulate  
10. vigilant

c. an excuse  
d. watchful  
e. move the arms energetically

**TODAY’S PROM**

*a wet blanket—one who spoils the fun*

Everyone wanted the party to go on, but Ronnie, *the wet blanket*, decided to go home to bed.
YOU’VE GOT TO BE A FOOTBALL EXPERT
As an avid football fan, I try to see every game the Jets play. Whenever I can cajole my father into accompanying me, I try to do so. He has only a rudimentary knowledge of the game, and since I am steeped* in it, I enjoy explaining its intricate details to him. It certainly does enhance your appreciation of football when you are aware of every nuance of the sport.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences. You may have to change the ending of a word.

1. Since my grasp of algebra is ________________, I cannot solve the problem.
2. The parakeet refused to be ________________ into entering her cage.
3. It will ________________ your enjoyment of an opera if you know what the plot is about in advance.
4. In reading the satires of Jonathan Swift, one must be vigilant* in order to catch each ________________.
5. Bill Clinton is an ________________ student of the social media and is listed on Facebook.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6.avid  a. eager
7. cajole  
8. rudimentary  
9. enhance  
10. nuance  

b. slight variation in meaning, tone, etc.  
c. coax  
d. intensify, heighten  
e. elementary

**Today's Idiom**

to beard the lion in his den—to visit and oppose a person on his own grounds

Having decided to beard the lion, I stormed into the manager’s office to ask for a raise.
**WEEK 2 ♦ DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Keep adding to your vocabulary, as it is one of the most useful tools a student can possess. Let’s go over the twenty new words and four idioms you studied during this week.

In the following quiz, match the best possible definition with the word you have studied.

*Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. accost</td>
<td>a. uncommunicative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. adroit</td>
<td>b. enthusiastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. avid</td>
<td>c. alert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. cajole</td>
<td>d. overabundance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. enhance</td>
<td>e. courageous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. fabricate</td>
<td>f. to greet first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. felon</td>
<td>g. an excuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. furtive</td>
<td>h. unlucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. gesticulate</td>
<td>i. angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. hapless</td>
<td>j. criminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. intrepid</td>
<td>k. basic, elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. irate</td>
<td>l. clever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. laconic</td>
<td>m. to make up a lie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. nuance</td>
<td>n. great number of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. plethora</td>
<td>o. concise, pithy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. pretext</td>
<td>p. to use lively gestures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. reticent</td>
<td>q. shade of difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. rudimentary</td>
<td>r. sly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. throng</td>
<td>s. coax, wheedle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. vigilant</td>
<td>t. to make greater</td>
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</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. the sword of Damocles</td>
<td>u. an expensive conquest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Pyrrhic victory</td>
<td>v. spoilsport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. a wet blanket</td>
<td>w. defy an opponent in his home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to beard the lion  x.  any threatening danger

Make a record of those words you missed. You can learn them successfully by studying them and using them in your own original sentences. If you neglect them, then the effort you have expended in building up your vocabulary may be wasted.

*For reference only

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<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ______________________</td>
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<td>2. ______________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. ______________________</td>
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</table>
The Best Laid Plans

Gloria Rogers overslept and then had to sprint to catch the same Greyhound Bus that she boarded on the last Thursday of every month. After a three-hour uneventful ride, she finally arrived at the bus terminal where a courtesy van was ready to transport bus passengers to Visitors Day at the State Penitentiary.

Although Gloria tried to act casual, she was more than a little nervous. Her boyfriend, Art, a convicted ______, had managed to gain admittance to the prison’s hospital on the ______ of having a gall bladder attack. Under her own slacks and bulky sweater, Gloria was wearing a set of clothes that she removed in the hospital bathroom and passed on to Art. He planned to use them after making his escape in the back of the prison ambulance that was parked outside his ward.

Art had spelled out his escape plan during Gloria’s last visit, spending an hour trying to ______ her into being his accomplice. All that she had to do was appear to have a seizure. Then she would ______ a story about her epilepsy while Art, with the smuggled clothes concealed under his prison bathrobe, would slip out of the ward during the excitement. Unfortunately for the schemers, a ______ hospital guard spotted Art climbing into the rear of the ambulance and quickly foiled the escape attempt. The result was that Art had three years added to his sentence and Gloria was imprisoned for her role in the misadventure.
THE PEP TALK

“If there’s one thing I loathe,” the coach said, “it’s a quitter.” He had good reason to reprimand us at half-time, because the scoreboard revealed that we were losing, 45–20. Our lackluster performance indicated to him that we had forgotten the rudimentary* aspects of basketball. His caustic remarks fired us up, however, and we dashed out, determined to wrest control of the game from our rivals.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. With the help of his brothers he was able to ________________ the leadership of the company from his partner.
2. Speaking in a monotone, the politician was booed for his ________________ address.
3. In a ________________ article, the drama critic slaughtered the hapless* actors.
4. I ________________ spinach but I love other green vegetables.
5. When Ed arrived late, he knew that the grocer would ________________ him.

Definitions Match the new words with their dictionary definitions.

6. loathe  a. dull
7. reprimand (v.) b. to hate
8. lackluster  
9. caustic  
10. wrest  

c. sarcastic, biting  
d. take by force  
e. to show sharp disapproval

**TODAY’S IDiom**

crocodile tears—in sincere tears  
(crocodiles were said to cry while eating their prey)

When the football player broke his leg, his substitute wept *crocodile tears*. 
**NEW WORDS**

- **infamous**
  
in´ fə məs

- **jostle**
  
jos´ əl

- **dupe**
  
düp

- **incipient**
  
in sip´ ē ənt

- **inadvertent**
  
in ad vërt´ nt

**WEEK 3 • DAY 2**

**THE HANDCUFF IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE**

Slippery Eddie, the *infamous* pickpocket, was back at work, and every detective had to be especially vigilant.* Eddie’s technique was to *jostle* a victim toward a confederate who would then slip the man’s wallet out of his back pocket while Eddie was stammering an apology to the confused *dupe*. Within a week the *incipient* crimewave came to an end when Slippery Eddie *inadvertently* chose the chief of police for his victim. Although Eddie loathes* Sing Sing, it’s his permanent address now.

**Sample Sentences** Can you put the new words in the right sentences?

1. By telling the truth, we stopped the ____________ rumor from spreading.
2. The bombing of Pearl Harbor was referred to as an ____________ deed.
3. The wealthy ____________ consented to buy the often-sold Brooklyn Bridge.
4. When he attempted to ____________ the old lady, she struck him with her umbrella.
5. Through an ____________ error, the guided missile sped out of control.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. **infamous**
   
a. having a bad reputation

7. **jostle**
   
b. just beginning to exist
8. dupe (n.)
9. incipient
10. inadvertent

c. to shove hard
d. a person easily tricked
e. heedless, not attentive

**Today’s IDiom**

to carry the day—to win the approval of the majority

The secretary’s motion that we adjourn for lunch *carried the day*, and we headed for the restaurant
There was an ominous silence when the jittery defendant rose in court. He explained in a tremulous voice what had led him to repudiate his confession made at the police station on the night of the crime. The audience began to buzz excitedly until the judge demanded a cessation of the noise. Although the district attorney bristled with anger, the defendant kept insisting that his rights had been violated because he had not been told that he could see a lawyer before confessing.

Sample Sentences In which blanks do the new word belong?

1. After the weatherman had seen the ____________ clouds, he prognosticated* rain.
2. The general attempted to ____________ the testimony of the lieutenant, claiming that the young officer was not an authority on low level bombing.
3. Upon seeing the snake, the cat began to ____________ with fear.
4. The widow’s ____________ hands revealed her nervousness.
5. The ____________ of the bombing in Iraq was urged by the United Nations.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. ominous a. a stopping
Today’s Idiom

_Skid Row_—disreputable part of town, inhabited by derelicts and people “on the skid”

The presence of so many bars has turned our neighborhood into another _Skid Row._
**NEW WORDS**

**euphemism**
yü´fəmizəm

**mundane**
mun´dān

**incongruous**
in kong´grūəs

**condolence**
kən dō´ləns

**stipulate**
stip´ū lāt

**WEEK 3 • DAY 4**

**CALL ME BY MY RIGHT NAME**

My cousin refers to himself as a “sanitary engineer”—a **euphemism** for garbage collector. There are any number of people who try to find more respectable or glamorous titles for the **mundane** jobs they hold. It may seem **incongruous** to call an undertaker a “**condolence** counselor,” or to refer to a taxi driver as a “transportation expeditor,” but some prefer those titles. As a matter of fact, our butcher has **stipulated** that from now on he wants to be known as a “meat coordinator.” He became irate* when I inadvertently* called him “Butch.”

**Sample Sentences** In which blanks do the new words belong?

1. We repudiated* the contract because it did not ____________ a cost of living bonus.
2. The word “expired” is a ____________ for “died.”
3. When my neighbor’s dog was run over, we sent a ____________ card.
4. The philosopher dealt with spiritual things, ignoring the ____________ ones.
5. The play was so _______________ that it seemed to be the work of several authors.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. **euphemism**  a. worldly
7. mundane  b. a less offensive term
8. incongruous  c. to specify a condition
9. condolence  d. inappropriate
10. stipulate  e. pity

**TODAY’S IDiom**

to go up in smoke— to come to no practical result
( kindling smokes but it will not light a fire)

The mayor’s plans to get the gubernatorial nomination went up in smoke when he couldn’t end the costly strike.
WEEK 3 ♦ DAY 5
REVIEW

The word “review” means “to view again” and that is the purpose of our weekly review. You will have noticed, of course, that many of the words that appear as new words are repeated in subsequent lessons. Sometimes they are in the paragraph, sometimes in the sample sentences, and occasionally in the idioms or directions. This continued emphasis on “viewing again” will help you to become familiar with the vocabulary.

In the following quiz, match the best possible definition with the word you have studied.
*Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. bristle</td>
<td>a. despise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. caustic</td>
<td>b. menacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. cessation</td>
<td>c. evil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. condolence</td>
<td>d. a pause</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. dupe</td>
<td>e. just starting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. euphemism</td>
<td>f. trembling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. inadvertent</td>
<td>g. to have one’s hair stand up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. incipient</td>
<td>h. stinging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. incongruous</td>
<td>i. earthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. infamous</td>
<td>j. due to an oversight, negligent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. jostle</td>
<td>k. make a specific demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. lackluster</td>
<td>l. to push, to elbow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. loathe</td>
<td>m. an easily fooled person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. mundane</td>
<td>n. expression of sympathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. ominous</td>
<td>o. to scold severely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. reprimand</td>
<td>p. seize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. repudiate</td>
<td>q. having inconsistent elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. stipulate</td>
<td>r. disown, refuse to accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. tremulous</td>
<td>s. lacking brightness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. wrest</td>
<td>t. saying something in a less direct way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDIOMS

21. crocodile tears | u. run down district
22. to carry the day  v.  hypocritical sympathy
23. Skid Row  w.  to win the honors
24. to go up in smoke  x.  end fruitlessly

Make a record of those words you missed. You can learn them successfully by studying them and using them regularly in speech and in your writing.

*For reference only*

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>2. ______________________</td>
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<td>3. ______________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 3

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 1st Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 1st Day

Desert Storm Decision

In the 1991 Persian Gulf War, where the United Nations forces, led by Americans, ousted the invading Iraqi army from Kuwait’s soil, the ① of combat took place in short order after the Allies were able to ② control of the skies from the ③ Saddam Hussein’s air force.

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. field commander, tended to ④ when asked by the media why he hadn’t pursued the enemy all the way to Baghdad, saying:

“It would have been foolhardy for us to try to occupy that capital city and pile up American casualties from sniper attacks by Iraq’s guerillas. That may be hard for you Monday morning quarterbacks to understand but I thoroughly agreed with the president who was convinced that such an action would have sent a bad message to the Arab world and would have splintered the Allied partnership.”

Schwarzkopf reiterated that it was his mission to hurl back the invaders with a minimum of bloodshed but not, he added in a ⑤ tone, “to splatter Saddam over the desert sands. That dictator’s days are numbered,” the general concluded, “but I expect his end is likely to come at the hands of his own people.”
**New Words**

*alacrity*  
ə læk´rē tē  
*disdain*  
disdān´  
*belligerent*  
ˈbə lĭj´ər ənt  
*intimidate*  
in tim´ə dāt  
*feint*  
fānt  

**WEEK 4 • DAY 1**

**MULLINS A K.O. VICTIM**

When the bell sounded, K.O. Mullins responded with *alacrity*. He sprang from his stool and charged across the ring, showing *disdain* for the champion’s strength. Although this *belligerent* attitude impressed the referee, it failed to *intimidate* the champ. That intrepid* battler laid the hapless* Mullins low with an adroit* *feint* and an uppercut.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Y2K concerns of the problems with computers failed to __________ our company.
2. The Germans were duped* by the Allies’ __________ toward the south, leaving the way open for the Normandy invasion.
3. The waiter moved with __________ because he perceived* they were big tippers.
4. His __________ manner caused him to lose one friend after another.
5. When the curtain came down, the critic’s face registered the __________ she felt for the lackluster* play.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.
6. alacrity  a. contempt
7. disdain (n.)  b. a false attack
8. belligerent  c. warlike
9. intimidate  d. to overawe
10. feint  e. briskness, lively action

TODAY’S IDIOM

to throw down the gauntlet—to challenge someone
(when the gauntlet, or medieval glove, was thrown down, the challenged one was required to pick it up)

The principal of our rival school threw down the gauntlet, and we had no choice but to accept the challenge.
**New Words**

**pugnacious**  
puhɡˈnəshəs

**promulgate**  
prəˈməlɡət

**brash**  
brash

**scoff**  
skof

**belittle**  
bəˈlitəl

**Week 4 • Day 2**

**MULLINS THROWS DOWN THE GAUNTLET**

The pugnacious K.O. Mullins demanded a rematch. He took a full-page newspaper advertisement to promulgate his challenge. When the champ’s manager saw the brash announcement, he accosted Mullins, who was surrounded by a throng of newsmen. The manager openly scoffed at Mullins and belittled his fighting ability. Mullins then lost his temper and fearlessly punched the manager, knocking him off of his crutches.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. We implored the faculty advisor to ______________ the requirements for the presidency of the club.
2. My mother liked the salesman’s ______________ personality, but he irritated most people.
3. I don’t understand modern art, but I neither loathe nor ______________ at it.
4. Since everyone can outpunch my cousin, he cannot afford to be ______________.
5. Although Ralph can’t play, he doesn’t hesitate to ______________ the efforts of our football team.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td><strong>pugnacious</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td><strong>promulgate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td><strong>brash</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td><strong>scuff</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td><strong>belittle</strong></td>
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<p>| | |</p>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>quarrelsome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>to make seem less important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>to sneer at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>impudent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>to make known officially</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TODAY’S IDiom**

*feeling no pain—drunk*

Although the party had just begun, after his first drink he was *feeling no pain.*
**NEW WORDS**

**tangible**
tanˈ ə bəl

**laceration**
las ə rɑ´ ʃən

**castigate**
kas´ tə ɡāt

**sordid**
sôr´ did

**octogenarian**
ok´ ə jə när´ i ən

**WEEK 4 ▶ DAY 3**

**MULLINS FORCED TO EAT HUMBLE PIE***

The irate* 80-year-old manager pressed charges against K.O. Mullins, suing him for assault. As tangible evidence of the attack, he pointed to a deep laceration over his eyebrow that had required ten stitches. When the case was brought before the court, the judge castigated Mullins for the sordid incident. In addition to a costly financial settlement, Mullins was required to make a public apology to the octogenarian.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The medic reached into his kit to find a bandage for the ugly ________________.
2. Mr. Dixon belittled* our request for ________________ proof of his loyalty.
3. The kindly foreman was too reticent* to openly ________________ the clumsy new worker.
4. When the teenager announced her engagement to the ________________, the public suspected it to be a publicity stunt.
5. Stories of their ________________ youth poured forth from the unhappy felons.*

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. tangible a. having actual form
Today's Idiom

*Hobson's choice*—to have no choice at all (Mr. Hobson owned a livery stable but he did not allow the customers to pick their own horses)

Despite all the talk about democracy in my family, my father usually gives the rest of us *Hobson's choice.*
NEW WORDS

solace
sol´is

aspirant
əspī´rənt

dregs
dregz

frenzy
fren´zē

scurrilous
skĕr´ə lĕs

WEEK 4 ♦ DAY 4

THE DECLINE OF MULLINS

Mullins sought solace in whiskey. Once a highly respected aspirant for the lightweight crown, he now found himself associating with the dregs of Skid Row.* He would work himself into an alcoholic frenzy in which he would trumpet scurrilous attacks on the champ, the old manager, and the judge. One avid* fight fan attributed Mullins’ absence from the ring to sickness, saying that he was “recovering from a bad case of—SCOTCH.”

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Vigilant* censors protect the public from listening to ________________ language on television.
2. The publisher scoffed* at the reports that he was an ________________ for the job of Secretary of State.
3. In a ________________ , the teenager overturned every drawer while searching for the car keys.
4. At the bottom of the beautiful wine bottle, only the ________________ remained.
5. In trying to offer ________________ to the deceased’s wife, the reporter inadvertently* made the situation worse.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
6. solace  
   a. most worthless part
7. aspirant  
   b. coarse
8. dregs  
   c. easing of grief
9. frenzy  
   d. wild fit
10. scurrilous  
   e. candidate for high position

**Today’s Idiom**

_to rule the roost_—to be in charge, to be master
(a roost is a perch where domestic birds can sleep)

Although he is a lowly private in the army, at home he _rules the roost._
**WEEK 4 ♦ DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Let's see how many of the new words studied during the course of this week you remember. Incidentally, try to keep a record of the many times you find your new words in magazines, newspapers, and books. Before you knew the meanings of those words you probably skipped right over them.

In the following quiz, match the best possible definition with the word you have studied. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.*

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<td>a. scorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. aspirant</td>
<td>b. to make afraid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. belligerent</td>
<td>c. frantic outburst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. belittle</td>
<td>d. person of eighty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. brash</td>
<td>e. to mock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. castigate</td>
<td>f. make public, proclaim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. disdain</td>
<td>g. pretense, sham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. dregs</td>
<td>h. combative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. feint</td>
<td>i. candidate for better job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. frenzy</td>
<td>j. seeking war, hostile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. intimidate</td>
<td>k. speak of as unimportant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. laceration</td>
<td>l. vulgar, using indecent language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. octogenarian</td>
<td>m. insolent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. promulgate</td>
<td>n. punish, chastise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. pugnacious</td>
<td>o. comfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. scoff</td>
<td>p. most worthless part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. scurrilous</td>
<td>q. able to be touched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. solace</td>
<td>r. rough cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. sordid</td>
<td>s. filthy, ignoble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. tangible</td>
<td>t. quick willingness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

| 21. to throw down the gauntlet | u. be the boss, lay down the laws |
| 22. feeling no pain            | v. under the influence of alcohol |
23. Hobson’s choice  

24. to rule the roost

w. to offer a challenge

x. to have no say in a matter

Make a record of those words you missed. You can master them with additional review.

*For reference only

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<tr>
<td>3. ____________________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SENSIBLE SENTENCES?
(From Week 4)

Choose the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. We were impressed with the new maid because she cleaned the house with (alacrity, solace).
2. All (aspirants, lacerations) for the basketball team must come to practice today.
3. Once he was a millionaire, but today he can be found among the (dregs, octogenarians) of society.
4. The newspaper specialized in printing the (sordid, brash) details of crime in the city.
5. After finding the (pugnacious, tangible) evidence in his drawer, Roger took it to the police.
6. The normally (scurrilous, belligerent) police dog was unusually quiet this morning.
7. Bobby, who was extremely modest, always (belittled, castigated) his own achievements.
8. Treated with (frenzy, disdain) by his stepfather, Artie grew closer to his natural father.
9. When the results of the bar exam were (intimidated, promulgated) Adele saw that she had passed handsomely.
10. I used to (scoff, feint) at Hank’s stories of the fish he had caught, but he made a believer out of me.
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this
week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 3rd Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 4th Day

Want to Run for Office?
In recent years, we have seen the phenomenon of incumbent politicians retiring in record
numbers. When interviewed, many of them admitted that they had lost their taste for the job
because of the abuse to which an①______ for office is subjected.

“My last campaign was a②______ affair in which my opponents did everything to③______
my record and air④______ charges about my private life,” said one congressman. “I don’t
have to stand still for such treatment,” he added, “which was terribly embarrassing to me and
my entire family.”

Citizen groups, appalled by the candidates’ mudslinging, have sought to do something about
the situation. Committees have been formed in a number of states to study ways to elevate the
tone of the process, reduce the emotionalism, and eliminate the⑤______ of name calling that
is generated as election day draws near.

“Unless we clean up this mess,” said the chairman of an Illinois caucus, “we will lose the best
and the brightest from the political arena. After all, who but a masochist wants to be a
punching bag, the subject of daily vilification in the media, and a target for every malcontent
in town?”
CHEATING

During my first weeks at the new school I observed that cheating was rampant. I had always considered it rather inane to cheat on a test because of my code of ethics, and because so much was at stake. Apparently the other students didn’t concur. In fact, even the presence of a proctor did not intimidate* them. Far from being a clandestine activity, the cheating was open and obvious.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. When the plague was ____________ on the island, Dr. Arrowsmith’s wife died.
2. The spies thought their meeting was a ______________ one, but a throng* of F.B.I. agents gathered outside the building.
3. A special management committee was asked to investigate business ______________.
4. Orville Wright was criticized for his ______________ desire to fly.
5. If I can get my parents to ______________, I’ll join the Peace Corps.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. rampant a. secret, undercover
7. inane b. code of principles


*Today’s Idiom*

*stock in trade*—the goods, tools, and other requisites of a profession

A quick wit and a warm smile were the salesman’s *stock in trade.*
**NEW WORDS**

flagrant
flā´grant

admonish
ad mon´ish

duress
də res´

culprit
kul´prit

inexorable
in ek´sər a bal

**WEEK 5 • DAY 2**

CRACKING DOWN

Mr. Dorsey, our new principal, determined to do something about the *flagrant* cheating at our high school. He issued bulletins and began to *admonish* those teachers who did not proctor alertly. Under *duress*, the faculty reported the names of the *culprits*. Several crib sheets were turned in as tangible* evidence of the cheating. Mr. Dorsey’s *inexorable* campaign against the wrong-doers seemed to be paying off.

**Sample Sentences** Into which sentences do the new words fit best?

1. The ________________ was caught with his fingers in the cookie jar.
2. Television sleuths are ________________ in their pursuit of lawbreakers.
3. The confession was signed under ________________, the attorney claimed.
4. I suspect that my father will ________________ me for coming home late.
5. Parking in front of a hydrant is a ________________ violation of the city’s law.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. flagrant a. inflexible, unrelenting
7. admonish b. compulsion, force
8. duress c. outrageous, glaringly bad
9. culprit
d. the guilty person

10. inexorable
e. to warn, to reprove

**Today's Idiom**

*to take down a peg*—to take the conceit out of a braggart
(ship’s colors used to be raised or lowered by pegs— the higher the colors, the greater the honor)

The alumni thought they had a great basketball team, but our varsity *took them down a peg.*
The cheating scandal came to a head when Art Krause, our football captain, made the egregious mistake of getting caught cheating on a midterm exam. If Art were suspended for his part in that sordid affair, our chances for winning the city championship would go up in smoke.* The distraught coach asked the principal to overlook Art’s duplicity, but Mr. Dorsey replied in an acrimonious fashion that the players had been given “a plethora”* of athletic instruction but a paucity of moral guidance.”

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The bank teller’s _____________ error was difficult to correct.
2. We tried to ignore her _____________ comments, but that took considerable restraint.
3. ________________ is the stock in trade of all adroit* counterspies.
4. Although it was a creative writing class, the teacher complained about the ________________ of talent there.
5. The soldiers were ________________ to learn that their furloughs had been canceled.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. *egregious*  a. scarcity
To pass the buck—to evade responsibility

(to the “buck” may have been a piece of buckshot passed from one poker player to another to keep track of whose turn it was to deal)

He always gives me a straight answer and never tries to pass the buck.
New Words

elicit
i lɪsˈ ɪt

pernicious
pər nɪʃˈ əs

tolerate
təlˈ ər ət

construe
kən strʊ́

impunity
ɪm pɪˈ nə tɪ

Week 5 ▶ Day 4

Our Pyrrhic Victory*

Mr. Dorsey summoned a representative group of teachers and student leaders to his office in order to elicit their reactions to the suspension of the football captain. He told them that cheating was a pernicious disease that could not be tolerated at our school. He loathed* having to discipline Art Krause so severely, but unless strict measures were taken, the student body would construe the incident as an open invitation to cheat with impunity. “We may lose a football game,” the principal said, “but we can salvage our self-respect.”

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The border guards allowed the doctor to cross the frontier with ________________.
2. It isn’t easy to ________________ answers from a sleepy class on Monday morning.
3. Dentists appreciate patients who can ________________ pain.
4. She hoped that we would not ________________ her decision to run for office as a thirst for power.
5. The dictator’s ________________ rules failed to intimidate* the leaders of the underground.

Definitions Match the new word with their meanings.

6. elicit        a. freedom from punishment
7. pernicious  b. to make a deduction, to infer
8. tolerate  c. to put up with, to bear
9. construe  d. to draw forth
10. impunity  e. harmful, causing injury

**Today’s Idiom**

to lionize a person—to make a big fuss over someone
(the lions at the Tower of London were considered its main attraction)

When the famous poet Dylan Thomas visited the United States, he was *lionized* wherever he lectured.
**WEEK 5 ✶ DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Congratulations! You have covered the first one hundred words in the book. With the same diligence you should be able to tackle the remaining work and to master most of the challenging words.

Take the following quiz by matching the best possible definition with the word you have studied. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.acrimonious</td>
<td>a. double-dealing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.admonish</td>
<td>b. cannot be moved by persuasion, inflexible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.clandestine</td>
<td>c. silly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.concur</td>
<td>d. flourishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.construe</td>
<td>e. to scold, warn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.culprit</td>
<td>f. harassed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.distraught</td>
<td>g. to permit, to put up with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.duplicity</td>
<td>h. extract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.duress</td>
<td>i. damaging, harmful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 egregiuous</td>
<td>j. outstanding for undesirable quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.elicit</td>
<td>k. notorious</td>
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<td>12.ethics</td>
<td>l. force, coercion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.flagrant</td>
<td>m. exemption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.impunity</td>
<td>n. moral philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.inane</td>
<td>o. agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.inexorable</td>
<td>p. hidden, secret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.paucity</td>
<td>q. to interpret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.pernicious</td>
<td>r. one who commits a crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.rampant</td>
<td>s. shortage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.tolerate</td>
<td>t. caustic, bitter</td>
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</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.stock in trade</td>
<td>u. to idolize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.to take down a peg</td>
<td>v. to humiliate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pass the buck w. the necessary equipment
to lionize a person x. to refuse to take responsibility

Make a record of those words you missed. You can learn them successfully by studying them and by using them in original sentences. Use a word three times and it is yours forever, a wise man once said.

*For reference only*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 5

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 4th Day
③ 3rd Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Driving While Drunk

Throughout literature we find recurring tales of forthright people who are outspoken in condemning illegal practices only to be brought low themselves when they, or members of their families, commit such acts. Since literature reflects life, we can expect to find similar instances in which a person’s ①_______ are compromised, and he falls prey to the ②_______ evil that he had publicly denounced.

Take the story of Barry Vernon (not his real name), an aggressive Ohio district attorney. Vernon could be counted upon to make ③_______ remarks about anyone who was driving while intoxicated. On numerous speaking engagements, he railed against drunkenness and swore that any such ④_______ who was found behind the wheel of a car would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

As fate would have it, Vernon’s own son smashed into several cars, injuring four people seriously, and then failed a sobriety test.

Following that ⑤_______ violation of the law, Vernon resigned from office, saying that as a private citizen he would continue his crusade against those who drive under the influence of alcohol. Meanwhile, he wished to spend more time with his son to try to understand the young man’s behavior.
NEW WORDS

affluent
afˊ lü ənt

feasible
fēˊ zə bəl

discern
da zərnˊ or də sərnˊ

sally
salˊ ē

consternation
konˊ stər nəˊ shən

WEEK 6 ♦ DAY 1

THE NEWSPAPER UMBRELLA

Our neighbor is an affluent inventor whose latest brainstorm, a feasible umbrella substitute, has been featured in many magazines. As simply as the eye can discern, it is a hard plastic strip, about the size of a ruler, which fits comfortably into a woman’s handbag or a man’s suit jacket. If a person is caught in a sudden rainstorm, he swings the plastic open in the shape of a cross. Attached to each arm is a clip-like device. Next, he takes the newspaper he is carrying and slides it under each of the four clips. Now, equipped with a rigid head covering he can sally forth to face the elements. To the consternation of the umbrella manufacturers, it has been enjoying a brisk sale, especially among commuters. If it continues to do well, it could have a pernicious* effect upon the umbrella industry.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Some prisoners planned a disturbance while others would ________________ toward the gate.
2. Under duress* from the tax officer, the beggar admitted that he was truly ________________.
3. To the ________________ of the sergeant, there was a paucity* of volunteers for the dangerous mission.
4. It’s ________________ to build an electric auto, but wouldn’t you need a terribly long extension cord?
5. When we could ________________ the city lights, we knew we were safe at last.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

| 6. affluent | a. suddenly rush forth |
| 7. feasible | b. possible |
| 8. discern | c. dismay |
| 9. sally (v.) | d. rich |
| 10. consternation | e. perceive* |

Today’s Idiom

I’m from Missouri—a skeptic, one who is not easily convinced
You might swallow his promises, but I’m from Missouri.
**NEW WORDS**

**precocious**
pri kō´ shəs

**perfunctory**
pər fung´ tər ē

**chagrin**
shə grin´

**pervasive**
pər vers´

**deride**
di rīd´

**WEEK 6 ◆ DAY 2**

**PATENT PENDING**

My buddy Verne, a *precocious* automotive wizard, and I were inspired to do some inventing on our own. We thought it might be feasible* to park a car parallel to a space on the street. Then, by pressing a button, we could raise the four tires off the ground slightly, while dropping two special wheels perpendicular to the curb. It would then be child’s play to roll into the narrowest of parking spaces. We took the idea to Ed Greene who runs the Ford agency in order to elicit* his reaction. After a *perfunctory* glance at our plans, to our *chagrin* Ed snorted that our idea was inane,* but we decided that he was just jealous of our brilliance. Tomorrow we are going to start on a computer that will enable us to measure the intelligence of *pervasive* automobile dealers who like to *deride* the efforts of junior geniuses.

**Sample Sentences** Use the clues above to help find the proper words.

1. The children in Shakespeare’s plays are so ________________ that they all sound like grandparents.
2. Edith gave only ________________ attention to the new millennium, skipping our New Year’s Eve party.
3. The Wright brothers didn’t become distraught* when a skeptic would ________________ their work.
4. When I correct my kid brother’s math errors, he is ________________ enough to insist that he is right.
5. To the ________________ of many taxpayers, some citizens seem to cheat the
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. precocious  a. done without care, superficial
7. perfunctory  b. reaching maturity early
8. chagrin  c. feeling of disappointment, humiliation
9. perverse  d. contrary, persisting in error
10. deride  e. to ridicule, scoff* at

Today’s IDiom

red-letter day—day of happiness, time for rejoicing
(holidays are red-letter days on our calendars)

My red-letter day came when I was chosen as senior class president.
HOLD THAT NOBEL PRIZE!

Speaking of inventions and discoveries, I just learned that an eminent* scientist in Ohio has developed a pill that contains all the nutritive value of three complete meals. In addition to providing us with the vitamins and minerals we need daily, this pill also gives a feeling of fullness. According to its sponsors, the pill will nourish and satisfy. I hate to disparage such a laudable achievement, but to me it seems like a most objectionable discovery. Rather than a scientific triumph, I’d be inclined to label it as an egregious* blunder, a scientific disaster, a laboratory fiasco. Is there anyone in his right mind who thinks that a pill can replace the pleasures of devouring hot corn bread, masticating on a thick steak, biting into crisp french fries, or attacking a chocolate sundae? I’m afraid that this is one pill I’ll have to eschew from chewing.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The paradox* is that Javert’s inexorable* pursuit of Jean Valjean was both ___________ and despicable.

2. The affluent* storeowner ___________ the efforts of his small competitor, saying that he could always tolerate* that kind of rivalry.

3. To aid in digestion, you must ___________ each piece of meat one dozen times.

4. In an acrimonious* letter, her father described the project as a complete ___________.

5. Once he sought the limelight, but now he ___________ all interviews.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>disparage</td>
<td>a.</td>
<td>to discredit, belittle*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>laudable</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>avoid</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>fiasco</td>
<td>c.</td>
<td>to chew up</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>masticate</td>
<td>d.</td>
<td>praiseworthy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>eschew</td>
<td>e.</td>
<td>complete failure</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

to let sleeping dogs lie—*to let well enough alone, to avoid stirring up old hostilities*

The lawyer wanted to open up the old case, but his partner advised him to *let sleeping dogs lie.*
NEW WORDS

quell
kwel

voluble
vol´ ŭ bəl

confidant(e)
kon´ fə dant´

obsolescence
ob´ sə les´ ns

dubious
dū´ bē əs

WEEK 6 • DAY 4

PERFECT PRODUCTS

I guess we’ll never be able to quell those persistent rumors about the invention of auto tires that will never wear out, stockings that cannot tear, and pens that won’t run dry. A voluble economist informed me that such products will never be marketed. “Can you imagine,” he asked, “a manufacturer cutting his own throat? Why would he sell you an item that you will never have to replace? No,” my confidant whispered, “it’s part of their scheme of planned obsolescence to sell you merchandise with a limited life span in order to keep you coming back for more.” I am dubious about the existence of those perfect products, but then I’m from Missouri.*

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the proper blanks.

1. When the duplicity* was revealed, the jury became _______________ about Ed’s innocence.
2. In order to _______________ the riot, the police sallied* forth with tear gas.
3. A teenage boy’s father should be his true _______________.
4. The _______________ built into many products could be regarded as a flagrant* insult toward the duped* consumer.
5. I could not doze in the chair because of the _______________ barber.

Definitions Play the familiar matching game.
quell a. one to whom you confide your secrets
voluble b. talkative
confidant(e) c. process of wearing out
obsolescence d. put an end to
dubious e. doubtful

Today’s Idiom

thumb’s down—signal of rejection (Roman emperors could condemn a gladiator who fought poorly by turning their thumbs down)

My father turned thumbs down on our plan to hitchhike to Florida during Easter.
WEEK 6 • DAY 5

REVIEW

After reading about these new ideas, you should be inventive enough to handle this review. If there is a necessity for it, you may turn back to the original lesson to check on the meaning of a word. As someone once remarked, “Necessity is the mother of invention.”

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affluent</td>
<td>a. careless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chagrin</td>
<td>b. dread, dismay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>confidant(e)</td>
<td>c. to chew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consternation</td>
<td>d. complete failure</td>
</tr>
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<td>deride</td>
<td>e. reaching maturity early</td>
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<td>disparage</td>
<td>g. practicable</td>
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<td>h. to make fun of</td>
</tr>
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<td>eschew</td>
<td>i. contrary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feasible</td>
<td>j. wealthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fiasco</td>
<td>k. keep away from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laudable</td>
<td>l. recognize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>masticate</td>
<td>m. crush, stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obsolescence</td>
<td>n. to discredit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perfunctory</td>
<td>o. person you tell your secrets to</td>
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<td>perverse</td>
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<td>precocious</td>
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<td>quell</td>
<td>r. commendable</td>
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<tr>
<td>sally</td>
<td>s. sudden rushing forth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voluble</td>
<td>t. process of wearing out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDIOMS

21. I’m from Missouri u. occasion for rejoicing
22. red-letter day v. I have to be convinced
23. let sleeping dogs lie w. don’t rake up old grievances
24. thumbs down  x.  to signal rejection

Make a record of those words you missed. Study them, work on them, use them in original sentences. Amaze your friends at parties!

*For reference only

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<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>___________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. ________________</td>
<td>___________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 6

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 1st Day
③ 3rd Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 3rd Day

Trouble at Truman High

It was a quiet morning at Harry S Truman High School. “Too quiet,” Principal Edna Suarez remarked to her secretary. “It’s just when things are this serene that I start to get an uneasy feeling.”

Mrs. Suarez’s sensitivity to life among 3,000 teenagers quickly proved to be accurate. The first evidence of trouble came with a phone call from the teacher in charge of the cafeteria who needed help to ① ______ a disturbance. When Mrs. Suarez arrived on the scene, much to her ② ______, students were pounding on their tables, throwing food on the lunchroom floor, and making a complete ③ ______ of school regulations. It took the principal only a moment to ④ ______ who the two ringleaders were and to summon them to her office.

Vincent, 16, and Elena, 15, admitted to having stirred up the protest. They gave as their reasons the poor quality of food served and the dirty environment. “It’s like a pigsty down there,” Elena declared, “and the food is fit only for animals!”

What they had done, Mrs. Suarez told them, was inexcusable, and she ticked off a list of reasons that made their conduct dangerous and subject to school discipline. “What you were trying to do,” Mrs. Suarez explained, “might be considered ⑤ ______ by some but you could have come to me, alone or with a committee, to register your complaints. I would have investigated and, if there was merit to your charges, would have taken the necessary action. Now I’ll have to ask you to bring your parents to see me on Monday and to stay home until then.”

Vincent and Elena seemed to be chastened by Mrs. Suarez’s lecture. However, on leaving her office, Elena told an assistant principal that in a similar incident on a television show she learned that direct, dramatic action usually gets quicker results than lengthy debate. He advised her to bring that question up in her social studies class when she returned from suspension.
MUCH ADO ABOUT A HAIRCUT

Perhaps you read about our school in the newspapers? We were one of the first to have a showdown on the topic of long hair for boys. Two honor students, Ron Harris and Len Chester, were sent to the principal by their French teacher, an implacable foe of nonconformists, who went into a paroxysm of anger when she spied the boys in the hall. At first it seemed like a simple case. The school would reprimand* the boys for their reprehensible appearance and order them to cut their hair or be suspended. But the boys’ parents decided that the school had overstepped its jurisdiction; they took their case to the newspapers. What had started as a local skirmish now began to take on the appearance of a full-scale war.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The detective was _____________ in his search for the murder weapon.
2. Saying that it was beyond his _____________, Judge Klein refused to rule on the case.
3. In a ________________ of rage, the tenant stormed out of the landlord’s office.
4. The precocious* boy enjoyed an intellectual ________________ with his elders.
5. The brash* student was forced to apologize for her ________________ conduct.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
cause célèbre—a famous law case or controversy

It was a minor dispute, but the ambitious lawyer sought to turn it into a cause célèbre.
NEW WORDS

harass
har´ as or hə rəs´

monolithic
mä nə´ li thik

arbitrary
är´ bə trər´ ē

indigent
in´ da jənt

fray
frā

WEEK 7 • DAY 2

THE TEMPEST SPILLS OUT OF THE TEAPOT

Once the newspapers got the story, the case of the longhairs became a cause célèbre.* Ron and Len were interviewed, seen on TV, and regarded by their fellow students as heroes. “These are not delinquents or hoods,” one reporter wrote, “but clean-cut American boys who are being harassed by a monolithic school system.” A caustic* editorial referred to the school’s decision as arbitrary and inane.* A false story even circulated about the boys being rock-’n- roll performers whose indigent families needed their salaries. Finally, the Civil Liberties Union jumped into the fray with a court order stipulating* that the principal be required to show cause why the boys should not be allowed to return to class.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. After the ______________ , the feuding families agreed to patch up their differences.
2. The ______________ client was surprised when she was accosted* by her social worker in the elegant restaurant.
3. To my mind the decision was unreasonable and ______________ .
4. George Orwell’s 1984 depicts a frightening, ______________ government.
5. If anonymous telephone callers ______________ you, the phone company will give you an unlisted number.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
Today’s Idiom

one swallow does not make a summer—don’t jump to conclusions based on incomplete evidence

“Sure, the Yankees won their opening game, but one swallow does not make a summer.”
NEW WORDS

stymie
stū´ mē

effigy
ef´ ā jē

flout
flout

cognizant
kog´ nə zənt

turbulent
tër´ byə lənt

WEEK 7 ♦ DAY 3

HAIRCUT DILEMMA

The school authorities were stymied. Public opinion had been marshaled against them. No longer was it a simple case of disciplining two wayward lads. Suddenly it had taken on the appearance of a nightmare in which the principal was either hanged in effigy or pictured in cartoons making a villainous swipe at the two innocent Samsons. But the officials could not allow Ron and Len to flout their authority with impunity.* Members of the school board concurred* with the principal’s action but they were cognizant of the popular support for the boys. Clearly a compromise was called for to resolve the turbulent situation.

Sample Sentences In which of the following newspaper headlines do the new words belong?

1. “COACH OF LOSING TEAM HANGED IN ____________ ”
2. “CAUSE OF CANCER CONTINUES TO ______________ DOCTORS”
3. “F.B.I. ______________ OF CLANDESTINE* GANGLAND MEETING”
4. “MANY MOTORISTS ______________ TRAFFIC LAWS, STUDY REVEALS”
5. “_______________ ATMOSPHERE IN ANGRY SENATE CHAMBER”

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. stymie  a. unruly, agitated
7. effigy  b. to hinder, impede
Today’s Idiom

a bitter pill to swallow—a humiliating defeat

It was *a bitter pill to swallow* for the famous billiard player to be overwhelmed by the 12-year-old girl.
Week 7 • Day 4

Happy Ending?

Following an executive session, the school board ordered the principal to terminate the suspension and to send the boys back to class forthwith. Unless it could be shown that their presence disrupted the learning process, there was no reason to bar the boys. It was a bitter pill to swallow* for the principal whose irritation was exacerbated by the ruling. But some of the sting was taken out of the victory when the boys appeared in school the next day with their hair clipped to a respectable length. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Just as things were about to revert to normalcy, however, the same French teacher then demanded that a girl be ousted from school for wearing a mini skirt.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. It seemed incongruous* to ____________ his employment just when he was so successful.
2. Upon seeing the show, he called the TV studio ____________ to protest.
3. The ushers moved with alacrity* to ____________ the disorderly patrons.
4. After taking the drug, she began to ____________ to the days of her childhood.
5. The arrest of the spy did much to ____________ relations between the two countries.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>terminate</td>
<td>a. to drive out, eject</td>
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<td>forthwith</td>
<td>b. return</td>
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<tr>
<td>exacerbate</td>
<td>c. to end</td>
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<tr>
<td>revert</td>
<td>d. immediately</td>
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<tr>
<td>oust</td>
<td>e. to irritate, make worse</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*an ax to grind*—having a selfish motive in the background

I am always dubious* about the motives of a man who tells me that he has no *ax to grind.*
WEEK 7 • DAY 5
REVIEW

Pupils want to be individuals these days, and many of them refuse to conform to regulations unless there are good reasons for such rules. In the area of vocabulary study, however, the only rule that makes sense to all is that true mastery derives from continuous practice.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper. (Which two review words are almost synonymous?)

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. arbitrary
2. cognizant
3. effigy
4. exacerbate
5. flout
6. forthwith
7. fray
8. harass
9. implacable
10. indigent
11. jurisdiction
12. monolithic
13. oust
14. paroxysm
15. reprehensible
16. revert
17. skirmish
18. stymie
19. terminate
20. turbulent

**DEFINITIONS**

a. having a massive structure
b. to hinder
c. a conflict, fight
d. relentless, unappeasable
e. immediately
f. blameworthy
g. range of authority
h. to show contempt
i. poverty-stricken
j. to irritate
k. violent outburst
l. to end
m. a likeness
n. go back
o. to torment
p. riotous
q. eject
r. small battle
s. aware
t. based on whim

**IDIOMS**

21. cause célèbre
22. one swallow doesn’t make a summer

u. having a selfish motive
v. a humiliating defeat
23. bitter pill to swallow  w. don’t jump to conclusions
24. an ax to grind  x. famous law case

Make a record of those words you missed.
Note: fray and skirmish are almost synonymous.

*For reference only

WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. __________________________  MEANINGS
2. __________________________  __________________________
3. __________________________  __________________________
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 3rd Day
③ 3rd Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 1st Day

The Reading of the Will

One full week after the funeral, the immediate family of millionaire Charles Hudson was gathered in a law office to hear the reading of the deceased’s will. Mr. Hudson’s wife, thirty years his junior, was prepared for a bitter ⑥_______ with his former wife and her son. The lawyer, Don Rollins, anticipated a ②_______ session because he was the only one who was ⑦_______ of the contents of the revised will that Hudson had ordered drawn up six months prior to his death.

The current Mrs. Hudson, attired in her smart widow’s weeds, expected that she would receive the lion’s share of the estate. The former Mrs. Hudson felt that she was entitled to most of the estate since she was practically ②_______ at the present time, despite her substantial alimony payments.

Lawyer Rollins cleared his throat and began to read:

“To my present spouse I leave my town house where she can continue to store the jewels, shoes, dresses, and furs she accumulated in two years of shopping and marriage.

“To my son, who has put off finding a career until my estate would enrich him, I leave the sum of ten dollars for cab fare to the unemployment office.

“To my former wife whose ⑤_______ behavior I tolerated for three decades, I leave my beach house where she can continue to work on her tan, something that she prized above our happiness.

“To the Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals I leave the remainder of my entire estate, knowing they will put it to better use than anyone in this room.”

The lawyer was wrong. No outcries. Silence, supreme silence, reigned among the shocked audience.
**NEW WORDS**

emaciated
i mā´shē ā tid

surge
sērj

tranquil
trang´kwəl

sanctuary
sangk´chü er´i

ascend
ə send´

**WEEK 8 ◦ DAY 1**

**ENTER DR. THOMAS A. DOOLEY**

In 1956, *Look Magazine* named Thomas Dooley as one of the year’s ten most outstanding men. Just under thirty years of age at the time, Dr. Dooley had already distinguished himself by caring for a half-million sick and *emaciated* Vietnamese refugees. When fighting broke out in the divided country of Viet Nam, the northern Communist Viet Minh forces *surged* southward, scattering thousands of refugees before them. At the time, Dr. Dooley was a lieutenant, assigned to a *tranquil* naval hospital in Yokosuka, Japan. Forthwith* he volunteered for duty on a navy ship that had been chosen to transport the refugees to *sanctuary* in Saigon. The curtain was beginning to *ascend* on Dooley’s real career.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The ________________ residents of the Warsaw Ghetto managed to win several skirmishes* from the Nazis.

2. A firecracker terminated* the ________________ climate of the neighborhood.

3. When Richard III violated the ________________ of the church to seize the princes, he exceeded his jurisdiction.*

4. Chicago put its heaviest players up front, but they were helpless as the Giants’ line ________________ toward them.

5. Inexorably* the determined climber began to ________________ the Himalayan peak.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>emaciated</strong></td>
<td>a. to rush suddenly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>surge</strong></td>
<td>b. shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>tranquil</strong></td>
<td>c. quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. <strong>sanctuary</strong></td>
<td>d. abnormally thin, wasted away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. <strong>ascend</strong></td>
<td>e. to rise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*sour grapes*—to disparage* something that you cannot have (from Aesop’s fable about the fox who called the grapes sour because he could not reach them)

Marcia said that she didn’t want to be on the Principal’s Honor Roll anyway, but we knew that it was just *sour grapes* on her part.
**NEW WORDS**

malnutrition
mal´ nü trish´ ón

afflict
a flikt´

besiege
bi sēj´

privation
prī vā´ shən

sinister
sin´ a stər

**WEEK 8 • DAY 2**  

**DOOLEY’S MISSION**

Aboard the refugee ship, Dooley’s destiny took shape. He became painfully cognizant* of the malnutrition, disease, ignorance, and fear that afflicted the natives. In addition, he discerned* how active the Communists had been in spreading their anti-American propaganda. Tom Dooley pitched in to build shelters in Haiphong, and to comfort the poor Vietnamese there before that besieged city fell to the powerful Viet Minh forces. He was seemingly unconcerned by the many privations he had to endure. For his services, Dooley received the U.S. Navy’s Legion of Merit. He told the story of this exciting experience in *Deliver Us from Evil*, a best seller that alerted America to the plight of the Vietnamese as well as to the sinister menace of communism.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The stool pigeon, the detective’s confidant,* told him about the ________________ plot.
2. By running up a white flag, the ________________ troops indicated their desire to withdraw from the fray.*
3. Citizens of several Kentucky mountain communities are ________________ by the worst poverty in the nation.
4. The emaciated* prisoners were obviously suffering from advanced ________________.
5. Albert Schweitzer endured considerable ________________ as a jungle doctor.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. malnutrition  
7. afflict  
8. besiege  
9. privation  
10. sinister

- a. lack of necessities  
- b. faulty or inadequate diet  
- c. evil, ominous  
- d. to surround, hem in  
- e. to trouble greatly, to distress

**Today’s Idiom**

*to swap horses in midstream*—to vote against a candidate running for reelection, to change one’s mind

The mayor asked for our support, pointing out how foolish it would be *to swap horses in midstream.*
NEW WORDS

ubiquitous  
yü bik´ wə təs

remote  
ri mōt´

thwart  
thwôrt

harbinger  
här´ bən jər

malignant  
mə lig´ nənt

WEEK 8 ♦ DAY 3

STYMIED* BY PERSONAL SICKNESS

After an extensive lecture tour in 1956, Dr. Dooley returned to Laos to set up a mobile medical unit. Because the Geneva Agreement barred the entrance of military personnel to the country, he resigned from the Navy and went to work as a civilian. That story is told in The Edge of Tomorrow. Next year, despite a growing illness, the ubiquitous Dooley turned up in the remote village of Muong Sing, attempting to thwart his traditional enemies—disease, dirt, ignorance, starvation—and hoping to quell* the spread of communism. But his trained medical eye soon told him that the pain in his chest and back was a harbinger of a malignant cancer.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Sprinting all over the court, the ________________ referee called one foul after another.
2. Ben’s reprehensible* table manners led his fraternity brothers to seat him in a ________________ corner of the dining room.
3. The excellent soup was a ________________ of the delicious meal to follow.
4. In an attempt to ________________ the voracious* ants, he surrounded his house with a moat of burning oil.
5. The surgeon finally located the ________________ tumor that had afflicted* his patient for many months.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. ubiquitous  a. distant, hidden away  
7. remote  b. being everywhere at the same time  
8. thwart  c. likely to cause death  
9. harbinger  d. to hinder, defeat  
10. malignant  e. a forerunner, advance notice

**Today’s Idiom**

*to cool one’s heels*—*to be kept waiting*

The shrewd mayor made the angry delegates *cool their heels* in his outer office.
NEW WORDS

excruciating
ek skrū´ shē a ting

respite
res´ pit

reverberating
ri vér´ bə rā´ ting

fretful
fret´ fəl

succumb
sə kum´

WEEK 8 ★ DAY 4

“PROMISES TO KEEP”

From August, 1959 until his death in January, 1961, Dooley suffered almost continuous, excruciating pain. His normal weight of 180 was cut in half, and even the pain-killing drugs could no longer bring relief. Knowing that he did not have long to live, Dr. Dooley worked without respite on behalf of MEDICO, the organization he had founded to bring medical aid and hope to the world’s sick and needy. The lines of Robert Frost kept reverberating in his mind during those fretful days: “The woods are lovely, dark and deep/ But I have promises to keep/ And miles to go before I sleep.” When he finally succumbed, millions throughout the world were stunned and grief-stricken by the tragedy.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. With _______________ slowness, the minute hand inched its way around the clock.
2. The rescue team heard the miner’s voice _______________ through the caves.
3. Around income tax time _______________ faces are ubiquitous.*
4. The voluble* insurance salesman gave my father no _______________ .
5. Besieged* by debts, the corporation finally had to _______________ to bankruptcy.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. excruciating a. an interval of relief, delay
TODAY’S IDiom

*a red herring*—something that diverts attention from the main issue
(a red herring drawn across a fox’s path destroys the scent)

We felt that the introduction of his war record was a *red herring* to keep us from inquiring into his graft.
**WEEK 8 © DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Shortly before his death, Dr. Dooley was selected by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as one of America’s ten most outstanding young men. There may be no connection between success of that type and an expanded vocabulary—but one never knows.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. afflict</td>
<td>a. lack of necessities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. ascend</td>
<td>b. inadequate diet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. besiege</td>
<td>c. being everywhere at once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. emaciated</td>
<td>d. to trouble greatly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. excruciating</td>
<td>e. agonizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. fretful</td>
<td>f. wasted away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. harbinger</td>
<td>g. distant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. malignant</td>
<td>h. evil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. malnutrition</td>
<td>i. to rush suddenly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. privation</td>
<td>j. place of protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. remote</td>
<td>k. forerunner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. respite</td>
<td>l. to rise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. reverberating</td>
<td>m. to hinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. sanctuary</td>
<td>n. yield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. sinister</td>
<td>o. postponement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. succumb</td>
<td>p. to surround</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. surge</td>
<td>q. becoming progressively worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. thwart</td>
<td>r. reechoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. tranquil</td>
<td>s. worrisome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. ubiquitous</td>
<td>t. peaceful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. sour grapes</td>
<td>u. a diversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. swap horses in midstream</td>
<td>v. to be kept waiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. to cool one’s heels</td>
<td>w. to change one’s mind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a red herring

claiming to despise what you cannot have

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SENSIBLE SENTENCES?
(From Week 8)

Choose the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. Eric was (afflicted, besieged) with an inoperable ailment.
2. The octogenarian refused to (succumb, surge) to pneumonia.
3. The (remote, ubiquitous) mayor was photographed in four different parts of the city yesterday.
4. We were worried lest the hostages be suffering from (sanctuary, malnutrition).
5. The (tranquil, sinister) tone of the spring morning was suddenly broken by the loud explosion.
6. I heard his voice (excruciating, reverberating) through the corridors.
7. The senator’s bid for a second term was (thwarted, respited) by the electorate.
8. After the king’s death, his son (ascended, succumbed) to the throne in the normal order of succession.
9. The (privations, harbingers) that the poor people endured in their ghetto apartments were reprehensible.
10. The children were (emaciated, fretful) when awakened from their nap.
11. We were asked to (swap horses in midstream, cool our heels) while waiting for the bus.
PARTS OF SPEECH
(From Weeks 2–8)

❖ Choose the noun, verb, or adjective that answers each of the questions.

a. affluent   i. indigent
b. arbitrary   j. precocious
c. avid       k. pugnacious
d. cajole      l. reprimand
e. elicit      m. skirmish
f. euphemism   n. sour grapes
g. fray        o. wrest
h. harbinger

1. Which noun tells you that something is on the way?
2. Which verb means to extract, to get something out of?
3. Which adjective describes an action that is based on a whim?
4. Which adjective tells you about children who are very bright for their age?
5. If a wealthy family moved into your neighborhood, which adjective would be suitable for them?
6. Which adjective can be substituted for enthusiastic?
7. If you had to coax someone into doing something, which verb would be appropriate?
8. When we call a garbage collector a sanitary engineer, which noun comes to mind?
9. In seizing control, which verb is appropriate?
10. Which adjective describes a combative, quarrelsome person?
11. Which verb is a good synonym for scold?
12. What do you indulge in when you belittle that which you cannot possess?
13. Which adjective describes a poverty-stricken person?
14. Which two nouns are almost synonymous?
WORDSEARCH 8

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 1st Day
③ 3rd Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Aftermath of an Earthquake

The Egyptian earthquake in October 1992 killed 600 residents of Cairo and hospitalized thousands of others, many of whom were expected to ①_______ as a result of their injuries. Especially hard hit were the people who inhabited the city’s slums, who had to seek ②_______ in those government buildings, schools, and factories that remained standing.

Muslim fundamentalists were active in providing relief to the survivors in the form of food, water, blankets, and tents to house the more than 300 families made homeless by the disaster. In the midst of a rubble-strewn street, a large tent was set up, bearing the banner, “Islam is the Solution.” Believers took the opportunity to spread the message that the earthquake was a ③_______ of worse things to come, and that a wayward population must follow God’s laws if they expected to ④_______ to heaven.

Throughout history, following volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tidal waves, and other calamities that periodically ⑤_______ mankind, religious leaders have used such occurrences to bring the people back to their faith.

“Unless we return to Allah,” said a priest, “we can expect more divine punishment.”

Since many Egyptians had expressed unhappiness about their government prior to the earthquake, there was a good chance for Muslim fundamentalists to seize the opportunity to win new converts by showing that the answer to recovery was not through man’s efforts but through God’s.
NEW WORDS

impresario
im´ prə sār´ ĕ ə

extortion
ek stôr´ shən

adverse
ad´ vērs

asset
as´ et

bigot
big´ ət

WEEK 9 • DAY 1

JUST SPELL THE NAME CORRECTLY

P. T. Barnum, the great circus impresario, was once accosted* by a woman who showed him a scurrilous* manuscript about himself, and said that unless he paid her, she would have the book printed. Barnum rejected the extortion attempt. “Say what you please,” he replied, “but make sure that you mention me in some way. Then come to me and I will estimate the value of your services as a publicity agent.” Barnum obviously felt that adverse criticism was an asset for a public figure. A man who seeks the limelight should not care what is written about him but should be concerned only when they stop writing about him. Barnum’s philosophy suggests that we might do well to review the plethora* of publicity given to rabble-rousers and bigots.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. When the business manager was accused of ________________, his colleagues sought to oust* him from the firm.
2. The eminent* ________________ brought many cultural spectacles to our shores.
3. Attacked by the irate* crowd, the ________________ asked the police for sanctuary.*
4. President Obama found that texting was an ________________ to his communication skills.
5. It was excruciatingly* painful for the actors to read the ________________ reviews that their performances had received.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

- 6. impresario: a. a narrow-minded, prejudiced person
- 7. extortion: b. unfavorable, harmful
- 8. adverse: c. one who presents cultural series, organizer
- 9. asset: d. a valuable thing to have
- 10. bigot: e. getting money by threats

Today’s Idiom

to spill the beans—to give away a secret

Although he was naturally reticent,* when the felon* was intimidated* by the members of the rival gang, he spilled the beans.
NEW WORDS

blatant
blāˈtənt

entourage
änˈtü räzh

virulent
virˈya ANT

venom
venˈəm

spew
spyū

WEEK 9 • DAY 2

BIGOTS* GET PUBLICITY

Today, the blatant bigot, the leader of a lunatic fringe, and the hate-monger, each with his tiny entourage, find it relatively easy to attract publicity. Newspapers give space to the virulent activities of those agitators on the grounds that they are newsworthy. TV producers and radio executives, seeking for sensationalism, often extend a welcome to such controversial characters. “Yes,” said the host of one such program, “we invite bigots, but it is only for the purpose of making them look ridiculous by displaying their inane* policies to the public.” Some civic-minded organizations have answered, however, that the hosts are not always equipped to demolish those guests, and even if they were, the audience would still be exposed to the venom they spew forth.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The visiting dictator’s ubiquitous* ______________ of bodyguards disturbed our tranquil* city.
2. Europe’s population was afflicted* by a ______________ plague known as the Black Death.
3. From each candidate’s headquarters acrimonious* charges would ______________ forth daily.
4. Clym Yeobright’s mother succumbed* to the ______________ of a snake bite.
5. With ______________ discourtesy the reporters continued to harass* the bereaved family.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.</strong> blatant</td>
<td>a.</td>
<td>group of attendants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7.</strong> entourage</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>disagreeably loud, very showy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.</strong> virulent</td>
<td>c.</td>
<td>poison, spite, malice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.</strong> venom</td>
<td>d.</td>
<td>throw up, vomit, eject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10.</strong> spew</td>
<td>e.</td>
<td>full of hate, harmful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*to keep a stiff upper lip*—to be courageous in the face of trouble

It was admirable to see how the British managed *to keep a stiff upper lip* in spite of the German bombing.
SUPPER

loath
lōth

solicit
sə lɪs´ it

astute
ə stʊt´ or ə styʊt´

advocate
ad´ və kət

ineffectual
in´ ə fek´ chü l

WEEK 9 • DAY 3

COPING WITH BIGOTS*

Suppose a bigot wished to organize a meeting in your neighborhood. Since we cherish freedom of speech, we are loath to deny the request, even if he preaches hatred. As a result, hate-mongers are given the opportunity to rent halls, conduct meetings, publish abusive literature, and solicit contributions. What can be done about them? One astute observer, Prof. S. Andhil Fineberg, advocates the “quarantine method.” His plan is to give such groups no publicity and to ignore them completely. Without the warmth of the spotlight, he feels that the bigot will freeze and become ineffectual. Debating with such warped minds is not feasible* and only tends to exacerbate* the situation.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Since we felt that the ruling was arbitrary,* we were _______________ to obey it.
2. Daily the volunteers went out to _______________ funds for the indigent* families.
3. My neighbor was _______________ enough to discern* the adverse* features of the mortgage.
4. The general was sure to _______________ that we give the enemy no respite* from the bombings.
5. The play was so blatantly* bad that the impresario* fired its _______________ director.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6. loath</th>
<th>a. keen, shrewd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>solicit</td>
<td>b. to be in favor of, to support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>astute</td>
<td>c. not effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>advocate (v.)</td>
<td>d. unwilling, reluctant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>ineffectual</td>
<td>e. to beg, seek earnestly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today's Idiom**

*to have cold feet*—to hesitate because of fear or uncertainty

My cousin was all set to join the paratroops, but at the last moment he got cold feet.
New Words

scrutinize
skrūt´n ɪz

nefarious
ni fer´ē əs

amicable
am´ə kə bəl

vexatious
vek sā´shəs

malady
mal´ə dē

Week 9 • Day 4

More Than Silence

The quarantine method for handling bigots implies more than giving them the silent treatment. Prof. Fineberg urges community-relations organizations to scrutinize the nefarious activities of hate-mongers and to be prepared to furnish information about them to amicable inquirers. When a rabble-rouser is coming, those organizations should privately expose him to opinion-molders. In addition, constructive efforts should be taken to induce people to involve themselves in projects for improving intergroup relations. Bigger than the vexatious immediate problem is the need to find out the cause for such bigotry and to counteract this sinister* malady that afflicts* a segment of our society.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The _____________ buzzing of the mosquitoes as they surged* about our heads nearly drove us insane.
2. Our _____________ relations with Latin America are an asset* to hemispheric trade.
3. Once the virulent* _____________ had run its course, my temperature dropped.
4. We were distraught* upon hearing the venom* spewed* forth by the _____________ bigot.*
5. No sooner did the lawyer _____________ the extortion* note than she called the police.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. scrutinize  a. annoying
7. nefarious  b. villainous, vicious
8. amicable  c. examine closely
9. vexatious  d. disease
10. malady     e. friendly, peaceful

Today’s Idiom

to look a gift horse in the mouth—to be critical of a present
(from the practice of judging a horse’s age by his teeth)

Although I didn’t have much use for Uncle Roy’s present, I took it with a big smile since I have been taught never to look a gift horse in the mouth.
**WEEK 9 • DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

There is an excellent book entitled *How to Argue with a Conservative* that gives the reader the tools necessary for success in argumentation. At times you may have to engage in a verbal skirmish* with a bigot.* It would be to your advantage if you had the proper words at your fingertips.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. adverse</td>
<td>a. to support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. advocate</td>
<td>b. keen, shrewd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. amicable</td>
<td>c. something of value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. asset</td>
<td>d. villainous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. astute</td>
<td>e. seek earnestly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. bigot</td>
<td>f. organizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. blatant</td>
<td>g. annoying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. entourage</td>
<td>h. followers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. extortion</td>
<td>i. disagreeably loud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. impresario</td>
<td>j. examine closely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. ineffectual</td>
<td>k. poison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. loath</td>
<td>l. harmful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. malady</td>
<td>m. not effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. nefarious</td>
<td>n. prejudiced person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. scrutinize</td>
<td>o. unfavorable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. solicit</td>
<td>p. friendly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. spew</td>
<td>q. unwilling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. venom</td>
<td>r. vomit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. vexatious</td>
<td>s. disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. virulent</td>
<td>t. getting money by threats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. to spill the beans</td>
<td>u. to be critical of a present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. stiff upper lip</td>
<td>v. hesitation because of fear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
23. cold feet  w. courage in the face of trouble
24. look a gift horse in the mouth  x. give away a secret

Make a record of those words you missed. Once again, use those words in original sentences.

*For reference only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ____________________</td>
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<td>2. ____________________</td>
<td>____________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. ____________________</td>
<td>____________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 9

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 4th Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 4th Day

This Century’s Deadliest Disease

When the American public started to hear about the AIDS virus in the 1980s, there was a measure of concern but no real alarm. After all, some said, it was a problem solely for a small group of intravenous drug users who shared dirty needles, and for the homosexual community.

But as the numbers of afflicted people grew during the 1980s and 1990s, we began to ①_____ the tragic news stories more closely. The deaths of young people like Ryan White and Kimberly Bergalis, not members of the at-risk groups referred to above, convinced us that what was at first regarded merely as a ②_______ illness was actually a ③_______ threat to the general community.

In the mid-1980s, ④_______ medical researchers were optimistic that a vaccine for AIDS would be found in short order. Those predictions proved to be inaccurate. In October 1992, former Surgeon-General C. Everett Koop said that he doubted we would ever find a cure for the disease. With over 200,000 Americans already having succumbed to the ⑤_______ killer, and another 300,000 who were HIV-positive and could contract a full-blown form of AIDS, Koop’s statement sent chills throughout the country.

A prominent AIDS expert, however, took issue with Koop. “The fight will be difficult,” said Dr. Harley Smith, “but we will find an answer very shortly.” Now, in the twenty-first century, the answer is apparently at hand.
NEW WORDS

inclement
in klemˈ ənt

peruse
pə rüzˈ

premonition
prēˈ mə nishˈ ən

desist
di zistˈ

recoil
ri koilˈ

WEEK 10 • DAY 1

JERRY HART’S SIXTH SENSE
An uneasy feeling had made Jerry Hart miserable all day long. It was difficult to explain, but the similar sensations in the past had been accurate—trouble was on the way. Just as some people can predict the onset of inclement weather because of an aching in their bones, so could Jerry detect incipient* disaster. He sat at his desk, trying to peruse a company report but his efforts were ineffectual.* The gnawing at his insides, the tinge* of uneasiness, the premonition of calamity that besieged* him would not desist. When the phone rang, he recoiled with fear—it was his wife and she was hysterical. Their son had been bitten by a mad dog!

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. After being admonished* by his father, he began to ______________ the want ads daily.
2. When the black cat crossed her path, Ellen had a ______________ of disaster.
3. The pickets promulgated* a warning that they would not ______________ in their efforts to enhance* their standard of living.
4. As the snake prepared to strike, the girls ______________ in horror.
5. She blamed her absence from the game on the ______________ weather, but we knew that was sour grapes.*
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. inclement  a. unfavorable, stormy
7. peruse  b. to read carefully
8. premonition  c. cease
9. desist  d. forewarning
10. recoil  e. draw back

Today's Idiom

*to pay the piper*—to bear the consequences
(from the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin)

The cruel leader was doing well at the present time, but he knew that one day he might have to pay the piper.
NEW WORDS

pertinent
pərˈtɪnt
mastiff
masˈtif
obsess
əb sesˈ
doleful
dōlˈfəl
wan
won

WEEK 10 ❅ DAY 2

CRISIS!

As soon as Jerry Hart could get the pertinent facts from his wife, he dashed out of the office on his way home. He jostled* people in the hallway, implored* the elevator operator to hurry, and with flagrant* disregard for an elderly gentleman jumped into the cab he had hailed. The twenty-minute taxi ride seemed interminable* and all the while horrible thoughts occurred to Jerry. Visions of an ugly mastiff with foaming jaws obsessed him. A crowd of people had gathered in front of his house so that Jerry had to force his way through them. Little Bobby was on his bed, surrounded by a doctor, a policeman, Jerry’s doleful wife, his two daughters, and a half-dozen wan neighbors.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The stockbroker was ______________ with the idea of becoming a painter.
2. My nervous neighbor bought a pugnacious* ______________ to frighten burglars.
3. ______________ expressions abounded* throughout headquarters on the night of the election.
4. During the trial the astute* lawyer was able to elicit* the ______________ information from the key witness.
5. After the tension, his normally ruddy face was ______________ and tired.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pertinent</th>
<th></th>
<th>Sad, melancholy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mastiff</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>To the point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Obsess</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>Sickly pale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Doleful</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>To haunt, preoccupy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wan</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>Large dog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*On the carpet*—being scolded

Because of her repeated lateness, Betty’s boss called her *on the carpet.*
NEW WORDS

histrionics
his’ trē on’ ikς

elusive
i lū’ siv

frustrate
frus’ trāt

symptomatic
simp’ tə mat’ ik

interject
in’ tər

WEEK 10 ♦ DAY 3

A TIME FOR DECISION

The doctor explained the situation calmly, avoiding histrionics. First of all, they didn’t know whether the dog had rabies. Secondly, the elusive dog had frustrated all attempts to find him so far. Finally, the decision would have to be made whether Bobby was to undergo the painful vaccination administered daily for two weeks. Mrs. Hart said that a neighbor who had seen the dog claimed that it had been foaming at the mouth, barking, and growling constantly—all symptomatic of rabies. But the policeman interjected that there hadn’t been a case of a mad dog in the county in over twenty years; he repudiated* the neighbor’s report, advocating* that they do nothing for at least another day. Mr. and Mrs. Hart sat down to think about their next step.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The warden _____________ the prisoners’ attempt to escape by adding more guards.
2. Most viewers hate it when a commercial is _______________ into a suspense drama.
3. Saying that he would not tolerate* her _______________ , the director fired the temperamental actress.
4. All his life he found happiness _______________ , but wealth easy to come by.
5. The sordid* rioting was _______________ of the problems facing the large cities.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. histrionics  a. having to do with signs or symptoms, indicative
7. elusive  b. hard to grasp
8. frustrate  c. insert, interrupt
9. symptomatic  d. display of emotions
10. interject  e. counteract, foil, thwart*

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

*to show one’s hand*—*to reveal one’s intentions*

When someone joined in bidding for the antique, the dealer was forced *to show his hand.*
**NEW WORDS**

**inert**  
in ér’t

**salient**  
sā’ lē ənt

**imminent**  
im´ə nənt

**squeamish**  
skwē’ mish

**engrossed**  
en grōst´

**WEEK 10 ♦ DAY 4**

**THE PERTINENT* FACTS ABOUT RABIES**

“Give me some of the rudimentary* information about the disease, Doc,” said Jerry, glancing toward the inert figure of his son. “Well, as you know, the malady* used to be called ‘hydrophobia’ (fear of water) because one of the symptoms is an inability to swallow liquids. Actually, it is caused by a live virus from the saliva of an infected animal. If saliva gets into a bite wound, the victim may get rabies. The virus travels along the nerves to the spine and brain. Once the salient characteristics appear (ten days to six months) then death is imminent.”

“What are the symptoms?” asked Mrs. Hart. “Pain and numbness, difficulty in swallowing, headaches and nervousness. Also, muscle spasms and convulsions.” The squeamish neighbors who were engrossed in the doctor’s remarks gasped. “I think we should go ahead with the injections,” the distraught* Mrs. Hart said. “I’ve heard enough.”

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The senator loathed* it when people said that an atomic war was ________________ .
2. When his ________________ partner complained about a lack of ethics,* the businessman laughed at his innocence.
3. ________________ in his crossword puzzle, he failed to notice the paucity* of customers in the restaurant.
4. One of the ________________ features of her poetry is a dependence upon euphemisms.*
5. Seeing the ________________ player, the manager dashed out onto the field.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. inert</td>
<td>a. outstanding, prominent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. salient</td>
<td>b. without power to move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. imminent</td>
<td>c. likely to happen, threatening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. squeamish</td>
<td>d. absorbed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. engrossed</td>
<td>e. easily shocked, over sensitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today's Idiom**

*to tilt at windmills*—*to fight imaginary enemies (from Don Quixote)*

The vice president told the committee, “We’re really on your side, and if you fight us you’ll be tilting at windmills.”
WEEK 10 ♦ DAY 5

REVIEW

At the end of this week’s study, you will have covered 200 words and 40 idioms. In addition, you will have seen many of those words used several times in subsequent lessons. If you have been operating at only 75% efficiency, you have, nevertheless, added substantially to your arsenal of words.

Here’s a thought: wouldn’t it be wonderful if through genuine attention to the daily dosage you could move up to 80%—or even 90%? Start by matching the 20 words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper. Did somebody say 100%?

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. desist
2. doleful
3. elusive
4. engrossed
5. frustrate
6. histrionics
7. imminent
8. inclement
9. inert
10. interject
11. mastiff
12. obsess
13. pertinent
14. peruse
15. premonition
16. recoil
17. salient
18. squeamish
19. symptomatic
20. wan

**DEFINITIONS**

a. sad
b. draw back
c. foil
d. cease
e. interrupt
f. stormy, harsh
g. indicative
h. appropriate
i. powerless to move
j. large dog
k. outstanding
l. read carefully
m. preoccupy
n. easily shocked
o. forewarning
p. about to happen
q. hard to grasp
r. pale
s. absorbed
t. display of emotions

**IDIOMS**

21. to pay the piper

u. to reveal one’s emotions
22. on the carpet  v. being scolded
23. to show one’s hand  w. fight imaginary enemies
24. to tilt at windmills  x. to bear the consequences

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only*

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. _____________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. _____________________</td>
<td>_______________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. _____________________</td>
<td>_______________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 10

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 1st Day
③ 4th Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 3rd Day

The Potato that Strangled Idaho

People who are ①_____ about the sight of blood or ②_____ in horror from most forms of violence would do well to avoid some of the movies now being shown at their local cinemas. Producers have learned that films that scare the patrons out of their seats, ironically, put millions of fans into those seats, keeping them ③_____ in the goose pimple-inducing spectacles that flash across the screen.

Of course, each movie carries with it a rating that indicates its suitability for certain age groups, either because of its subject matter, language, presentation, or level of violence. Pictures with a “G” rating are approved for all audiences, while, at the other end of the scale, those that are given an “X” rating are for adults only with no children allowed under any circumstance. Getting an “R” rating indicates that the movie is restricted (no one under 18 admitted without an adult) but some Hollywood moguls consider the “R” to be the magnet that insures box office success. And we can be sure that as long as shock films ring up a merry tune on the cash registers, producers will not ④_____ from making them.

A director who specializes in making gory films involving monsters, vampires, and brutal serial killers boasted in a college lecture that his work was in good taste. One student who disagreed was provoked to ⑤_____ that in his opinion the diet of “shock-schlock” movies was in worse taste than those pictures that contained vulgar language and nudity. “At least they’re honest,” he declared.
THE SEARCH FOR THE DOG (CONTINUED)

Meanwhile, the Harts had notified the local radio stations to broadcast a poignant appeal for the dog’s owner to come forward. The station was inundated with phone calls but all leads were fruitless. From what Bobby had told them, a huge dog had leaped out from a red station wagon in the supermarket’s parking lot. After biting Bobby it vanished. The six-year-old was too concerned with the bites he had received to see where the dog disappeared to. The boy’s story was garbled, but he did remember that the animal was gray and had a collar. There was little tangible* evidence to go on, but the police remained sanguine.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The sermon was ________________ enough to bring tears to the brash* delinquent’s eyes.
2. Although the message was ________________, its salient* points were clear enough.
3. After a ________________ attempt to wrest* control of the government, the traitors were incarcerated.
4. Even though his boat was almost ________________, the skipper was loath* to radio for help.
5. Because the malignancy* had gone unchecked, the surgeons were not ________________ about the patient’s chances.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. inundate  a. useless
7. fruitless  b. confused, mixed up
8. poignant  c. optimistic
9. garbled  d. to flood
10. sanguine  e. moving, painful to the feelings

Today’s Idiom

to feather one’s nest — grow rich by taking advantage of circumstances

While working as the tax collector, he adroitly* feathered his own nest.
The normally phlegmatic Jerry Hart was deeply upset. Twenty-four hours had passed without result, and even if the rabies could not be corroborated, Jerry was determined to see that his son received the vaccine. At the suggestion of some friends, he organized a comprehensive search party, zealously fanning out in circles around the supermarket. They knocked on every door, inspected every dog, and came back empty-handed. Although the Harts were sick with worry (they had to be coerced into going to sleep), little Bobby seemed to be in great spirits. The excruciating* vigil continued.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Harriet’s egregious* error disturbed even her ________________ employer.
2. The fund raiser was so ________________ that he solicited* money from a Salvation Army Santa Claus.
3. In order to get the job, you had to go through the drudgery* of filling out a ten-page ________________ questionnaire.
4. The elusive* fugitive was ________________ by his attorney into surrendering.
5. Even the swindler’s nefarious* accomplice refused to ________________ his alibi.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
6. phlegmatic
7. corroborate
8. comprehensive
9. zealous
10. coerce

a. enthusiastic
b. calm, hard to rouse to action
c. confirm, support
d. thorough
e. to force

**TODAY’S IDiom**

*fair-weather friends*—unreliable, they fail one in time of distress

The general was chagrined* to learn that so many of his supposed supporters were actually *fair-weather friends.*
elapse
i laps´

meticulous
mə tik´ yə ləs

domicile
dom´ ā sīl

lax
laks

sporadic
spə rad´ ik

THE POLICE FIND THE DOG

Forty hours had elapsed before the police work and the publicity paid off. By meticulously checking the registrations of every red station wagon in the neighborhood and then cross-checking dog licenses, the police narrowed the search to four owners. After a few telephone calls, the apologetic owner was located and directed to bring her muzzled German shepherd to the Hart domicile. Bobby identified the dog, and the animal was taken to a veterinary’s clinic to have the necessary tests performed. The lax owner, Mrs. McGraw, admitted that the dog had a sporadic mean streak, but she scoffed* at the idea of rabies. Jerry Hart noticed for the first time in two days that his uneasy feeling had departed.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Inadvertently,* Emma had allowed two months to __________________ before paying her rent.
2. The lackluster* battle was punctuated by __________________ mortar fire.
3. A man’s ______________ is his castle.
4. Because the watchman was ______________, thievery was rampant* at the warehouse.
5. The ______________ musician had nothing but disdain* for his disorganized friends.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. elapse a. careless, negligent
7. meticulous b. to slip by
8. domicile c. occasional
9. lax d. home
10. sporadic e. careful

Today's Idiom

to sow one's wild oats—to lead a wild, carefree life

During his teen years, the millionaire avidly* sowed his wild oats.
rash
conjecture
obviate
lurid
quip

Week 11  ▪ Day 4

All’s Well That Ends Well

The Harts were greatly relieved to learn that the rash conjecture about the dog was not true. Because the German shepherd was not rabid, the necessity for the painful treatment was obviated. The police gave the dog’s owner a summons for allowing the animal to go unmuzzled. Little Bobby was treated to an ice cream sundae and a Walt Disney double feature. The neighbors searched for other lurid happenings, and Jerry Hart went back to his office. “What kind of dog was that?” his secretary asked. “Oh, his bark was worse than his bite,” quipped Jerry.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. It was sheer __________ on the detective’s part but it led to the arrest of the vexatious* counterfeiter.
2. The newspaper switched from mundane* coverage to ________________ reporting.
3. It was exceedingly ________________ of the lightweight to insult the belligerent* longshoreman.
4. The necessity for preparing sandwiches was ________________ when the picnic was postponed.
5. Hamlet remembered that Yorick was always ready with a lusty ________________ .

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
6. rash (adj.)  a. do away with, eliminate
7. conjecture  b. joke
8. obviate  c. guess
9. lurid  d. sensational
10. quip  e. too hasty, reckless

**TODAY’S IDiom**

**windfall**—unexpected financial gain

When the bankrupt company struck oil, the surprised investor received a windfall of $20,000.
Many teachers have jested about their students who confused *rabies* with *rabbis*, Jewish clergymen. We know that those who get the message of this book, true vocabulary mastery, will make few such errors.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.*

**REVIEW WORDS**
1. coerce  
2. comprehensive  
3. conjecture  
4. corroborate  
5. domicile  
6. elapse  
7. fruitless  
8. garbled  
9. inundate  
10. lax  
11. lurid  
12. meticulous  
13. obviate  
14. phlegmatic  
15. poignant  
16. quip  
17. rash  
18. sanguine  
19. sporadic  
20. zealous

**DEFINITIONS**

a. to flood, to swamp  
b. home  
c. painful to the feelings, moving  
d. useless  
e. reckless  
f. confirm  
g. calm, sluggish  
h. sensational  
i. hopeful  
j. do away with  
k. confused, mixed up  
l. guess  
m. to pass by  
n. careless  
o. occasional  
p. thorough  
q. careful  
r. to force  
s. enthusiastic  
t. to joke

**IDIOMS**
21. to feather one’s nest  
22. fair-weather friends  
23. to sow wild oats

u. to lead a wild life  
v. unexpected financial gain  
w. unreliable acquaintances
24. windfall  x. provide for oneself at the expense of others

Make a record of those words you missed. If you were able to get them all right, think of antonyms for numbers 7, 8, 10, 17, and 19.

*For reference only

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</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 11

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 3rd Day
③ 1st Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 1st Day

Assuming Blunders

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for Richard Sands.”

“Deliver us from evil. Lead us not into Penn Station.”

Teachers who train students to memorize and then do rote recitations sometimes find that the youngsters have a ① ______ interpretation of the actual words. Eliza Berman, an educator who is ② ______ about her own use of language, invited colleagues to send her examples of confusion in students’ writings. Little did she realize that they would quickly ⑤ ______ her letterbox with their pet mistakes. As a result, Ms. Berman was able to compile a fairly ④ ______ list of howlers that include the following:

“The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called Mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot.”

“Homer wrote The Oddity in which Penelope was the first hardship Ulysses endured on his journey.”

“Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.”

“King Alfred conquered the Dames.”

“Indian squabs carried porpoises on their backs.”

“Under the Constitution, the people enjoy the right to keep bare arms.”

“In the Olympic Games, the Greeks ran, jumped, hurled the bisquits and threw the java.”

“Lincoln was America’s greatest Precedent.”

Ms. Berman is not too ⑤ ______ about eliminating such errors from pupils’ compositions and test papers. Her advice: enjoy!
OFF BROADWAY

When Monte Ziltch told his boss, Mr. Foy, that he was quitting as an accountant to become an actor, the man was convulsed with laughter. After Mr. Foy realized that Monte was obsessed* with the idea, he became quite serious, launching into a diatribe on the importance of responsibility in the younger generation. Monte confessed that he had been developing ulcers as an accountant, and when his psychiatrist suggested that the sickness was a result of inhibitions, Monte agreed. Now a fortuitous opportunity to get into show business required Monte to make an immediate decision. Mr. Foy stormed out of the office, muttering incoherently about hippies, beatniks, and others of that ilk.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. When a large expenditure is imminent,* my father goes into a long _______________ on the need for economy.
2. It is often fruitless* to argue with racists, bigots*, and others of that _______________.
3. Since the patient’s speech was garbled* and _______________, we could only conjecture* as to his message.
4. The meeting was a _______________ one, but the jealous husband construed* it as pre-arranged and clandestine.*
5. After two drinks the usually phlegmatic* dentist lost all his ______________._
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. diatribe           a. kind, sort
7. inhibition         b. disjointed
8. fortuitous         c. accidental
9. incoherent         d. bitter criticism
10. ilk               e. restraint

Today’s Idiom

to wear one’s heart on one’s sleeve—to make one’s feelings evident

People who wear their hearts on their sleeves frequently suffer emotional upsets.
The need for a decision came about when Monte was invited to join a prestigious summer stock company, starting in mid-June. As a mature “apprentice,” he would be required to take tickets, paint scenery, prepare placards, assist with lighting, costumes, and props, and carry an occasional spear in a walk-on role. Since the company would stage five major plays during the summer, as well as a half-dozen shows for children, there was a chance that Monte might actually get a part before too many weeks had elapsed.* In addition, he would be attending the drama classes that were an integral part of the summer theater. The remuneration would be nominal but at last Monte Ziltch would be fulfilling a life-long ambition.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The police posted a ____________ asking all citizens to desist* from looting.
2. A salient* feature of the ____________ company’s success was its fair treatment of employees.
3. Derek Jeter’s ____________ from the New York Yankees made him a millionaire many times over.
4. For allowing his ferocious mastiff* to appear on a commercial, the trainer was paid a ____________ sum.
5. She seemed to be an unimportant member of the president’s entourage* but actually she played an ____________ role in White House affairs.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. prestigious a. essential
7. placard b. poster
8. integral c. slight
9. remuneration d. reward, pay
10. nominal e. illustrious

Today’s Idiom

to wash dirty linen in public—to openly discuss private affairs

“Let’s talk about it privately,” his uncle said, “rather than wash our dirty linen in public.”
During the first weeks of the summer, Monte Ziltch didn’t even have time to consider whether he had made an egregious* mistake. He was too engrossed* with his work, performing a thousand and one odd jobs around the theater. First there was the opening production of A Chorus Line, then two weeks of The Fantasticks, followed by a poignant* Diary of Anne Frank, which did excellent business. All through those weeks, Monte painted, carried, nailed, collected, ran, studied, and perspired. He had expunged all traces of debits and credits from his mind, burying himself in the more flamboyant world of the theater. Accounting became anathema to him as the schism between his present utopia and his former drudgery* widened.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. In Lost Horizon a character recoiled* at the idea of living in a _______________.
2. A pernicious* _______________ developed between the two sisters.
3. The traitor’s name was _______________ in his father’s domicile.*
4. Our theatrical pages were inundated* with press releases from the _______________ producer.
5. After having made the rash* statements, the senator wished that he could _______________ them from the record.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
6. expunge  a. split
7. flamboyant  b. something greatly detested
8. anathema  c. place of perfection
9. schism  d. erase
10. utopia  e. showy, colorful

**Today’s Idiom**

*to save face*—*to avoid disgrace*

Instead of firing the corrupt executive, they allowed him to retire in order that he might *save face.*
**NEW WORDS**

**timorous**

*tim´ərəs*

**truncated**

*trung´kātid*

**jaunty**

*jôn´tē*

**fractious**

*frak´shəs*

**ostentatious**

*os´ten tā´shəs*

**WEEK 12 • DAY 4**

**IRONY FOR MERRYWEATHER**

At last, Monte’s chance to perform came. He had played the *timorous* Lion in a *truncated* version of “The Wizard of Oz,” which the apprentices had staged. But now there was an open audition to cast the final show of the season. It was to be a *jaunty* original comedy, given a summer tryout prior to a Broadway opening. Monte, who by now had adopted the stage name of Monte Merryweather, read for the producers, hoping to get the part of the hero’s *fractious* landlord. Unfortunately, the competition was too rough—but the director assigned Monte to a less *ostentatious* part. And so for the first two weeks in September the stage-struck accountant had a two-minute, two-line part. What was his role? The hero’s accountant!

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. It is frustrating* to have one’s lengthy remarks printed in _______________ form.
2. With his cap set at a _______________ angle, the amicable* sailor strutted down the street.
3. In an _______________ display of histrionics* the star refused to perform.
4. Under duress* the normally _______________ husband was coerced* into demanding a raise.
5. Roger’s _______________ behavior compounded* the bad relationship he had already had with his partner.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. timorous  a. fearful  
7. truncated  b. cut short  
8. jaunty  c. sprightly, gay  
9. fractious  d. showy  
10. ostentatious  e. quarrelsome

**TODAY’S IDiom**

*Indian summer* — warm autumn weather

Parts of the country were deep in snow, but the East was enjoying an *Indian summer*.
**WEEK 12 ♦ DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

How many of the new words have now become a part of your “working vocabulary”? At first, their use may be conscious, even studied. However, the squeaks will soon disappear. Try a few this weekend.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper. (Note the resemblance between *flamboyant* and *ostentatious*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. anathema</td>
<td>a. well-known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. diatribe</td>
<td>b. quarrelsome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. expunge</td>
<td>c. kind, sort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. flamboyant</td>
<td>d. poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. fortuitous</td>
<td>e. disjointed</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. fractious</td>
<td>f. sprightly</td>
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<td>7. ilk</td>
<td>g. accidental</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. incoherent</td>
<td>h. in name only, slight</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. inhibition</td>
<td>i. restraint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. integral</td>
<td>j. reward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. jaunty</td>
<td>k. a curse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. nominal</td>
<td>l. bitter criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. ostentatious</td>
<td>m. erase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. placard</td>
<td>n. colorful</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. prestigious</td>
<td>o. cut short</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. remuneration</td>
<td>p. essential</td>
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<td>17. schism</td>
<td>q. fearful</td>
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<td>18. timorous</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. truncated</td>
<td>s. split</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. utopia</td>
<td>t. place of perfection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

21. wear one’s heart on one’s sleeve  u. make one’s feelings evident
22. wash dirty linen in public       v. warm autumn weather
23. save face
   w. to avoid disgrace

24. Indian summer
   x. openly discuss private affairs

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ______________________</td>
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<td>2. ______________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. ______________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SENSIBLE SENTENCES?
(From Week 12)

Choose the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. The senator went into a lengthy (*diatribe, remuneration*) about government waste in the military budget.
2. Most reformers are seeking to create a (*schism, utopia*).
3. Lorraine was criticized sharply for the (*ostentatious, nominal*) way in which she furnished her apartment.
4. Anyone so (*ilk, timorous*) should not have been selected to guard the castle.
5. My brother was promoted to a (*prestigious, flamboyant*) job in his company.
6. Although his speech was (*anathema, jaunty*) we were able to sense its underlying seriousness.
7. The failing grade was (*expunged, truncated*) from her record when she submitted the excellent term paper.
8. I got my job as a result of a (*fractious, fortuitous*) meeting with the director of personnel.
9. The bookkeeper is such an (*integral, incoherent*) part of our organization that we pay her a very high salary.
10. We marched in front of the embassy with (*placards, inhibitions*) held high.
11. Don’t (*save face, wash your dirty linen in public*) if you plan to run for office.
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 3rd Day
③ 1st Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Regis, Oprah, Ellen, et al.

The television talk shows of our era, featuring such ①_______ public figures as Regis Philbin, Oprah Winfrey, and Ellen De Generes, attract millions of daytime viewers and constitute a powerful influence on the American scene. When the media can hold the attention of so sizable a chunk of couch potatoes, it pays to scrutinize it closely.

A student at Stanford University, doing her doctoral thesis on the unusual popularity of the afternoon talk shows, noted the fierce competition among those programs for guests who are off the beaten track. According to her:

“Almost every irregular, ②_______ life-style you can think of has already been featured on one of the shows and probably on all of them, when you add Montel Williams, Jerry Springer, and others of that ③_______ who serve as network hosts. They have shown teenagers who marry people in their sixties, daughters and mothers who date the same man, men who have gone through a marriage ceremony with other men, women with prominent tattoos, and other people who are totally free of ④_______.”

“⑤_______ for our guests is so small,” said a producer, “that these shows are inexpensive to put on. And say what you want about good taste, millions watch us every day, and as long as the ratings are that healthy, sponsors will pay good money to be identified with us.”
**NEW WORDS**

**importune**

imˈ pər tunˈ

**incontrovertible**

inˈ kon trə vərˈ tə bal

**surreptitious**

sərˈ ap tishˈ əs

**haven**

hāˈ vən

**subjugate**

subˈ jə gāt

**WEEK 13 • DAY 1**

**A VISIT TO THE PRESIDENT**

In the winter of 1941, Enrico Fermi and a number of other distinguished scientists importuned President Franklin Roosevelt for authorization to begin an all-out effort in atomic energy research. The scientists were alarmed by incontrovertible evidence of surreptitious German experiments, and they asked for speedy approval. Italian-born Enrico Fermi was the ideal man to lead the atomic research. Already in 1938 he had won the Nobel Prize for work with radioactive elements and neutron bombardment. Fermi had found a haven from the Fascists (his wife was Jewish) and he knew that if the Germans were the first to develop an atomic bomb it would mean that Hitler could subjugate the entire world. The international race for atomic supremacy was on.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Although Eddie was not sanguine* about his chances, he continued to _____________ his boss for a winter vacation.
2. In inclement* weather our barn is a _____________ for many animals.
3. The dictator used duplicity* in order to _____________ his rivals.
4. With a _____________ movement, the meticulous* bookkeeper emptied the ash tray.
5. The expert’s _____________ testimony corroborated* the police report.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. importune    a. undeniable
7. incontrovertible    b. ask urgently
8. surreptitious    c. conquer
9. haven    d. place of safety
10. subjugate    e. stealthy, accomplished by secret

**Today’s Idiom**

*to take the bull by the horns*—to face a problem directly

After several days of delay, the minister decided *to take the bull by the horns*, and so he sent for the vandals.
**NEW WORDS**

**ultimate**
ulˊ tə mit

**eventuate**
i venˊ chư āt

**emit**
i mitˊ

**subterranean**
subˊ tə rāˊ nē ən

**viable**
vīˊ ə bəl

**WEEK 13 ◤ DAY 2**

**THE ULTIMATE WEAPON TAKES SHAPE**

Enrico Fermi designed a device that could *eventuate* in a chain reaction. It consisted of layers of graphite, alternated with chunks of uranium. The uranium *emitted* neutrons, and the graphite slowed them down. Holes were left for long cadmium safety rods. By withdrawing those control rods Fermi could speed up the production of neutrons, thus increasing the number of uranium atoms that would be split (fission). When the rods were withdrawn to a critical point, then the neutrons would be produced so fast that the graphite and cadmium could not absorb them. In that manner a chain reaction would result. Slowly, Fermi’s first atomic pile began to grow in a *subterranean* room at Columbia University. The big question remained—was it *viable*?

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. A thorough investigation ________________ in a comprehensive* report.
2. After two years of confinement in a ________________ dungeon, the prisoner was thin and wan.*
3. The mayor issued a diatribe* against companies whose smokestacks ________________ poisonous fumes.
4. Gaining better housing for all was the ________________ goal of the zealous* reformer.
5. When the schism* in the company was healed, a ________________ arrangement was worked out.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. ultimate  a. underground
7. eventuate  b. final
8. emit  c. practicable, workable
9. subterranean  d. to give off
10. viable  e. to result finally

Today’s Idiom

the lion’s share— the major portion

Because the salesman was essential to the business, he demanded the lion’s share of the profits.
NEW WORDS

premise
prem´ is

jeopardize
jep´ e r dīz

incredulous
in krej´ a ləs

permeate
pėr´ mē āt

propitious
prə pish´

WEEK 13 ♦ DAY 3

THE SQUASH COURT EXPERIMENT

As the pile grew, so did the entire project. Fermi moved his materials to an abandoned squash court under a football stadium at the University of Chicago. His pace accelerated because they were proceeding on the premise that the Germans were close to atomic success. Six weeks after the pile had been started, its critical size was reached. Three brave young men jeopardized their lives by ascending* the pile, ready to cover it with liquid cadmium if anything went wrong. Almost fifty scientists and several incredulous observers mounted a balcony to watch. One physicist remained on the floor; it was his job to extract the final cadmium control rod. Unbearable tension permeated the atmosphere. Fermi completed his calculations, waited for a propitious moment, and then gave the signal.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Acting on the _______________ that there were no burglars around, the police became quite lax.*
2. After I had perused* the Yankee lineup, I was _______________ about their chances of winning.
3. The trapeze artist was squeamish* about having to _______________ his life.
4. A terrible odor that was impossible to expunge* _______________ the skunk handler’s clothing.
5. At a _______________ moment the flamboyant* movie star made her grand entrance.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. premise  a. favorable
7. jeopardize  b. endanger
8. incredulous  c. to spread through
9. permeate  d. skeptical
10. propitious  e. grounds for a conclusion

Today’s Idiom

out of the frying pan into the fire—-to go from a difficult situation to a worse one

I thought I had escaped, but actually I went out of the frying pan into the fire.
The chain reaction took place precisely as Enrico Fermi had surmised. After twenty-eight minutes he curtailed the experiment, giving the signal to replace the control rod. The normally reserved scientists, unable to repress their excitement, let out a tremendous cheer and gathered around Fermi to shake his hand. Although it was time to celebrate, some of the men remarked soberly that “the world would never be the same again.” On December 2, 1942, the news of Fermi’s achievement was relayed in a cryptic telephone message:

“The Italian Navigator has reached the New World.”
“And how did he find the natives?”
“Very friendly.”
The Atomic Age was inchoate—but truly here!

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Publication of the lurid* magazine was ________________ by the district attorney.
2. Although his remarks appeared ________________ at first, we began to see how really pertinent* they were.
3. I had to ________________ my desire to interject* my criticism during the debate.
4. Edna had ________________ that she would be charged a nominal* sum and so she was outraged when she got the bill.
5. The young couple was disappointed to see the ________________ state of their new
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. surmise  a. puzzling
7. curtail  b. guess
8. repress  c. to put down
9. cryptic  d. to cut short
10. inchoate  e. in an early stage

Today’s Idiom

to keep the pot boiling—to see that interest doesn’t die down

Dickens kept the pot boiling by ending each chapter on a note of uncertainty and suspense.
WEEK 13 • DAY 5
REVIEW

No matter what the theme, no matter what the source, we can expect that important concepts will require a mature vocabulary. This week’s topic, scientific and biographical in nature, serves as a vehicle for teaching you twenty worthwhile words. You now have the chance to see whether you remember their definitions. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

### REVIEW WORDS

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<td>1. cryptic</td>
<td>a. ask urgently</td>
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<td>3. emit</td>
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<td>4. eventuate</td>
<td>d. accomplished by secret</td>
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<td>f. favorable</td>
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<td>7. inchoate</td>
<td>g. cut short</td>
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<td>8. incontrovertible</td>
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<td>16. subterranean</td>
<td>p. a proposition for argument</td>
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<td>17. surmise</td>
<td>q. skeptical</td>
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<td>18. surreptitious</td>
<td>r. in an early stage</td>
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<td>19. ultimate</td>
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<td>20. viable</td>
<td>t. to give off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. take the bull by the horns</td>
<td>u. to maintain interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. the lion’s share</td>
<td>v. from bad to worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. out of the frying pan into the fire</td>
<td>w. the major portion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>x. to face a problem directly</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
24. keep the pot boiling

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

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</table>
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

**Clues**

1. 4th Day
2. 1st Day
3. 2nd Day
4. 2nd Day
5. 3rd Day

**Drug Smugglers Beware**

The 1 message came to Officer Matt Jagusak: “Drug search tomorrow—bring pig.”

Jagusak, with the Union County New Jersey Sheriff’s Department Search and Rescue Unit, had to 2 his superiors to put Ferris E. Lucas, a super sniffer, to work. Lucas is a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig with a fantastic olfactory sense that is one million times greater than a human’s and could be our 3 weapon in breaking up the drug trade.

A canine trainer offered the pig to Union City, suggesting that its intelligence and unique skill will make Lucas a 4 fighter against illegal narcotics. Jagusak has already taught his 55-pound porker-detective how to find cocaine, hashish, and marijuana. While some law enforcement officials were 5 at first, they quickly became believers when they saw the Sherlock Holmes of the sty locate underground drug scents that had eluded trained dogs.

“I don’t care if it’s a dog, a pig, or an elephant,” Jagusak’s boss said. “If it benefits the department and our community, we’ll try it.”
**NEW WORDS**

aspire
ə spīrˈ

inveigh
in vā´

nettle
netˈ l

overt
ō´ vert

relegate
rel´ a gät

**WEEK 14 • DAY 1**

**SUNDAY MORNING AT PEARL HARBOR**

At breakfast time on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, Dorie Miller was serving coffee aboard the battleship West Virginia. Dorie was black, and the highest job to which he could then aspire in the U.S. Navy was that of messman. While Dorie was technically a member of a great fighting fleet, he was not expected to fight. Most Army and Navy officers inveighed against blacks as fighting men. Although blacks were nettled by such overt prejudice, Dorie Miller apparently accepted being relegated to the role of a messhall servant. Now, as he poured the coffee, Dorie was wondering why the airplanes above were making so much noise on a peaceful Sunday morning.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the proper blanks.

1. Although the comic’s quips* seemed to be mild, they began to ______________ the nightclub’s owner.
2. I had a premonition* that Eli would ______________ to the position of captain.
3. The pickets agreed to ______________ against the law that curtailed* their freedom.
4. ______________ acts of violence by the prisoner jeopardized* his parole.
5. When they tried to ______________ the star to a minor role she was furious.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.
To bury the hatchet— to make peace

After not speaking to each other for a year, they decided to bury the hatchet.
THE INFAMOUS* ATTACK

The coffee cups suddenly went spinning as an explosion knocked Dorie Miller flat on his back. Jumping up from his supine position, the powerfully built messman from Waco, Texas, headed for the deck. Everywhere that Dorie looked he saw smoke and mammoth warships lying on their sides. Overhead, dozens of Japanese dive bombers controlled the skies without a U.S. plane to repulse their attack. The havoc was enormous. Without hesitating, Dorie joined a team that was feeding ammunition to a machine gunner who was making an ineffectual* attempt to protect their battleship from being razed by the torpedo planes.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the proper blanks.

1. From a ________________ position, the hunter emitted* the animal’s mating call.
2. Following the revolution, the people ________________ the subterranean* dungeons of the dictator.
3. Management is sure to ________________ any request for increased remuneration.*
4. ________________ placards* announced the opening of the new movie.
5. The virulent* plague caused ________________ among the populace.

Definitions Match the new words with their meaning.

6. supine a. ruin
Philadelphia lawyer—a lawyer of outstanding ability

His case is so hopeless that it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to set him free.
**NEW WORDS**

lethal
lē’ thəl

scurry
skēr´ ē

incisive
in sī´ siv

precipitate
pri sip´ ə tāt

**stereotype**
ster´ e ə tü´p´

**WEEK 14 • DAY 3**

THE HEROISM OF DORIE MILLER

Men all around Miller were succumbing* to the lethal spray of Japanese bullets. He dragged his captain to safety and turned back to see that the machine-gunner had been killed. Dorie took the big gun and trained it on the incoming bombers. Within the space of ten minutes he was credited with destroying four bombers while dodging the bullets of their fighter escorts. The enemy scurried away, having struck the incisive blow that precipitated U.S. entrance into World War II. Amidst the dead bodies and the ruined fleet were the heroes such as Dorie Miller. The Navy had told him that he did not have to fight but he hadn’t listened. The Navy had attempted to stereotype him, but Dorie changed all that.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the proper blanks.

1. Our editor castigated* the proposal with his ________________ commentary.
2. Poe’s hero watched the rats ________________ across his inert* body.
3. The jockey received a ________________ kick from the fractious* horse.
4. A quarrel was ________________ among the relatives after they heard the terms of the reprehensible* will.
5. The laconic* Clint Eastwood was a ________________ of the strong, silent Western hero.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>lethal</td>
<td>a. acute</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>scurry</td>
<td>b. run hastily</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>incisive</td>
<td>c. unvarying pattern</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>precipitate</td>
<td>d. deadly</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>stereotype</td>
<td>e. hasten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

_to gild the lily_—_to praise extravagantly_

There was no need for the announcer _to gild the lily_ because we could see how beautiful the model was.
**NEW WORDS**

**stentorian**
sten tôr-′ē ən

**singular**
sing′ gye lər

**valor**
val′ ər

**bias**
bī′ əs

**sinecure**
sī′ nə kyûr

**WEEK 14 • DAY 4**

“FOR DISTINGUISHED DEVOTION TO DUTY”

Some months later Dorie Miller was serving on an aircraft carrier when Admiral Chester Nimitz, the Commander of the Pacific Fleet, came aboard to preside over a special awards ceremony. In *stentorian* tones the Admiral presented Miller with the prestigious* Navy Cross, commending him for a *singular* act of *valor* and “disregard for his own personal safety.” Miller’s heroism helped to shatter the *bias* against African-Americans in the armed forces. Although he could have accepted a *sinecure* at a U.S. naval base, Dorie chose to remain in the combat zone where he was killed in action in December, 1943.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the proper blanks.

1. The director was ousted* from his _________________ when he angered the mayor.
2. In his customary _________________ tones, the sergeant reprimanded* those who thought the army was a haven* for incompetents.
3. The word “surrender” is anathema* to people of _________________.
4. A viable* peace was brought about as a result of the diplomat’s _________________ contribution.
5. The bigot’s* _________________ precipitated* a fistfight.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.
6. stentorian  a. prejudice
7. singular  b. soft job
8. valor  c. courage
9. bias  d. extraordinary
10. sinecure  e. loud

**Today’s Idiom**

to steal one’s thunder—to weaken one’s position by stating the argument before that person does

I had planned to be the first to resign from the club, but my cousin stole my thunder.
**WEEK 14 • DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Many people agree that a lawyer should be skillful with words. A Philadelphia lawyer,* it goes without saying, must have an extensive vocabulary in order to help him or her present a case.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. aspire</td>
<td>a. huge</td>
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<td>2. bias</td>
<td>b. evident, open</td>
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<td>3. havoc</td>
<td>c. courage</td>
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<td>4. incisive</td>
<td>d. to strive for</td>
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<td>5. inveigh</td>
<td>e. banish, assign to inferior position</td>
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<td>6. lethal</td>
<td>f. deadly</td>
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<td>7. mammoth</td>
<td>g. soft job</td>
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<td>8. nettle</td>
<td>h. prejudice</td>
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<td>9. overt</td>
<td>i. keen, acute</td>
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<td>10. precipitate</td>
<td>j. run quickly</td>
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<td>11. raze</td>
<td>k. hasten</td>
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<td>12. relegate</td>
<td>l. remarkable, uncommon</td>
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<td>13. repulse</td>
<td>m. attack verbally</td>
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<td>14. scurry</td>
<td>n. drive back</td>
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<td>15. sinecure</td>
<td>o. lying on the back</td>
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<td>16. singular</td>
<td>p. destroy</td>
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<td>17. stentorian</td>
<td>q. conventional custom</td>
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<td>18. stereotype</td>
<td>r. irritate</td>
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<td>19. supine</td>
<td>s. ruin</td>
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<td>20. valor</td>
<td>t. loud</td>
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**IDIOMS**

<table>
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<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td>21. bury the hatchet</td>
<td>u. to praise extravagantly</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Philadelphia lawyer</td>
<td>v. outstandingly able</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. gild the lily</td>
<td>w. to beat someone to the punch</td>
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</table>
**steal one’s thunder**  x.  **make peace**

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only*

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Clues
① 1st Day
② 1st Day
③ 3rd Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 3rd Day

Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice

Teen Talk Barbie, the best-selling $50 model, has gone a step too far in the opinion of the American Association of University Women. Representatives of that group were ①_______ to hear that one of the four phrases that the doll is programmed to utter is, “Math class is tough.”

For years the university professors, as well as members of feminist organizations, have ②_______ against the ③_______ that portrays girls as weak math and science students. “Because that brainwashing message is conveyed to girls at an early age, they come to accept what we consider to be a blatant ④_______ ,” said Dr. Ellen Kaner, a Dallas chemist. “We are just beginning to make progress in our campaign to recruit women for challenging, well-paying careers in math and science,” she added, “and were shocked to learn that Barbie is spreading such harmful nonsense.”

Executives of the company that manufactures Teen Talk Barbie had to ⑤_______ to set matters right. They admitted that the phrase in question, one of 270 selected by computer chips, was a mistake. In a press release, their president said, “We didn’t fully consider the potentially negative implications of this phrase. Not only will we remove it immediately but will swap with anyone who bought the offending doll.”

We wonder how Ken feels about the matter.
NEW WORDS

complicity
kəmˈplisətē

liquidation
likˈwədāˈshən

accomplice
əˈkomˈplis

recant
riˈkant

culpable
kulˈpəbəl

WEEK 15 ♦ DAY 1

DANNY ESCOBEDO GOES TO JAIL

In 1960, a young Chicagoan, Danny Escobedo, was given a 20-year jail sentence for first-degree murder. Danny had confessed to complicity in the killing of his brother-in-law after the police had refused to allow him to see his lawyer. Actually, Danny was tricked into blaming a friend for the liquidation of his sister’s husband, thereby establishing himself as an accomplice. Despite the fact that Danny later recanted his confession, he was found culpable and jailed. Danny had been stereotyped* as a hoodlum and nobody raised an eyebrow over the hapless* felon’s* troubles.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Proceeding on the premise* that the broker was guilty of ______________ in the swindle, the detective followed him surreptitiously.*
2. After the ______________ of the gang leader, a mammoth* conflict arose among his ambitious lieutenants who aspired* to be boss.
3. Once the incontrovertible* evidence was offered, the servant was held ______________ in the theft of the jewels.
4. When the clergyman refused to ______________ , his superiors were so nettled* that they relegated* him to an isolated parish in Alaska.
5. Although he was judged as a minor ______________ , the driver had actually played an integral* part in planning the crime.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings. Two of the words are very close in meaning.

6. complicity a. deserving blame
7. liquidation b. partnership in wrongdoing
8. accomplice c. an associate in crime
9. recant d. disposal of, killing
10. culpable e. withdraw previous statements

Today’s Idiom

woolgathering—absentmindedness or daydreaming

When the young genius should have been doing his homework, he was frequently engaged in woolgathering.
ESCOBEDO’S LAWYER APPEALS

Barry Kroll, a Chicago lawyer, took an interest in Danny Escobedo’s case. Kroll felt that his client’s rights under the Constitution had been abrogated. Since the alleged accomplice, Escobedo, had been denied access to an attorney, Kroll asked the courts to invalidate the conviction. He proposed that lawyers be entitled to sit in when the police question a suspect but the Illinois courts rejected that on the grounds that it would effectively preclude all questioning by legal authorities. If such a law were upheld, the police felt that it would play havoc* with all criminal investigations.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The manager was distraught* when he realized that the slugger’s sickness would _______________ a World Series victory.
2. It is symptomatic* of some newspapers that an _______________ criminal is regarded in print as guilty.
3. The wealthy uncle decided to _______________ his inane* nephew’s sinecure.*
4. The general was sure to _______________ the court-martial’s decision once he learned of the flagrant* bias* of the presiding officer.
5. Once the druggist had been duped* into opening the store, the addict gained _______________ to the pep pills.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. abrogate  a. admittance
7. alleged      b. reported, supposed
8. access       c. to deprive of legal force, to nullify
9. invalidate   d. prevent
10. preclude    e. abolish

Today’s Idiom

to whitewash—to conceal defects, to give a falsely virtuous appearance to something

Although a committee was appointed to investigate the corruption, many citizens felt that their report would be a whitewash of the culprits.*
New Words

persevere
për′ sə vir′

landmark
land′ märk′

extrinsic
ek strin′ sik

declaim
di klām′

fetter
fet′ ər

Week 15 ♦ Day 3

An Historic Supreme Court Ruling

Lawyer Kroll persevered in his defense of Danny Escobedo. The case was argued before the Supreme Court, and in 1964, in a landmark decision, the Court reversed Danny’s conviction.

Legal aid, said the judges, must be instantly available to a suspect. “A system of law enforcement that comes to depend on the confession,” one Justice declared, “will, in the long run, be less reliable than a system that depends on extrinsic evidence independently secured through skillful investigation.” A Justice who declaimed against the decision said, however, “I think the rule is ill-conceived and that it seriously fetters perfectly legitimate methods of criminal enforcement.”

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Collectors avidly* sought the rare coin for its ____________ value.
2. If we ____________ , we can overcome many of our inhibitions.*
3. The Battle of Midway was a ____________ victory in the U.S. campaign for ultimate* victory over the Japanese in World War II.
4. I knew that my father would ____________ against Mother’s choice of ostentatious* fabrics.
5. The senator inveighed* against the policy because he felt it would ____________ our Air Force.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. **persevere**
   a. to hamper

7. **landmark (adj.)**
   b. foreign, coming from outside

8. **extrinsic**
   c. speak loudly

9. **declaim**
   d. persist

10. **fetter (v.)**
    e. historic, turning point of a period

**TODAY'S IDiom**

**to break the ice**—to make a start by overcoming initial difficulties

The auto salesman had a poor week, but he finally *broke the ice* by selling a fully equipped Cadillac.
THE EFFECTS OF THE ESCOBEDO DECISION

After Danny Escobedo’s release from prison, hundreds of inmates began suits for their freedom on the grounds that their rights had been violated, too. Each case was heard on its merits, and in numerous instances people who had been convicted of serious offenses were freed because of the new standards established in the Escobedo case. After getting out, Danny was not a paragon of virtue, according to the police. He led a nomadic existence, drifting from job to job, and was arrested frequently. With asperity, and a few choice epithets, Danny referred to police harassment.* Although the Escobedo case was a controversial one, most agree that it inspired better police training, better law enforcement procedures, and improved scientific crime detection.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. In the desert, ________________ tribes wander back and forth, enduring much privation.*
2. The town planners looked upon their utopia* as a ________________ for other communities.
3. Some school principals attempt to repress* the publication of ________________ editorials.
4. We were amazed at the display of ________________ from our normally phlegmatic* neighbor.
5. A bitter quarrel was precipitated* when both politicians hurled vile ________________
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. paragon  a. harshness of temper
7. nomadic  b. model of excellence
8. asperity  c. wandering
9. epithet  d. debatable
10. controversial  e. descriptive name

**TODAY’S IDiom**

_the grapevine—a secret means of spreading information_

_The grapevine_ has it that Ernie will be elected president of the school’s student council.
WEEK 15 ♦ DAY 5

REVIEW

Police who have resorted to wire-tapping have been able to get evidence that was useful in gaining convictions. In a sense, everyone who listens to you is wire-tapping your conversation. Are the “detectives” impressed with the extent of your vocabulary? By the end of this week you will have gained a greater familiarity with 300 words and 60 idioms—enough to educate a conscientious wire-tapper.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper. (Numbers 1 and 13 are close in meaning.)*

**REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS**

1. abrogate  
2. access  
3. accomplice  
4. alleged  
5. asperity  
6. complicity  
7. controversial  
8. culpable  
9. declaim  
10. epithet  
11. extrinsic  
12. fetter (v.)  
13. invalidate  
14. landmark (adj.)  
15. liquidation  
16. nomadic  
17. paragon  
18. persevere  
19. preclude  
20. recant  

a. descriptive name  
b. coming from outside, foreign  
c. supposed, reported  
d. deserving blame  
e. destruction, disposal of  
f. an associate in crime  
g. model of excellence  
h. bitterness of temper  
i. persist  
j. repeal by law  
k. prevent  
l. speak loudly  
m. partnership in wrongdoing  

n. to deprive of legal force, cancel  
o. renounce previous statements  
p. to hamper, to chain  
q. admittance  
r. wandering  
s. historic  
t. debatable

**IDIOMS**

21. woolgathering  

u. a means of spreading information
22. to whitewash  v.  absentmindedness
23. break the ice  w.  to conceal defects
24. the grapevine  x.  make a start

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only*

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WORDSEARCH 15

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 1st Day
③ 4th Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 4th Day

Questionable Advertisements

The Nostalgia Factory, a Boston art gallery, staged an exhibit of advertisements that had outraged various segments of the community. For example, one of the fast food chains ran a TV commercial that showed unattractive school cafeteria workers in hairnets, making that experience less tasty than a visit to Roy Rogers. Another ad that drew criticism from psychiatrists and groups such as the Alliance for the Mentally Ill suggested to readers that, if they had paid $100 for a dress shirt, they were fit candidates for a straitjacket. Similar sensitivity had restricted ad writers from using terms such as “nuts” or “crazy.”

Why such protests and where do they come from? Who is asking companies to ⑥_______ contracts with those agencies that are ⑦_______ in creating racist types of commercial messages? Parents who took exception to the Burger King spot that announced, “Sometimes You Gotta Break the Rules,” said no to it because it gave the wrong message to their children. And when a potato chip maker’s ad featured a “bandito,” angry Mexican-Americans used some choice ⑧_______ in denouncing such a stereotype.

The conclusion to be reached is that segments of the population have become increasingly vocal about “insensitive” ads, demanding that corporations ⑨_______ and never again commission advertisements that are clearly ⑩_______, provocative, and harmful to good human relationships.
MEET THE BEES

One of the most interesting inhabitants of our world is the bee, an insect that is indigenous to all parts of the globe except the polar regions. The honeybee is a gregarious insect whose habitat is a colony that he shares with as many as 80,000 bees. Although the individual bees live for only a few days, their colony can be operative for several years. A cursory study of the activities of these insects reveals an orderliness and a social structure that is truly amazing. For example, bees in a particular hive have a distinct odor; therefore, when an interloper seeks access* they can identify him quickly and repulse* his invasion.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Sherlock Holmes took a ________________ glance at the cryptic* message and decoded it instantly.
2. The forest was replete* with the kind of wildlife that is ________________ to Africa.
3. Electric eyes, watchdogs, and other nuances* were there to keep out an ________________.
4. The alcoholic was found supine* in his favorite __________—Ryan’s Bar.
5. At the party, the ________________ hostess scurried* from group to group, making friends and influencing people.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
Today’s Idiom

*in a bee line*—taking the straightest, shortest route (that’s the way a bee flies back to the hive after he has gathered food)

When the couple left, the babysitter made a *bee line* for the refrigerator.
NEW WORDS

prolific
prə lɪfˈ ɪk

bulwark
bəlˈ wɜrk

sedentary
sedˈ ɛn tərˈ ē

frugal
frʊˈ ɡal

antithesis
an tɪθˈ ə sis

WEEK 16 • DAY 2

QUEENS, WORKERS, DRONES

Each colony of honeybees consists of three classes: a) the queen who is a prolific layer of eggs; b) the worker who is the bulwark of the colony; and c) the sedentary drone whose only function is to mate with a young queen. The queen lays the eggs that hatch into thousands of female workers; some queens live as long as five years and lay up to one million eggs. The frugal worker builds and maintains the nest, collects and stores the honey, and is the antithesis of the lazy drone, or male honeybee, who does not work and has no sting. When the drone is no longer needed, the workers, in effect, liquidate* him by letting him starve to death. It’s a cruel, cruel world!

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The usually _______________ novelist was frustrated* by her failure to come up with a good plot.
2. Len, the gregarious* twin, was the _______________ of Lon, the reticent one.
3. The typist shook off the fetters* of her _______________ life and joined a mountain climbing expedition.
4. _______________ shoppers occasionally badger* supermarket managers for bargains.
5. Some feel that the United States should be a _______________ to the inchoate* democracies around the world.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. prolific  a. producing abundantly
7. bulwark  b. thrifty
8. sedentary  c. protection
9. frugal  d. exact opposite
10. antithesis  e. largely inactive, accustomed to sitting

TODAY’S IDiom

the world, the flesh, and the devil—temptations that cause man to sin
By entering the monastery he sought to avoid the world, the flesh, and the devil.
NEW WORDS

altruistic
al´ trü is´ tik

embellish
em bel´ ish

cache
kash

coterie
kō´ tarē

cupidity
kyü pid´ a tê

WEEK 16 ▪ DAY 3

SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORKER

Let us examine the activities of the altruistic workers in greater detail. After the workers have constructed a hive of waterproof honeycomb (made from beeswax), the queen begins to lay eggs in the first cells. While some workers embellish the hive, others fly out in search of nectar and pollen. With their long tongues they gather nectar and use their hind legs to carry the pollen from the flowers. They fly directly back to the hive and then dance around the honeycomb, their movements indicating the direction of the flowers. Meanwhile, other workers have been cleaning cells, caring for the young, and guarding the precious cache of nectar. Another special coterie is entrusted with heating or cooling the hive. Dedicated to the welfare of the queen and the entire insect community, all of these workers display a complete absence of cupidity.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Through a fortuitous* remark, the _____________ of the art thieves was discovered.
2. We warned him that his reprehensible* _____________ would eventuate* in a loss of all his friends.
3. The good-hearted doctor went into the jungle purely for _____________ reasons.
4. A _____________ of bridge players made our clubroom their permanent habitat.*
5. Everytime the irate* motorist told about the accident he had a tendency to _____________ the story.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. altruistic  a. secret hiding place
7. embellish  b. unselfish
8. cache  c. small group having something in common
9. coterie  d. adorn, touch up
10. cupidity  e. greed

Today’s Idiom

to make bricks without straw—to attempt to do something without having the necessary materials (In the Bible we read that the Egyptians commanded the Israelites to do so)

My uncle’s business schemes always fail because he tries to make bricks without straw.
NEW WORDS

virtuosity
vĕr´ chū os´ a tē

temperity
tə mer´ a tē

amorous
am´ ŏr ăs

progeny
proj´ a nē

saturate
sa-chə-rāt

WEEK 16 • DAY 4

THE SAGA OF THE QUEEN BEE

Although the virtuosity of the workers is remarkable, the queen bee is really the main story. Workers choose a few larvae to be queens, feeding them royal jelly, a substance rich in proteins and vitamins. While the queen is changing from a larva to a pupa, a team of workers builds a special cell for her. Soon the young queen hatches, eats the prepared honey, and grows strong. After she kills any rivals who have the temerity to challenge her, an amorous note is injected. She flies from the hive and mates with one or more drones on her first flight. Then the process of egg laying begins. When her progeny saturate the hive, scouts are dispatched to find a new location, and the bees swarm after their leader to begin the amazing cycle again.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences; remember, past tenses may be required.

1. A landmark* in the history of _____________ drama is Romeo and Juliet.
2. The eminent* artist, famous for his ________________ , was admired by classicists and beatniks alike.
3. The Bantu chief and all his ________________ were noted for their valor.*
4. For having the ________________ to declaim* against the majority leader, the freshman senator was given the worst committee assignments.
5. Television in the new century was ________________ with the rebirth of the old quiz shows.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. virtuosity  a. descendants
7. temerity  b. full of love
8. amorous  c. soak, fill up completely
9. progeny  d. foolish boldness
10. saturate  e. great technical skill

Today’s Idiom

to have the upper hand—to gain control
I had him at my mercy, but now he has the upper hand.
WEEK 16 ⊨ DAY 5
REVIEW

Even if you are as busy as the proverbial bee, you can always manage the fifteen to twenty minutes that are required for these daily vocabulary sessions.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

REVIEW WORDS

1. altruistic
2. amorous
3. antithesis
4. bulwark
5. cache
6. coterie
7. cupidity
8. cursory
9. embellish
10. frugal
11. gregarious
12. habitat
13. indigenous
14. interloper
15. progeny
16. prolific
17. saturate
18. sedentary
19. temerity
20. virtuosity

DEFINITIONS

1. secret hiding place
2. enjoying the company of others
3. unselfish
4. small exclusive group
5. not thorough, hasty
6. an unauthorized person
7. largely inactive
8. natural environment
9. foolish boldness
10. fill up completely
11. protection
12. full of love
13. great technical skill
14. fertile
15. descendants
16. natural environment
17. direct
18. temptations
19. attempt something without necessary materials
20. have the upper hand

IDIOMS

21. in a bee line
22. the world, the flesh, and the devil
23. make bricks without straw
24. have the upper hand
Make a record of those words you missed.

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Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 3rd Day
③ 1st Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 3rd Day

Cheating a Cheater

“Our neighborhood was so tough,” the comedian joked, “that two guys held up a bank and were mugged as they ran to their getaway car.”

Later that evening, as Roy and Timmy were discussing the comic’s routine, Roy was reminded of a true (he said) story that went like this:

Mr. D., the gang kingpin in our community, loved money. Like Silas Marner, the ①_____ weaver of George Eliot’s novel, he enjoyed counting his treasure each Friday night. Mr. D’s ②_____ was concealed in a wall safe behind a painting in his office. The $50 and $100 bills made his hands dirty as he counted them but Mr. D didn’t mind. The filth of the lucre did not disturb him at all.

One Friday evening, Roy continued, a brash ③_____ had the ④_____ to try to steal the ill-gotten gains. Having bought the combination from a relative who had installed Mr. D’s safe, he stuffed his loot into a laundry bag and was halfway out the door when he spied a $10 bill on the floor. His ⑤_____ made him go back for that small change, and in that moment, Mr. D. arrived on the scene.

The quick-thinking thief blurted out, “I’ll have the shirts back on Friday.” Hoisting the laundry bag over his shoulder, he was out the door before the confused mobster could figure out what had happened.

Timmy, who had listened patiently, said, “I don’t believe a word of that story because it would take a guy with a great deal of starch to pull it off!”
A PLAN TO FOOL THE NAZIS

One of the truly remarkable stories of World War II concerns a ruse* that was perpetrated with such consummate skill that it saved the lives of many Allied troops and helped to shorten the war. The simple, bold, and ingenious subterfuge which British officers concocted is the subject of Ewen Montagu’s classic, The Man Who Never Was. In short, the idea was to plant fallacious documents concerning the Allied invasion of Europe upon a dead officer, have his body recovered by agents who would transmit the false information to Germany, and then observe the effects of the plan.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Because the inspector had given only cursory* attention to the reports, I surmised* that his conclusion would be ________________.
2. Johnny Cochrane, the famous and controversial* lawyer, gave ________________ attention to the preparation of every case.
3. It was necessary for the interloper* to ________________ a convincing story in order to gain access* to the exhibit.
4. In order to ________________ the swindle, the jaunty* confidence man adopted an amorous* approach toward the wealthy widow.
5. The experienced teacher realized that Ricky’s stomachache was merely a ________________ to keep him from taking the French test.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. perpetrate     a. devise
7. consummate     b. complete, of the highest degree
8. subterfuge     c. commit
9. concoct        d. ruse, trick
10. fallacious    e. misleading

Today’s Idiom

to draw in one’s horns—to check one’s anger, to restrain oneself

The performer drew in his horns when he saw that his critic was an eight-year-old boy.
NEW WORDS

manifold
man´ə fōld

assiduous
ə sij´ū əs

impeccable
im pek´ə bəl

fraught
frôt

resourceful
ri sôrs´ fəl

WEEK 17 ▷ DAY 2

“MAJOR MARTIN” GOES TO WAR

After Commander Montagu and his colleagues had been given official approval for their dangerous escapade, they encountered manifold problems. First, they conducted an assiduous search for a body that looked as though it had recently been killed in an airplane disaster. Then, a detailed history of the man had to be invented that would be so impeccable that the enemy would accept its authenticity. This meant documents, love letters, personal effects, keys, photographs, etc. Each step was fraught with difficulty, but the schemers were unbelievably resourceful. As a result, in the late spring of 1942, “Major Martin” was prepared to do his part for his country.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Burdened by her ________________ responsibilities, the young executive was precluded* from enjoying her new wealth.
2. Fear permeated* the crippled airplane as the passengers realized that their situation was ________________ with danger.
3. Although basically frugal,* his taste in clothing is ________________.
4. The store owner was ________________ enough to run a sale the day after his building had been razed* by the flames.
5. Florence Nightingale was a paragon* of mercy in her ________________ care for the wounded soldiers.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. manifold  a. able to meet any situation  
7. assiduous  b. faultless  
8. impeccable  c. complex, many  
9. fraught  d. devoted, attentive  
10. resourceful  e. filled

**Today’s Idiom**

to put the cart before the horse—

to reverse the proper order, do things backwards

My assistant was so eager to get the job done that he often *put the cart before the horse.*
THE PLOT THICKENS

A submarine took the body out to sea. Then, “Major Martin,” the man who never was, was slid into the murky Atlantic waters off the coast of Huelva, Spain. Attached to this courier’s coat was a briefcase that contained the components of the hoax. Shortly thereafter, the Spanish Embassy notified the British that the body had been recovered. But Commander Montagu learned that the important documents had already been scrutinized* and later resealed so that the British would not be suspicious. The secret information was transmitted to the German High Command, through a labyrinth of underground networks, to be evaluated. Now the true test of the months of assiduous* planning would come—the question remained, would the Germans swallow the bait?

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The practical joker had the temerity* to perpetrate* a _______________ upon the Dean of Boys.
2. A good motion picture producer should be skilled in all the manifold* _______________ of film-making.
3. After wandering through the _______________ , the young hero came face to face with the dragon who was indigenous* to the caves.
4. When I asked the English teacher to _______________ my plan for the term paper, her incisive* comments were very helpful.
5. The _______________ quality of the artist’s latest painting is the antithesis* of her
former style.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. murky  a. dark, obscure  
7. component  b. element  
8. hoax  c. deception  
9. labyrinth  d. arrangement of winding passages  
10. evaluate  e. appraise, find the value of

**TODAY’S IDiom**

*to turn the tables*—*to turn a situation to one’s own advantage*

The wrestler thought that he could pin me to the mat, but I quickly *turned the tables* on him.
The conspirators had reason to *exult*, for all evidence *attested* to the fact that the German High Command was *gullible* about “Major Martin.” Their defense troops were moved away from the true invasion sites and *deployed* to areas that were inconsequential. Subsequently, when the actual attack took place, Allied casualties were minimized. After the war, Commander Montagu received a medal from the king of England. At the presentation ceremony, the king politely inquired where the young officer had earned his citation. “At the Admiralty,” Montagu replied, presenting the king with a genuine *enigma*.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Explaining that the bookkeeper was merely a __________________ dupe,* the judge freed him from complicity* in the crime.
2. As the audience watched the master _________________ his chess pieces, they applauded his virtuosity.*
3. An expert was summoned to _________________ to the authenticity of the Rembrandts found in the Nazi cache* of stolen masterpieces.
4. When Osama Bin Laden was killed, our public had reason to _________________.
5. I could not solve the _________________ of why an altruistic* person should exhibit such cupidity.*
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. exult  
a. to certify
7. attest  
b. easily cheated or fooled
8. gullible  
c. to position forces according to a plan
9. deploy  
d. riddle
10. enigma  
e. rejoice greatly

Today’s Idiom

a chip off the old block—a son who is like his father (from the same block of wood)
When we saw the alcoholic’s son enter the liquor store, we assumed that he was a chip off the old block.
WEEK 17 ♦ DAY 5

REVIEW

Major Martin, if he had lived, would have used the word “bonnet” to refer to the hood of his auto, and he might have referred to a truck as a “lorry.” As you can see, there are differences between American and British English. But Major Martin, undoubtedly, would have known all the words below—do you?

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper. (Note the similarity between numbers 13 and 20.)

REVIEW WORDS

1. assiduous
2. attest
3. component
4. concoct
5. consummate
6. deploy
7. enigma
8. evaluate
9. exult
10. fallacious
11. fraught
12. gullible
13. hoax
14. impeccable
15. labyrinth
16. manifold
17. murky
18. perpetrate
19. resourceful
20. subterfuge

DEFINITIONS

a. spread out in battle formation
b. a trick
c. busy, attentive
d. confirm as accurate, vouch for
e. devise
f. a riddle, puzzle
g. element, part
h. able to meet any situation
i. perfect, complete
j. filled
k. misleading, false
l. rejoice greatly
m. faultless
n. easily fooled
o. winding passages
p. find the value of, review
q. many
r. deception
s. commit
t. dark, obscure
u. restrain oneself
v. turn a situation to one’s own advantage

IDIOMS

21. draw in one’s horns
22. put the cart before the horse
23. turn the tables  
   w. do things backwards

24. chip off the old block  
   x. son who is like his father

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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</table>
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 2nd Day
③ 1st Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 1st Day

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in a ①________ review of Social Security disability payments, focused on Jack Benson, a ②________ Seattle panhandler. Mr. Benson had claimed that whatever money he collects on the street can be compared to the funds raised by legitimate charities, and, therefore, he is entitled to a federal deduction. Government officials regard his analogy as ③________ and disagree. It is their contention that, since Benson’s income is unearned, it should be subtracted from his disability payments.

Mr. Benson may not be highly regarded as a street beggar but that didn’t stop him from going into the Federal District Court in Oregon to plead that his appeals for cash are an art form, thereby making him eligible for most of the $472 a month that he had been receiving. Not so, declared the government, quoting from a 1990 ruling that found that “money received through begging is better classified as ‘gifts’ rather than as ‘wages’ or ‘net earnings from self-employment.’”

Mr. Benson’s lawyer, plunging into the legal ④________, has not given up. She countered that, if Jack merely sat on a street corner with his hand out, the government had a good case. However, in her words, “Jack Benson is a ⑤________ professional who has elevated begging to a respectable level because of his skill in actively seeking contributions.”

It may take all of Benson’s talent as a salesman to get the government to put some money in his collection basket.
NEW WORDS

abortive
ə bôrˈtiv
modify
modˈə fî
accommodate
ə komˈə dât
spontaneous
spon täˈnē əs
innate
i nätˈ or inˈāt

WEEK 18 ♦ DAY 1

TEACHING CHIMPANZEES TO TALK

Two resourceful* psychologists at the University of Nevada have made splendid progress in vocabulary development in chimpanzees. Following a number of abortive attempts to teach French, German, or English to chimps, the researchers persevered* until they hit upon the American Sign Language system that is often used by deaf persons. They have had to modify the language somewhat in order to accommodate the animals’ spontaneous gestures. With a mixture of innate movements and learned ones, some laboratory chimps now have an extensive vocabulary.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. His ____________ cunning allowed him to see through the spy’s subterfuge.*
2. The divers made an ____________ attempt to rescue the dog from the murky* waters.
3. Because Phil refused to ____________ his philosophy, the directors were forced to invalidate* his appointment.
4. My English teacher admonished* me: “I realize that the speech was to be ____________, but it was not supposed to be incoherent* or fraught* with fallacious* statements.”
5. A quarrel was precipitated* when the dietician refused to ____________ the patient’s special needs.
Definitions If vocabulary is getting to be your stock in trade,* you should have no trouble in matching the new words with their meanings.

6. abortive
   a. fruitless,* useless, failing
7. modify
   b. to make fit, adjust to
8. accommodate
   c. natural
9. spontaneous
   d. without preparation, unrehearsed
10. innate
    e. to change

**Today’s Idiom**

*under the wire*—just in time

Hank hesitated about his term paper for two months and finally submitted it just *under the wire.*
CHIMPANZEEs ARE SURPRISINGLY SMART

Washoe, the chimpanzee, has more than a veneer of intelligence; she can signal her desire to eat, go in or out, be covered, or brush her teeth. In addition, she can make signs for “I’m sorry,” “I hurt,” “Hurry,” “Give me,” and a myriad of other terms that are familiar to young children. This urbane animal can indicate that she craves more dessert by putting her fingers together (“more”) and then placing her index and second fingers on top of her tongue (“sweet”). It is irrelevant that Washoe cannot actually talk. What is important, however, is the consummate ease with which she has mastered her daily assignments.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Why did Silas Marner ________________ wealth and practice cupidity*?
2. Once the hoax had been concocted*, a ________________ of problems arose.
3. The defendant was alleged* to have been an army deserter, but the judge said that was ________________ to the case.
4. By embellishing* her work with ________________ humor, the sophisticated playwright succeeded on Broadway.
5. The lieutenant confessed to a ________________ of ignorance in order to properly evaluate* his corporal’s resourcefulness.*

Definitions Take the bull by the horns* and match the new words with their meanings.
6. veneer  a. to desire
7. myriad  b. countless number
8. urbane  c. polished, witty
9. crave  d. thin covering
10. irrelevant  e. not related to the subject

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

*to be at large*—not confined or in jail

Since the dangerous criminal was *at large*, all the townspeople began to buy dogs for protection.
NEW WORDS

deem
dēm

inherent
in hir´ ənt

buff
buf

romp
romp

latent
lāt´ nt

WEEK 18  DAY 3

EASY TO TRAIN

The chimpanzees are *deemed* by scientists to be the closest to man of all the living apes; consequently, they are fairly easy to train. Several years ago, two married researchers embarked on an interesting project: they reared and trained a chimp in almost the same manner as they would have raised a child. The animal did beautifully, convincing the couple of the *inherent* ability of the chimpanzee. Cinema *buffs* who have seen Tarzan’s clever monkey *romp* through the jungle also recognize the *latent* intelligence of those animals.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. *Whom do you ______________ to be the bulwark* of the Republican party?
2. *The firemen did not have to cajole* the enthusiastic ______________ into helping them extinguish the blaze.
3. *When the intercity competition began, our team was supposed to ______________ over our hapless* rivals.
4. *At the age of 42, the artist first became cognizant* of his ______________ genius.
5. *Certain mice have an ______________ alertness that enables them to conquer the researchers’ labyrinths.*

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
deem
inherent
buff (n.)
romp
latent

6. a. lying hidden
7. b. to move in a lively manner
8. c. inborn
d. a fan, follower
e. believe, to judge

TODAY’S IDIOM

to go against the grain—to irritate

My uncle is in favor of some protests, but certain demonstrations go against the grain.
New Words

tortuous
tõr´ chū əs

itinerant
ī tin´ ər ənt

peregrination
per ə gra nā´ shən

conjugal
kon´ ja gal

barometer
bə rom´ ə tar

Week 18 ♦ Day 4

More Facts about Chimps

Chimps in the laboratory have demonstrated their ability to find their way out of the most tortuous maze. They can press buttons, manipulate levers, avoid shocks, etc. When food is placed out of reach, the animals can prepare a ladder of boxes to reach it. In his natural habitat* the chimpanzee is something of an itinerant. He goes his nomadic* way through the jungle, living on fruit, insects, and vegetables. With the aid of his long, powerful hands he can swing rapidly from tree to tree and cover considerable ground in his peregrinations. Chimps are loyal in their conjugal relationships, taking only one mate at a time. That may be another barometer of these animals’ superior intelligence.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The other drivers were nettled* about the ease with which our car ascended* the __________________ road.
2. Arguments over money have often led to __________________ havoc.*
3. The sedentary* twin was content to follow his brother’s ________________ on a map.
4. Signs were posted in the lobby to prevent ________________ beggars and others of that ilk* from entering.
5. The warmth of Mr. Smythe’s greeting each morning may be construed* as an excellent ________________ of his health.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. tortuous    a. wandering
7. itinerant    b. winding
8. peregrination c. travel
9. conjugal    d. relating to marriage
10. barometer    e. instrument for measuring change

**Today’s Idiom**

to *wink at*—to pretend not to see

There was a plethora* of evidence to show that the border guards would *wink at* illegal shipments if they were paid in advance.
While it is true that scientists have had remarkable success in teaching chimpanzees to communicate, we can be certain that even super-monkeys would have difficulty with any of the words below. However, higher animals who apply themselves can master all of them.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper. (Note the similarity between numbers 8 and 9.)*

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>3. barometer</td>
<td>c. fruitless, failing</td>
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<td>7. deem</td>
<td>g. on the spur of the moment</td>
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<td>8. inherent</td>
<td>h. move in a lively manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. innate</td>
<td>i. to desire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. irrelevant</td>
<td>j. instrument for measuring change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. itinerant</td>
<td>k. winding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. latent</td>
<td>l. inborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. modify</td>
<td>m. believe, to judge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. myriad</td>
<td>n. going from place to place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. peregrination</td>
<td>o. a fan, follower, enthusiast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. romp</td>
<td>p. travel (n.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. spontaneous</td>
<td>q. relating to marriage, connubial*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. tortuous</td>
<td>r. countless number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. urbane</td>
<td>s. to change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. veneer</td>
<td>t. lying hidden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

| 21. under the wire | u. pretend not to see |
| 22. to be at large | v. just in time |
23. go against the grain  w. to irritate
24. wink at  x. not confined or in jail

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

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<tr>
<td>2. _____________________</td>
<td>___________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. _____________________</td>
<td>___________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 18

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues

① 4th Day
② 4th Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 1st Day

A Shameful Situation

The plight of the migrant farm worker continues to frustrate the U.S. Labor Department, court officials, legislators, religious groups, and community agencies. Men, women, and children toil six and seven days a week to earn as little as $50 to $60 a week after being overcharged for their food, medicine, and basic living needs. They are housed in ramshackle dormitories, often with non-functioning toilets—a ⑥ of their employers’ contempt for them; they lack hot water and showers, and are given food that is barely fit for human consumption.

Unscrupulous contractors scour the countryside in search of homeless, ② , and unemployed men and women, offering to put them to work at good jobs picking fruits and vegetables. The U.S. Labor Department investigates the ⑧ of complaints of abused workers, issues fines, and revokes the licenses of contractors. But many such shady employers pay the fines (which they ⑨ to be operating expenses) and continue to run company stores that cheat the workers, subjugate them with drugs and alcohol, ⑩ them with advances on their paltry wages at high interest, and use violence against those whom they regard as troublemakers.

Fred Jones, a typical migratory worker from South Carolina, claims to have worked for $6 cash out of his $158 check. His story is repeated by hundreds of others who have been treated shabbily by corrupt contractors. Until sufficient funds are allocated by state and federal agencies, and until there is the proper public response, these abuses will continue.
NEW WORDS

megalomania
megˈə lō māˈ nēə

profligate
profˈlə git

strife
strīf

legion
lēˈ jən

coup
kü

WEEK 19 ♦ DAY 1

TROUBLE IN RURITANIA

KingAndre of Ruritania was afflicted* with megalomania, and the people of his country suffered, as a result. After ten years of his profligate rule, the treasury was bankrupt, unemployment was rampant*, domestic strife was mounting, and the number of the king’s opponents who were incarcerated* were legion. Following a bloodless coup, his nephew, Prince Schubert, took command of the poor nation.

Sample Sentences Based upon your understanding of the new words, as discovered from the context, use the correct words in the following sentences.

1. With a singular* disregard for his family, the ______________ husband spent his salary on alcohol.

2. Each spouse said that the other was culpable* for their conjugal* ______________.

3. “The number of my followers is ______________, ” said the flamboyant* politician.

4. The necessity for executing the leaders of the abortive* ______________ was obviated* when they committed suicide.

5. Hitler’s ______________ was a veneer* for his insecurity and feelings of inferiority.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. megalomania       a. discord, disagreement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>profligate</th>
<th>b. revolution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>strife</td>
<td>c. wasteful</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>legion</td>
<td>d. a large number</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>coup</td>
<td>e. abnormal desire for wealth and power</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Today's Idiom**

*to play possum*—to try to fool someone; *to make believe one is asleep or dead*

Sensing that his life was in jeopardy*, the hunter *played possum* until the voracious* lion disappeared.
PRINCE SCHUBERT IN ACTION
Prince Schubert’s first move was to declare an amnesty for political prisoners and to invite home all Ruritanian expatriates. Those who had been jailed on false charges were exonerated by special tribunals. The young leader announced that he would abrogate* all of the oppressive fiats that his predecessor had promulgated.* Things began to look up temporarily for the citizens who perceived in Prince Schubert the sincerity, idealism, and honesty that had been lacking in the mendacious King Andre.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The publisher’s ______________ claims led to a myriad* of law suits.
2. When the jury began to deliberate, they were prepared to ________________ the culprit.*
3. The itinerant* poet, living abroad for twenty years, was a voluntary ________________.
4. One cannot govern by ________________, the sedentary* mayor quickly learned; it is necessary to get out and meet the citizens if you want their cooperation.
5. We recognized the dictator’s ________________ as an obvious feint* that would be withdrawn after Christmas.
**Definitions** It will be a red letter day* for you if you can match the new words with their meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. amnesty</td>
<td>a. an exile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. expatriate</td>
<td>b. lying, untrue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. exonerate</td>
<td>c. a general pardon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. fiat</td>
<td>d. to free from guilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. mendacious</td>
<td>e. an official order, a decree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*it’s an ill wind that blows nobody good*—
someone usually benefits from another person’s misfortune

When the star quarterback broke his leg, the coach gave the rookie his big chance and the youngster made good; the coach mumbled, “It’s an ill wind.”
**NEW WORDS**

parsimonious  
**pär’sə mŏnēəs**

pecuniary  
**pi kyū’ nē er’ ē**

dismantle  
**dis man’ tl**

sumptuous  
**sump’ chū əs**

underwrite  
**un’ dər rī’ t**

**WEEK 19 • DAY 3**

**REFORM MOVEMENT**

In order to improve Ruritania’s financial position, an astute* but parsimonious treasurer was installed and given wide pecuniary powers. He tried to get the little country back on its feet by slashing all waste from its budget, dismantling King Andre’s sumptuous palaces, and firing all incompetents. In addition, Prince Schubert was able to get the United States to underwrite a substantial loan that would enable him to start a program of public works. Even so, Ruritania was still in desperate trouble.

**Sample Sentences** Prove that you are not a flash in the pan* by using the new words correctly in the following sentences.

1. I plan to _______________ the stereo set and clean all the components.*
2. The _______________ feast was prepared with impeccable* care.
3. Unless my boss modifies* his _______________ attitude, a fractious* picket line is going to be erected.
4. Clarence Day deemed* that _______________ matters are best handled by men.
5. When our rivals agreed to _______________ the cost of our trip, a myriad* of suspicions began to form in my mind.

**Definitions** If you made mistakes above, you can now save face* by matching the new words
correctly with their meanings.

6. parsimonious  a. agree to finance
7. pecuniary    b. financial
8. dismantle     c. to strip of covering, take apart
9. sumptuous    d. miserly
10. underwrite  e. lavish

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

*to know the ropes*—to be fully acquainted with the procedures

The president of the senior class *knew the ropes* and quickly taught me my duties.
When Prince Schubert asked for additional restrictive measures, the people began to balk. Speaking on radio, the young reformer explained the reasons for higher taxes and food rationing; he was blunt when he stated the need for personal sacrifices. Nevertheless, the resistance to reform was great, and nostalgia for the “good old days” of King Andre began to grow. The people admitted that graft and corruption had been rife under Andre, but at least “everybody got his slice of the pie.” Although Prince Schubert was tempted to quit, he determined that he would help the people in spite of themselves.

Sample Sentences  Don’t pass the buck*! Use the new words in the following sentences yourself.

1. The rebel’s innate* hatred of ________________ decrees led him to crave* freedom all the more.
2. A string of caustic* epithets* was directed at the recruit by his ________________ sergeant.
3. Although the former farm girl pretended to be urbane*, a feeling of ________________ always came over her when she heard country music.
4. Criticism of the author was ________________ among the coterie* of intellectuals who used to praise him.
5. Jimmy was a lawbreaker, but he would ________________ at the idea of carrying a lethal* weapon.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

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<td>6</td>
<td>restrictive</td>
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<td>balk (v.)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>blunt</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>nostalgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>rife</td>
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</table>

**Today's Idiom**

*behind the eight ball*—in trouble

Susan found herself *behind the eight ball* in chemistry when she failed to do the term project.
WEEK 19 ✤ DAY 5
REVIEW

Ruritania is a mythical kingdom, impossible to find on a map and difficult to find in a dictionary. The words that you are about to review, however, are all legitimate, acceptable dictionary words.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. amnesty</td>
<td>a. revolution, overthrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. balk</td>
<td>b. unrest, discord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. blunt</td>
<td>c. take apart, disassemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. coup</td>
<td>d. lavish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. dismantle</td>
<td>e. to free from guilt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. exonerate</td>
<td>f. agree to finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. expatriate</td>
<td>g. false, lying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. fiat</td>
<td>h. an exile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. legion</td>
<td>i. abnormal desire for power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. mendacious</td>
<td>j. plain spoken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. megalomania</td>
<td>k. harsh, confining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. nostalgia</td>
<td>l. to refuse to move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. parsimonious</td>
<td>m. wasteful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. pecuniary</td>
<td>n. an official order, a decree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. profligate</td>
<td>o. widespread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. restrictive</td>
<td>p. large number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. rife</td>
<td>q. financial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. strife</td>
<td>r. a general pardon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. sumptuous</td>
<td>s. miserly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. underwrite</td>
<td>t. yearning for the past</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDIOMS

21. to play possum  u. someone profits from another’s misfortune
22. an ill wind    v. be fully acquainted with procedures
23. know the ropes  w. in trouble
behind the eight ball  x.  try to fool someone

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

MEANINGS

__________________________________

__________________________________

__________________________________

__________________________________

__________________________________
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
1 1st Day
2 3rd Day
3 4th Day
4 4th Day
5 4th Day

Ogopogo

Accounts of supersized creatures such as the Loch Ness Monster and the Abominable Snowman are ⬜️️. Despite the lack of hard evidence, some people continue to believe that the depths of our lakes and isolated mountain caves remain the dwelling places of fantasy figures.

Now, a new star for the credulous has surfaced. Japanese television was asked to ⬜️️ a search for Ogopogo, a long-necked reptilian creature said to inhabit Lake Okanagan in the mountains of south-central British Columbia. Ogopogo stories are ⬜️️ in that area as people produce photos of rippling water and shadows resembling an enormous serpent with flippers, gliding slowly in large circles.

Those who ⬜️️ at what they regard as nonsense and pagan superstition are quite ⬜️️ in belittling Ogopogo fans. Nevertheless, the legends, which have a life of their own, happily, have brought thousands of tourists and business to the Okanagan Valley.

Recognition of the creature now exists in British Columbia’s environmental law which provides protection for Ogopogo. The official description reads, “An animal in Okanagan Lake, other than a sturgeon, that is more than three meters in length, and the mates or offspring of that animal.”

Been wondering about the creature’s name? Ogopogo comes from an English music hall song: “His mother was an earwig; his father was a whale; a little bit of head and hardly any tail—and Ogopogo was his name.”
**NEW WORDS**

reviled
ri vîld´

derogatory
di rog´ a tôr ē

indict
in dît´

nebulous
neb´ yə ləs

pesky
pes´ kē

**WEEK 20 ✿ DAY 1**

**LA CUCARACHA—THE COCKROACH**
The poor cockroach has been called the “most reviled creature on the face of the earth.” Nobody loves him—except, perhaps, another cockroach. Fiction, nonfiction, and poetry are replete* with derogatory references to these ubiquitous* bugs. Public health officials are quick to indict the insects as carriers of viruses that cause yellow fever and polio. Although past evidence has been somewhat nebulous, recent studies also show that an allergy to roaches may contribute significantly to asthma. Little wonder, therefore, that the pesky cockroach is under attack.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Because the contract offer was a ____________ one, the union leaders balked* at it.
2. Ezra Pound, the expatriate* poet, was ____________ for his pro-Fascist remarks.
3. When the grand jury refused to ____________ him, the mobster was exonerated.*
4. Every time his accountant called with ____________ pecuniary* problems, Ben was very blunt* with him.
5. The columnist was ordered to recant* her ____________ statements.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.
The profligate* businessman left his distraught* partner holding the bag.
NEW WORDS

redolent
redˈ ənt

repose
ri pōzˈ

omnivorous
om nivˈ ər əs

disparate
disˈ pər it

abstemious
ab steˈ mē əs

WEEK 20 • DAY 2

WAITER, PLEASE TAKE THIS BOWL OF SOUP BACK TO THE KITCHEN

In addition to menacing our health, cockroaches are smelly, filthy, and ugly. Upon entering a cellar that is redolent with their aroma, you are not likely to forget the odor. And when you spy the foul culprits* creating havoc* in your sugar bowl or in repose atop your chocolate cake, your disposition may be exacerbated.* Roaches are omnivorous and will feast upon such disparate items as wallpaper, upholstery, nylon stockings, and beer. No one can accuse the hungry and thirsty bugs of being abstemious.

Sample Sentences The words above fit into the blanks below.

1. While the palace guards were in ______________, the rebels’ coup* began in earnest.
2. Coach Fischer issued a fiat* that required that his players be ______________.
3. The ______________ scent that came from the bakery created in Eloise a sense of nostalgia* for her grandmother’s bread.
4. ______________ eaters find the dietary laws in some hotels to be too restrictive.*
5. Regardless of how ______________ their crimes were, all the prisoners were freed by the general amnesty.*
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. redolent  
7. repose (n.)  
8. omnivorous  
9. disparate  
10. abstemious

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>redolent</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>repose (n.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>omnivorous</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>disparate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>abstemious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*a lick and a promise*—to do something in a hasty and superficial manner

The meticulous* housewife was in so much of a hurry that she could only give the apartment *a lick and a promise.*
**New Words**

**extant**  
ek´ stənt or  
ek stant´

**vicissitudes**  
ˌvə sis´ ə túdz

**edifice**  
ed´ ə fis

**sultry**  
sul´ trē

**trenchant**  
tren´ chənt

**WEEK 20 • DAY 3**

**THE ROACH LIVES ON**

Cockroaches are the oldest *extant* winged insects, having been traced back over 350 million years. They have endured the *vicissitudes* of weather, natural disasters, war, and planned liquidation.* They reside comfortably in caves in South America, in transcontinental airplanes, on mountain tops, in Park Avenue *edifices*, and in television sets. The climate may be *sultry* or frigid but roaches persevere.* In the words of one writer, “The miraculous survival of the roach is explained by its inherent* adaptability.” In fact, a *trenchant* analysis made the point that any forthcoming nuclear war will be won by roaches, not Russians, Chinese, or Americans.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Hundreds of ____________ copies of Shakespeare’s signature came from the same prolific* forger.
2. The ____________ of life in the Medical Corps are not for the squeamish.*
3. We originally planned on a skyscraper but had to settle for a truncated* ____________.
4. When he learned that the movie was to be replete* with ____________ scenes, the cautious banker refused to underwrite* its cost.
5. General Fox submitted a ____________ report on the enemy’s latent* strength.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. extant  a. keen, incisive*
7. vicissitudes  b. difficulties
8. edifice  c. extremely hot and moist, torrid
9. sultry  d. still existing
10. trenchant  e. a building

Today’s Idiom

tongue in cheek—insincerely

Speaking with his tongue in his cheek, the parsimonious* employer promised to double everyone’s wages.
NEW WORDS

puissant
pyü’ ə sent or
pyü is’nt

unabated
un’ ā bāt’ id

maudlin
mød’ lan

levity
lev’ ā tē

lugubrious
lū gu’ brē əs

WEEK 20 ♦ DAY 4
TONGUE IN CHEEK*?
The U.S. Public Health Service admits to frustration* in its attempts to destroy the cockroach. As soon as the scientists devise a puissant chemical, some bugs succumb.* But the hardy ones survive and breed a resistant strain. Since the average female produces close to three hundred descendants, little hope is held out for a final solution to the roach problem. Nevertheless, extermination campaigns continue unabated. Surprisingly, some sentimental souls become maudlin as they consider the persecution of the insects. A writer noted for his levity made a lugubrious plea for a crash program of aid for the cockroach, calling him “a victim of his slum environment.”

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. She advocated* ________________ music as appropriate background for the funeral scene.
2. Although the debater’s rebuttal was ________________, it was totally irrelevant.*
3. The plague continued ________________, and the hapless* Friar John was unable to deliver the note to Romeo.
4. A good barometer* of the reunion’s success was the number of ________________ songs that the alumni sang.
5. Dean Flanigan admonished* us for our ________________ at the graduation exercises.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

6. puissant  a. sentimental  
7. unabated  b. very sad  
8. maudlin  c. lightness of disposition  
9. levity  d. without subsiding  
10. lugubrious  e. powerful

**Today’s Idiom**

to take the wind out of one’s sails—*to remove someone’s advantage*

Although Edna was bristling* with anger when she stormed in, I took the wind out of her sails by voicing my own displeasure at the way she had been treated.
**WEEK 20 ♠ DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

There are many choice epithets* for cockroaches, and over the centuries man has been most resourceful* in concocting* adjectives to describe the insects. Whether you are going to get excited over a roach, write a poem, take a College Board examination, or compose a letter to a loved one, it helps to have a rich vocabulary.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. abstemious</td>
<td>a. different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. derogatory</td>
<td>b. sentimental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. disparate</td>
<td>c. building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. edifice</td>
<td>d. very sad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. extant</td>
<td>e. humor, lightness of disposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. indict</td>
<td>f. vague, not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. levity</td>
<td>g. expressing a low opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. lugubrious</td>
<td>h. eating any kind of food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. maudlin</td>
<td>i. accuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. nebulous</td>
<td>j. state of rest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. omnivorous</td>
<td>k. still existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. pesky</td>
<td>l. powerful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. puissant</td>
<td>m. annoying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. redolent</td>
<td>n. fragrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. repose</td>
<td>o. moderate in eating or drinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. reviled</td>
<td>p. keen, sharp, biting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. sultry</td>
<td>q. torrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. trenchant</td>
<td>r. difficulties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. unabated</td>
<td>s. without subsiding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. vicissitudes</td>
<td>t. scolded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

21. left holding the bag u. insincerely
22. a lick and a promise v. left to suffer the blame
23. tongue in cheek w. do something in a cursory* manner
24. take the wind out of one’s sails x. remove someone’s advantage

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

**WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

| 1. | __________________________ |
| 2. | __________________________ |
| 3. | __________________________ |

| 1. | __________________________ |
| 2. | __________________________ |
| 3. | __________________________ |
HAPLESS HEADLINES
(From Week 20)

Restore meaning to the headlines below by inserting the word that the careless typesetter omitted.

a. Pesky  k. Reviled
b. Maudlin  l. Puissant
c. Repose  m. Nebulous
d. Abstemious  n. Trenchant
e. Sultry  o. Lugubrious
f. Vicissitudes  p. Disparate
g. Redolent  q. Indict
h. Levity  r. Extant
i. Derogatory  s. Omnivorous
j. Unabated  t. Edifice

1. Rioting Continues ________________ in Men’s Correctional Facility
2. Torch Singer’s ________________ Songs Raise Temperature in Night Club
3. ________________ Life-Style Results in Huge Weight Loss for Actor
4. Architect Celebrated for New All-Glass ________________
5. Serious Judge Will Tolerate No ________________ in His Courtroom
6. Grand Jury Set to ________________ Bookkeeper in Million Dollar Fraud
7. Baseball Manager to Apologize for ________________ Remarks about Umpire
8. Only Three Copies of Shakespeare’s Handwriting ________________, Says Elizabethan Scholar
9. Handicapped Climbers Overcome Many ________________ to Scale Mt. Everest
10. Dictator ________________ by South American Patriots
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 4th Day
③ 1st Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 1st Day

**Chlorine Compounds on Trial**

The chances are that the water supply where you live is disinfected by chlorine, one of the elements on the periodic table. Yet, ① complaints about chlorine continue ②, identifying it as a health and environmental risk.

Greenpeace, the environmental activist group, stands ready to ③ chlorinated organic elements, alleging that they are toxic. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency is reexamining the health hazards that are prevalent when materials containing chlorine are processed at high temperatures. And, worldwide, nations are banning chlorine compounds that destroy the earth’s protective ozone layer. Harsh treatment, it would seem, for one of nature’s basic elements, a component of the table salt we use.

When we enter a pool that is ④ with the aroma of chlorine, we don’t associate it with the ⑤ element now being blamed for tumors, reproductive problems, arrested development, destruction of wildlife, and sundry other ills that plague our planet.

A scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund thinks that chlorinated chemicals should be phased out. “We know they will be persistent if they get into the environment,” she said. “They are soluble, so they will build up in the fat of fish, birds, and people.”
NEW WORDS

scion

indoctrinate

opulence

obsequious

fulsome

WEEK 21 ♦ DAY 1

LOCKED IN AN IVORY EDIFICE*

Prince Siddhartha Gautama was the scion of a family of warrior-kings in northern India. He was being indoctrinated for the time when he would assume his father’s throne. Growing up in an atmosphere of opulence, the young prince was constantly shielded from the cruel realities of the world. An army of obsequious servants and tutors catered to his every desire, providing Siddhartha with instruction in riding, fencing, dancing, and painting—while lavishing fulsome praise upon him. It wasn’t until the prince was thirty that he took the first step that led to his becoming the Buddha, one of the world’s greatest spiritual leaders.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences. (Which two words are almost synonymous?)

1. It was not until the wreckers began to dismantle* the old edifice* that they discovered its real ________________.
2. As the ________________ of a family of wealthy bankers, Rothschild never had to face the vicissitudes* of life.
3. Uriah Heep’s ________________ manner nettled* all but the most gullible.*
4. In order to ________________ the captive, his jailers repeatedly reviled* capitalism while praising communism.
5. The actress received ________________ compliments from her friends but trenchant* criticism from the reviewers.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. scion  a. seeking favor, fawning
7. indoctrinate  b. child, descendant
8. opulence  c. wealth, riches
9. obsequious  d. excessive, insincere
10. fulsome  e. to teach certain principles

Today’s Idiom

two strings to one’s bow—two means of achieving one’s aim
The salesman had two strings to his bow—if a phone call didn’t get results, he would appear in person.
SIDDHARTHA’S EYES ARE OPENED

One day, Prince Siddhartha expressed the desire to leave his lush surroundings and ride out among his people. He was profoundly shaken by the misery, destitution, disease, and excruciating* pain with which his people were constantly afflicted.* Retiring to his room to ponder over what he had seen, he remained there for several days, deaf to the supplication of those who pleaded with him to come forth. It seemed to Siddhartha that his life had been redolent* with decadence, and he was determined to make amends.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The ________________ stage setting drew applause from the theater buffs.*
2. In the hospital, the alcoholic had time to ________________ over the need to be abstemious.*
3. As the traveler followed the tortuous* path up the Kentucky mountain, he was sickened by the ________________ which he saw.
4. Through ________________ , the fraternity head hoped to end the strife* among the members.
5. Rumors of Rome’s ________________ were rife* among the barbarian tribes.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
6. lush  a. decay
7. destitution  b. extreme poverty
8. ponder  c. to consider carefully
9. supplication  d. earnest prayer
10. decadence  e. luxurious, elaborate

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

_on tenter hooks—in a state of anxiety_
_(cloth used to be stretched or “tentered” on hooks)_

The indicted* clerk was kept on _tenter hooks_ by the district attorney.
N\text{ew} \ W\text{ords}

\text{penance}  
\text{pen}´\text{\ae}ns

\text{ascetic}  
\text{\ae} \ \text{set}´ \text{\i}k

\text{desultory}  
\text{des}´ \text{\ae}l \text{t\text{"o}r}´ \text{\i} 

\text{disciple}  
\text{da s\text{"i}´ p\text{"a}l}

\text{metamorphosis}  
\text{met}´ \text{\a} \text{m\text{"o}r}´ \text{\f\i} \text{s}\text{is}

\text{W\text{eek} 21 \ \text{D\text{a}y 3}}

\text{THE ENLIGHTENED ONE}

Siddhartha exchanged his sumptuous* garments for a monk’s yellow robe and went out into the world to do \textit{penance} for what he considered to be his previous life of sin. First he would cleanse himself by becoming an \textit{ascetic}; then he would study Hindu wisdom in order to be prepared to help his suffering people. After six years of \textit{desultory} wandering and attracting only a handful of \textit{disciples}, Siddhartha came to a huge tree near the Indian city of Gaya. For seven weeks he sat beneath its branches, seeking an answer for his personal torment. Finally, it is said, he underwent a \textit{metamorphosis}, becoming the Enlightened One—the Buddha.

\text{Sample Sentences} Use the new words in the following sentences.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Billy the Vampire is the only extant* \text{________________} of Count Dracula.
\item In a remarkable \text{________________} , her lugubrious* mood changed to one of levity.*
\item Following a lengthy diatribe* against mendacity*, the priest imposed \text{________________} upon the sinner.
\item The cave of the \text{________________} lacked the opulence* and lush* decoration of his former mansion.
\item Larry’s compositions proceed in a \text{________________} manner despite the supplication* of his English teacher.
\end{enumerate}

\text{Definitions} Match the new words with their meanings.
6. penance  a. change
7. ascetic (n.)  b. atonement for sin
8. desultory  c. occurring by chance, disconnected
9. disciple  d. one who practices self-denial and devotion
10. metamorphosis  e. follower

**Today’s Idiom**

*the fat is in the fire*—*the mischief is done*

We implored* him to desist* but he said that *the fat was already in the fire.*
**New Words**

*bona fide*  
bō´ nə fid´

*salvation*  
sal vā´ shən

*materialism*  
mə tir´ ē a liz´ əm

*nurture*  
nər´ chər

*nirvana*  
nir vā´ nə

**Week 21 • Day 4**

**Love Over Hatred, Goodness Over Evil**

Buddha outlined the three paths that men might travel: worldly pleasure, self-torment, and the middle path. Only through the middle path could man achieve *bona fide* peace and *salvation*. One had to repudiate* *materialism*, keep his self-control, restrict speech, be open-minded, never lie or steal, reject selfish drives, *nurture* goodness, etc. Buddha continued to preach until the age of eighty, spreading the philosophy that man has the power to shape his own destiny. Through good deeds and pure thoughts man may reach *nirvana*. Interestingly enough, the man who objected to traditional religious worship was to become idolized by millions throughout the world.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. In order to ________________ good will, the management will do anything to accommodate* its guests’ special needs.

2. When we saw the hundreds of ________________ petitions, we realized that the number of people who supported the candidate was legion.*

3. The megalomaniac* believed that he alone had the answer to mankind’s ________________ .

4. Rosalie found solace* in the conviction that one day mankind would reach Shangri-la, Utopia,* ________________ .

5. Disciples* of ________________ may know the price of everything but the value of nothing.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. bona fide  a. to nourish, support
7. salvation  b. attention to worldly things and neglect of spiritual needs
8. materialism  c. freedom from care and pain, Buddhist heaven
9. nurture  d. genuine
10. nirvana  e. deliverance from ruin

TODAY’S IDiom

like Caesar’s wife—above suspicion
Mrs. Drake would have to be like Caesar’s wife so that no tinge* of scandal would embarrass her husband, our new mayor.
WEEK 21 ◆ DAY 5
REVIEW

For the past twenty weeks, each of these review exercises has contained a bit of propaganda to point up the need for you to expand your vocabulary. This week is no exception.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1. ascetic</td>
<td>a. one who practices self-denial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. bona fide</td>
<td>b. wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. decadence</td>
<td>c. concern with possessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. destitution</td>
<td>d. luxurious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. desultory</td>
<td>e. decay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. disciple</td>
<td>f. disconnected, random</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. fulsome</td>
<td>g. deliverance from ruin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. indoctrinate</td>
<td>h. extreme poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. lush</td>
<td>i. to teach certain principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. materialism</td>
<td>j. excessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. metamorphosis</td>
<td>k. nourish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. nirvana</td>
<td>l. heavenly place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. nurture</td>
<td>m. descendant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. obsequious</td>
<td>n. earnest prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. opulence</td>
<td>o. consider carefully</td>
</tr>
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<td>16. penance</td>
<td>p. follower</td>
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<td>17. ponder</td>
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<td>r. seeking favor</td>
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<td>19. scion</td>
<td>s. change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. supplication</td>
<td>t. genuine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDIOMS

| 21. two strings to one’s bow | u. in a state of anxiety |
| 22. on tenter hooks         | v. two means to achieve one’s aim         |
| 23. fat is in the fire      | w. above suspicion                      |
| 24. like Caesar’s wife      | x. the mischief is done                  |
Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
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<tbody>
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Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 3rd Day
③ 4th Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 2nd Day

History’s Most Extraordinary Person?

In a celebrated essay about Joan of Arc, Mark Twain wrote movingly of her brief moment in the spotlight—two short years in which she made an indelible mark on world history. At age 16 she was illiterate, had never strayed from her sleepy little village, knew nothing of military combat, or courts of law. But at age 17, in a complete ①_______ she was named Commander-in-Chief of the French army, vowing to restore her king to his throne. Joan attracted many fervent followers, and a ②_______ called her “France’s ⑨_______.”

After much gallantry in battle, this ⑨_______ heroine was brought low by treachery at the French court and captured by the enemy. Joan defended herself brilliantly at a court trial, although she could neither read nor write. She was able to forecast future events with remarkable accuracy, correctly predicting her own martyrdom.

Mark Twain understood how geniuses such as Napoleon, Edison, and Wagner could develop but one could ⑤_______ the facts for a lifetime without being able to explain how this humble peasant girl could display the qualities of a mature statesman, a learned jurist, and a military wizard. He concluded:

“Taking into account her origin, youth, sex, illiteracy, early environment, and the obstructing conditions under which she exploited her high gifts and made her conquests in the field and before the courts that tried her for her life—she is easily and by far the most extraordinary person the human race has ever produced.”
NEW WORDS

juxtapose  juk stə pōz´  
plight  plīt  
covert  kō´ vərt  
cope  kōp  
incompatibility  in kəm pət´ ə bil´ə tē

WEEK 22 ♦ DAY 1

FEMALE ALCOHOLICS
When we juxtapose the words “woman” and “alcoholic” many readers are surprised. However, the plight of America’s several million female alcoholics is rapidly increasing in intensity. But the statistics are inexact because it is estimated that there are nine covert alcoholics for every one under treatment. Women drink to help themselves to cope with life’s vicissitudes.* They drink because of financial pressures, incompatibility, frustration,* and related reasons.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. If we were to __________________ our philosophies, your materialism* would conflict with my idealism.
2. Judge Felder commented with asperity* upon the wife’s charge of __________________.
3. Just how our club’s president is able to __________________ with so many disparate* personalities is something I’ll never understand.
4. The ________________ of the refugees who wandered about in a desultory* fashion moved us to tears.
5. Woodrow Wilson stated that he found ________________ agreements to be reprehensible.*
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

<table>
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<td>6. juxtapose</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. plight</td>
<td>to place side by side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. covert</td>
<td>predicament, dangerous situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. cope</td>
<td>secret, hidden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. incompatibility</td>
<td>to be a match for, to be able to handle</td>
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**Today’s Idiom**

*plea bargain*—to agree to plead guilty to a lesser charge so as to avoid trial for a more serious offense.

The defendant finally took his lawyer’s advice and agreed to a *plea bargain* of third-degree assault.
The typical alcoholic woman is above average in intelligence, in her forties, married, with two children. She started drinking socially in high school or college. Although frequently incapacitated, she can fabricate a story skillfully and thus conceal her true physical condition. She often attributes her alcoholism to connubial stress, boredom, or depression. A large percentage of the women give family histories of alcoholism. Most female drinkers would demur at the appellation of “alcoholic”—and that makes their treatment all the more difficult.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Dave's metamorphosis* from an honest person to one who could ____________ an alibi so adroitly* was amazing.
2. The widow grew maudlin* as she reminisced about her former ____________ bliss.
3. I will have to ____________ even if I receive a bona fide* invitation to run for the G.O. council.
4. Because he was the scion* of the richest family on our block, Lenny was given the
of “Rockefeller.”

He was ashamed to admit that a pesky* skin rash _______________ him for weeks at a time.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. incapacitated
   a. to object

7. fabricate
   b. a name

8. connubial
   c. to lie, concoct*

9. demur
   d. related to marriage

10. appellation
    e. disabled, made unfit

Today’s Idiom

in apple pie order— in neat order, good condition

The house was in dreadful condition when Mrs. Maslow arrived, but when she left it was in apple pie order.
NEw WOrds

escalation
es´ ka lā´ shən

indifference
in dif´ ar əns

potential
pə ten´ shəl

cumulative
kyú´ myə lə tiv

recondite
rek´ an dı́t

WEEK 22 ♦ DAY 3

NEFARIOUS* EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL
Aside from the reasons offered earlier, doctors have other interesting reasons for the escalation in female drinking. They also indict* social acceptance and indifference to alcohol’s potential danger as contributory factors. If women realized the harmful extent of the cumulative effect of alcohol, they might taper off in their public and recondite drinking. Forty-three percent of the female alcoholics in a survey showed evidence of liver damage, and a quarter of the whole group had a high white-blood-cell count. Almost five percent of the patients died shortly after their release from the hospital.

Sample Sentences If you can still see clearly after all the references to liquor, use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Many derogatory* statements were heard from those who were opposed to further ____________ of the conflict.
2. With complete ____________ toward his personal safety, Lt. Regan openly challenged the puissant* forces of the enemy.
3. When destitution* grips an area, there is excellent ____________ for trouble.
4. The ____________ effect of the summer’s sultry* weather was to shorten everyone’s temper.
5. The poet’s ____________ language precluded* any understanding of her theme.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. escalation  a. possible
7. indifference  b. accumulated
8. potential (adj.)  c. secret, hidden, obscure
9. cumulative  d. an increase, intensification
10. recondite  e. lack of concern

TODAY’S IDiom

apple polishing—trying to gain favor by gifts or flattery
If the way to advancement in this company is through apple polishing, I quit!
NEW WORDS

palliate
pal′ ē ăt

delude
di lūd′

prelude
prel′ yūd

chimerical
kə mer′ ā kal

acknowledge
ak nol′ i j

WEEK 22 • DAY 4

DANGER SIGNALS

A potential* female alcoholic should be cognizant* of certain danger signals:
   a. Using alcohol in an attempt to palliate her problems.
   b. Deluding herself about the extent of her drinking habits.
   c. Drinking at regular time periods, both day and night.
   d. Reliance upon alcohol as a prelude to a major social obligation.
   e. Making unrealistic promises about terminating* her drinking.
   f. Using alcohol as a medication for real or chimerical illnesses.

If in evaluating* her drinking, a woman acknowledged that several of the danger signals applied to her, she should see a physician.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Monte refused to _______________ the extrinsic* pressures that were causing him to do poorly in his sophomore year.  
2. We must not allow fulsome* praise to _______________ us about our actual abilities.  
3. The drugs could only _______________ the symptoms, not provide the cure.  
4. As a _______________ to his performance, the bullfighter vowed to do penance* for his sins.  
5. The scheme sounded _______________ , but we were indoctrinated* to believe that it could work.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>palliate</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>delude</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>prelude</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>chimerical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>acknowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>visionary, imaginary, fantastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>alleviate, relieve without curing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>to fool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>admit</td>
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**Today’s IDiom**

*the Draconian Code*—a very severe set of rules (Draco, an Athenian lawmaker of the 7th century B.C., prescribed the death penalty for almost every violation.)

The head counselor ran our camp according to his own *Draconian Code.*
WEEK 22 ♦ DAY 5

REVIEW

If you’re driving, don’t drink! Alcohol does not mix with gasoline! We have seen those slogans on many billboards. Here’s a new one: “If you use words, use good ones!”

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

REVIEW WORDS | DEFINITIONS
--- | ---
1. acknowledge | a. accumulated
2. appellation | b. admit
3. chimerical | c. relieve without curing
4. connubial | d. to lie
5. cope | e. to fool
6. covert | f. a name
7. cumulative | g. predicament
8. delude | h. secret
9. demur | i. intensification
10. escalation | j. to be a match for
11. fabricate | k. obscure, hidden
12. incapacitated | l. imaginary, fantastic
13. incompatibility | m. related to marriage
14. indifference | n. possible
15. juxtapose | o. to place side by side
16. palliate | p. to object
17. plight | q. introduction
18. potential (adj.) | r. lack of concern
19. prelude | s. lack of harmony
20. recondite | t. disabled

IDIOMS

21. plea bargain | u. trying to gain favor
22. in apple pie order | v. severe set of rules
23. apple polishing | w. admit guilt on a lesser charge
24. Draconian Code | x. in good condition
Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only

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WORDSEARCH 22

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
1. 3rd Day
2. 1st Day
3. 4th Day
4. 1st Day
5. 4th Day

Hair Today, . . .

The fact that a hair salon might charge $40 for a woman’s shampoo and haircut but only $20 for the same services for a man is a matter of 1______ to most citizens. Not so to New York City’s Commission on Human Rights, which claimed that such a disparity is discriminatory. Commissioner Dennis De Leon has targeted “gender-based” pricing as a violation of city law.

Consider the 2______ of the salon owners. They 3______ the price difference, explaining that it takes much longer to cut a woman’s hair and requires the use of additional products. But a spokesperson for the Department of Consumer Affairs said that beauty parlors will have to 4______ with the situation honestly, just as dry cleaners and used-car dealers did when they were apprised of the law.

“I know that women are fighting for equality,” said the owner of a chain of unisex hair salons, “but this is ridiculous. We cut a man’s hair in no time but we have to get more money from our female customers because their styling and cutting takes so much longer.”

The argument might be the 5______ to an important court case. A city-proposed settlement, however, is to have those salons that are cited for violations of the law offer free haircuts to women for a period of three months before having to pay a stiff fine for repeated offenses.

“It’s easier to comply,” shrugged one owner (bald, himself).
Ellis Sloane, a teacher of science at a large metropolitan high school, first paid little attention to the fact that his two biology classes were so disparate* in their performance. In most schools the classes are alphabetically heterogeneous, with youngsters’ names running the gamut from Adams to Zilch. But Biology 121 had only A’s and B’s, whereas Biology 128 had T’s, V’s, W’s, Y’s, and Z’s. Mr. Sloane, a perspicacious teacher, began to perceive* differences between the two groups: while their reading scores and I.Q.’s were roughly analogous, it was apparent that Biology 128 was replete* with maladjusted students, while Biology 121 had the normal ones.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The Bureau of Child Guidance has been the salvation* for some _______________ children.
2. Our algebra class is a _______________ one in which bright students are juxtaposed* with slower ones.
3. Senator Thorpe was _______________ enough to realize that the scurrilous* charge would have little effect upon the voters.
4. Although the lawyer acknowledged* that the two cases were hardly _______________, he still felt that he had a good precedent on his side.
5. The actress ran the _______________ of emotions in a poignant* performance that thrilled the audience.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. heterogeneous  a. range
7. gamut  b. acutely perceptive, shrewd
8. perspicacious  c. poorly adjusted, disturbed
9. analogous  d. comparable, similar
10. maladjusted  e. dissimilar

TODAY’S IDiom

the distaff side—women (distaff was a staff used in spinning)

The men had brandy on the porch, while the distaff side gathered to gossip in the kitchen.
As Mr. Sloane pursued his investigation of the *phenomenon*, he discovered that a Dr. Trevor Weston of the British Medical Association had corroborated* his findings. Dr. Weston had studied British *mortality* rates over a *decade*, finding that people whose names began with letters ranging from “S” to “Z” had a life expectancy that averaged twelve years fewer than the rest of the population. Furthermore, those at the bottom of the alphabet tended to contract more ulcers, were more *susceptible* to heart attacks, and were more likely to be *neurotic* than those at the top of the alphabet.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Irritability is one of the salient* features of a __________________ personality.
2. After a __________________ of connubial* acrimony,* the couple decided to consult with a marriage counselor.
3. If a miner were to ponder* over the high __________________ rate in his occupation, he might want to quit.
4. Ethan Frome soon learned that his querulous wife was __________________ to a variety of ailments.
5. There was no paucity* of witnesses to describe the __________________ of the flying saucer.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. phenomenon  a. death  
7. mortality       b. suffering from a nervous disorder  
8. decade          c. ten years  
9. susceptible      d. unusual occurrence  
10. neurotic        e. easily affected, unusually liable

Today’s Idiom

on the qui vive—on the alert

My mother is always on the qui vive for bargains.
THE PERILS OF THE ALPHABET

Dr. Weston is convinced that the pedagogue is the culprit.* Since teachers seat their pupils in alphabetical order, the “S” to “Z” child is usually the last to receive his test marks, the last to eat lunch, the last to be dismissed, and so on. As they are the last to recite, these youngsters feel frustrated* because what they had to say had usually been enunciated earlier. The inordinate amount of waiting that this group has to do causes them to become irascible and jittery. “S” to “Z” people also become quite introspective, convinced that they are inferior to those at the top of the alphabet.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Reporters were expecting the candidate to ___________ his policy on the escalation* of the war.
2. His profligate* son made the parsimonious* old crank even more ___________.
3. Since Alice is so gregarious* it surprised me to learn that she is also an ___________ girl.
4. Mr. Ford is proud to be called a teacher, but he demurs* at the title of ___________.
5. In an attempt to show how assiduous* he was, the executive spent an ___________ amount of time on his report.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. pedagogue  a. irritable
7. enunciate  b. excessive
8. inordinate  c. to utter, proclaim
9. irascible  d. looking into one’s own feelings
10. introspective  e. teacher

Today’s Idiom

to get one’s back up—to become angry
Every time his mother mentioned getting a haircut, the young guitarist got his back up.
New Words

perpetuate
pər pech´ ü āt

mandate
man´ dāt

compensatory
kəm pen´ sə tô´ rē

neutralize
nū´ trə liz

catastrophic
kat´ a strof´ ik

WEEK 23 • DAY 4

IN THE NATURE OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Mr. Sloane did not want to perpetuate the disorders that stemmed from the alphabetical arrangement. Not only did he reverse the seating in his other classes, but he began to badger* the school’s administration for a mandate to bring about such changes throughout the building. He called it a compensatory factor to neutralize the catastrophic effects of the traditional policy. Soon, Mr. Sloane earned the appellation* of “Mr. Backwards.”

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Don Ricardo hoped that his son would _______________ the family business, but Manuel was too involved with chimerical* schemes to want to run a restaurant.
2. If the draconian* regulations are to continue unabated,* they will have _______________ results.
3. Dr. Meyers prescribed medication to _______________ the acid condition that had incapacitated* my uncle.
4. As a prelude* to his victory speech, the mayor announced that he considered the large vote to be a _______________ from the people.
5. _______________ education may help minority groups to cope* with their plight.*

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.
6. perpetuate  a. serving to pay back
7. mandate  b. an authoritative order or command
8. compensatory  c. to counteract
9. neutralize  d. to cause to continue
10. catastrophic  e. disastrous

Today’s Idiom

to bring home the bacon— to earn a living, to succeed

The man’s inability to bring home the bacon was the actual reason for the couple’s incompatibility.*
Week 23 ♦ Day 5

Review

You may not know the alphabet from aardvark to zymurgy, but you can certainly cope* with analogous to susceptible.

Match the twenty words with their meanings. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1. analogous</td>
<td>a. disastrous</td>
</tr>
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<td>2. catastrophic</td>
<td>b. irritable</td>
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<td>3. compensatory</td>
<td>c. teacher</td>
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Idioms

21. the distaff side   u. women
22. on the qui vive    v. on the alert
23. to get one’s back up w. become angry
24. bring home the bacon x. earn a living
Make a record of those words you missed.

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</table>

YOU ARE NOW AT THE MID-POINT OF THE BOOK, AND YOU SHOULD PLAN TO DEVOTE SOME ADDITIONAL TIME TO A REVIEW OF THOSE WORDS THAT YOU MISSED DURING THE PAST TWENTY-THREE WEEKS.
WORDSEARCH 23

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 2nd Day
③ 1st Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 1st Day

Microsociety—An Antidote for School Boredom

Money, taxes, employment, legislation—these are topics that we associate with the adult world. George Richmond, a Yale graduate who became a ① in the New York City school system, felt that elementary school youngsters could also be interested, even excited, about such issues. He experimented in his own classes with the Microsociety in which basic instruction takes place and is reinforced as pupils operate their own businesses, pass laws, live within the parameters of a constitution that they drafted, seek redress within their own judicial system, buy and sell real estate, and so on.

Richmond’s book on the Microsociety came to the attention of the school board in Lowell, Massachusetts, and their members decided to give it a try in 1981. In much less than a ② the results were quite remarkable: students exceeded the norm in reading and math; 8th graders passed college level exams; school attendance went up to 96%; and the dropout rate took a nosedive in Lowell.

In Microsociety’s ③ classes, mornings are given over to the traditional curriculum. In the afternoon, the students apply what they learned in activities that run the ④ from keeping double entry books, doing financial audits, running a bank, and conducting court sessions to engaging in light manufacture that leads to retail and wholesale commerce.

Other ⑤ school systems have since adopted George Richmond’s innovative ideas. “Microsociety,” said a Yonkers, New York principal, “gets kids to role-play life!”

A Time Magazine reporter was much impressed with Microsociety’s results: “Such an approach would go a long way toward making U.S. public schools a cradle of national renewal.”
PRIMITIVE MAGIC

In the course of their studies of other cultures, anthropologists have reported numerous customs and practices that seem bizarre to the average American. Many primitive people believe that certain inanimate objects have a will of their own and possess some magical powers. These fetishes may be simple things like a particular feather of a bird or a unique pebble. The fetish might have derived its power, according to members of some tribes, from a god who lives within the object and has changed it into a thing of magic. Fetishes need not only be natural objects, however. An artifact such as a sculpture or carving is also believed to possess supernatural powers.

Sample Sentences Now use your new words in the following sentences.

1. Stones are _______________ objects that have no life of their own.
2. It has been suggested that the man who builds a better mousetrap will find the world beating a path to his door to possess this _______________.
3. The explorers saw the golden statue and thought of how much money it would bring them. But their lives would be in danger if they moved it because it was a powerful _______________ to the natives.
4. Margaret Mead, the famous _______________, fascinated thousands of readers with her studies of South Seas islanders.
5. It would be rather _______________ for a young man to come to school wearing a dress.
Definitions If you have studied the reading selection and the sample sentences, now try your hand at matching your new words with their definitions.

6. anthropologist a. an object made by hand, rather than a thing as it occurs in nature
7. artifact b. lifeless
8. bizarre c. an object that is thought to have magic powers
9. fetish d. an expert in the study of the races, beliefs, customs, etc. of mankind
10. inanimate e. odd, peculiar, strange, weird

TODAY’S IDIOM

to get down off a high horse—to act like an ordinary person

When Susan discovered that the young man who was trying to make conversation with her was the son of a millionaire, she immediately got down off her high horse.
FORBIDDEN

An outgrowth of the idea of a fetish* is the closely related practice of taboo. Whereas the gods or supernatural powers merely inhabit an object that is a fetish and lend it magic, they will punish the imprudent native who violates their prohibition of an act or use of an object or word that has become taboo. If a taboo has been broken, it becomes imperative for the offender to be punished. In many cases, however, the taint on the community may be removed after the priests have performed a special ceremony. Often, the violator of the taboo will be punished or die merely through his own fears of the terrible thing he has done.

Sample Sentences Has the context in which your new words appear given you clues to their meaning? Try now to use them in these sample sentences.

1. Unsanitary conditions in the bottling factory caused hundreds of cases of soda to be ____________ by dirt and foreign objects. The health department refused to allow the soda to be sold.
2. Although a New Jersey high school principal placed a ____________ on boys wearing their hair long, one student fought in the courts and won his case.
3. It is considered ____________ to give your computer code word to anyone not fully known to you.
4. It is ____________ for certain South Seas islanders to eat some foods before they marry.
5. In the nuclear age it has become ____________ for the nations of the world to
learn to live in peace.

**Definitions** Now is your chance to test your knowledge of your new words by matching them with their definitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. imperative</td>
<td>a. contamination, undesirable substance that spoils something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. imprudent</td>
<td>b. the act of forbidding certain behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. prohibition</td>
<td>c. urgent, necessary, compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. taboo</td>
<td>d. forbidden by custom or religious practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. taint</td>
<td>e. unwise, not careful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*the first water*—of the best quality, the greatest

Lebron James is obviously a basketball player of *the first water* who would be of enormous value to any team.
NEW WORDS

universal
yū’nə vér’səl

contemptuous
kan temp’ chū əs

absurd
ab sərd´

bigot
big´ ət

abhor
ab hōr´

WEEK 24 ▪ DAY 3

AN ABSURDITY

Although it is probably universal human behavior to be contemptuous of the bizarre* superstitions practiced by inhabitants of unfamiliar cultures, it seems to be somewhat imprudent* to laugh at others before one takes a good, hard look at the absurd taboos* and fetishes* one accepts as part of one’s everyday life. Isn’t it somewhat absurd when the “dyed-in-the-wool” bigot, who illogically fears the taint* of close association with blacks (behavior that resembles fear of a taboo), spends most of the summer lying in the sun trying to acquire the color he claims to abhor? Since doctors tell us that excessive sun-tanning may be a cause of skin cancer, our strange yearning for sun-darkened skin has all the qualities of a fetish.*

Sample Sentences Did the starred review words seem familiar to you? Yet, how many were totally foreign several days ago? Keep up the good work now by using your new words in the following sentences.

1. Bob felt ________________ of his best friend after he saw him cheating during an exam.
2. The teacher felt like laughing after he heard Sally’s ________________ excuse for not having done her homework.
3. One politician, a notorious ________________, hopes to get support as a presidential candidate on the basis of his prejudices and intolerance.
4. I ________________ some one who is constantly changing channels with a remote while I’m trying to read in the same room.
5. Would relations between countries be simpler if a _______________ language were spoken rather than hundreds of separate ones?

**Definitions** Match your new words with their definitions.

6. abhor  
7. absurd  
8. bigot  
9. contemptuous  
10. universal

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>abhor</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>bigot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>contemptuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>universal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

dyed-in-the-wool—set in one’s ways

He was a dyed-in-the-wool Republican who would not consider voting for a Democrat.
NEW WORDS

vulnerable
vul´nərəbəl

entreaty
en trē´tē

tradition
trə dish´ən

originate
ə rīj´ə nāt

inviolable
in vī´ə lə bəl

WEEK 24 ♦ DAY 4

GESUNDHEIT!

During the Middle Ages most people believed that the devil could enter our bodies when we sneezed, because at that propitious* moment we left our bodies vulnerable. However, this catastrophic* event could be avoided if another person immediately made an entreaty to God. This was how the practice began of saying “God bless you” after someone sneezes. Although the tradition continues today, few people are aware of its history. A superstition originates in ignorance—when people are unsure of the causes of events. But it continues inviolable over the years because it usually represents our deepest fears.

Sample Sentences Use these new words in the following sentences.

1. Some bad habits ____________ in adolescence and continue throughout a person’s life.
2. The murderer made a(n) ____________ to the governor for a pardon.
3. Despite the inexorable* torture, 007 kept the ______________ secret of the labyrinth* leading to the underground headquarters.
4. It appears that many computers are ____________ to “viruses” that can cause great damage.
5. Eskimos have a(n) ______________ of rubbing noses to show affection.

Definitions
vulnerable  a. begin, arise
entreaty  b. capable of being injured
tradition  c. custom that has been handed down
originate  d. appeal, plea
inviolable  e. safe (from destruction, etc.)

Today’s Idiom

blue chip—a highly valuable asset, stock, or property. In poker, the blue chips are those with the highest value.

My father’s broker recommended that for safety we invest in blue chip stocks only.
And today it’s time to strengthen your word knowledge again. You’ve noticed, of course, that the matching definitions are not always the definitions you may have been familiar with. This is the way language works. It is impossible to provide a one-word synonym or simple definition for a word that you will always be able to substitute for it. Therefore, in our weekly review we hope not only to check your learning, but also to teach you closely related meanings.

Match the best possible definition with the word you studied. *Reminder: Record answers on a sheet of paper.

### REVIEW WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. abhor</td>
<td>a. a hand-made object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. absurd</td>
<td>b. unwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. anthropologist</td>
<td>c. one who is not tolerant of others’ ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. artifact</td>
<td>d. completely protected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. bigot</td>
<td>e. a magical object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. bizarre</td>
<td>f. widespread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. contemptuous</td>
<td>g. begin, arise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. entreaty</td>
<td>h. person who studies mankind’s customs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. fetish</td>
<td>i. forbidden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. imperative</td>
<td>j. long-standing practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. imprudent</td>
<td>k. weird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. inanimate</td>
<td>l. able to be hurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. inviolable</td>
<td>m. looking down on someone or something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. originate</td>
<td>n. to utterly hate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. prohibition</td>
<td>o. without life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. taboo</td>
<td>p. forbidding of certain actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. taint</td>
<td>q. necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. tradition</td>
<td>r. ridiculous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. universal</td>
<td>s. plea, appeal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. vulnerable</td>
<td>t. contaminate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IDIOMS

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www.drzaban.com
21. **to get off one’s high horse**  
   **u.**  
   the greatest

22. **of the first water**  
   **v.**  
   a highly valued asset

23. **dyed-in-the-wool**  
   **w.**  
   to act like an ordinary person

24. **blue chip**  
   **x.**  
   set in one’s ways

Record your errors and their correct meanings. These words must be studied independently if you want to master them. Use them in original sentences. Also, study the several different definitions a good dictionary provides for each of these problem words.

*For reference only*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ______________________</td>
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<td>2. ______________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. ______________________</td>
<td>______________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADJECTIVE LEADERS AND NOUN FOLLOWERS
(From Weeks 21–24)

a. fulsome
b. covert
c. bona fide
d. lush
e. bizarre
f. susceptible
g. inviolable
h. taboo
i. catastrophic
j. inanimate
k. imprudent
l. maladjusted
m. connubial
n. heterogeneous
o. inordinate

Directions Record separately, the letter corresponding to the vocabulary word (above) for the noun (below) that it is most likely to precede.

1. bliss
2. diamond
3. praise
4. amount
5. incident
6. purchase
7. meeting
8. object
9. earthquake
10. law
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
1. 2nd Day
2. 4th Day
3. 1st Day
4. 2nd Day
5. 1st Day

Map Makers at Work

We are all caught up in the events that change history and the shape of the countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Each time a country changes its name or its borders, there are some people who have their work cut out for them. They are the map makers—the cartographers. These skilled artists know it is ™ to believe that this year’s borders will remain fixed. Has there ever been an ™ border?

Looking through an atlas of just a few years back, we realize it is simply an ™ of an ever-changing world. If there is one thing for map makers to do, it is to realize how ™ it is for them to keep abreast of world events.

The study of world history is replete with exciting events that have shaken the economic and political past. Geography is the physical rendering of these events. As history moves and changes our lives, it is up to the cartographer to take the ™ lines of a map and shape the picture of this world in motion. A quick search of Google Earth brings our ever-changing planet to our screen.
There are few sights that are more impressive and awesome than the eruption of an active volcano. There are few natural events that so singularly* dwarf man’s puny attempts to control his environment. Perhaps the greatest volcanic eruption of modern times took place in 1883 when the island of Krakatoa in Indonesia blew up as the result of a volcanic explosion. An enormous tidal wave resulted that proved catastrophic* to the nearby coasts of Java and Sumatra. New islands were formed by the lava that poured out, and debris was scattered across the Indian Ocean for hundreds of miles. Volcanic material, dispersed seventeen miles into the atmosphere, created startlingly beautiful sunsets for years afterwards.

Sample Sentences Relying on the contextual clues in the paragraph above, use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Fred had been known for his gentle ways, so his friends were stunned by the ______________ of angry words that issued from him.
2. We were surprised by the ______________ resistance put up by the voracious* tiger to its capture.
3. After her house had burned to the ground, Mrs. Wiley searched through the ______________ for her valuable jewelry.
4. Many of those who witnessed the first atomic explosion reported that it was an ______________ sight.
5. The fluffy seeds of the milkweed are ______________ by the wind.
**Definitions** Now take the final step in learning the new words.

**6.** awesome  a. scattered, spread, broken up
**7.** debris        b. weak, unimportant
**8.** dispersed     c. inspiring terror, weird
**9.** eruption      d. ruins, fragments
**10.** puny         e. bursting out

**TODAY’S IDiom**

*as broad as it is long—it makes very little difference*

Since both jobs pay $7.25 an hour and are equally boring, it is about *as broad as it is long* whether I take one or the other.
NEW WORDS

obliterate
ə blicitəˌraʊt

deplorable
di plɔrəˈbəl

initiate
i nishˈ ĕ ət

conflagration
konˈ flə grəˈʃən

rue
rū

WEEK 25 • DAY 2

A UNIVERSAL* DANGER

Man’s ability to obliterate life on this planet has increased at a rapid rate. We are now faced with the deplorable prospect of new weapons that can cause destruction of life and property on a scale far beyond our imagination. No matter who takes the first step to initiate a conflict, the possibility exists that the conflagration will spread and envelop the world. Much thought has been given to ways and means of preventing this catastrophe.* Some consider it mandatory* that the nuclear powers seek agreement on methods of limiting and controlling these weapons, for in the absence of such an agreement, we may rue the day atomic energy was made practical.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Who could imagine a more bizarre* story than the one having to do with a cow causing the _______________ in Chicago?
2. No matter how one tries to delete material from a computer, it is almost impossible to _______________ it.
3. You will _______________ that display of histrionics* when I asked you to help.
4. She could not imagine how she was going to get him to _______________ a conversation about marriage.
5. The hometown fans thought the umpire’s decision was _______________.
Definitions Let’s put the new words together with their meanings.

6. obliterate a. regret
7. deplorable b. sad, pitiable
8. initiate c. erase, wipe out
9. conflagration d. start, set going
10. rue e. great fire

TODAY’S IDiom

blow hot and cold—swing for and against something

I told Charlie to give up his summer job and come cross-country biking with us. He’s blowing hot and cold on the deal at this point.
The presence of an ever-flowing supply of fresh, clean water is taken for granted. Unfortunately, this congenial condition is fast disappearing. As our population increases, as industry consumes more water each year, the level of our underground water supply sinks measurably. There is no way to hoard water; there are many ways to conserve it. During a particularly dry spell, New York City found its reservoirs going dry. Only then did the residents begin to heed the sage advice to limit the wasteful uses of water. Under the aegis of the Water Commissioner, citizens were encouraged to develop habits that would save water. The continued imprudent* waste by each of us of this most basic resource will work to the detriment of all.

Sample Sentences Here’s your opportunity to use your new words.

1. Isn’t it a pity we can’t _____________ the ideal days of autumn?
2. A man may be a _____________ everywhere, but at home he’s called a “square” by his youngsters.
3. The tree in front of my house has the dubious* honor of being the spot voted the most ______________ by the dogs of the neighborhood.
4. It was fortuitous* that at the last moment the mayor offered the ______________ of his office in finding a solution to the problem.
5. A settlement that causes ______________ to neither side is imperative.*
Definitions Remember, words may have many synonyms.

6. congenial  a. injury, damage, hurt
7. hoard (v.)  b. sympathetic, agreeable
8. sage  c. shield, protection, sponsorship
9. aegis  d. hide, store, accumulate
10. detriment  e. wise man, philosopher

TODAY’S IDIOM

in the doldrums—in a bored or depressed state

Mary has been in the doldrums since her best friend moved away.
New Words

longevity
lon jev’é a tē

imbibe
im bīb´

virile
vir´ āl

senile
sē´ nīl

doddering
dod´ ār ɪŋ

Week 25 ♫ Day 4

An Ageless Story

Every so often we can read about a man or woman who has reached an age far beyond the limits we ordinarily expect. Reports of a man in Chile or a woman in Turkey who has celebrated the 105th or 110th birthday occur regularly. The natural question is, to what do these people owe their longevity? Frequently, the answer concerns the fact that the ancient one liked to imbibe regularly of some hard liquor. The photograph will show an apparently virile man or robust woman. Somehow, people who reach this advanced age seem to remain eternally sturdy. There are no signs that they have become senile. Smoking a pipe, or sewing on some garment, these rare specimens of hardy humanity are far from the doddering folk we expect to see.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Far from being ________________, the old woman was considered the sage* of the neighborhood.
2. Scientists have placed the ________________ of the planet earth unbelievably into the future.
3. It was deplorable* for us to see her ________________ around the house with the aid of a cane.
4. If you ________________, don’t drive!
5. The boys struck ________________ poses to attract the girls on the beach.
Definitions Here’s your chance to match the new words with their meaning.

6. longevity  a. long duration of life
7. imbibe        b. masterful, manly
8. virile        c. drink
9. senile        d. infirm, weak from old age
10. doddering    e. trembling, shaking

TODAY’S IDIOM

burn the midnight oil—study or work late into the night
If I’m going to pass the test tomorrow, I will have to burn the midnight oil tonight.
**WEEK 25 ♦ DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Week by week your word-power is being built. It’s like putting money in the bank. Remember, in our language there may be many synonyms and related meanings for each word. Knowing one synonym is good, but you will reap greater benefits from knowing several. Below is the matching review for this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. aegis</td>
<td>a. trembling, shaking with old age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. awesome</td>
<td>b. regret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. conflagration</td>
<td>c. bursting out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. congenial</td>
<td>d. infirm, weak as a result of old age</td>
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<td>5. debris</td>
<td>e. wise man, philosopher</td>
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<td>6. deplorable</td>
<td>f. ruins, fragments</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. detriment</td>
<td>g. weak, unimportant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. dispersed</td>
<td>h. protection, sponsorship, shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. doddering</td>
<td>i. agreeable, sympathetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. eruption</td>
<td>j. broken up, scattered, spread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. hoard</td>
<td>k. sad, pitiable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. imbibe</td>
<td>l. hurt, damage, injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. initiate</td>
<td>m. drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. longevity</td>
<td>n. great fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. obliterate</td>
<td>o. manly, masterful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. puny</td>
<td>p. inspiring terror, weird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. rue</td>
<td>q. set going, start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. sage</td>
<td>r. accumulate, save, store up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. senile</td>
<td>s. long duration of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. virile</td>
<td>t. wipe out, erase</td>
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</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>21. as broad as it is long</td>
<td>u. in a bored or depressed state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. blow hot and cold</td>
<td>v. makes very little difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. in the doldrums</td>
<td>w. swing for and against something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. burn the midnight oil</td>
<td>x. work late into the night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don’t neglect words you fail to answer correctly. These problem words can be mastered quickly if you write them down, look up their meanings, and practice using them.

*For reference only

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<tr>
<td>3. _____________________</td>
<td>__________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 2nd Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 3rd Day

Save the Whales, at Least

Have we all become tired of the much used word “environment”? How often we hear or read about the ①______ state of the world’s rivers, forests, air, and earth. When we lose sight of the fact that countless numbers of creatures have become extinct because their environment could no longer sustain them, then we ignore the possibility that these same changes could ②______ many species that we take for granted.

Our life-style, and that of the billions of others on this earth, puts waste into the air and water. We may ③______ this careless behavior. While there may still be enough clean water and air for us, the loss of animals and plants can only be a ④______ to a good life for the generations that follow.

No one suggests that the solutions to our environmental problems are easy. The nations and people of the world are in competition for the limited riches of this planet. It will take the sagest and most dedicated leaders, under whose ⑤______ educated and concerned citizens will live and work, to protect the environment.
INFORMING THE PUBLIC

Public opinion has an important place in a democracy. The public, often lethargic, is susceptible* to a wide variety of influences. The most prevalent of these is the mass media. These communications media—the press, radio, and television—have a paramount position in initiating,* influencing, and shaping public opinion. Bearing this responsibility, the mass media are often accused of being remiss in their duty to inform the public. There has been a great deal of hostile comment leveled against these opinion molders.

Sample Sentences Based upon your understanding of the new words as discovered from the context, use them in the spaces provided.

1. The audience became extremely ________________ when the bigot* began to attack minority groups.
2. Long hair among boys is so ________________ today, there is no longer a prohibition against it in most schools.
3. We are all susceptible* to a ________________ feeling after a heavy meal.
4. A good politician seeks the ________________ issue in his community.
5. We would be ________________ if we overlooked the importance of the Internet to the interchange of ideas and information.

Definitions Matching words and definitions will prove you’ve learned them.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>lethargic</td>
<td>a. prevailing, common, general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>prevalent</td>
<td>b. lazy, indifferent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>paramount</td>
<td>c. antagonistic, angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>remiss</td>
<td>d. supreme, foremost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>hostile</td>
<td>e. careless, negligent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

**to split hairs**—**to make fine distinctions**

The mother and child spent a great deal of time arguing about the *hair-splitting* question of whether “going to bed” meant lights out or not.
NEW WORDS

rebuke
ri byük´

aversion
ə ver´ zhən

evince
i vins´

vogue
vōg

superficial
sū´ pər fish´ əl

WEEK 26 ☞ DAY 2

THE LACK OF FOREIGN NEWS

The critics rebuke the press for the fact that most newspapers devote somewhat less than 10 percent of their news space to foreign items. In many hundreds of papers this falls below two percent. Why is there this aversion to foreign news? Newsmen claim that readers evince no interest in foreign affairs. In order to increase reader interest in foreign news, the vogue among editors is to sensationalize it to the point of distortion. Many other papers do only the most superficial kind of reporting in this area.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The female _______________ to mice is considered absurd* by boys.
2. After a _______________ examination of the injured motorist, the doctor said that hospitalization was imperative.*
3. Many a husband has been given a _______________ for having imbibed* too fully at an office party.
4. Youngsters often do not _______________ any curiosity about the lives of their parents or grandparents.
5. Good manners are always in _______________ .

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
Today’s Idiom

to strike while the iron is hot— to take an action at the right moment

As soon as John heard that his father had won in the lottery, he struck while the iron was hot and asked for an increase in his allowance.
**New Words**

- jettison  
  jet´ə sən
- inevitable  
  in ev´ə tə bəl
- lucrative  
  lū´krə tiv
- tussle  
  tus´əl
- intrinsic  
  in trin´ sik

**WEEK 26 • DAY 3**

**PLAYING IT SAFE**

The average newspaper office receives many times the amount of foreign news than it has space to print. The editor must include or jettison items as he sees fit. It is inevitable that his ideas of what the reader want to know, or should know, are decisive. Because the newspaper owners do not want to endanger a lucrative business, there is the constant tussle between personal opinion and the desire not to offend too many readers or advertisers. It is intrinsic to the operation of all mass media that they avoid being extremist in their news coverage or editorials.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Our conscience must always ________________ against our yearning for what we know is taboo.*
2. Man sets the price of gold; it has no ________________ value.
3. The pilot decided it would be imprudent* to ________________ his fuel over the populated area.
4. It is ________________ that children question what their elders accept as tradition.*
5. Each year the contracts offered to star sports figures become more ________________.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.
6. jettison  a. sure, certain, unavoidable
7. inevitable  b. essential, natural, inborn
8. lucrative  c. a rough struggle
9. tussle (n.)  d. profitable
10. intrinsic  e. throw overboard, discard

Today’s Idiom

*once in a blue moon*—on a very rare occasion

His wife complained that they go out to dinner and a show *once in a blue moon.*
**NEW WORDS**

*acute* ə kyūt´

*gist* jist

*transient* tran´ shənt

*terse* térs

*cogent* kō´ jənt

**WEEK 26 • DAY 4**

**A FAVORITE NEWS SOURCE**

The electronic media—television and radio—have more *acute* problems than does the press when it comes to news reporting. A normal broadcast can cover only a small part of a news day. The object is to transmit the *gist* of a story without supplying its background. Another difficulty of electronic news broadcasting is its *transient* nature; the viewers or listeners may miss an important story if their attention wanders. On the other hand, because radio and television present news in a more *terse* and exciting way, they are accepted as the most *cogent* presentation of news and are preferred and believed above newspapers by most people.

**Sample Sentences** A slow and thorough study is needed today.

1. After the catastrophe,* there was an ____________ need for emergency housing.
2. The young lover was susceptible* to ____________ feelings of jealousy when he saw his sweetheart dancing with his best friend.
3. She tried to get the ____________ of her message into a 25-word telegram.
4. The mayor made a ____________ statement in which he rebuked* his election opponent for making a contemptuous* accusation.
5. The best debater makes the most ____________ presentation.

**Definitions** This day’s work requires careful study.
6. acute
7. gist
8. transient
9. terse
10. cogent

a. forceful, convincing, persuasive
b. concise, brief, compact
c. essence, main point
d. passing, short-lived, fleeting
e. sharp, keen, severe

TODAY’S IDIOM

sleep on it—postpone a decision while giving it some thought

He didn’t want to show his hand* immediately, so he agreed to sleep on it for a few more days.
If you’ve ever watched or played baseball, you know how important a base hit is to each batter. Before the game players spend as much time as possible taking their batting practice. During the game the batter concentrates on every pitch. In the same way, each day you are getting in your “batting practice,” and the weekly review is your chance to build up your “batting average.” Collect new words with the same concentration that baseball players collect base hits.

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. acute
2. aversion
3. cogent
4. evince
5. gist
6. hostile
7. inevitable
8. intrinsic
9. jettison
10. lucrative
11. paramount
12. prevalent
13. rebuke
14. remiss
15. superficial
16. lethargic
17. terse
18. transient
19. tussle
20. vogue

**DEFINITIONS**

a. show plainly, exhibit
b. fleeting, passing, short-lived
c. throw overboard, discard
d. forceful, convincing, persuasive
e. on the surface, slight
f. a rough struggle
g. compact, brief, concise
h. reprimand, reproach, criticize
i. inborn, natural, essential
j. fashion
k. main point, essence
l. severe, keen, sharp
m. lazy, indifferent
n. negligent, careless
o. unavoidable, certain, sure
p. opposition, strong dislike
q. foremost, supreme
r. general, common, prevailing
s. angry, antagonistic
t. profitable
u. on a very rare occasion
v. postpone a decision

**IDIOMS**

21. to strike while the iron is hot
22. to split hairs
23. sleep on it **w.** take action at the right moment
24. once in a blue moon **x.** to make a fine distinction

Take that extra moment now to review and study the words you got wrong.

*For reference only*

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<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
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WORDSEARCH 26

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 3rd Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 3rd Day

The Wild West

History tells us that, in a showdown in 1881, a notorious outlaw, Billy the Kid, was killed. At least that is the ①______ belief. The real Billy the Kid, William Bonney, is believed to have escaped and lived for many years in Texas. In fact, a man named Brushy Bill Roberts claimed to be the grown-up Billy the Kid.

When Roberts died in 1950, there was the ②______ question about his true identity. As a result, a computer was brought in to test whether there was anything other than a ③______ resemblance between the two men. A photo of the Kid and a photo of Roberts were compared on the computer.

In a ④______ report from the computer technician, the identity of Roberts was proved to be different from that of the real Billy the Kid. Thus, computer analysis allows us to ⑤______ the idea that Billy the Kid survived the famous gun duel.
A MUSICAL WORLD

Music reached its pinnacle in the nineteenth century. Every leading nation produced its share of great composers. There was a bewildering array of national schools and musical styles as the once obscure musician came into his own. Music became a widespread and democratic art. The ardent music lover turned to Vienna as the music center at the beginning of the nineteenth century. However, Paris was not far behind, especially in the field of operatic music. As the century progressed, the Germans became paramount* in orchestral and symphonic music. The growth of German music can be said to have culminated with Ludwig van Beethoven.

Sample Sentences Take command of the new words in these sentences.

1. The president faced an imposing ______________ of reporters.
2. The party will ______________ with the award for the most original costume.
3. The ______________ of fame and success is often a transient* stage.
4. The ______________ baseball fan went to every home game.
5. Space telescopes are making our ______________ planets ever clearer.

Definitions Match-up time for new words and definitions.

6. pinnacle a. passionate, eager

7. array b. summit, peak, top, crown
8. obscure (adj.)
9. ardent
10. culminate
c. arrangement, system
d. unknown, lowly, unclear
e. reach the highest point

**Today’s Idiom**

_to break the ice—to make a beginning,_
_to overcome stiffness between strangers_

All after-dinner speakers _break the ice_ by telling a story or joke at the start of their speeches.
**New Words**

*constrict*  
kən strikt´

*prodigy*  
prod´ə jē

*bereft*  
bi reft´

*falter*  
fôl´tər

*exultation*  
eg´ zul tā´ shən

**Week 27 • Day 2**

**A GIANT COMPOSER**

Beethoven was able to free music from the traditions* that had tended to constrict it. He was a child *prodigy* who held an important musical post at the age of 14. He was a successful concert pianist, but when his health began to fail he turned to composing. Even though bereft of hearing at the age of 49, he did not falter in his work. Some of his later compositions reflect his sadness with his physical condition, but they also evince* an exultation about man and life.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The catastrophe* left him _______________ of all his possessions.
2. She was filled with _______________ when she learned her SAT score was near the maximum.
3. It is imprudent* for a youngster to _______________ her circle of friends so that there is no opportunity to meet new people.
4. There is universal* wonder when some _______________ appears on the stage to perform at the age of 4 or 5.
5. Though he knew well the danger involved, the knight did not _______________ as he entered the dragon’s cave.

**Definitions** Your personal test follows through matching.
constrict  a. triumphant joy
prodigy  b. stumble, hesitate, waver
bereft  c. deprived of
falter  d. limit, bind, squeeze
exultation  e. marvel, phenomenon

Today’s Idiom

loaded for bear—to be well prepared

When the enemy finally attacked the positions, the defenders were loaded for bear.
New Words

vitriolic
vitˈ rē olˈ ik

invective
in vekˈ tiv

besmirch
bi smē rchˈ

voluminous
və lü mə nəs

retrospect
retˈ rə spekt

Week 27 • Day 3

A Worthy Successor
A successor to Beethoven was Johannes Brahms. Also a prodigy,* he was the object of vitriolic attacks by other composers because of the individuality of his work. They heaped invective upon him for the intensely emotional quality and Germanic style of his writings. However, it was impossible to besmirch his talents for long, and he was soon one of the most popular composers in Europe. He produced voluminous varieties of compositions. Today, in retrospect, his originality is appreciated, and he is placed among the top romantic composers.

Sample Sentences Complete the following sentences with the new words.

1. It is difficult to keep ____________ out of our discussion about the enemy.
2. One has to be amazed at the ____________ amount of information that can be stored on a computer chip.
3. The candidate tried to ____________ his opponent’s record.
4. In the future we will, in ____________, regard today’s bizarre* behavior as quite ordinary.
5. The ____________ language used by critics of the new play tended to obliterate* its good qualities.

Definitions Study the paragraph and sample sentences for the meanings.
6. vitriolic  a. insulting, abusive speech
7. invective  b. bulky, large
8. besmirch  c. soil, stain, dim the reputation
9. voluminous  d. biting, burning
10. retrospect  e. looking backward

**Today’s Idiom**

to bring down the house—to cause great enthusiasm

Popular entertainers can be counted on to bring down the house at every public performance.
**NEW WORDS**

egotist  
iˈɡətɪst

humility  
hyü milˈətē

pungent  
punˈjənt

inveterate  
in vetˈer it

adamant  
adˈəmant

**WEEK 27 • DAY 4**

**GRUFF BUT LIKEABLE**

In his private life Brahms was considered by his friends as an *egotist*. He had an extremely lofty opinion of himself and his talents. He was not noted for his *humility*. Along with this quality, Brahms was known for his *pungent* sense of humor. While his closest friends could accept his biting jokes, others found him difficult to warm up to. Brahms was an *inveterate* stay-at-home. Cambridge University conferred an honorary degree upon him, but he was *adamant* about staying at home and did not go to receive the honor. Despite the ardent* and romantic nature of his music, Brahms never found the right girl and remained single throughout his life.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Doctors agree that it is imperative* that _________________ smokers give up that imprudent* habit.
2. The _________________ odor of burning leaves marks the autumn season.
3. The umpire was _________________ about his decision to call the runner out.
4. We all expect _________________ from the actors and actresses who win the Academy Awards.
5. However, we should not be surprised that an award winner is an _________________ about his or her performance.
Definitions Make the new words yours through the match-ups.

6. egotist  a. humbleness, modesty, meekness
7. humility  b. a vain, conceited person
8. pungent  c. unyielding, inflexible
9. inveterate  d. sharply stimulating, biting
10. adamant  e. habitual, firmly established

TODAY’S IDIOM

to pull one’s weight—to do a fair share of the work
Everyone in a pioneer family had to pull his or her own weight.
Another week to build your vocabulary. Words stand for “things.” The more “things” you can recognize, the better able you are to deal with the complicated and changing world. New and unusual situations are more easily handled by those who can utilize the largest number of “things” we call words.

### REVIEW WORDS

1. **adamant**
2. **ardent**
3. **array**
4. **bereft**
5. **besmirch**
6. **constrict**
7. **culminate**
8. **egotist**
9. **exultation**
10. **falter**
11. **humility**
12. **invective**
13. **inveterate**
14. **obscure**
15. **pinnacle**
16. **prodigy**
17. **pungent**
18. **retrospect**
19. **vitriolic**
20. **voluminous**

### DEFINITIONS

a. reach the highest point
b. inflexible, unyielding
c. triumphant joy
d. looking backward
e. peak, crown, summit
f. a conceited, vain person
g. bind, limit, squeeze
h. biting, burning
i. insulting, abusive speech
j. system, arrangement
k. modesty, meekness, humbleness
l. phenomenon, marvel
m. stain, soil, dim the reputation
n. sharply stimulating
o. deprived of
p. bulky, large
q. hesitate, waver, stumble
r. eager, passionate
s. firmly established, habitual
t. unclear, unknown, lowly

### IDIOMS

21. **to break the ice**
22. **to pull one’s own weight**
23. **to bring down the house**
24. **loaded for bear**

u. to be well prepared
v. to cause great enthusiasm
w. to make a beginning
x. to do a fair share of the work
A word missed can now be made part of your vocabulary quite easily. Review the paragraph, sample sentence, definition, and then write your own sentence using the word.

*For reference only*

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WORDSEARCH 27

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 1st Day
③ 1st Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Hot Enough For You?

In ①________ the year 1990 was a year of record high temperatures across the United States. The cause of this problem is complex. There are many proposed explanations, from an increase of population to the greenhouse effect. If, in fact, temperatures are continuing to rise as a result of human activity, there should be an ②________ search for the causes and the cures.

Scientists are looking into even the most ③________ aspects of modern society to determine what might be the long-range effects of our activities. They hope that investigations will ④________ in a program to change the harmful ways we contribute to a dangerous trend.

A small increase in the earth’s temperature will lead to major difficulties for everyone. We should not ⑤________ in our efforts to avoid such disasters.
NEW WORDS

vulnerable
vul´ nər ə bəl

bedlam
bed´ ləm

cacophony
kə kəf´ ə nı

exploit
eks´ ploit

propinquity
prō ping´ kwə tı

WEEK 28 ♦ DAY 1

A DANGEROUS SPORT

Racing car drivers are vulnerable to dangers that other sportsmen seldom face. Drivers agree that controlling a car at top speeds on a winding course is a singularly* awesome* experience. There is the bedlam caused by the roaring motors that move the car from a standing start to 100 miles an hour in eight seconds. One is shaken by the cacophony of the brakes, larger than the wheels and producing during the course of a 350-mile race enough heat to warm an eight-room house through a hard winter. The driver needs to be on the alert to exploit any mistake by an opponent, and he must be constantly aware of the propinquity of sudden death. All of this makes car racing one of the most demanding games of all.

How was your recall today? Did you spot vulnerable as a reintroduced word?

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the sentences.

1. Astronauts are alert to the ____________ of sudden accidents.
2. The egotist* is ____________ to slights and insults.
3. Electronic music is considered nothing more or less than ____________ by many.
4. Advertisers spend large sums to ____________ the lucrative* teenage market.
5. The winning team’s dressing room was a scene of ________________.

Definitions Match your new words to their definitions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vulnerable</td>
<td>a. discord, harsh sound, dissonance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bedlam</td>
<td>b. open to attack, susceptible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cacophony</td>
<td>c. profit by, utilize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exploit (v.)</td>
<td>d. nearness in time or place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>propinquity</td>
<td>e. confusion, uproar</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*a white elephant—a costly and useless possession*

When he discovered the 30-volume encyclopedia, dated 1895, in his attic, he knew he had *a white elephant* on his hands.
NEW WORDS

disgruntled
dis grūnˈ təld

infallible
in falˈ a bəl

panacea
panˈ a sēˈ ə

eradicate
i radˈ i kāt

impede
im pēdˈ

WEEK 28 • DAY 2

THE MYSTERY OF CREATIVITY

In order to create, it is said that a man must be disgruntled. The creative individual is usually one who is dissatisfied with things as they are; he wants to bring something new into the world—to make it a different place. There is no infallible way to identify a potentially creative person. The speed-up in the sciences has forced schools and industry to seek a panacea for the shortages that they face. The need to discover and develop the creative person has been the source of much study. The paramount* objectives of the studies are to eradicate anything that will impede the discovery of creative talent and to exploit* this talent to the limit.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. It is the prevalent* mood for youngsters to be ________________ with the world situation.
2. Many people hoped that the United Nations would be the ________________ for the problems of our time.
3. The criminal tried to ________________ all of the witnesses to the bizarre* murder.
4. An ________________ sign of spring is the blooming of the crocus.
5. Nothing could ________________ the bigot* from his vitriolic* verbal attack.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
disgruntled  a. exempt from error, right
infallible  b. unhappy, displeased
panacea  c. wipe out
eradicate  d. cure-all
impede  e. interfere, block, hinder

The company moved its operations to another state lock, stock, and barrel.
The first impression one gets of Holland is that it is a calm, sedate, and simple land. The slow rhythm of life is even seen in the barges on the canals and the bicycles on the roads. One gradually discovers this equanimity of daily existence is not in accord with the intrinsic* nature of the Dutch. These people are moved by strong feelings that are not compatible with the serenity of the world around them. There is a conflict between the rigid, traditional* social rules and the desire for liberty and independence, both of which the Dutch revere.

Sample Sentences Pay attention to the fine differences in meaning.

1. There is something absurd* about a well-dressed, ____________ man throwing snowballs.
2. The ____________ of the countryside was shattered by the explosion.
3. The speaker lost his ____________ and began to use invective* when the audience started to laugh.
4. The boy and girl discovered they had many ____________ interests.
5. There are not many people in this world whom one can ____________ .

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. sedate a. peaceful repose
7. equanimity  b. quiet, still, undisturbed, sober
8. compatible  c. evenness of mind, composure
9. serenity  d. honor, respect, admire
10. revere  e. harmonious, well-matched

TODAY’S IDiom

_a feather in one’s cap_—something to be proud of

If she could get the movie star’s autograph, she knew it would be _a feather in her cap._
New Words

irrational
i rash´ən al

avarice
av´ər is

insatiable
in sā´shə bəl

nadir
nā´dər

moribund
mōr´ə bund

Week 28 • Day 4

TULIP FEVER

The tulip reached Holland in 1593 and was, at first, looked upon as a curiosity. There soon developed an irrational demand for new species. Specimens were sold at awesomely* high prices. In their avarice, speculators bought and sold the same tulip ten times in one day. The entire Dutch population suffered from the craze. There was an insatiable desire for each new color or shape. At one point a man purchased a house for three bulbs! Before long the inevitable* crash came and the demand for bulbs quickly reached its nadir. A $1,500 bulb could be bought for $1.50. With the moribund tulip market came financial disaster to thousands of people.

Sample Sentences Use the new words for the following sentences.

1. Who is not vulnerable* to some measure of ________________?
2. The American consumer appears to have an ________________ need for new products.
3. He looked upon the last-place finish of his team with equanimity;* from this ________________ the only place to go was up.
4. We ought to expect some ________________ behavior from a senile* person.
5. With the expansion of the supermarket, the small, local grocery store is in a ________________ state.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
6. irrational  a. lowest point
7. avarice  b. dying, at the point of death
8. insatiable  c. unreasonable, absurd
9. nadir  d. greed, passion for riches
10. moribund  e. cannot be satisfied

Today’s Idiom

*out on a limb*—in a dangerous or exposed position

He went *out on a limb* and predicted he would win the election by a wide margin.
WEEK 28 ♦ DAY 5
REVIEW

You have been learning how to use many new words by seeing them in a natural situation. Each day’s story is the setting in which you meet the new words. The weekly review enables you to isolate the word and its many meanings. In this way you can reinforce your understanding and word power. At this point you have learned almost 600 words. Keep up the good work.

REVIEW WORDS

1. avarice  
2. bedlam  
3. cacophony  
4. compatible  
5. disgruntled  
6. equanimity  
7. eradicate  
8. exploit  
9. impede  
10. infallible  
11. insatiable  
12. irrational  
13. moribund  
14. nadir  
15. panacea  
16. propinquity  
17. revere  
18. sedate  
19. serenity  
20. vulnerable

DEFINITIONS

a. susceptible, open to attack  
b. exempt from error, right  
c. well-matched, harmonious  
d. lowest point  
e. at the point of death, dying  
f. peaceful repose  
g. cure-all  
h. uproar, confusion  
i. harsh sound, discord, dissonance  
j. wipe out  
k. sober, still, quiet, undisturbed  
l. nearness in time and place  
m. displeased, unhappy  
n. absurd, unreasonable  
o. cannot be satisfied  
p. utilize, profit by  
q. composure, evenness of mind  
r. passion for riches, greed  
s. hinder, interfere, block  
t. admire, respect, honor

IDIOMS

21. lock, stock, and barrel  
22. out on a limb  
23. a feather in one’s cap  

u. a costly and useless possession  
v. entirely, completely  
w. in a dangerous or exposed position
a white elephant x. something to be proud of

Consistent study and use of difficult words will work quickly to bring them into your daily vocabulary.

*For reference only

WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. ________________________
2. ________________________
3. ________________________

MEANINGS

______________________
______________________
______________________
DOING DOUBLE DUTY
(From Weeks 25–28)

Select seven of the twelve words below that can be used as more than one part of speech (for example: noun and verb, noun and adjective). Then compose sentences using each word both ways.

1. hoard
2. revere
3. transient
4. pungent
5. falter
6. sedate
7. sage
8. rebuke
9. paramount
10. obscure
11. exploit
12. senile

Answer

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
WORDSEARCH 28

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 3rd Day
③ 1st Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Read My Lips

For many years it has been the goal of computer specialists to perfect a machine that would understand human speech. The problem is that the speaker has to be alone and in a quiet room. Noise will ①________ the computer’s ability. In the ②________ of a special room, the computer works well.

Now, math wizards are trying to develop a computer that will read lips despite any surrounding ③________. While some of us think it ④________ to believe that a computer can read lips, the experiments go on. And there has been some success.

Progress in all aspects of computer science has been so remarkable that we hesitate to rule out any possibility. There is one ⑤________ rule about the world of computers: the seemingly impossible gets done more quickly than we ever imagined.
NEW WORDS

lithe
{līth}

obese
{o bēs´}

adherent
{ad hir´ ant}

bliss
{blis}

pathetic
{pə thet´ ik}

WEEK 29 ♦ DAY 1

A SPORT FOR EVERYONE

Of the many highly popular sports in the United States, football must be rated around the top. This sport allows the speedy and *lithe* athlete to join with the slower and *obese* one in a team effort. The skills and strengths of many men are welded together so that one team may work as a unit to gain mastery over its opponent. The knowledgeable *adherent* of a team can follow action covering many parts of the playing field at the same time. He is in a state of *bliss* when his team executes a movement to perfection. However, there is no one more *pathetic* than the same fan when the opposition functions to equal perfection.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The disgruntled* ______________ switched his loyalty to the opposition party.
2. It was a pleasure to watch the ______________ body of the ballet dancer as she performed the most difficult steps.
3. There is something ______________ about a great athlete who continues to compete long after he has been bereft* of his talents.
4. His insatiable* hunger for sweets soon made him ______________.
5. Oh, what ______________ could be seen in the eyes of the ardent* couple as they announced their engagement!

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
6. lithe a. backer, supporter
7. obese b. very fat
8. adherent c. sad, pitiful, distressing
9. bliss d. graceful
10. pathetic e. happiness, pleasure

Today’s Idiom

on the spur of the moment—on impulse, without thinking
On the spur of the moment he turned thumbs down* on the new job.
NEW WORDS

exhort
eg zôrt´
apathy
ap´ a thē
fracas
frā´ kās
inebriated
in ē´ brē à tid

adversary
ad´ vər ser´ ē

WEEK 29 ◦ DAY 2

RAH! RAH! RAH!

The spectators at a football game play more than a superficial* role. A spirited cheer from the stands often gives the player on the field a reason to try even harder. Cheer leaders exhort the fans, who may be in a state of apathy because their team is losing, to spur on the team. In particularly close games between rivals of long standing, feelings begin to run high, and from time to time a fracas may break out in the stands. While the teams compete below, the fan who is a bit inebriated may seek out a personal adversary. On the whole the enthusiasm of the spectators is usually constricted* to cheering and shouting for their favorite teams.

Sample Sentences Complete the sentences with the new words.

1. The feeling of ______________ was so prevalent* during the election campaign that the candidates hardly bothered to make speeches.
2. Doctors ______________ obese* individuals to go on diets.
3. He was usually sedate,* but when ______________ he became hostile.*
4. The ______________ started when he besmirched* my good name.
5. My ______________ became disgruntled* because my arguments were so cogent.*

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. exhort a. opponent, enemy, foe
7. apathy  b. drunk, intoxicated
8. fracas  c. lack of interest, unconcern
9. inebriated  d. urge strongly, advise
10. adversary  e. noisy fight, brawl

**Today’s Idiom**

*a fly in the ointment*—some small thing that spoils or lessens the enjoyment

He was offered a lucrative* position with the firm, but *the fly in the ointment* was that he would have to work on Saturday and Sunday.
**NEW WORDS**

**indolent**
in´ dl ənt

**gusto**
gus´ tō

**garrulous**
gar´ ə ə ləs

**banal**
bā´ nl

**platitude**
plat´ ə tūd

**WEEK 29 ◆ DAY 3**

**THE 23-INCH FOOTBALL FIELD**

The football fan who cannot attend a contest in person may watch any number of games on television. This has the great advantage of permitting an *indolent* fan to sit in the comfort of his living room and watch two teams play in the most inclement* weather. However, some of the spirit, the *gusto*, is missing when one watches a game on a small screen away from the actual scene of the contest. Also, the viewer is constantly exposed to a *garrulous* group of announcers who continue to chatter in an endless way throughout the afternoon. Should the game be a dull one, the announcers discuss the most *banal* bits of information. Even in the poorest game there is constant chatter involving one *platitude* after another about the laudable* performances of each and every player.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the sentences.

1. He began to eat the food served at the sumptuous* feast with ____________.
2. Men believe that women’s conversation is filled with ____________ comments concerning clothing or food.
3. During the most sultry* days of summer, one often hears the ____________ , “Is it hot enough for you?”
4. The ____________ person goes to great lengths to eschew* work.
5. She was usually so ____________ , we considered anything under a five minute speech as a cryptic* remark.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. indolent  a. enthusiasm, enjoyment, zest
7. gusto  b. commonplace or trite saying
8. garrulous  c. lazy
9. banal  d. talkative, wordy
10. platitude  e. trivial, meaningless from overuse

TODAY’s IDiom

to take French leave— to go away without permission

The star player was fined $100 when he took French leave from the training camp.
**NEW WORDS**

**pique**
pēk

**dilettante**
dil ə tânt´

**atypical**
ā tip´ ə kæl

**nondescript**
non´ də skript

**wane**
wān

**WEEK 29 ∙ DAY 4**

**WHAT’S ON?**

One day each week is set aside for college football, and another for the professional brand. Most fans enjoy both varieties. Nothing can put an avid* viewer into a pique more quickly than missing an important contest. It is the dilettante who eschews* the amateur variety and watches only the professional games. The atypical fan will watch only his home team play; however, enthusiasts will continue to view the most nondescript contests involving teams that have no connection with their own town or school. Some intrepid* fans have been known to watch high school games when that was all that was offered. Public interest in football grows each year, while interest in other sports may be on the wane.

**Sample Sentences** Complete these sentences with the new words.

1. The ____________ will scoff* at those who admit that they know very little about modern art.
2. It is the ____________ fisherman who does not embellish* the story about the fish that got away.
3. The detective had little to go on because of the ____________ nature of the criminal.
4. Many virulent* diseases are now on the ____________ .
5. He showed his ____________ by slamming the door.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. pique       a. decrease, decline
7. dilettante   b. fit of resentment
8. atypical     c. one who has great interest, but little knowledge
9. nondescript  d. nonconforming
10. wane (n.)   e. undistinguished, difficult to describe

TODAY’S IDiom

in the arms of Morpheus—asleep; Morpheus was the Roman god of dreams
The day’s activities were so enervating, he was soon in the arms of Morpheus.
WEEK 29 ◆ DAY 5

REVIEW

The regular, consistent study of these daily stories is the salient* clue to your success. Sporadic* study tends to disrupt the learning process. Don’t give in to the temptation to put your work aside and then rush to “catch up.”

REVIEW WORDS

1. adherent  a. urge strongly, advise
2. adversary  b. enemy, foe, opponent
3. apathy  c. graceful
4. atypical  d. pitiful, sad, distressing
5. banal  e. lazy
6. bliss  f. meaningless from overuse, trivial
7. dilettante  g. fit of resentment
8. exhort  h. difficult to describe, undistinguished
9. fracas  i. unconcern, lack of interest
10. garrulous  j. intoxicated, drunk
11. gusto  k. very fat
12. indolent  l. pleasure, happiness
13. inebriated  m. zest, enjoyment, enthusiasm
14. lithe  n. trite saying
15. nondescript  o. one with little knowledge and great interest
16. obese  p. nonconforming
17. pathetic  q. brawl, noisy fight
18. pique  r. supporter, backer
19. platitude  s. wordy, talkative
20. wane  t. decline, decrease

IDIOMS

21. on the spur of the moment  u. asleep
22. in the arms of Morpheus  v. something that spoils or lessens the enjoyment
to go away without permission
23. to take French leave  w. to go away without permission
24. a fly in the ointment  x. without thinking, on impulse
Quick reinforcement of words you do not yet know will help you retain them. Right now . . . put down the words and meanings. Then, write a sentence using the word correctly.

*For reference only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. _____________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. _____________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 29

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 1st Day
③ 3rd Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Each Citizen’s Obligation

Of all the democracies in the world, the United States has the most lackluster record when it comes to citizen participation in elections. Every four years the experts try to analyze the reasons for voter ①_______. Often the eligible voter turnout at election time falls below 50%. This, after months of political campaigning, including televised debates, is a ②_______ situation.

No matter how hard the candidates woo the voters, the end results are often disappointing. Are the voters so ③_______ that they would rather stay home watching television than cast a ballot? Does the voter feel that the candidates are stating one ④_______ after another and is therefore turned off?

The right to vote is so precious that revolutions have taken place where it has been denied. The civil rights struggles of the past were sparked by those who had been denied this right. The greatest ⑤_______ of democracy in this country is said to be the failure of citizen participation in the election process.
The man who best described the now extinct life aboard a steamer on the Mississippi River is Mark Twain. Having actually worked aboard the river boats, his writing captures the tranquil* or turbulent* events of those days. In his book about life on the Mississippi, Twain recalls the idyllic times when man was not in such a great rush to get from one place to another. One chapter deals with the races conducted between the swiftest of the boats. When a race was set, the excitement would galvanize activity along the river. Politics and the weather were forgotten, and people talked with gusto* only of the coming race. The two steamers “stripped” and got ready; every encumbrance that might slow the passage was removed. Captains went to extremes to lighten their boats. Twain writes of one captain who scraped the paint from the gaudy figure that hung between the chimneys of his steamer.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Today, the trend* is to more and more __________________ dress.
2. It is amazing how lithe* football players can be, despite the __________________ of the safety features of their uniforms.
3. The dinosaur is an ________________ species.
4. City dwellers often yearn for the ________________ life in the country.
5. A dictator will use any pretext* to ________________ his people into aggressive actions.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. extinct
a. burden, handicap, load

7. idyllic
b. showy, flashy

8. galvanize
c. simple, peaceful

9. encumbrance
d. excite or arouse to activity

10. gaudy
e. no longer existing

Today’s Idiom

forty winks—a short nap
During the night before the big test, he studied continuously, catching forty winks now and then.
**New Words**

condescend
kon´ di send´

candor
kan´ dər

mortify
môr´ tə fī

jocose
jō kōs´

malign
mə līn´

**WEEK 30 • DAY 2**

**THE JOHN J. ROE**

Mark Twain’s boat was so slow no other steamer would condescend to race with it. With the utmost candor, Twain comments that his boat moved at such a pathetic pace, they used to forget in what year it was they left port. Nothing would mortify Twain more than the fact that ferryboats, waiting to cross the river, would lose valuable trips because their passengers grew senile* and died waiting for his boat, the John J. Roe, to pass. Mark Twain wrote in a jocose manner about the races his steamer had with islands and rafts. With quiet humor he continued to malign the riverboat, but his book is replete* with love for this sort of life.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He had such disdain* for us, he would not __________________ to speak before our group.
2. It is most common to __________________ the wealthy for their avarice.*
3. It is difficult to be __________________ in the presence of so many doleful* people.
4. When we cannot speak with __________________ , we utilize euphemisms.*
5. Good sportsmanship requires that one not __________________ a defeated adversary.*

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. condescend a. humorous, merry
Today's Idiom

from pillar to post—from one place to another

The company was so large and spread out, he was sent from pillar to post before he found the proper official.
THE RIVERBOAT PILOT

The riverboat pilot was a man considered \textit{omnipotent} by all. Mark Twain once held that high position. He writes that he felt at the \textit{zenith} of his life at that time. Starting out as a \textit{fledgling} pilot’s apprentice, he could not abjure dreams of the time he would become, “the only unfettered and entirely independent human being that lived in the earth.” Kings, parliaments, and newspaper editors, Twain comments, are hampered and restricted. The river pilot issued \textit{peremptory} commands as absolute monarch. The captain was powerless to interfere. Even though the pilot was much younger than the captain, and the steamer seemed to be in imminent* danger, the older man was helpless. The captain had to behave impeccably,* for any criticism of the pilot would establish a pernicious* \textit{precedent} that would have undermined the pilot’s limitless authority.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Under the aegis* of an adroit* master, he reached the ___________ of his career.
2. We would scoff* at anyone calling himself ___________.
3. There is no ___________ for voting when there is no quorum.*
4. The ___________ poet lived a frugal* life.
5. No one had the temerity* to disobey the officer’s ___________ order.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
omnipotent
zenith
fledgling
peremptory
precedent

6. omnipotent a. summit, top, prime
7. zenith b. little known, newly developed
8. fledgling c. absolute, compulsory, binding
9. peremptory d. custom, model
10. precedent e. almighty, unlimited in power or authority

TODAY’s IDiom

*in the lap of the gods*—out of one’s own hands

I handed in my application for the job, and now it is *in the lap of the gods.*
NEW WORDS

wheedle
hwē’ dl

rustic
rus´ tik

jubilant
jü´ bə lənt

decorum
di kôr´ əm

charlatan
shär´ lə tən

WEEK 30 ♦ DAY 4

THE DOUBLE CROSS

Many incidents that took place aboard his ship are re-told by Twain. One has to do with a wealthy cattle man who was approached by three gamblers. The cattle farmer had let it be known that he had a great deal of money, and the gamblers were trying to wheedle him into a card game. He protested that he knew nothing about cards. His rustic appearance confirmed that fact. On the last night before landing the three gamblers got him drunk. When the first hand was dealt, a jubilant expression came over his face. The betting became furious. All of the proper decorum was put aside, and ten thousand dollars soon lay on the table. With the last wager one of the gamblers showed a hand of four kings. His partner was to have dealt the sucker a hand of four queens. At this point the victim, the charlatan, removed the veneer* of respectability, and showed a hand of four aces! One of the three professional gamblers was a clandestine* confederate of the “rich cattle farmer.” They had been planning this duplicity* for many weeks.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The child tried to _______________ from her mother the place where the cookies had been cached.*
2. They could discern* that the faith healer was a _______________.
3. The _______________ life is supposed to be a tranquil* one.
4. Repress* your uncouth manners and act with _______________ at the party.
5. We were _________________ when our indolent* cousin got a job.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. wheedle       a. coax, persuade, cajole*
7. rustic        b. joyful, in high spirits
8. jubilant      c. politeness, correct behavior
9. decorum       d. pretender, fraud
10. charlatan    e. countrified, unpolished

Today's Idiom

Achilles heel—weak spot

He wanted to lead an ascetic* life, but his obsession with liquor was his Achilles heel.
Because you are learning these new words in context, they will stay with you. It is the natural method for seeing new words. Your ability to master words as they appear in normal situations should carry over to your learning many other words as you read.

**REVIEW WORDS**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. candor</td>
<td>a. arouse or excite to activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. charlatan</td>
<td>b. humiliate, embarrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. condescend</td>
<td>c. little known, newly developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. decorum</td>
<td>d. in high spirits, joyful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. encumbrance</td>
<td>e. peaceful, simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. extinct</td>
<td>f. honesty, frankness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. fledgling</td>
<td>g. unpolished, countrified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. galvanize</td>
<td>h. top, prime, summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. gaudy</td>
<td>i. load, handicap, burden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. idyllic</td>
<td>j. merry, humorous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. jocose</td>
<td>k. correct behavior, politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. jubilant</td>
<td>l. unlimited in power or authority, almighty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. malign</td>
<td>m. no longer existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. mortify</td>
<td>n. lower oneself, stoop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. omnipotent</td>
<td>o. persuade, coax, cajole*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. peremptory</td>
<td>p. binding, compulsory, absolute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. precedent</td>
<td>q. showy, flashy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. rustic</td>
<td>r. slander, abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. wheedle</td>
<td>s. fraud, pretender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. zenith</td>
<td>t. custom, model</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. Achilles heel</td>
<td>u. a short nap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. forty winks</td>
<td>v. weak spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. in the lap of the gods</td>
<td>w. from one place to another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. from pillar to post</td>
<td>x. out of one’s own hands</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Go right to it. Learn the words you have missed. Make them as much a part of your vocabulary as the other words you knew correctly.

*For reference only*

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</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 30

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 1st Day
③ 3rd Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 2nd Day

The Environmental Society

A great deal of controversy surrounds the efforts of environmentalists to protect rare species of animals and birds from becoming ①________. In order to save these creatures from destruction stemming from a loss of forests or water pollution, environmentalists try to ②________ large numbers of people to pressure politicians into passing conservation legislation. Often, however, these proposed ③________ laws are thought to be a burden placed upon business, resulting in a loss of employment.

In the 21st century, the energy and food requirements of an increasing population are at odds with those who would set aside land for birds or animals. There is a great temptation to ④________ the motives of environmental advocates. It will take people of good will and ⑤________ to resolve the many difficulties that lie ahead.
Today, the paramount* influence in the forming of public opinion is propaganda. It is not a heresy to our democratic beliefs to state that pressure groups play an important part in our lives. Propaganda makes one vulnerable* to the influences of others. The prudent person will choose between cogent* and specious propaganda efforts. While propaganda has the ostensible purpose of informing the public, the most fervid propagandists use methods that must be examined by the thoughtful citizen. The ability to distinguish the spurious from the true facts requires more than a perfunctory* examination of prevalent* propaganda efforts.

Sample Sentences Use care. The words have many meanings.

1. His ______________ appeal for action threw his adherents* into a frenzy*.
2. He accused the leader of the opposition of political ______________, and the mob was exhorted* to burn his effigy*.
3. In the bedlam* that followed it was not ______________ to appear too apathetic*.
4. While the ______________ enemy was the opposition leader, the main purpose of this rash* behavior was the eradication* of all opponents.
5. In the conflagration* that followed, no one questioned whether the original charge had been ______________.

Definitions Study the fine differences. Be sure how to use them.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>heresy</td>
<td>intense, enthusiastic, passionate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>prudent</td>
<td>false, counterfeit, specious*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ostensible</td>
<td>unbelief, dissent, lack of faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>fervid</td>
<td>wise, cautious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>spurious</td>
<td>outward, pretended, seeming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

cold shoulder—to disregard or ignore

She was so piqued* at his uncouth behavior, she gave him the *cold shoulder* for over a week.
A FREE SOCIETY
In a free society it is intrinsic* that individuals and groups have the inherent* right to propagate ideas and try to win converts. We do not look upon an idea different from ours as an anomaly that should be precluded*. Nor do we permit only innocuous or congenial* beliefs and forbid those that we believe are dubious* or spurious*. In a country of competing pressures we are accosted* by a surfeit of propaganda that tends to overwhelm us. Thus, we live in a milieu of ubiquitous* bombardment from countless, and often unrecognized, propagandists.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. I must inveigh* against your attempt to ______________ the belief that your political system will result in a panacea* for all problems.
2. It is incongruous* to find an abstemious* person in a ______________ of avarice* and affluence*.
3. Siamese twins are considered a birth ______________.
4. There appears to be no such thing as an ______________ heresy*.
5. When can we expect a respite* from the ______________ of TV commercials?

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
6. propagate  a. excess, superabundance
7. anomaly   b. environment, setting
8. innocuous  c. irregularity, abnormality
9. surfeit    d. produce, multiply, spread
10. milieu    e. harmless, mild, innocent

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

*without rhyme or reason*—making no sense

*Without rhyme or reason* the pennant-winning baseball team decided to jettison* its manager.
WHO LISTENS?

As the quantity of propaganda becomes greater, ideas are presented in more strident tones in order to overcome the increased competition. Those who are the targets of the propaganda find it more difficult to discern* between or analyze the new and expanded pressures. The concomitant situation that develops with the stepped-up propaganda is one in which the individual retreats into a state of lassitude. He has an aversion* to all attempts to influence him. So we can see the intrinsic* weakness inherent* in an increased level of propaganda. It has the deleterious result of reducing its efficacy upon the individuals or groups who were its objective.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. There are many _______________ dangers to obesity.*
2. Her _______________ voice added to the bedlam.*
3. After the frenzy* that accompanied the burning of the effigy,* they were all acutely* aware of a feeling of _______________.
4. The gist* of the report was that smoking will have a _______________ effect on health.
5. The _______________ of new drugs cannot be determined without a plethora* of evidence.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. strident  a. power to produce an effect
7. concomitant  b. bad, harmful
8. lassitude  c. accompanying, attending
9. deleterious  d. weariness, fatigue
10. efficacy  e. shrill, harsh, rough

Today’s Idiom

swan song—final or last (swans are said to sing before they die)
The ex-champion said that if he lost this fight it would be his swan song.
THE PEOPLE DECIDE

The place of propaganda in a milieu* that is not free differs from its place in an open society. In a dictatorship there is no competing propaganda. Those who dissent from the official line may do so only in a clandestine* manner. Where there is no open ferment of ideas, the possibility of discerning* the true from the spurious* is attenuated. In a democracy, the inevitable* arbiter of what propaganda is to be permitted is the people. It is incumbent upon each citizen to choose between competing propagandas while remaining cognizant* of the value for a democracy in the existence of all points of view.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. It is ________________ on us to be zealous* in combatting the deleterious* effects of drugs.
2. With each generation it becomes the vogue* for the youth to be in a state of ________________.
3. The gist* of his ominous* suggestion was that we ________________ from the majority opinion.
4. The strength of her appeal was ________________ by the flamboyant* embellishments* for which many had a strong aversion.*
5. The Supreme Court is our ultimate* ________________ of legality.
Definitions Always be cognizant* of the fact that words are used in the paragraphs and sentences with only one meaning. They often have many others. Look up the word *incumbent* for a good example.

6. dissent (v.) a. morally required
7. ferment b. weakened, thinned, decreased
8. attenuated c. differ, disagree, protest
9. arbiter d. uproar, agitation, turmoil
10. incumbent (adj.) e. judge

**Today’s Idiom**

to get the sack— to be discharged or fired

Despite the fact that he was so obsequious* toward the boss, *he got the sack* because he was lethargic* about doing his job.
WEEK 31 • DAY 5
REVIEW

Once more it is time to review this week’s words. Always keep in mind that the use of the word, its context, determines its meaning. Used as a noun, a word has a different meaning than when it is used as an adjective or a verb. First, master the words as they appear in the daily stories. Next, look up other meanings in your dictionary. Try writing sentences with the additional meanings.

REVIEW WORDS

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<td>a. agitation, turmoil, uproar</td>
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<td>2. arbiter</td>
<td>b. attending, accompanying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. attenuated</td>
<td>c. abnormality, irregularity</td>
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<td>4. concomitant</td>
<td>d. cautious, wise</td>
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<td>5. deleterious</td>
<td>e. protest, differ, disagree</td>
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<td>6. dissent</td>
<td>f. rough, harsh, shrill</td>
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<td>7. efficacy</td>
<td>g. multiply, spread, produce</td>
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<td>8. ferment</td>
<td>h. lack of faith, dissent, unbelief</td>
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<td>9. fervid</td>
<td>i. morally required</td>
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<td>10. heresy</td>
<td>j. power to produce an effect</td>
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<td>11. incumbent</td>
<td>k. setting, environment</td>
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<td>12. innocuous</td>
<td>l. counterfeit, false, specious*</td>
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<td>20. surfeit</td>
<td>t. seeming, pretended, outward</td>
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<td>u. to be discharged or fired</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. swan song</td>
<td>v. making no sense</td>
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23. to get the sack  
24. without rhyme or reason

Get to work learning the words that gave you trouble.

*For reference only

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Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 1st Day
③ 1st Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 3rd Day

Cross My Palm with Silver

People are fascinated by those who say they can predict the future. Fortune tellers continue to attract gullible customers, and horoscopes are examined daily to see if there is something ① _______ to worry about in the day ahead. One specialist who seems to have found a way to predict something of our future is the palm reader. It is her belief that a long “life line” in the hand means the customer will enjoy longevity.

While this appears to be a ② _______ way to predict long life, a study done in England measured “life lines” of 100 corpses and came up with ③ _______ support for the claim: the length of life matched the length of line. The longer the line, the older the person lived to be.

However, there are scientists who ④ _______ with believers in this apparent connection. The “life line” of older people is longer only because the hand becomes more wrinkled with age. Length of line is a ⑤ _______ of length of life, not the reverse, say scientists.
ANYONE FOR GOOGLE?

As automation permeates* many new areas of life, its effect upon us becomes concomitantly* more profound. Information processing, blogs, search engines of all types have found their ways into businesses, as well as our homes, schools, and libraries. Here they alleviate the burden of storing and providing us with an accumulation of information that is becoming more prodigious in this era of specialization and threatening to inundate* our society.

Youngsters in the primary grades now know how to manipulate their computers to extract information that would have taken their grandparents an eternity to produce. Machines whose celerity can scan thousands of words in nanoseconds help expedite the selection of pertinent* information for those schoolchildren.

Sample Sentences Use your new words below.

1. We hoped that the arbiter* would________________ the solution to the fracas* that had been so elusive* for a long time.
2. He accepted the lucrative* position with_______________.
3. It is easy to construe* a superficial* remark to be a________________ one.
4. If we cannot_____________ the harmful effects entirely, at least we can attenuate* them.
5. The enemy made a________________ effort to repress* the uprising.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

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<td>celerity</td>
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**Today’s Idiom**

*ivory tower*—isolated from life; not in touch with life’s problems

Many artists have been said to be living in an *ivory tower*. 
EVERYONE IS TALKING
Can anyone under the age of 20 remember a time when the dial telephone was the only method of voice communication over long distances? What a bizarre concept this must seem for today’s youth. It has become an antiquated cultural form of personal contact. The instrument for the modern communicator is the cell phone, which has usurped the wire-connected stationary model. With cell phone companies competing for customers, they eschew offering a paltry number of minutes of talking time. The cell phone user can take advantage of a plethora of special deals and carry on with significant or trivial conversations for seemingly endless time, and in almost any location. Often, these personal talks are held in the most public places, and those within hearing find it difficult to condone the inconvenience caused by the indiscriminate use of this ubiquitous instrument.

Don’t look back at the “new words.” Did you spot bizarre as a reintroduced word?

Sample Sentences (note the similarity of trivial and paltry)

1. Most of us scoff at and belittle ___________ behavior.
2. They exacerbated a ___________ difference of opinion into a prodigious* conflict.
3. It is during a period of ferment that a dictator can ___________ power.
4. Do you expect me to ___________ that reprehensible* act with such celerity?*
5. The most ___________ defects may have a deleterious* effect upon the efficacy*
of that new process.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. usurp
   a. petty, worthless
7. paltry
   b. excuse, pardon
8. condone
   c. seize, annex, grab
9. trivial
   d. of little importance, insignificant
10. bizarre
    e. fantastic, odd

**Today’s I:ODM**

*to feather one’s nest*—*to enrich oneself on the sly or at every opportunity*

He played up to his senile* aunt in the hope of *feathering his nest* when she made out her will.
**NEW WORDS**

*menial*

mē´nē el

*venerable*

ven´ər ə bəl

*extraneous*

ek strā´nē əs

*ambiguous*

am big´yəs

*succinct*

sək singkt´

**WEEK 32 • DAY 3**

**THE FUTURE IS HERE**

We have ardently* taken to the cell phone as a replacement for the venerable dial-up model. The most striking feature of the cell phone is the variety of uses to which it can be put. The dial-up phone is restricted to the menial task of mere conversation. For the garrulous* person who isn’t restricted to one place, the mobile cell phone has a myriad* of uses. Should one be in an area that requires silence, there is an ability to utilize the succinct text messaging feature. Should one come upon an ambiguous event that one wishes to keep, one may photograph it or make it into a film for further study. Do not preclude* from the list of uses the access to your computer, music, and weather reports. One can hardly imagine an extraneous technical marvel that will not embellish* the cell phone in the future.

**Sample Sentences** Complete the sentences with the new words.

1. The prodigy* revered* the ________________ master.
2. To those who could understand every nuance* of the cryptic* message, there was nothing ________________ about it.
3. He could say the most vitriolic* things in a ________________ way.
4. Although she did not find it congenial,* we cajoled* our daughter into doing some of the ________________ tasks around the house.
5. The astute* voter is notsusceptible* to the many ________________ shibboleths that saturate* a politician’s speech.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. menial  a. vague, undefined, not specific
7. venerable  b. humble, degrading
8. extraneous  c. respected, worshiped
9. ambiguous  d. foreign, not belonging
10. succinct  e. brief, concise

Today’s Idiom

the writing on the wall—an incident or event that shows what will happen in the future

In retrospect* he should have seen the writing on the wall when his girlfriend gave him only a cursory* greeting on his birthday.
NEW WORDS

archaic
är ka´ ik

emulate
em´ yə lät

facetious
fə sē´ shəs

rabid
rab´ id

salubrious
sə lüb´ brē as

WEEK 32 ♦ DAY 4

IT’S HAPPENING NOW

The flood of new technology makes each modern marvel appear archaic within the briefest time period. An assiduous* examination of today’s communication methods will make clear how quickly a rabid purchaser of the newest product will want to emulate friends and buy the next one. The cell phone that can track down the location of a user, or the music-downloading pod that has a potential* to record almost countless songs are being replaced with more powerful and exciting products. It would not be facetious to claim that scientists will persevere* in devising ways for us to contact each other by voice, photographs, and print messages that give us access* to a more salubrious social network.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Some maintain that the ascetic* leads a ____________ life.
2. With all candor,* I cannot wish for a return to the ____________ times when a moribund* society provided an opulent* existence for some, but a loathsome* life for the majority.
3. There is something ____________ about an egotist* who has the temerity* to begin a speech with, “In all humility* . . . .”
4. It is not prudent* to malign* or castigate,* or be derogatory* in any way toward a ____________ political adherent.*
5. The wish to ____________ a great person is laudable.*
**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. archaic  a. healthful, wholesome
7. emulate  b. out of date
8. facetious  c. rival, strive to equal
9. rabid  d. comical, humorous, witty
10. salubrious  e. fanatical, furious, mad

**TODAY’S IDiom**

**on the bandwagon**—joining with the majority; going along with the trend

Most advertisements showing many people using a product hope to convince the viewer to get on the bandwagon and buy the item.
WEEK 32 ◆ DAY 5

REVIEW

When you can analyze a sentence and determine from the context the meaning of a previously unknown word, you are functioning at the best level. These words will become a permanent part of your ever-growing vocabulary.

REVIEW WORDS

1. alleviate
2. ambiguous
3. archaic
4. bizarre
5. celerity
6. condone
7. emulate
8. expedite
9. extraneous
10. facetious
11. menial
12. paltry
13. prodigious
14. profound
15. rabid
16. salubrious
17. succinct
18. trivial
19. usurp
20. venerable

DEFINITIONS

a. out of date
b. concise, brief
c. intense, deep
d. annex, grab, seize
e. wholesome, healthful
f. degrading, humble
g. rapidity, speed
h. fantastic, odd
i. humorous, comical, witty
j. not belonging, foreign
k. enormous, extraordinary
l. pardon, excuse
m. furious, mad, fanatical
n. undefined, vague, not specific
o. carry out promptly
p. lighten, make easier
q. respected, worshiped
r. strive to equal, rival
s. insignificant
t. petty, worthless

IDIOMS

21. to feather one’s nest
22. ivory tower
23. the writing on the wall
24. on the bandwagon

u. joining with the majority
v. an event that predicts the future
w. out of touch with life
x. to enrich oneself at every opportunity
Take that extra moment now to review and study the words you got wrong.

*For reference only

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SELECTING ANTONYMS
(From Weeks 29–32)

Here are fifteen words taken from the last four weeks of study. Select the correct antonym for each.

1. adversary (partner, foe)
2. dilettante (amateur, professional)
3. indolent (lazy, active)
4. inebriated (drunk, sober)
5. candor (falsehood, honesty)
6. gaudy (conservative, showy)
7. zenith (acme, nadir)
8. prodigious (huge, tiny)
9. condone (condemn, approve)
10. ambiguous (clear, confusing)
11. spurious (authentic, false)
12. innocuous (harmful, harmless)
13. deleterious (harmful, helpful)
14. succinct (concise, wordy)
15. rustic (rural, urbane)
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 2nd Day
③ 1st Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 4th Day

A Formidable Opponent

One of the most interesting tests of a computer’s ability to “think” occurred in 1992. The world’s chess champion, a man of ①_______ mental ability in this sport, was challenged to compete against the most powerful computer programmed to play chess. The question was, could a machine ②_______ a human’s place as the best chess player in the world?

The match took place before hundreds of chess enthusiasts and was recorded on film. While the computer lacked the champion’s experience and emotional capacity, it worked with such ③_______ that it could search ahead for many thousands of choices, well beyond what any human could envision. In fact, the computer had already defeated many ④_______ chess masters in preparation for the contest.

The result of this test match was ⑤_______ as far as human self-esteem was concerned. The champion won fairly easily. However, there is almost total agreement that it is only a matter of time before we have an electronic chess champion, one incapable of making a blunder. At that point it will be checkmate for all of us.
With the trivial* sum of five dollars in his pockets, Robert Lacy was feeling far from complacent about the future. In fact, it was his somber estimate that no matter how frugal* he was, his money would run out before the next day. He owed $3.50 in debts to friends; with the remainder he would have to eat enough to maintain his strength. Hunger would debilitate him to the point where he could not continue his fervid* search for Evelyn. There was no hope of an impetuous stranger suddenly thrusting money upon him. There was still less solace* for him in the hope that, after all this time, he might develop the occult power that would give him a mental image of where Evelyn could be found.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The guard was so _____________ about the danger of escape that he gave the prisoner only a cursory* inspection.
2. We should be prudent* in our play or work during very hot weather, because the sun has the power to enervate* and _____________ those that scoff* at its effects.
3. He looked for a propitious* moment to exhibit his _____________ abilities.
4. The deleterious* results of his irate* outburst put the previously jocose* audience in a _____________ mood.
5. They were so moved by the idyllic* setting, they exchanged surreptitious,* _____________ kisses.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>complacent</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>secret, mysterious, supernatural</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>somber</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>impulsive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>debilitate</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>self-satisfied</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>impetuous</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>weaken</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>occult (adj.)</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>gloomy, sad</td>
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**Today’s Idiom**

*to hit the nail on the head*—to state or guess something correctly

When Charlie said there were 3,627 beans in that jar, he *hit the nail on the head.*
New Words

discreet
dis krēt´
foment
fō ment
glean
glēn
quarry
kwôr´ ē

slovenly
sluv´ an lē

Week 33 ♦ Day 2

Making Plans
Robert had arrived in New York a week earlier. He had begun by asking discreet questions of Evelyn’s former landlord. There was no need to foment opposition at the very beginning. The landlord was recondite,* and all Robert had been able to glean from the cryptic* replies was that Evelyn had moved to a residence that catered to single women. Robert was in a hapless* situation; in this immense city his quarry could be hiding in one of dozens of such places. This would obviate* the possibility of his dashing from one place to another in an impetuous* manner. His search, while it had to be concluded with celerity,* could not be carried out in such slovenly fashion. He required a succinct* and meticulous* plan.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. In order to ________________ trouble, they fabricated* a deplorable* and blatant* untruth.
2. She loathed* doing menial* tasks, and she did them in a ________________ manner.
3. Although it seemed inane,* they sought their ________________ in the midst of rustic* surroundings that were not its natural habitat*.
4. Despite the plethora* of offers to write her life story, the recently divorced movie queen kept a ________________ silence.
5. The reporters could not ________________ anything from her servants.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. discreet  a. careful, cautious, prudent*
7. foment  b. gather, collect
8. glean  c. something hunted or pursued
9. quarry  d. disorderly, carelessly
10. slovenly  e. stir up, instigate

**Today’s Idiom**

*on the dot*—exactly *on time*

Despite his having taken forty winks,* he got to his appointment *on the dot.*
NEW WORDS

абjure
ab jär´

reproach
ri prōch´

penitent
pən´ə tənt

evanescence
ev´ə nes´nt

tantamount
tan´tə mount

WEEK 33 • DAY 3

A NEWSPAPER AD

On the premise* that Evelyn knew she was being sought, Robert’s first step was to abjure fruitless* searching and place an ad in the leading morning newspaper. He would importune* in a most careful way for her return. The ad read, “Evelyn. Come out of hiding. I do not reproach you for your actions. I expect no penitent confession. There is nothing ambiguous* about my offer. Please contact. Robert.” He added a box number for a reply. When Robert went to the paper the next morning, he felt sanguine* about the chances of locating her. His evanescent concerns disappeared; there was a letter for him, and with tremulous* fingers he tore it open. It contained one sentence, and it was tantamount to a challenge; “If you really care about me, you will find me by midnight, Friday, Evelyn.”

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The inveterate* gambler became _______________ and contrite when faced with the results of his reprehensible* behavior.
2. The optimist knows that the vicissitudes* of life are _______________, and she always looks on the sanguine* side of things.
3. You should not condone* his sordid* behavior; rather, _______________ him for his fractious* manner.
4. At the zenith* of his career, he was _______________ to a final arbiter* on matters of economic policy.
5. In vain, the entire family tried to importune* him to _______________ gambling.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. abjure       a. equivalent, identical
7. reproach     b. rebuke*, reprimand*
8. penitent     c. renounce, abstain from
9. evanescent   d. regretful, confessing guilt
10. tantamount  e. fleeting, passing, momentary

Today’s Idiom

to take under one’s wing—to become responsible for
As the new term began, the senior took the freshman under her wing.
NEW WORDS

propensity
pra′pen′sə tē

wary
wer′ē

allay
ə lā′

deter
di tēr′

connoisseur
kon′ə sēr′

WEEK 33 ∙ DAY 4

AT THE BALLET

Evelyn was an anomaly*: she had a propensity for folk music and rock and roll dancing, and, at the same time, she was an avid* fan of classical ballet. At one time she had been a fledgling* ballet dancer. Robert headed for a theater where a venerable* ballet company was performing. He knew he had to be wary so that Evelyn might not see him first. It was Tuesday evening; two days gone with so little to show. Only three more remaining before the deadline set by Evelyn. He tried hard to allay the sudden fear that came over him that he might not locate her. Nothing would deter him from succeeding! And so, although he was far from a connoisseur of the dance, he was standing among the throng* in the lobby, hoping it would be a propitious* evening for him.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The ______________ scoffs* at the dilettante,* who has only a veneer* of knowledge.
2. It is difficult to ______________ the concern of parents about how susceptible* their children are and how easily they succumb* to drugs.
3. Some girls have a ______________ for swarthy men who wear gaudy* clothes.
4. Her father warned her to be ______________ of adding the encumbrance* of a steady boyfriend as this would attenuate* her chances of finishing college.
5. This did not ______________ her from getting into a deplorable* situation due to her rash* and perverse* actions.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. propensity  a. hinder, discourage
7. wary  b. expert
8. allay  c. disposition, inclination, bent
9. deter  d. calm, soothe
10. connoisseur  e. watchful, shrewd

Today’s Idiom

out of one’s depth—in a situation that is too difficult to handle

We thought he knew the ropes,* but we found him behind the eight ball* because he was out of his depth.
WEEK 33 ♦ DAY 5
REVIEW

While each day’s story has five new words, there are many others that are repeated from previous weeks. These words are placed within the stories so that you might practice your grasp of their meanings. Repetition will help guarantee that these words will be firmly fixed as part of your ever-expanding vocabulary.

REVIEW WORDS

1. abjure
2. allay
3. complacent
4. connoisseur
5. debilitate
6. deter
7. discreet
8. evanescent
9. foment
10. glean
11. impetuous
12. occult
13. penitent
14. propensity
15. quarry
16. reproach
17. slovenly
18. somber
19. tantamount
20. wary

DEFINITIONS

a. stir up, instigate
b. disorderly, carelessly
c. regretful, confessing guilt
d. abstain from, renounce
e. weaken
f. self-satisfied
g. discourage, hinder
h. bent, inclination, disposition
i. sad, gloomy
j. identical, equivalent
k. something hunted or pursued
l. watchful, shrewd
m. supernatural, mysterious, secret
n. impulsive
o. rebuke, reprimand*
p. momentary, passing, fleeting
q. prudent,* careful, cautious
r. collect, gather
s. expert
t. soothe, calm
u. exactly on time
v. in a situation that is too difficult to handle
w. to become responsible for
x. to state or guess something correctly

IDIOMS

21. out of one’s depth
22. to hit the nail on the head
23. to take under one’s wing
24. on the dot
The routine for checking and study should be well implanted by now. Some weeks you will have no words wrong. At other times, you may have several. Don’t be discouraged by the differences from week to week.

*For reference only*

**WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

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**MEANINGS**

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WORDSEARCH 33

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
1 3rd Day
2 4th Day
3 1st Day
4 1st Day
5 2nd Day

**Good Enough to Eat?**

There seems to be universal agreement that exposure to the ultraviolet light from the sun is deleterious to one’s health. Also, except for tobacco industry spokesmen, there is no dispute about the damage done to us from cigarette smoke. What is shocking is the fact that almost everything we once regarded as either beneficial, or harmless, soon gets challenged by scientists. We are urged to ① _____ foods that have high fat content. There go butter and cheese. Even milk has now been added to the list of foods of which we must be ② ______.

Whatever diet we are on, we cannot become ③ ______ about its nutritional value. We are left, ultimately, with the ⑤ ______ thought that, sooner or later, almost everything we eat or drink may be found to jeopardize our health.

Given that there are many obstacles to maintaining good health, would it be wise to embrace every new laboratory report in order to ⑥ ______ information? Let’s not discard old, proven, sensible food habits. Also, there is always the possibility that ice cream sundaes will be found to cure baldness, and that chocolate chip cookies will eliminate our cholesterol problems.
**New Words**

*site*
sīt

*vigil*
vij´ əl

*cumbersome*
kum´ bər əm

*interrogate*
in ter´ ə ɡāt

*divulge*
da vulj´

**WEEK 34 • DAY 1**

**ANOTHER PLAN**

Robert was far from tranquil* as he waited in the lobby for almost an hour after the performance had begun. Disgruntled,* he quit the site of his vigil. He had to face the fact that he was making no tangible* progress. Tomorrow he would telephone several women’s residences. It was a cumbersome way of going about the hunt, but it was all that he could think of at the moment. He would interrogate the desk clerks, and perhaps he might uncover a pertinent* clue to Evelyn’s whereabouts. If he could only get someone to divulge her hiding place! Perhaps tomorrow would culminate* in success.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. With rancor he faced the ________________ job of transporting the voluminous* records to his new office.

2. Before they began to ________________ the criminal, they had to admonish* him that his testimony might be used to incarcerate* him.

3. The hunter maintained a discreet* and wary* ________________ as he waited for the propitious* moment to bag his quarry*.

4. Even under duress,* he was adamant* and would not ________________ the secret.

5. The newly married couple selected the ________________ for their new home with meticulous* care.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. site  a. unwieldy, burdensome
7. vigil  b. question
8. cumbersome  c. wakeful watching
9. interrogate  d. disclose, reveal
10. divulge  e. location

Today’s Idiom

to take a leaf out of someone’s book—to imitate or follow the example

The chip off the old block* took a leaf from his father’s book and never sowed wild oats*. 
**New Words**

fluctuate  
flukˈ chū āt

unmitigated  
un mitˈ ə gāˈ tid

commodious  
kə mōˈ dē əs

antiquated  
anˈ tə kwā tid

disheveled  
da shevˈ əld

**Week 34 • Day 2**

**A Hope Dashed**

The next day, Wednesday, saw Robert become more frustrated.* He would fluctuate between high hopes of finding Evelyn and unmitigated despair when he was almost ready to desist* in his search. The phone calls had elicited* almost nothing. Robert had rushed to one women’s residence when the clerk described a girl who might just be Evelyn. The desk clerk phoned to her room on the pretext* that she had a special delivery letter. Robert waited in the commodious lobby, replete* with large, antiquated pieces of furniture. He watched from a discreet* distance as she came down the stairs. One look at her wan* face, slovenly* dress, and disheveled hair was enough to inform Robert that he needed no further scrutiny.* This could not be his impeccable* Evelyn.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He wasn’t exactly an ________________ liar; he merely embellished* the truth a little.
2. In his sumptuous* house he had a ________________ den in which he kept an array* of trophies as incontrovertible* evidence of his skill.
3. Is it banal* to say that good manners are ________________ in our milieu?*
4. The current trend* in the stock market is for stocks to ________________ in a sporadic* fashion.
5. The nondescript,* indolent* beggar was in a ________________ condition.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. fluctuate  
a. large, spacious  
7. unmitigated  
b. shift, alternate  
8. commodious  
c. disorderly clothing or hair  
9. antiquated  
d. unrelieved, as bad as can be  
10. disheveled  
e. out-of-date, obsolete

Today’s Idiom

brass tacks— the real problem or situation
After some moments of congenial* levity,* they got down to brass tacks.
**New Words**

**tenacious**
ti nā´ shəs

**façade**
fə säd´

**asinine**
as´ n īn

**grimace**
grə mās´

**calumny**
kal´ əm nē

**WEEK 34 ♦ DAY 3**

**TO THE POLICE**

Thursday was his next-to-last day. He had been *tenacious* in following up every lead. Now he was behind the eight ball.* He could hardly galvanize* himself to do anything else. The *façade* of hope he had worn for almost a week was crumbling; there was nothing left to be *sanguine* about. In desperation he turned to the police and placed his problem within their *jurisdiction.* They asked many questions, and they requested that he not *expurgate* anything. Some of the questions seemed *asinine.* When they inquired about his relationship to the missing girl, he replied, with a *grimace,* “Fiancee.” When they suggested she might be hiding in that part of the city where the “punk” *coterie* congregated, he was *incredulous* and accused the police of *calumny* against her good name and reputation.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He held on to his antiquated* beliefs with a _______________ obsession.*
2. The woman was noted for her vituperative _______________ against her innocuous,* although senile,* neighbor.
3. She could not abjure* a _______________ when she saw the disheveled figure.
4. How _______________ of the boy to fabricate* that bizarre* story!
5. His face wore the most doleful* _______________.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.
6. tenacious  a. false accusation, slander
7. façade     b. silly, stupid
8. asinine    c. front, superficial appearance
9. grimace    d. tough, stubborn
10. calumny   e. facial expression of disgust

**Today’s Idiom**

*hook, line, and sinker—completely, all the way*

The teacher fell for the practical joke *hook, line, and sinker.*
EVELYN DISCOVERED

Failure was imminent,* and Robert was bereft* of hope. It was now Friday. Despite his abstemious* and parsimonious* way of living, his money had been reduced to a mere pittance. A perverse* impulse brought him to the section where young people in strange clothing and with uncouth* manners made him recoil* in unmitigated* disgust. He had never been au courant with the “hippies” and “ punks.” He was always fastidious about proper dress and behavior. A moment later he saw her! Evelyn! She was sitting at a table in a coffee shop, surrounded by a coterie* of the most noisome* individuals he had ever seen. Evelyn was not incongruous,* for she herself was unkempt. So this was her new habitat!* At that instant Robert knew as an incontrovertible* fact that he had lost her. With a grimace,* he turned and walked, a doleful* and melancholy figure, toward the bus depot and home.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Styles are such transient* things that what is _______________ today, is archaic* tomorrow.
2. The tip he had been offered was a mere _______________ , and the taxi driver threw it on the ground in disdain.*
3. Children think mothers are asinine* to get upset about _______________ rooms.
4. It was inevitable* that they discover the hidden body by its _______________ aroma.
5. He was so _______________ about table manners that he lost his equanimity* when his son reached for the bread.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. pittance  
7. au courant  
8. fastidious  
9. noisome  
10. unkempt

a. untidy, neglected  
b. foul, unwholesome  
c. small amount  
d. particular, choosy  
e. up-to-date

TODAY'S IDiom

lily-livered—cowardly

The lily-livered gangster got cold feet* and spilled the beans.*
As an “old hand” at vocabulary-building by the context method, you realize that this is the most natural and effective way. However, you also know that there is work and self-discipline too. You should carry these fine qualities right through life. The words you learn are valuable, the method is equally so.

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. antiquated
2. asinine
3. au courant
4. calumny
5. commodious
6. cumbersome
7. disheveled
8. divulge
9. façade
10. fastidious
11. fluctuate
12. grimace
13. interrogate
14. noisome
15. pittance
16. site
17. tenacious
18. unkempt
19. unmitigated
20. vigil

**DEFINITIONS**

a. stubborn, tough  
b. slander, false accusation  
c. small amount  
d. neglected, untidy  
e. location  
f. reveal, disclose  
g. alternate, shift  
h. disorderly clothing or hair  
i. superficial appearance, front  
j. facial expression of disgust  
k. up-to-date  
l. unwholesome, foul  
m. wakeful watching  
n. question  
o. as bad as can be, unrelieved  
p. out-of-date, obsolete  
q. stupid, silly  
r. choosy, particular  
s. burdensome, unwieldy  
t. spacious, large

**IDIOMS**

21. brass tacks  
22. hook, line, and sinker  
23. lily-livered  
24. to take a leaf out of someone’s book  

u. cowardly  
v. completely, all the way  
w. to imitate or follow the example  
x. the real problem or situation
The method of study and learning requires quick review and re-use of difficult words. Start now!

*For reference only

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</table>
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

**Clues**
1. 2nd Day
2. 3rd Day
3. 3rd Day
4. 2nd Day
5. 4th Day

**Women in the Ring**

What sport requires the timing of tennis, the energy of aerobics, the stamina of cross-country running, and the physical contact of football? The answer is: boxing. And now that seemingly male spectacle is attracting women. What was once viewed as brutality has been transformed in gymnasiums across the country into the latest form of workout, weight reduction, and energy stimulator.

To suggest that women should not expose themselves to the sharp jabs and powerful uppercuts of boxing because they are the “weaker” sex is . Properly trained by experts, in good shape from punching bags and jumping rope, women can be as in the ring as men.

With women jockeys, race car drivers, hockey goalies, and basketball players, it would require a man with prejudice, if not sheer ignorance, to argue that boxing is solely a man’s sport. Anyone who is with the status of liberated women need not be surprised by their entry into the ring.
NEW WORDS

parable
par´ə bal

whimsical
hwim´ə kal

lampoon
lam pun´

countenance
koun´ə nəns

sanctimonious
sangk´ə mó´nəs

WEEK 35 ♦ DAY 1

A MODERN AESOP

The telling of a story in simple terms that has an inherently* important message is a venerable* art form. The *parable may be found teaching a moral lesson in the Bible. Aesop is an incontrovertible* master of the fable. This story form is far from antiquated* as shown by the whimsical approach to life taken by the modern Aesop, James Thurber. His stories lampoon the strange behavior of his fellow men. Thurber seems unable to countenance the ideas that permeate* our society regarding the rules by which we should live. Least of all is he able to accept the sanctimonious notion that some people promulgate* that good always wins out against evil. Thurber’s stories often take an exactly opposite point of view.

Sample Sentences Note that some words do not have a one word definition. Frequently, several words, or an entire sentence, is required.

1. Jonathan Swift was never reticent* to ________________ the egotist* in order to bring him down with alacrity.*
2. What one person finds ________________, the other may find asinine.*
3. The expression, “Sour grapes,*” is the gist* of a famous ________________ about a fox who couldn’t get what he wanted.
4. We should eschew* our ________________ façade;* away with pretext!*
5. If we want to live in a salubrious* milieu,* we can not ________________ the noisome* fumes that are deleterious* to health.
Definitions Note the distinction between countenance as a noun and as a verb.

6. parable   a. humorous, witty
7. whimsical   b. hypocritically religious
8. lampoon (v.)   c. tolerate,* approve
9. countenance (v.)   d. a moralistic story
10. sanctimonious   e. ridicule

**Today’s Idiom**

to pull up stakes—to quit a place
He could no longer rule the roost* or get the lion’s share,* so he pulled up stakes and moved on.
NEW WORDS

equanimité
ē kwä nimˈtə tē
effrontery
ə frunˈtər ē
nonentity
non enˈtə tē
flabbergasted
flabˈər gastəd
debacle
dā bāˈkəl

WEEK 35 • DAY 2

MODERNIZING A PARABLE*

Thurber punctures in an incisive* way the platitudes* that come from stories handed down through the generations. These old saws are accepted by everyone. One such tale is about a tortoise who had read in an ancient book that a tortoise had beaten a hare in a race. The sage* old tortoise construed* this story to mean that he could outrun a hare. With equanimité he hunted for a hare and soon found one. “Do you have the effrontery to challenge me?” asked the incredulous* hare. “You are a nonentity,” he scoffed* at the tortoise. A course of fifty feet was set out. The other animals gathered around the site*. At the sound of the gun they were off. When the hare crossed the finish line, the flabbergasted tortoise had gone approximately eight and three-quarter inches. The moral Thurber draws from this debacle for the tortoise: A new broom may sweep clean, but never trust an old saw.

Which of the five “new words” have you seen before? Answer with equanimité.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He was a precocious* youngster, but he soon reached the nadir* of his career, lost all of his prestige*, and became a ________________.
2. Do you have the ________________ to take that supercilious and facetious* attitude toward something as sinister* as this?
3. These turbulent* times require a leader who does not go into a capricious* pique,* but rather one who faces acrimonious* criticism with ________________.
4. When the judge exonerated* the charlatan,* we were all ________________.
5. The fortuitous* appearance of a relief column permitted an adroit* escape from the imminent* ________________.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. equanimity  a. calmness, self-control
7. effrontery  b. astounded
8. nonentity  c. boldness
9. flabbergasted  d. ruin, collapse
10. debacle  e. one of no importance

Today’s Idiom

to raise Cain—to cause trouble, make a fuss

When he found he was left holding the bag,* he decided to raise Cain.
**NEW WORDS**

vivacious
vī vā´shəs

gaunt
gônt

mien
mēn

hirsute
hér´ sūt

refute
ri fyū´t´

**WEEK 35 ♦ DAY 3**

**THINGS HAVE CHANGED**

Thurber modernizes an old story that everyone has read or heard. It has to do with a nefarious* wolf who kept a vigil* in an ominous* forest until a little girl came along carrying a basket of food for her grandmother. With alacrity,* this vivacious youngster told the wolf the address to which she was going. Hungry and gaunt the wolf rushed to the house. When the girl arrived and entered, she saw someone in bed wearing a nightcap and a nightgown. While the figure was dressed like her grandmother, the little girl surmised* with only a perfunctory* glance that it didn’t have the old lady’s mien. She approached and became cognizant* of the hirsute face of the wolf. She drew a revolver from her purse and shot the interloper* dead. Thurber arrives at a moral for this story that anyone would find difficult to refute: It is not so easy to fool little girls nowadays as it used to be.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. She had a _____________ of humility,* but it was only a façade.*
2. He did not waste time trying to _____________ an irrelevant* and tortuous* argument.
3. You may have discerned* that it is no longer the latest vogue* among boys to permit their faces to become ________________ .
4. They were struck by the anomaly* of one twin who was phlegmatic* while the other was ________________ .
5. Women strive for the slender and au courant* ________________ look.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. vivacious  a. thin, haggard
7. gaunt  b. lively, gay
8. mien  c. hairy
9. hirsute  d. appearance, bearing
10. refute  e. prove wrong or false

Today’s Idiom

to leave no stone unturned—to try one’s best, to make every effort
Since you’re from Missouri,* I’ll leave no stone unturned to convince you.
NEW WORDS

pensive
penˈsiv

whet
hwet

stupor
stüˈpər

wince
wins

cliché
klē′shā′

WEEK 35 ♦ DAY 4

ANOTHER SURPRISE

Thurber’s stories are written in a jocose* manner, but they contain enough serious matter to make one pensive. He tells of some builders who left a pane of glass standing upright in a field near a house they were constructing. A goldfinch flew across the field, struck the glass and was knocked inert.* He rushed back and divulged* to his friends that the air had crystallized. The other birds derided* him, said he had become irrational,* and gave a number of reasons for the accident. The only bird who believed the goldfinch was the swallow. The goldfinch challenged the large birds to follow the same path he had flown. This challenge served to whet their interest, and they agreed with gusto.* Only the swallow abjured.* The large birds flew together and struck the glass; they were knocked into a stupor. This caused the astute* swallow to wince with pain. Thurber drew a moral that is the antithesis* of the cliché we all accept: He who hesitates is sometimes saved.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He was in such a ________________ as a result of the accident that this precluded* his hearing my condolence.*
2. If you juxtapose* one ________________ with another, you often get completely opposite lessons about life.
3. The hostile* rebuke* made the usually phlegmatic* boy ________________.
4. You cannot ________________ his desire for the theater with dubious* histrionics.*
5. The fervid* marriage proposal made the shy girl ________________.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. pensive  a. thoughtful, reflective
7. whet  b. stimulate, stir up
8. stupor  c. a commonplace phrase
9. wince  d. draw back, flinch
10. cliché  e. daze, insensible condition

**Today’s Idiom**

*tongue in one’s cheek*—not to be sincere

John’s father surely had *his tongue in his cheek* when he told his son to go sow wild oats* and to kick over the traces at his kindergarten party.
To strengthen your word power, keep adding words from all the sources you use during the day. The words learned while reading this book give you a firm basis. School texts, newspapers, magazines, etc., should all give you the opportunity to corroborate* the fact that your vocabulary is growing, and they should also be the source for new words.

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. cliché
2. countenance
3. debacle
4. effrontery
5. equanimity
6. flabbergasted
7. gaunt
8. hirsute
9. lampoon
10. mien
11. nonentity
12. parable
13. pensive
14. refute
15. sanctimonious
16. stupor
17. vivacious
18. whet
19. whimsical
20. wince

**DEFINITIONS**

a. astounded
b. one of no importance
c. witty, humorous
d. ridicule
e. hairy
f. prove wrong, disprove
g. flinch, draw back
h. self-control
i. collapse, ruin
j. hypocritically religious
k. a moralistic story
l. gay, lively
m. bearing, appearance
n. stir up, stimulate
o. boldness
p. approve, tolerate*
q. haggard, thin
r. reflective, thoughtful
s. a commonplace phrase
t. insensible condition, daze

**IDIOMS**

21. tongue in one’s cheek
22. to leave no stone unturned
23. to pull up stakes

u. make a fuss, cause trouble
v. to make every effort, to try one’s best
w. not to be sincere
x. to quit a place
Look back at the story to check the use of each word in its context. This will help fix it in your mind.

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Beam Me Up, Scotty

In 1966 a television program appeared that quickly established itself as the most successful science fiction series, moved on to become a series of popular films, and continues in reruns to be seen somewhere in this country every night of the year. This original series, Star Trek, became so popular that there are huge fan clubs across the country and the stars of the original series are mobbed when they make personal appearances.

What makes this form of science fiction so popular? Some may say that each story of the future is a _______ showing us our own world through a presentation of other worlds. There are those who would _______ this analysis and argue that it is the odd characters, the _______ aliens, who attract us. We watch with _______ as worlds battle, knowing it will turn out well in the end.

After many years and many TV episodes and movies, “Star Trek” and its successors continue to _______ our appetite and bring excitement to our screens. As long as space remains an almost total mystery, the unexplained will capture our imaginations.
A LADY NOVELIST

The nineteenth century saw the woman novelist attain the same prestige* as men. England was prolific* in producing women writers. One of the foremost in this genre was Charlotte Brontë. In Jane Eyre she presented a candid portrait of a woman caught up in a clandestine* affair with a married man. Miss Bronte’s readers were engrossed* in this story. She took this unsavory subject and presented it in a way that did not degrade the relationship. She showed that true passion can be healthy. Miss Brontë did not disparage* Jane’s feelings or besmirch* her character. The author was generous in her verdict. The affair was considered merely a venial sin because Jane was never false in her feelings or her actions.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Harry held the fallacious* belief that the menial* job would ________________ him in the eyes of his friends.
2. Betty’s childish fabrications* were judged ________________ sins, although they mortified* her mother.
3. Modern abstract painting is a highly lucrative* ________________. 
4. It is reprehensible,* but it doesn’t require much gossip to give a person a(n) ________________ reputation.
5. In my ________________ opinion he is a sanctimonious* fool.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. genre  a. make contemptible, lower
7. candid  b. disagreeable, offensive, morally bad
8. unsavory  c. a certain form or style in painting or literature
9. degrade  d. pardonable, forgivable
10. venial  e. frank, open, honest

Today’s Idiom

keep a stiff upper lip—keep up courage, stand up to trouble

When he heard through the grapevine* that the fat was in the fire,* he knew he had to keep a stiff upper lip so as not to spill the beans.*
NEW WORDS

epitome
  i pitˈ ə mē

dexterity
  dek sterˈ ə tē

grotesque
  grō teskˈ

compassion
  kəm pashˈ ən

repugnant
  ri pugˈ nant

WEEK 36 • DAY 2

VICTOR HUGO

The epitome of French romantic writers in the nineteenth century was Victor Hugo. With the utmost dexterity he wrote poetry, novels, and drama. His highly popular novels, Notre Dame de Paris and Les Miserables, are replete* with melodramatic situations and grotesque characters. He had a profound* sense of social justice and a compassion for the poor, hapless,* and downtrodden. He could not work under the aegis* of Napoleon III and fled into exile. When the repugnant rule came to an end, the expatriate* returned. He was received with adulation* and acclaim as the idol of the Third Republic.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He was made up in the most __________________ way for his role as a man from outer space.
2. We all felt deep __________________ for the innocent progeny,* who were bereft* of their parents who had succumbed* during the conflagration.*
3. The Taj Mahal in India is said to be the __________________ of grace as an edifice.*
4. The sight of the corpse was __________________ to the squamish* onlookers.
5. With __________________ he thwarted* the pugnacious* and belligerent* adversary.*

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.
6. epitome  a. strange, bizarre,* fantastic
7. dexterity  b. person or thing that embodies or represents the best
8. grotesque  c. distasteful, repulsive
9. compassion  d. sympathetic feeling, kindness
10. repugnant  e. mental or physical skill

TO DAY’S IDIOM

to throw the book at someone—to give the maximum punishment

The judge got his back up* and threw the book at the criminal.
**NEW WORDS**

**acme**
ak´ mē

**copious**
ko´ pē əs

**vehemently**
vē´ ə ment lē

**depict**
di pikt´

**naive**
nä ēv´

**WEEK 36 ♦ DAY 3**

**AN ENGLISH REALIST**

The movement toward realism in the English novel of the nineteenth century reached its *acme* with the works of Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray. Charles Dickens was a *prolific* writer. Among his *copious* works are *Oliver Twist*, a *candid* exposure of the repugnant* poor laws; *Nicholas Nickleby*, in which the life of boys in a boarding school is *vehemently* attacked; *Hard Times*, in which the author wanted to *depict* the infamous* life in a factory during an early period of the industrial revolution; *The Pickwick Papers*, about a *naive* gentleman who has numerous misadventures. The novels, aimed at exposing the sordid* and pernicious* elements of English life, were said to have helped galvanize* people into action leading to improvement in these conditions.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. At the _________________ of his power, the dictator was obsessed* with the belief that those who dissented* were trying to usurp* his position.

2. As a perspicacious* newspaper reporter, he felt it incumbent* upon him to _________________ the abortive* coup* as a reprehensible* act.

3. The urbane* gentleman was flabbergasted* by the fervid* interest in wrestling shown by the _________________ young girl.

4. She lost her decorum* and wept _________________ tears at the poignant* story.

5. He objected _________________ to a vote taking place in the absence of a quorum.*
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. acme  a. unworldly, unsophisticated
7. copious  b. violently, eagerly, passionately
8. vehemently  c. peak, pinnacle,* zenith*
9. depict  d. ample, abundant, plentiful
10. naive  e. describe clearly, picture, portray

Today’s Idiom

terra firma—solid, firm land

The rough ocean crossing took the wind out of his sails*, and he was happy to be on terra firma again.
**NEW WORDS**

**perfidious**
par fid´ē as

covet
kuv´ it

**ingratiate**
in grā´shē āt

**penury**
pen´ yer ē

**ignominious**
ig´na min´ē as

**WEEK 36 ♦ DAY 4**

**A SCHEMING HEROINE**

William Makepeace Thackeray was known for his moralistic study of upper and middle class English life. His best known work, *Vanity Fair*, has as its central character Becky Sharp. She is a *perfidious* woman who has an insatiable* desire to get ahead in the world. She *covets* the wealth of one man, but when marriage is not feasible* she succeeds in a plan to *ingratiate* herself into the heart of her employer’s son. Their marriage is not a salubrious* one and Becky, who lives ostentatiously,* forms a surreptitious* liaison with another man. The affair culminates* in a debacle.* She is exposed, her husband leaves her, and she must live in *penury* in Europe. This is the *ignominious* end for a clever, but misguided woman.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Under the aegis* of a zealous* campaign manager, the candidate was able to ____________ herself into the hearts of the public.

2. A favorite parable* has to do with teaching the lesson that one should not ____________ that which belongs to someone else.

3. His fortune fluctuated* between _______________ and wealth.

4. They made an effigy* of their _______________ enemy.

5. There was bedlam* as the favored team went down to _______________ defeat at the hands of the underdog.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. perfidious  a. treacherous, false
7. covet  b. want, envy, wish
8. ingratiate  c. humiliating, disgraceful
9. penury  d. poverty
10. ignominious  e. win confidence, charm

Today’s Idiom

*in seventh heaven*—the highest happiness or delight

The oldest child was *in seventh heaven* when her mother let her rule the roost* for a day.
**WEEK 36 ✡ DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Whether you read a classic novel or a modern one, the one thing they have in common is their use of a rather extensive vocabulary. Don’t be handicapped in your reading—increase your vocabulary by constant study and review.

### REVIEW WORDS

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<td>a. open, honest, frank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. candid</td>
<td>b. kindness, sympathetic feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. compassion</td>
<td>c. zenith,* pinnacle,* peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. copious</td>
<td>d. wish, envy, want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. covet</td>
<td>e. false, treacherous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. degrade</td>
<td>f. unsophisticated, unworldly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. depict</td>
<td>g. fantastic, strange, bizarre*</td>
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<td>8. dexterity</td>
<td>h. lower, make contemptible</td>
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<td>9. epitome</td>
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<td>14. naïve</td>
<td>n. person or thing that represents the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. penury</td>
<td>o. morally bad, disagreeable, offensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. perfidious</td>
<td>p. physical or mental skill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. repugnant</td>
<td>q. passionately, violently, eagerly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. unsavory</td>
<td>r. charm, win confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. vehemently</td>
<td>s. forgivable, pardonable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. venial</td>
<td>t. disgraceful, humiliating</td>
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### IDIOMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. to throw the book at someone</td>
<td>u. keep up courage, stand up to trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. in seventh heaven</td>
<td>v. to give maximum punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. terra firma</td>
<td>w. solid, firm land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. keep a stiff upper lip</td>
<td>x. the highest happiness or delight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Review incorrect words.

*For reference only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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SENSIBLE SENTENCES?
(From Weeks 33–36)

Choose the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. We tried to *(deter, divulge)* him but he was determined to submit to open heart surgery.
2. The reporter lost his job when he labeled the senator’s remarks as *(unmitigated, asinine)*.
3. Freddie had the *(effrontery, propensity)* to ask Robin for a date after having criticized her appearance.
4. Ordinarily, Jonathan was especially neat, but he looked quite *(disheveled, fastidious)* at the end of our camping trip.
5. After hearing the bad news, the students left the auditorium with *(venial, somber)* faces.
6. My Uncle Robert, who is really conservative about his investments, made money on Wall Street by not being *(impetuous, wary)*.
7. I knew I could confide in Caryl-Sue because she has a reputation for being *(discreet, sanctimonious)*.
8. The traitor’s *(perfidious, pensive)* action resulted in the loss of many lives.
9. Our water commissioner was *(complacent, flabbergasted)* to learn that his own lawn sprinkler had been turned on during the water emergency.
10. Sophie was accepted by our wide circle of friends because of her *(vivacious, tenacious)* personality.
WORDSEARCH 36

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 3rd Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 3rd Day

1492–1992

We are all aware that 1992 was the year during which there were ①_______ reminders that it marked the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ arrival in this part of the hemisphere. Along with the celebrations and historical reenactments, there was controversy regarding the lives of those who had been here for many centuries before that fateful event.

Historical research shows that it would be extremely ②_______ to believe that “civilization” began on this continent with Columbus’ arrival. The Native American tribes had formed nations and had come together in an organization known as the Five Nations. They had regulations for governance that were the ③_______ of self-rule and that became the models on which our Constitution was partly based.

It was to remove the ④_______ portrayal of the Native American as savage and wild that historians adopted 1992 as the year to ⑤_______ them in their true light as members of civilizations worthy of study and respect.
New Words

confront
kən fruntˈ

antipathy
an tɪpˈ ə thē

servile
sərˈ vəl

volition
vō lishˈ ən

sojourn
sōˈ jérn

WEEK 37 • DAY 1

A MAN OF NATURE

Henry Thoreau attempted to confront the problem and solve the enigma* of how one might earn a living and yet not become an ignominious* slave to the task. He viewed the industrial revolution with antipathy. Man in a servile role to extraneous* possessions was a main target of his writings. He believed that one could attain genuine wealth not by accumulating objects or money, but through enjoyment and perusal* of nature. By his own volition he gave up friends and comforts for a two year sojourn by himself at Walden Pond. What others might judge as penury,* was seen by Thoreau as the epitome* of wealth.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He found his _______________ position a degrading* one and could not accept it with equanimity.*  
2. The expatriate* decided to make his _______________ in France a permanent one in order to give up his nomadic* way of life.  
3. Why do we refuse to _______________ the unsavory* problems of our times in a candid* and incisive* way?  
4. He was a tenacious* competitor, and at his own _______________ he placed his title in jeopardy* on many occasions.  
5. Her _______________ towards men was based on rather nebulous* events that she construed* to prove that they were all perfidious.*
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. confront  a. temporary stay  
7. antipathy  b. willpower, choice  
8. servile  c. dislike, distaste, hate  
9. volition  d. come face to face with  
10. sojourn (n.)  e. slavish, submissive

TODAY’S IDiom

to tighten one’s belt—to get set for bad times or poverty

He knew he would have to draw in his horns* and tighten his belt or he would wind up on skid row*. 
NEW WORDS

austere
ô stir´

felicitous
fə lis´ a təs

halcyon
hal´ sē ən

tenable
ten´ a bəl

superfluous
sū pər´ flū əs

WEEK 37 • DAY 2

THE GOOD LIFE
Thoreau’s book about the austere but happy life at Walden Pond propagated* his fame around the world. He built a small hut and began living an ascetic* existence. He found it to be a felicitous experience. In this idyllic* setting he was able to spend his time reading, studying nature, writing, and thinking. Far from being indolent,* he kept busy in many ways. At the end of the experiment he recalled the halcyon days with pleasure. He believed he had learned the secret of the truly happy life. The only tenable way of life is one in harmony with nature; material possessions are superfluous.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. When he found his sinecure* was no longer _______________ , he felt it a propitious* time to resign.
2. Far from being ostentatious,* she was considered the acme* of fashion because of her _______________ manner of dress.
3. Because he was an itinerant* worker, he had to disdain* carrying _______________ equipment.
4. On that _______________ occasion the amount of money he spent was irrelevant.*
5. During the turbulent* days of the war, they wished for the _______________ days of earlier times.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. austere a. supportable, defendable
7. felicitous b. simple, unadorned, hard
8. halcyon c. peaceful, calm
9. tenable d. happy
10. superfluous e. excessive, surplus

Today’s Idiom

off the beaten track—not usual, out of the ordinary

Because his ideas were always off the beaten track, he lived under a sword of Damocles* on his job.
The study of the human mind and behavior has had many prominent practitioners, but no one is more revered* than Sigmund Freud. An Austrian physician, he is said to be the father of psychoanalysis. He taught that man has a subconscious mind in which he keeps repugnant* memories that come to the surface surreptitiously* and motivate behavior. Man often tries to rationalize his actions, when, in reality, they are really the result of suppressed memories coming to the surface. Freud’s approach to the disturbed person was to attempt therapy by examining the dreams that make cognizant* what the cause of the illness might be. Only with the airing of deleterious*, buried emotions can the person move from the nascent stage to that of full health. Freud was considered an iconoclast in the field of psychology when his ideas first appeared at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The _______________ was in favor of jettisoning* one of the traditions that had become an intrinsic* part of his life.
2. In order to complete the _______________, the doctor said a trip to a warm, dry climate was mandatory.*
3. Complacent* people are difficult to ________________ to altruistic* actions.
4. It is pathetic* the way some citizens ________________ their apathy* during election years.
5. His beard was in its ________________ state; it would soon be a hirsute* masterpiece.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. motivate  a. beginning to exist or develop
7. rationalize  b. use or give a reason other than the real one
8. therapy  c. inspire, stimulate, provoke
9. nascent  d. image-breaker, attacker of beliefs
10. iconoclast  e. healing or curing process

Today’s Idiom

*a square peg in a round hole*—an able man in the wrong job

It was a bitter pill to swallow* when they had to fire him because he was a square peg in a round hole.
AMATEUR PSYCHOLOGISTS

The ideas of Freudian psychology have become part of our everyday life. Our language is replete* with clichés* that have their origin in Freud’s writings. There is a surfeit* of amateur psychologists who, with celerity,* analyze an individual’s problems from the slightest evidence. Despite their dubious* education and training in this field, they discuss symptoms and cures on a most erudite fashion. Should a person express a fear of heights, this phobia is examined; events from childhood are considered germane to the problem. Is it possible he or she was dropped as an infant? Perhaps something in a dream is pertinent* to explain the feelings of vertigo that accompany height. For some reason, non-trained people find the Freudian approach to the workings of the human mind most conducive to their practicing as amateur psychologists.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. She could not countenance* the sight of a lethal* weapon; it was tantamount* to a ____________ with her.

2. The ____________ man was more than merely bilingual;* he spoke five languages.

3. I would never have the temerity* to walk across the steel girders high up on a new building; an onset of ____________ would surely follow.

4. The bedlam* in the study hall was not ______________ to good work habits.

5. Epithets* are not ______________ when motivating* a child to a task.

Sample Sentences

1. She could not countenance* the sight of a lethal* weapon; it was tantamount* to a ____________ with her.

2. The ____________ man was more than merely bilingual;* he spoke five languages.

3. I would never have the temerity* to walk across the steel girders high up on a new building; an onset of ____________ would surely follow.

4. The bedlam* in the study hall was not ______________ to good work habits.

5. Epithets* are not ______________ when motivating* a child to a task.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. erudite  a. very scholarly
7. phobia  b. dizziness
8. germane  c. persistent fear, strong dislike
9. vertigo  d. leading, helpful
10. conducive  e. appropriate, in close relationship to

**Today’s Idiom**

to upset the apple cart—to overturn or disturb a plan or intention

It was a bitter pill to swallow* when they upset the apple cart and elected a dark horse.
**WEEK 37 ♦ DAY 5**  
**REVIEW**

The writings of Thoreau and Freud are replete* with ideas that require deep thought. In order to tackle their ideas, one must understand their vocabulary. Therefore, word mastery is the key to unlocking ideas of some of our greatest thinkers.

### REVIEW WORDS

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>1. antipathy</td>
<td>a. choice, willpower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. austere</td>
<td>b. supportable, defendable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. conducive</td>
<td>c. provoke, stimulate, inspire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. confront</td>
<td>d. leading, helpful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. erudite</td>
<td>e. unadorned, simple, hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. felicitous</td>
<td>f. hate, distaste, dislike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. germane</td>
<td>g. attacker of beliefs, image-breaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. halcyon</td>
<td>h. in close relationship to, appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. iconoclast</td>
<td>i. calm, peaceful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. motivate</td>
<td>j. come face to face with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. nascent</td>
<td>k. curing or healing process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. phobia</td>
<td>l. very scholarly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. rationalize</td>
<td>m. happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. servile</td>
<td>n. submissive, slavish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. sojourn</td>
<td>o. beginning to develop or exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. superfluous</td>
<td>p. dizziness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. tenable</td>
<td>q. surplus, excessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. therapy</td>
<td>r. temporary stay</td>
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<td>19. vertigo</td>
<td>s. use or give a reason other than the real one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. volition</td>
<td>t. strong dislike, persistent fear</td>
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### IDIOMS

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<tr>
<td>1. ____________________</td>
<td>___________</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. ____________________</td>
<td>___________</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. ____________________</td>
<td>___________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 2nd Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Make My Ostrich Burger Well Done

Just about 100 years ago, there arose an industry in the state of Arizona that seems very odd to us today. We know of cattle ranches and sheep ranches, but would you believe . . . ostrich ranches? This ①______ business became popular as women found ostrich feathers a ②______ addition to their wardrobes.

Ostriches are easy to raise. They eat and drink less than cattle, and their eggs are large enough to feed ten people! During the ③______ days of ostrich ranching, feathers were sold for as much as $300 a pound, so it is easy to see why that business was so attractive.

However, women’s fashions changed after World War I, and the market for ostrich plumes fell. Growers had to ④______ a shrinking market. The price tumbled to about $10 for a bird. As ostrich feathers became ⑤______ in the fashion world, ostrich ranching came to an end.

Interestingly enough, ostrich ranchers may be coming back into vogue because nutritionists tell us that ostrich meat is low in cholesterol. We may not go wild over the feathers, but pass the lean meat, please. Hold the mayo, too.
THE ENIGMA* OF FASHION

Of all the pressures young people face, the most pernicious* is that of fashion. By this is meant the current vogue* in dress. The teenagers, who are so glib when they speak of “individuality,” are turned into a homogeneous mass by the latest craze in fashion. How can youngsters who vehemently* resist advice from the older generation become so malleable in the hands of those who “make” fashion? Perhaps the sudden shifts in fashion occur fortuitously*. Or is there some group who, through legerdemain, switches styles and customs on us right before our eyes? Today’s teenagers seem to be quite gullible* when it comes to embracing the latest trend in fashions. But then, they have their elders as sage* examples to follow.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The charlatan* was able to wheedle* money out of the naïve* audience with a _______________ talk on the medicine that would expunge* pain.
2. They could not follow the _______________ of his ideas, but his verbal dexterity* galvanized* the gullible* listeners.
3. They were engrossed* as an ill man was “cured” before their eyes; some of the more urbane* said it was _______________.
4. He ingratiated* himself into their confidence, and the _______________ crowd was shaped into a subjugated* mass.
5. While they started out as individuals, they became a _______________ group whom
he could motivate as he willed.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. glib  a. capable of being shaped or formed
7. homogeneous  b. sleight of hand, deceptive adroitness*
8. malleable  c. smooth of speech
9. legerdemain  d. same or uniform
10. trend  e. general direction

Today’s Idiom

by hook or by crook—any way at all, at any cost
He had bought the white elephant* without rhyme or reason*; now he had to get rid of it by hook or by crook.
**NEW WORDS**

**stagnant**
stag’nənt

**fatal**
fā’tl

**passé**
pa sā’

**procrastinate**
prō kras’tə nāt

**facet**
fas’ it

**WEEK 38 △ DAY 2**

**THE ECONOMICS OF FASHION**

In dress, the fashion appears to be “set” by a few foreign designers and a handful of affluent* individuals who purchase these designs. The fashion industry is cognizant* of the fact that fashions must change rapidly and often or their economy would become stagnant. For this industry it would prove fatal if it were not vigilant* and prepared well in advance for a new fashion trend.* As the old fashion becomes passé and a new fashion seems to be in the making, the garment manufacturers cannot afford to procrastinate. They rush large sums of money into production for a mass market. Having invested heavily, the manufacturers do everything possible to influence and motivate* the purchasers. Through every facet of publicity and advertising the industry exploits* the natural desire for people to be au courant* with the latest fashions.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. To the consternation* of the distraught* parents they learned their son was accused of using the lethal* weapon on that ____________ occasion.
2. We wish for halcyon* days when the warlike solutions will have become ____________.
3. Edna recalled with nostalgia* many ____________ of her school days.
4. We all tend to ____________ when faced with an unsavory* task.
5. The iconoclast* has the propensity* for reproaching* those who feel complacent* with leading a ____________ existence.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. stagnant  a. delay, put off
7. fatal  b. motionless, dull, inactive
8. passé  c. deadly, disastrous
9. procrastinate  d. one side or view of person or situation
10. facet  e. outmoded, old-fashioned

Today’s Idiom

to get up on the wrong side of the bed—to be in a bad mood

When his mother raised Cain* about his slovenly* room, he accused her of getting up on the wrong side of the bed.
Once the fashion industry has been able to *foist* a new style on the teenager, the older generation tends to *stigmatize* it as some form of rebellion. What is often ignored is that the young consumers *capitulate* to what is originated* by someone outside of their group. The feelings of individuality and *audacity* that the teenager gets from a new style of dress result from the propensity* of their elders to *disparage* them. The actual situation is that the clothing fashions soon become accepted by all; there is nothing upsetting or revolutionary about them. While people are becoming complacent* about the “new,” the clothing industry is busy planning how to *tantalize* the teenager with next year’s “fashion.” This arbitrary* decision is guaranteed to *foment* consternation* among adults once again in the following year.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Despite tenacious* resistance, they were ousted* from the strongpoint and had to _____________ to the enemy.

2. It was an asinine* thing to do—to ________________ his opponent as a bigot* and thus exacerbate* an already bitter campaign.

3. It is common to hear people disparage* those who paint in the modern genre*; they speak about the ________________ of the artist who submits a high white canvas with a black border as a serious work.

4. They are dubious* of such an artist and accuse him of trying to _____________ as
a work of art a rudimentary* exercise.

5. It is reprehensible* to ______________ a young child with the promise of a reward for being good when you have no intention of giving it.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. foist  
   a. surrender, make terms
7. stigmatize  
   b. to mark with a disgrace
8. capitulate  
   c. boldness, daring
9. audacity  
   d. pass off slyly, pass as genuine
10. tantalize  
    e. tease or torment by offering something good, but not deliver

TODAY’S IDIOM

castles in the air—a dream about some wonderful future

People on Skid Row* often build castles in the air.
NEW WORDS

retort
ri tɔrt´
reticent
ret´ ə sənt
tacit
tas´ it
chicanery
shi kā´ nə r ē
docile
dos´ əl

WEEK 38 ♦ DAY 4

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

To the derogatory* comments from the older generation the teenagers might retort that new fashions and styles are adopted by the elders with alacrity.* Though they complain, women emulate* their daughters by shortening or lengthening their hems. They may appear reticent about the bother and expense of altering their wardrobe, but they give tacit approval to the change by rushing to the department stores where they jostle* each other to buy copies of the more expensive dresses. The conclusion one might reach after observing how women countenance* the arbitrary* changes year after year is that they are naïve* or victims of some chicanery practiced by the clothing industry. Women may appear hapless* before the intimidation* of “style,” but the real truth may lie in the fact that they are so docile because they secretly enjoy the yearly excitement around the latest fashions.

There’s another familiar word reintroduced today. Did you recognize reticent?

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The reporter divulged* the blatant* __________________ involved in the awarding of the contract.
2. Even the most __________________ person may become fractious* when he gets only a pittance* for his hard labor.
3. His egregious* behavior brought a __________________ reproach* to his mother’s eyes.
4. Most politicians are ________________ when asked to divulge* their ambitions.
5. He refused to _______________ to the rash* question about his propensity* for imbibing.*

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. retort (v.)  a. understood, implied, not stated
7. reticent  b. easy to manage
8. tacit  c. to answer, reply
9. chicanery  d. silent or reserved
10. docile  e. trickery, underhandedness

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

*to maintain the status quo*—*to keep things as they are*

You hit the nail on the head* when you said we ought to *maintain the status quo* and not change horses in midstream.*
Week 38 ♦ Day 5

Review

No matter what the fashion in dress, the fashion in education is an extensive vocabulary. Keep up with the fashion; build your vocabulary wardrobe.

Review Words

1. audacity
2. capitulate
3. chicanery
4. docile
5. facet
6. fatal
7. foist
8. glib
9. homogeneous
10. legerdemain
11. malleable
12. passé
13. procrastinate
14. reticent
15. retort
16. stagnant
17. stigmatize
18. tacit
19. tantalize
20. trend

Definitions

a. reserved, silent
b. pass as genuine, pass off slyly
c. disastrous, deadly
d. smooth of speech
e. one side or view of person or situation
f. daring, boldness
g. reply, answer
h. uniform, same
i. capable of being formed or shaped
j. put off, delay
k. make terms, surrender
l. underhandedness, trickery
m. not stated, understood, implied
n. to mark with a disgrace
o. inactive, dull, motionless
p. general direction
q. old-fashioned, outmoded
r. easy to manage
s. deceptive adroitness,* sleight of hand
t. tease or torment by offering something good, but fail to deliver

Idioms

21. castles in the air
22. to get up on the wrong side of the bed
23. by hook or by crook
24. to maintain the status quo

u. to be in a bad mood
v. a dream about a wonderful future
w. at any cost, any way at all
x. to keep things as they are
Take that extra few minutes now to master the few words you made errors with.

*For reference only

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WORDSEARCH 38

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 1st Day
③ 4th Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 2nd Day

TV—The Octopus

Is there anyone you know who can remember a time when there was no television? Perhaps a grandparent, but no one much younger is able to do so. At the beginning, only a handful of stations existed. Early programs imitated each other and tended to be ①_______. Some time later, there was the cable TV expansion and greater variety was available. The developing ②_______ was for ever-larger numbers of programs dealing with information as well as entertainment.

The TV industry, never ③_______ when it comes to expanding viewer interests, brought even more channels to the air, broadcasting 24 hours every day of the week. The objective was to ④______ special groups with programs directed to special tastes and interests. Soon channels devoted to games, to how to fix or make things, to romance dramas, to cartoons, etc., sprang into existence. It appears that every ⑤_______ of a viewer’s interest is being addressed. As more and more channels come on the air, as the result of new technology, the variety is expanding beyond anything imagined by those who can recall the beginnings of this magical medium.
An unforgettable *saga* of World War II has to do with the small French coastal town of Dunkirk. There, in 1940, thousands of British troops made a *belated* escape from the awesome* power of the German army and air force. They were removed by an array* of private boats, from huge yachts to *decrepit* fishing boats. At their own volition,* the skippers came close to the shore, while German planes bombed implacably.* They remained *imperturbable* under heavy fire. When their vessels were loaded, they dashed back to England. Once unloaded, they did not *vacillate,* but returned with equanimity* to their vigil* in the danger zone. The British proved once again that they are paragons* of comradeship in times of jeopardy.*

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The _____________ of a lone man confronting* the turbulent* oceans in a small boat is an exploit* we find laudable.*
2. The speaker remained _____________ while his audience shouted caustic* comments about his mendacious* activities.
3. The ingrate refused to accept Cindy’s _____________ gift.
4. When released from incarceration,* he was gaunt* and ______________.
5. We are all familiar with the cliché* that he who ______________ is lost.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. saga  a. hesitate, fluctuate
7. belated  b. heroic story
8. decrepit  c. broken down, worn out
9. imperturbable  d. late, delayed
10. vacillate  e. calm, steady, serene

Today’s Idiom

*a sacred cow*—a person or thing that cannot be criticized
(From India, where cows may not be harmed because of religious rules)
I decided to throw down the gauntlet* by exposing the boss’s son who had been ruling the roost* as the sacred cow of the business.
**NEW WORDS**

**staunch**

stônch

**opprobrium**

ə prō´ brē əm

**Machiavellian**

Mak´ ē a vel ē an

**unconscionable**

un kon´ shə ne bəl

**pandemonium**

pan´ də mō´ nē əm

**WEEK 39 ♦ DAY 2**

**THE GOOD GUYS VS. THE BAD GUYS**

The international adventure stories prevalent* on television follow meticulously* a plot that is inexorable* in its development. Those on the side of law and justice face perfidious* men and organizations. These are anathema* to those values the *staunch* heroes would defend. These infamous* men have no capacity for compassion,* and they treat the lovely women with *opprobrium. The intrepid* heroes are placed in deleterious* situations as a result of the *Machiavellian maneuvers of their opponents. One *unconscionable act of duplicity* follows another until the total destruction of the “good guys” seems at hand. At the last moment, usually amidst the *pandemonium of a battle, the cause for which the heroes strive triumphs. However, evil is ubiquitous,* and next week another fracas* will erupt.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The coach heaped ______________ upon the fledgling* ball player.
2. We are ready to rationalize* ______________ activities on the part of our side if they are to the detriment* of our adversary.*
3. It was ______________ to Abraham Lincoln to keep a book he had borrowed without making tenacious* efforts to return it.
4. There was ______________ as the presidential nominee entered the convention site.*
5. She is such a ______________ friend, my reprehensible* actions do not cause a schism* between us.
### Definitions
Match the new words with their definitions.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>staunch</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>opprobrium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Machiavellian</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>unconscionable</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>pandemonium</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*through thick and thin*—in spite of all sorts of difficulties
He decided to stick with his fairweather friends* through thick and thin.*
A FAMOUS MUTINY

One of the most repugnant* names in popular legend is that of Captain William Bligh. He was the captain of the H.M.S. Bounty in 1789, and the mutiny that erupted* aboard that ship was the basis for a film in which Charles Laughton portrayed Bligh as an awesome* bully and an unmitigated* villain. He would flay both the body and the spirit of anyone who crossed him. The crew developed such an aversion* to Bligh’s mortifying actions and demeanor that, led by Fletcher Christian, they set the captain and 17 shipmates off in a lifeboat in the South Pacific. The ship continued to the Pitcairn Islands where the crew remained to live with the islanders. Laughton’s delineation of Bligh remains as the image we have of him. Only recently has any attempt been made to vindicate Captain Bligh and to remove the heinous reputation that permeates* history.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The mayor tried to _______________ his actions that had been called capricious* and irrational* by critics.
2. He castigated* his opponents and went to great lengths to _______________ them with accusations of megalomania.*
3. His _______________ was atypical*; usually phlegmatic*, he was belligerent* and garrulous* during the broadcast.
4. “The most _______________ thing I have done,” he said in a stentorian* voice, “is eradicate* the untruth that my party is not compatible* with progress.”
Then he gave an incisive* ______________ of his fulsome* opponents as an antiquated* group, complacent* about the noisome* conditions in a moribund* city.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. flay  
7. demeanor  
8. delineation  
9. vindicate  
10. heinous

a. hatefully evil  
b. absolve, justify  
c. sketch, description in words  
d. conduct, bearing  
e. strip off skin, scold harshly

TODAY’S IDiom

to take by storm— to make a fast impression
The new opera star took the critics by storm and carried the day.*
Recently, there has been an attempt to improve Captain Bligh’s tainted* image. Historians maintain that there was no turpitude in Bligh’s actions aboard the H.M.S. Bounty. Perhaps he was imprudent* in failing to keep his temper under control. While an infraction aboard ship was quickly criticized, Bligh never carried out those callous actions the movie dramatized in order to depict* an evil man, say his defenders. After the mutiny, Captain Bligh astutely* navigated the lifeboat with the other 17 men for over 3,000 miles to safety. This prodigious* feat alone, say those who would restore Bligh’s good name, should be enough to allow for a full redress of the wrongs that have been blamed on him for over 150 years. While the coterie* defending Captain Bligh do not ask the public to praise him, they do request a more benevolent* attitude toward this traditionally* reprehensible* figure, and an end to the vituperation* heaped upon him for these many years.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. We do not condone* or tolerate* an ________________ of even the most trivial kind.
2. It takes a ________________ person to watch with equanimity* as a gullible,* naive* girl falls for the line of a loathsome* boy.
3. How easy it is to heap ________________ upon someone at the nadir* of his career.
4. There seems to be no way to ________________ a grievance against an omnipotent* ruler.
From any facet* of his life, the acme* of moral ________________ was reached by Adolf Hitler.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. **turpitude**
   - a. unfeeling

7. **infraction**
   - b. vileness, evil wickedness

8. **callous**
   - c. to right a wrong, remedy

9. **redress**
   - d. violation

10. **vituperation**
    - e. blame, abuse

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

*to be in fine fettle—*to be in high spirits, or feeling well*

He did a lot of woolgathering* and *was in fine fettle* during the whole of the Indian summer.*
**WEEK 39 • DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Our British cousins have a vocabulary that differs from ours in many ways. Isn’t it fortunate that we have to be responsible for the American version of this language only?

**REVIEW WORDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. belated</td>
<td>a. description in words, sketch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. callous</td>
<td>b. firm, trusty, strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. decrepit</td>
<td>c. fluctuate, hesitate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. delineation</td>
<td>d. violation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. demeanor</td>
<td>e. abuse, blame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. flay</td>
<td>f. serene, steady, calm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. heinous</td>
<td>g. uproar, disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. imperturbable</td>
<td>h. hatefully evil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. infraction</td>
<td>i. scold harshly, strip off the skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Machiavellian</td>
<td>j. bearing, conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. opprobrium</td>
<td>k. not principled, governed by opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. pandemonium</td>
<td>l. heroic story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. redress</td>
<td>m. delayed, late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. saga</td>
<td>n. unfeeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. staunch</td>
<td>o. evil, wickedness, vileness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. turpitude</td>
<td>p. worn out, broken down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. unconscionable</td>
<td>q. unreasonable, without conscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. vacillate</td>
<td>r. to right a wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. vindicate</td>
<td>s. justify, absolve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. vituperation</td>
<td>t. insult, scorn</td>
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</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. through thick and thin</td>
<td>u. to make a fast impression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. to take by storm</td>
<td>v. in spite of all sorts of difficulties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. a sacred cow</td>
<td>w. to be in high spirits, feeling well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. to be in fine fettle</td>
<td>x. a person who cannot be criticized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</td>
<td>MEANINGS</td>
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<td>1. _____________________</td>
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<td>2. _____________________</td>
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<td>3. _____________________</td>
<td>__________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

**Clues**

① 4th Day  
② 3rd Day  
③ 2nd Day  
④ 1st Day  
⑤ 2nd Day

**Psst . . . Need World Series Tickets?**

Think about this for a moment. Is there anything wrong in buying something for one dollar and reselling it for two dollars? Naturally, you would be correct if you saw nothing amiss with this transaction; it’s the way a capitalist economy works. But, if you bought a ticket to a rock concert or baseball game for ten dollars and sold it for twenty, you would be committing an ①_______ of the law. You might ask, “What’s so ②_______ about this?” The answer is that you would be guilty of the practice known as “scalping.” Does an individual who offers a scarce ticket at a price above the original price deserve the ③_______ connected with the word “scalping”?

These hard-working and risk-taking individuals see themselves as go-betweens in a world where people are willing to spend additional money for a popular event. However, law enforcement officials remain ④_______ in the face of all reason as they arrest and fine these enterprising salesmen. Those ⑤_______ believers in punishing law-breakers find nothing wrong with trying to halt the scalping of tickets. For others, it is a way of doing business that they claim hurts no one and is in keeping with a profit-driven economy.
A POLITICAL SHOW

The 2012 elections offered another example of politics as show business. Most politicians have prepared speeches dealing with the prevalent* topics of the day. They can maintain a fervid* flow of rhetoric for hours at a time. In each locality where he is to appear, the advance work is prepared by a clique of trustworthy aides. In preparation for the show, they have dispersed* leaflets, put up posters, and sent out cars and trucks with loudspeakers to extol the erudite* qualities of their candidate. Soon, the crowd gathers. Loyal party workers come forward to shake the hand of their mentor. Now, with the facile solutions to complex problems carefully memorized, the show is ready to begin. One moment facetious,* the next moment profound,* the candidate works to convince the incredulous* among the voters.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. It is not long before a young star has a ____________ around him who sporadically* get their names into the newspapers.
2. At a time that requires tangible* proposals, all he offers is unconscionable* ____________ .
3. The detective interrogated* the adamant* prisoner in such a ____________ way that he confessed after giving incontrovertible* evidence.
4. Youngsters scoff* when their elders ____________ the halcyon* days of long ago.
5. Amidst the adulation of the throng,* the film star, in all humility,* credited her ____________ as the one most responsible.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. rhetoric  a. counselor, coach, tutor
7. clique  b. use (sometimes exaggerated) of language
8. extol  c. easily accomplished or attained
9. mentor  d. praise highly
10. facile  e. small, exclusive group of people

**Today’s Idiom**

_to live in a fool’s paradise— to be happy without a real basis_

He _lived in a fool’s paradise_ while he sowed wild oats*, but he soon had to pay the piper.*
NEW WORDS

cant
kant

umbrage
um´ brij

magnanimous
mag nan´ a məs

vilify
vil´ a fī

elucidate
i lū´ sə dāt

WEEK 40 ♦ DAY 2

GETTING A GOOD LOOK

The television press interview is conducive* to close scrutiny* of a candidate. His public speeches may contain many cant phrases, but a sharp question by an astute* reporter can destroy a cliché* filled statement. The politician now will procrastinate* in his answer; a new facet* of his personality may be revealed by his demeanor.* Perhaps he will take umbrage at a suggestion that he favors the affluent.* His record is searched for evidence that he has been equally magnanimous to the indigent.* He accuses the reporter of attempting to vilify him. Is he being accused of turpitude* in office? It is time to discreetly* go on to another topic. The candidate wishes to extol* the virtues of his program and record. The press wants to allude* to things that keep him in the midst of controversy. They insist that he elucidate positions that the politician would rather leave in a nebulous* state.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. We feel so sanctimonious* when we ______________ the character of a felon*.

2. The diplomat was astute* enough to see through the ______________ of the Machiavellian* ambassador.

3. A somber* examination of those indigent* families, bereft* of hope, sunken in apathy,* should motivate* us to be more ______________ in our attempts to improve their lot.

4. I was flabbergasted* when he took ______________ at my whimsical* remarks.

5. The judge ordered the censor to ______________ his reasons for removing passages from the book in such a capricious* manner.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. cant  a. insincere or almost meaningless talk
7. umbrage  b. to make clear
8. magnanimous  c. resentment, offense
9. vilify  d. malign,* slander
10. elucidate  e. generous, noble

Today’s Idiom

the sum and substance—the heart or substantial part

The sum and substance of our pyrrhic victory* was that our hopes for a stable future had gone up in smoke.*
New Words

vapid
vap´ id

unwieldy
un wēl´ dē´

proximity
prok sim´ ā tē

lassitude
las´ ā tüd

vitiate
vish´ ē āt

Week 40 • Day 3

Seeing is Learning

While we are all cognizant* of the importance of words to create certain impressions, gesture is relegated* to a much lesser role. Gestures are an important concomitant* to even the most vapid speech, enhancing it and giving the hearer something to look at while he listens. The value of seeing at the same time as listening was shown when a class at a university, unwieldy because of its large size, was split up. One group was put into a room in proximity to good loudspeakers. Every nuance* of the lecturer’s voice could be heard clearly. Because they had no person on whom to place their attention, they soon took on the appearance of extreme lassitude; most students became lethargic* and rested their heads on their desks. The separation of visual and aural communication tended to vitiate the learning process. The listening group received grades lower than those received by those who could look at as well as hear the instructor.

Once more your keen eye and memory were being tested. Did you recognize lassitude as being from an earlier lesson?

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. As the scion* of an affluent* family, he was often in _______________ to opulence.*
2. After playing with his progeny* in the enervating sun, he staggered back to his room where he was overcome with _______________.
3. As a concomitant* to his belligerent* and vituperative* antipathy* toward his
government, he became an expatriate,* but he found it a ________________ life.  
4. Kyra was so disgruntled* about having to move the ________________ piano, she procrastinated* for days.  
5. The irrelevant* evidence seemed to ________________ the prosecutor’s case and precluded* a conviction.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. vapid       a. bulky, difficult to handle

7. unwieldy   b. destroy the use or value

8. proximity c. uninteresting, dull

9. lassitude d. nearness

10. vitiate e. weariness, weakness

TODAY’S IDiom

on pins and needles—to be on edge, jumpy

He was on pins and needles while he cooled his heels* in the principal’s office.
THE HAMMY OLD DAYS

Actors depend upon their ability to gesticulate* almost as much as upon speech to obtain their desired histrionic* effects. With them, gesture serves much more than merely to augment speech. When their communication is by gesture alone, it is called pantomime. In the early silent motion picture period, gestures were flamboyant.* To show that he was distraught* about the danger in which the heroine had been placed, the hero would go through the most fatuous actions. He would stagger, beat his breast, tear his hair, and contort his face into the most doleful* appearance. There weren’t many simple or restrained gestures in his repertoire. The heroine, to indicate her love, would fling her arms wide and ardently* jump into her sweetheart’s arms. It was only much later that actors became skilled enough to communicate with the audience through discreet* gestures and almost imperceptible* changes in facial expression that could transmit nuances* of emotion.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The new employee wanted to gain favor with his boss, and his obsequious* desires led to the most ___________ behavior.
2. Her virtuosity* was demonstrated by the works she performed from her ___________.
3. He had always appeared virile,* so that the ___________ decline toward senility* went unnoticed until he succumbed* and began to use a cane.
4. The paroxysm* of coughing served to ___________ her body until she could
gain a respite.*
5. The parsimonious* octogenarian* sought to ________________ his wealth by removing it from its cache* and placing it in a bank.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. augment  a. extremely slight or gradual
7. fatuous  b. enlarge, increase
8. contort  c. foolish, silly, inane*
9. repertoire  d. twist violently
10. imperceptible  e. works that an artist is ready to perform

Today’s Idiom

to have at one’s fingertips—to have thorough knowledge, to have ready

He had at his fingertips an extensive repertoire.*
If there’s one thing a politician must know how to do, it is to use words effectively. He must weigh carefully each and every utterance. He must also select the proper word for the audience he is addressing. You may never run for office, but it would be comforting to know you were ready for it—vocabulary-wise!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>augment</td>
<td>twist violently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cant</td>
<td>increase, enlarge</td>
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<tr>
<td>clique</td>
<td>nearness</td>
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<tr>
<td>contort</td>
<td>destroy the use or value</td>
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<td>elucidate</td>
<td>praise highly</td>
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<tr>
<td>extol</td>
<td>use (sometimes exaggerated) of language</td>
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<tr>
<td>facile</td>
<td>to make clear</td>
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<tr>
<td>facile</td>
<td>difficult to handle, bulky</td>
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<tr>
<td>fatuous</td>
<td>works that an artist is ready to perform</td>
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<tr>
<td>imperceptible</td>
<td>tutor, counselor, coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>lassitude</td>
<td>noble, generous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magnanimous</td>
<td>insincere or almost meaningless talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mentor</td>
<td>small, exclusive group of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proximity</td>
<td>extremely slight or gradual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>repertoire</td>
<td>dull, uninteresting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rhetoric</td>
<td>weakness, weariness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>umbrage</td>
<td>inane,* foolish, silly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unwieldy</td>
<td>easily accomplished or attained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vapid</td>
<td>offense, resentment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vilify</td>
<td>the heart or substantial part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vitiate</td>
<td>to be on edge, jumpy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vittiate</td>
<td>to have ready, to have a thorough knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vilify</td>
<td>to be happy without a real basis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

21. to live in a fool’s paradise
22. the sum and substance
23. on pins and needles
to have at one’s fingertips

Get to work learning the words that gave you trouble.

*For reference only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
From the list of vocabulary words below choose the best ones to complete each of the newspaper headlines.

a. Therapy  k. Phobia
b. Facile  l. Clique
c. Fatal  m. Fatuous
d. Decrepit  n. Repertoire
e. Confront  o. Motivate
f. Retort  p. Capitulate
g. Vehemently  q. Glib
h. Tacit  r. Lassitude
i. Legerdemain  s. Mentor
j. Vapid  t. Vertigo

2. Psychologist Claims Success in Treating Flying _________
3. Rebels _________, Throw Down Arms
4. Auto Accident Proves _________ to Family
5. _________ Salesman Arrested in Con Game
6. Witness _________ Denies Allegation
7. Pentagon Asks for Funds to Replace “_________” Aircraft
8. New Company Director Praises Former _________
9. La Bohème Is Mainstay of Opera Star’s _________
10. Speech _________ Urged After Stroke
WORDSEARCH 40

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 1st Day
③ 4th Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 2nd Day

In Thailand, Mum’s the Word

In this country we take for granted our right to speak out about our elected officials in any way we wish, without fear of arrest or imprisonment. The most disrespectful language is allowed. While some may take ①_______ at an insult against the president, our Constitution protects that right.

Now, consider the country of Thailand. That land in southeastern Asia is ruled by a king. What happens to an individual who fails to ②_______ this monarch? There is a case of a person who joked that if he were king he could sleep late every day and drink wine in the afternoon. For this somewhat ③_______ remark, he was sent to prison for seven years. Or take the story of the woman who was hanging up the king’s photograph. When the police asked her what she was doing, she replied, “I’m nailing it up there on my wall.” She said “it” instead of “the king’s photograph” and for this ④_______ alleged insult, she also was sent away for seven years.

While some U.S. citizens may ⑤_______ our leaders, in Thailand the less said the better.
QUEEN OF THE SUPERMARKET

The American housewife is queen of all she surveys in the supermarket. She decides what items shall be purchased. Grocery manufacturers are well aware of her power to make one product a success and another a failure. They spend huge sums developing new products with which to curry her favor. Fearful that a successful product will soon begin to pall, the manufacturers, without cessation,* come out with “new and improved” versions to whet* her appetite. Sometimes it is only a box or package that has been changed—perhaps a colorful photo of a succulent meal on a TV dinner box. In the larger supermarkets the housewife is faced with a satiety of merchandise, particularly in the copiously* stocked laundry detergent section. While there may be almost no intrinsic difference among the many brands, advertising and packaging serves to importune* her to buy one rather than another.

Did you spot it? The “new word” you’ve seen before? It’s intrinsic.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The connoisseur* of fine foods declared the restaurant the ultimate* in the preparation of ___________ meat dishes.
2. She coveted* the antiquated* locket even though it had only an _____________ value.
3. He discreetly* tried to _____________ favor with his employer.
4. The host exhorted* his guests to eat to _____________

5. Those conditions were not conducive* to a felicitous* evening as the dance would soon ______________ for the lack of feminine companionship.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. curry    a. excess, overly full, surfeit*
7. pall      b. within itself, inherent*
8. succulent c. to seek favor by flattery
9. satiety   d. juicy
10. intrinsic e. cease to please, become dull

TODAY’S IDIOM

*a pretty kettle of fish—a mess, troubles*

He thought it was an innocent white lie, but it got him into *a pretty kettle of fish.*
New Words

*potpourri*  
pō´ pū rē´

*sanction*  
sangk´ shən

*denote*  
di nō´

*allude*  
a lūd´

*insidious*  
in sid´ ē əs

Week 41 • Day 2

It’s What’s Outside That Counts

Packaging of grocery items is a facet* of advertising that is too little appreciated by consumers. Walking up and down the aisles of a supermarket, one seldom stops to analyze the individual package in the *potpourri* of items on the shelves. The manufacturer had to glean* and test many different designs before he accepted the one you see in the array* before you. Before he will *sanction* the use of a particular can, box, or bottle, he must know many things about its efficacy.* He wants to know if the colors attract: a white box may *denote* cleanliness, a red one, strength. There may be a photo or a drawing that will *allude* to the product’s use or special qualities. A lackluster* package may be fatal.* Next, the size and shape are important elements. The housewife may want a small package for easy storing, but a larger package may suggest economy. A round bottle may look attractive, but a square one is easier to stack. These are some of the *insidious* aspects of packaging, the main purpose of which is to attract your attention as you peruse* the crowded supermarket shelves.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. I cannot ____________ your lax* attitude towards the imminent* threat of a conflagration.*
2. In some ____________ way the glib* salesman played upon my repressed* desires and sold me a gaudy* sports car.
3. You can be sure the candidate will ____________ to the moribund* state of our economy and offer his panacea.*
4. A ______________ of today’s musical hits sounds more like cacophony* than harmony.
5. His levity* at such a serious moment ______________ a lack of feeling.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. potpourri          a. sly, seductive, treacherous
7. sanction           b. hint, suggest
8. denote             c. endorse, certify
9. allude             d. medley, mixture
10. insidious          e. indicate, show, mean

TODAY’S IDIOM

the acid test—a severe test
The new job was an acid test of his ability to bring home the bacon.*
NEW WORDS

propriety
pra prī´ə tē

advent
ad´ vent

impious
im´ pēəs

proffer
prof´ər

spate
spāt

WEEK 41 • DAY 3

“TRIED AND TRUE”

Few question the propriety of the current haste on the part of manufacturers to bring out “new and improved” products at the prevalent* rate. At one time, in the dim, distant past before the advent of television, it was the vogue* for products to be advertised on the merits of their “tried and true” qualities. Few advertisers were impious enough to jettison* any part of a product that had been accepted by the public. Year after year, the local grocery store owner would proffer the same box of cereal, the same house cleaner. The acceptance was of the time-tested product, and it appeared almost unconscionable* for the manufacturer to change his merchandise. Today’s spate of transient* products would have been considered an anomaly* in those days.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. A few years ago there was a ________________ of science-fiction films about awesome* monsters causing pandemonium* on our planet, but after a surfeit* of that genre*, their popularity began to wane.*
2. With the ________________ of text messaging, Roger was busy night and day.
3. We question the ________________ of making fun of obese* people.
4. I’d like to ________________ my belated* congratulations on your 25 years of married serenity.*
5. In the milieu* of city street life it is not atypical* to hear ________________ comments about authority.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. propriety  a. suitability, correctness
7. advent  b. offer for acceptance
8. impious  c. the coming of an important event
9. proffer  d. lacking respect, irreverent
10. spate  e. rush, flood

Today's Idiom

*a blind alley*—a direction that leads nowhere

The modus operandi was leading up a *blind alley* and they were barking up the wrong tree.
**New Words**

shibboleth
shib’a lith

bogus
bō’ gəs

substantiate
səb stan’ shē āt

nutritive
nū’ trə tiv

raucous
rō’ kəs

**Week 41 ♦ Day 4**

**What’s in a Name?**

Supermarkets now carry their own products to compete with the national brands. These “house” brands are not in a felicitous* position because they cannot be advertised widely. Supermarkets overcome this encumbrance* by making these brands less expensive. Many people believe the *shibboleth*,* “You get what you pay for,” and they purchase items on the premise* that quality varies as the price does. Are the claims made by nationally advertised brands *bogus*? How can one bread company *substantiate* its *nutritive* superiority over another? As there is no incontrovertible* evidence, the more expensive bread (or coffee, etc.) must compensate* by increased advertising. They make inordinate* claims, using those *raucous* techniques proven so successful in convincing the frugal* consumer to switch to a more costly brand.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Mothers should be vigilant* that their children’s food has the proper
______________ value.

2. There were ______________ complaints about the inordinate* number of fatal*
accidents caused by inebriated* drivers.

3. People often try to compensate* for their deplorable* lack of culture by repeating the
______________ , “I know what I like.”

4. He had the audacity* to try to foist* a _____________ dollar on me.

5. The reporter wanted to elicit* the pertinent* facts from the reticent* witness so he
could ______________ the charge of moral turpitude* against the high city official.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. shibboleth  a. pet phrase, slogan
7. bogus  b. harsh, shrill
8. substantiate  c. counterfeit, fake
9. nutritive  d. having nourishing properties
10. raucous  e. confirm, ratify

**Today’s Idiom**

*to twist around one’s finger*—to control completely

He winked at* the little girl’s bad behavior; she had him twisted around her finger.
You can be sure of a balanced language if you are well acquainted with all the products (words) available in your supermarket (vocabulary).

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. **advent**
   
a. suggest, hint

2. **allude**
   
b. surfeit,* excess, fullness

3. **bogus**
   
c. coming of an important event

4. **curry**
   
d. having nourishing properties

5. **denote**
   
e. slogan, pet phrase

6. **impious**
   
f. correctness, suitability

7. **insidious**
   
g. juicy

8. **intrinsic**
   
h. mixture, medley

9. **nutritive**
   
i. mean, show, indicate

10. **pall**
    
j. to seek favor by flattery

11. **potpourri**
    
k. irreverent, lacking respect

12. **proffer**
    
l. fake, counterfeit

13. **propriety**
    
m. ratify, confirm

14. **raucous**
    
n. rush, flood

15. **sanction**
    
o. become dull, cease to please

16. **satiety**
    
p. treacherous, sly, seductive

17. **shibboleth**
    
q. certify, endorse

18. **spate**
    
r. inherent,* within itself

19. **substantiate**
    
s. offer for acceptance

20. **succulent**
    
t. shrill, harsh

**IDIOMS**

21. to twist around one’s finger
    
   u. a severe test

22. the acid test
    
   v. a direction that leads nowhere

23. a pretty kettle of fish
    
   w. a mess, trouble

24. a blind alley
    
   x. to control completely
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Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

**Clues**
1. 2nd Day
2. 4th Day
3. 3rd Day
4. 1st Day
5. 2nd Day

**Age Discrimination**

One of the most ①______ forms of discrimination is that based upon age. We have become aware through publicity and education that bias and discrimination based upon race, color, creed, and sex are not to be accepted. Through laws passed by the Congress of the United States and by individual states, we agree that using these criteria for hiring, promoting, or firing in the workplace is a ②______ and undemocratic excuse. Many lawsuits have supported this most basic right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” protected by our Constitution.

Why is it, then, that so few question the ③______ of preventing those viewed as “too old” from getting positions, or, if already on the job, promotions? Advanced age also leads to the firing of such employees and their replacement with younger applicants. Is there something ④______ in youth that suggests that older workers cannot do the job as well? Until age discrimination goes the way of all of the other forms of prejudice, we may continue to ⑤______ the reasoning that “younger is better.”
YOU CAN’T HELP BUT WATCH

The consumer is in a quandary about making a felicitous* selection among the array* of products. The advertisers must influence the malleable* consumer, and often they do it in the most callous ways. Television offers many tangible* advantages for reaching the consumer. As a result, the consumer is inundated* by commercials. The advertiser knows that a television commercial is the most expedient way to reach large numbers of people. The cost for each commercial film is prodigious,* but because the audience is so large, the cost per viewer is negligible. Each commercial is prepared in the most meticulous* way in order to catch the attention of even the most blasé viewer and hold it until the message is through.

The reintroduced “new word” should have stood out immediately. Did it? It’s callous, of course.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. It was fortuitous* that the accident occurred when there were ____________ numbers of children in the buses.
2. He was in a ____________ about which selection from his extensive repertoire* it would be feasible* to perform for the children.
3. Because she had committed only a venial* offense, he thought it ____________ to abjure* a severe punishment.
4. Who can be ____________ about the presence of many indigent* families in
proximity* to affluence?*

5. People have become so ___________________ about the once thrilling, now mundane* flights into space.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. quandary  
   a. indifferent, not responsive to excitement

7. callous  
   b. hardened, unfeeling

8. expedient (adj.)  
   c. doubt, dilemma

9. negligible  
   d. advisable, fit

10. blasé  
    e. trifling, inconsiderable

TODAY’S IDIOM

to do one’s heart good—to make one feel happy or better

It did my heart good to see that inveterate* egotist* eat humble pie.*
NEW WORDS

ennui ənˈwē
comely kumˈle
frenetic frəˈnetˈık
artifice ərˈtaː fis
diversity dəˈvɜrˈsətē

WEEK 42 ♦ DAY 2

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Some television commercials, trying to break through the ennui built up in the viewer by the plethora* of competition, employ humor. Others feature a comely girl as a pretext* for getting the viewer to stay tuned in. At times raucous* music, accompanied by some frenetic activities, is designed to preclude* the viewer’s loss of attention. The advertiser will employ every bit of artifice at the film maker’s command to make a trenchant* commercial. The diversity of appeals made to the viewer is a concomitant* of the many ways people react to commercials. A great deal of time and money has gone into placing the consumer’s psychological make-up under scrutiny.*

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The omnipotent* dictator employed all of his rhetoric* to vilify* those who would be brash* enough to suggest that a ________________ of opinions should be expressed.
2. The fledgling* pianist knew that his mentor* would take umbrage* at his yawning during the lesson, but the feeling of ________________ was overwhelming.
3. He was reticent* about revealing his clandestine* meetings with a ________________ young girl counselor at this camp.
4. They furtively* employed every kind of ________________ to be able to meet.
5. They were vigilant* in order that their surreptitious* meetings would not be discovered, and it often required ________________ changes of plans to preclude* exposure.

*www.drzaban.com
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. ennui  
   a. frantic, frenzied

7. comely  
   b. boredom

8. frenetic  
   c. beautiful, handsome

9. artifice  
   d. strategy, trickery

10. diversity  
   e. variety, change

TODAY'S IDiom

worth one’s weight in gold—extremely valuable, very useful
The coach said the new star center was worth his weight in gold.
**New Words**

qualm  
kwäm  

expurgate  
ek´ spər gāt  

begrudge  
bi gruj´  

artless  
art´ lis  

gratuity  
gra tú´ a tē  

**WEEK 42 • DAY 3**

**GOING TO THE SOURCE**

The wide diversity* of reasons people have for buying one product rather than another are investigated by the advertising people in order to prepare efficacious* commercials. They do not have the slightest qualm about questioning the consumer about personal things in her own domicile.* The consumer is requested not to expurgate* her answers. Generally, people are not reticent* and do not begrudge giving the time and effort. The questions delve rather deeply, and what the artless responses divulge* will help the advertiser decide what to put into his next commercial. After a large number of interviews, the copious* results make it feasible* to prognosticate* how well the commercial will do. The interviewer usually offers no gratuity to the person who has helped, but often a sample of the product is proffered* as thanks.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. A successful television program can be built around the ____________ comments of very young children.
2. At times, the producer must ____________ some of the things said by these children because they are too candid.*
3. He had a serious ____________ about hunting for the nearly extinct* quarry.*
4. He took umbrage* when I offered a _______________ to augment* his small salary.
5. She did not _______________ paying the pittance* extra for a better coat.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. qualm a. remove objectionable parts or passages
7. expurgate b. to be resentful or reluctant
8. begrudge c. innocent, naive*
9. artless d. tip
10. gratuity e. twinge of conscience

Today’s Idiom

to make the best of a bad bargain—
to change or go along with a poor situation

After he bought the white elephant,* he made the best of a bad bargain and let sleeping dogs lie.*
NEW WORDS

manifest
man´a fest

delve
delv
capricious
kə prish´əs

requisite
rek´wə zit

replenish
ri plen´ish

WEEK 42 • DAY 4

IT SEEMS TO WORK

Despite the antipathy* toward commercials expressed by the viewers, the remarkable success of television commercials in selling products makes it manifest that the advertiser has gleaned* what the viewer wants to see and hear from his research interview. This has helped the advertiser delve deeply into what motivates* people when they go into the supermarket to purchase products. The advertising agency is never capricious and can vindicate* spending large sums of money on research. Having uncovered what the public wants, the advertiser expedites* putting the requisite words, music, and photographs of the product on film. He will thus replenish the never-ending, ubiquitous* television commercial supply in the hope that the consumer will remember some facet* of the film and buy the product.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. If we __________ below and behind the rhetoric* and invective,* we may discover the profound* reasons for the ferment* in our land.
2. He was reticent* about emulating* those who, after eating almost to satiety,* rushed to __________ the food on their plates.
3. It was __________ that an arbiter* would be needed because neither side would capitulate* to a plan foisted* on them by the other side.
4. When the acrimonious* discussion about his __________ actions had attenuated,* he was able to vindicate* his conduct.
5. One mortifying* __________ for the position was that he would have to work
for one year under the aegis* of a fatuous* egotist.*

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. manifest  a. requirement
7. delve  b. evident, obvious
8. capricious  c. fanciful, whimsical*
9. requisite  d. to fill again, to restock
10. replenish  e. dig, do research

Today’s Idiom

to make ends meet— to manage on a given income

He turned thumbs down* on a new car; he was having enough trouble making ends meet, as it was.
As you watch your next television commercial try to imagine what questions were asked by the research people as they interviewed the possible consumers. Advertisers have to select their words carefully. You can select words only when you have large numbers at your command.

**REVIEW WORDS**

1. **artifice**
2. **artless**
3. **begrudge**
4. **blasé**
5. **callous**
6. **capricious**
7. **comely**
8. **delve**
9. **diversity**
10. **ennui**
11. **expedient**
12. **expurgate**
13. **frenetic**
14. **gratuity**
15. **manifest**
16. **negligible**
17. **qualm**
18. **quandary**
19. **replenish**
20. **requisite**

**DEFINITIONS**

a. to remove objectionable parts or passages
b. twinge of conscience
c. handsome, beautiful
d. strategy, trickery
e. fit, advisable
f. indifferent, not responsive to excitement
g. fanciful, whimsical*
h. to do research, dig
i. to be resentful or reluctant
j. inconsiderable, trifling
k. boredom
l. obvious, evident
m. to restock, fill again
n. change, variety
o. dilemma, doubt
p. unfeeling, hardened
q. frenzied, frantic
r. requirement
s. tip
t. naive, innocent

**IDIOMS**

21. to make the best of a bad bargain
22. to do one’s heart good
23. worth one’s weight in gold

u. extremely valuable, very useful
v. to make one feel happy or better
w. to manage on a given income
24. to make ends meet	x. to change or go along with a poor situation

Learn those words you missed!

*For reference only*

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WORDSEARCH 42

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 1st Day
③ 4th Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 4th Day

An Historic Date

One event that takes place so rarely that almost no one alive when it happens can remember the previous occurrence is the changing of the century number. The passing of the ① number of years brings about the end of the 20th century and the advent of the 21st. Is there anyone ② enough to reach this historic date without experiencing the excitement of this once-in-a-lifetime moment?

While we may feel that events in our lifetime happen in a ② way, the stroke of midnight on December 31, 2000, ushered in a new century. It served as a time to reflect upon the ④ of events in our lives, both positive and negative, that the 20th century encompassed. It is obvious to all that the past 100 years have altered the world in ways no one could anticipate at the end of the 19th century. There are many who ⑤ into the past and make predictions for the new century. December 31, 2000, was a time for reflection and promise.
**NEW WORDS**

*roster*
ros´ tər

*stunted*
stunt´ id

*atrophy*
at´ rə fē

*maim*
mām

*ameliorate*
ə mē´ lə rāt

**WEEK 43 ★ DAY 1**

**IT TAKES MORE THAN MEDICINE**

If one were to look at the *roster* of physical handicaps, one would reach the somber* conclusion that the list is a long one. Included would be *stunted* development of an arm or leg due to a birth anomaly.* Others would be the result of a crippling disease that has caused muscles to *atrophy*. The list would go on with illnesses and injuries that *maim* and debilitate.* Modern medicine has done much to *ameliorate* the physical problems. However, there are an inordinate* number of problems of the handicapped that have still to be alleviated.* People are not naturally callous,* but in some perverse* way they have the propensity* to repress* any concern with the physically handicapped. The social problems seem to be inherent* in our own attitudes.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. If you heap opprobrium* on an impious* child, it probably will not ______________ the conditions that led to the rebelliousness.
2. The coach knew he would have to add experienced players to the ______________ to compensate* for the spate* of freshmen on the team.
3. There seems to be voluminous* evidence that the mother’s smoking will ______________ the baby’s growth.
4. The prodigy* allowed his musical talent to ______________ as he redirected his career.
5. When it seemed that Reggie would ______________ his opponent, we broke up the
fight.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. roster  a. checked in natural growth, held back in growth
7. stunted  b. waste away
8. atrophy  c. a list of names
9. maim  d. improve, relieve
10. ameliorate  e. disable, cripple

Today’s Idiom

to burn the midnight oil—to study or work until very late

The radio was such an enigma* that he had to burn the midnight oil* for several nights in order to get it working.
DOING THE RIGHT THING

The obstacles that frustrate* the physically handicapped person who is seeking employment may turn him into a cynic. Too often a prospective employer, with a rather unctuous manner, actually tends to degrade* the handicapped by proffering* employment that is really beneath them and their abilities. The employer appears to be acting in a benevolent manner, but this attitude shows no compassion,* for he really expects the person seeking the job to remain subservient. This iniquity cannot but give the handicapped a feeling that they are being discriminated against. He does not expect a sinecure,* but he has an aversion* to the prevalent* belief that he should consider himself lucky to find any employment.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. We had to wince* as we watched the newcomer try to wheedle* and ingratiator himself into the teacher’s favor in the most __________________ manner.
2. It is easy to become a __________________ when the same adults who inveigh* most vehemently* against the uncouth actions that they say permeate* our youth drink to satiety* and behave fatuously.*
3. We all have moments when we vacillate* between selfish and __________________ desires.
4. While his demeanor* remained imperturbaie, there was latent* anger at the ignominious* and __________________ role he had to play.
5. Those who are complacent* about any __________________ in our society should be
wary* of the unsavory* consequences for all.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>New Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. cynic</td>
<td>a. servile, obsequious*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. unctuous</td>
<td>b. pessimist, skeptic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. benevolent</td>
<td>c. affectedly emotional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. subservient</td>
<td>d. kindly, charitable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. iniquity</td>
<td>e. injustice, wickedness</td>
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**Today’s Idiom**

_to lay one’s cards on the table—to talk frankly_

He knew he was out of his depth* so he laid his cards on the table and asked for assistance.
New Words

largess
lär´ jis

criterion
krī´ tir´ ē ən

repent
ri pent´

mollify
mol´ ə fī

mercenary
mër´ sə ner´ ĕ

Week 43 ♦ Day 3

A Better Way

Why is there any question about the propriety* of hiring the physically handicapped? No one who understands their needs can condone* this attitude. The offering of employment should not be considered a largess. There should be no need to vindicate* the hiring of a handicapped person. The only criterion should be what he is capable of doing. If this is the approach, the handicapped worker will not feel he is an encumbrance* to his boss. The employer, on the other hand, will find it conducive* to good work and will not repent his having tried something new just to mollify his conscience. Even for the most mercenary employer, there should be no reticence* in eliciting* the best that is possible from the handicapped worker.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He felt it would be ignominious* for him to accept any ______________ from the charlatan* whose Machiavellian* schemes had made him affluent.*
2. Behind the façade* of ostensible* benevolence* there was a ______________ streak.
3. The platitud, “I know what I like,” is often used to rationalize* our lack of a ______________ for things about which we are dubious.*
4. When Mother is in a pique* about some infraction* of a rule, it takes all of our dexterity* to ______________ her.
5. After every election we ______________ , in a belated* criticism, the apathy* and complacency* of so many people who failed to vote.
**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. largess  a. gift, gratuity*, liberality
7. criterion  b. model, standard, test
8. repent  c. motivated* by desire for gain, greedy
9. mollify  d. pacify, appease
10. mercenary (adj.)  e. regret, desire to make amends

**Today’s Idiom**

*a bolt from the blue—a great surprise*

The windfall* from his distant cousin came like *a bolt from the blue.*
Socially, the handicapped person is often treated as a *pariah*. Most people hold themselves *aloof* from normal contact with those who are “different.” This social separation propagates* additional feelings of antipathy*. If “normal” individuals would socialize with the handicapped individual, they would learn in a *pragmatic* way that these are people who happen to have a physical handicap; the handicap does not make them any less human. The iniquity* of assuming that physical superiority equals moral superiority prevents all of us from direct human relationships. As long as there is a *vestige* of feeling that handicapped people are inferior, then we are all handicapped in one way or another. Under the *guise* of physical superiority we demonstrate a moral turpitude* that is harmful to all.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. After therapy*, there remained hardly a _____________ of his phobia*.
2. He was stigmatized* as a _____________ when he had the audacity* to boast of his nefarious* and sordid* career printing bogus* money.
3. Although many people say this is a propitious* time to invest in the stock market, there is a tenable* argument for remaining _____________.
4. In the _____________ of maintaining national unity under military rule, there was a paucity* of even innocuous* dissent*.
5. “You can’t argue with success,” was his _____________ reply to derogatory* remarks about a movie star who had only superficial* talent as an actor.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. pariah  a. manner, appearance, mien*
7. aloof  b. social outcast
8. pragmatic  c. distant, apart, reserved
9. vestige  d. trace, evidence
10. guise  e. practical, based on experience

Today’s Idiom

to tell tales out of school—to reveal harmful secrets

The fat was in the fire* for the politician when his private secretary started telling tales out of school about his secret sources of income.
There are various kinds of handicaps. One that we can do something about, and you are now doing it, is the language handicap. Our fullest potential can be realized only when there is no barrier between what we want to say or write and our ability to express ourselves.

### REVIEW WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORDS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. aloof</td>
<td>a. based on experience, practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. ameliorate</td>
<td>b. mien,* appearance, manner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. atrophy</td>
<td>c. a list of names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. benevolent</td>
<td>d. skeptic, pessimist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. criterion</td>
<td>e. test, model, standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. cynic</td>
<td>f. desire to make amends, regret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. guise</td>
<td>g. obsequious,* servile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. iniquity</td>
<td>h. held back or checked in natural growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. largess</td>
<td>i. social outcast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. maim</td>
<td>j. evidence, trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. mercenary</td>
<td>k. waste away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. mollify</td>
<td>l. charitable, kindly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. pariah</td>
<td>m. appease, pacify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. pragmatic</td>
<td>n. wickedness, injustice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. repent</td>
<td>o. cripple, disable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. roster</td>
<td>p. reserved, apart, distant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. stunted</td>
<td>q. greedy, motivated* by desire for gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. subservient</td>
<td>r. liberality, gift, gratuity*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. unctuous</td>
<td>s. affectedly emotional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. vestige</td>
<td>t. relieve, improve</td>
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### IDIOMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. to burn the midnight oil</td>
<td>u. to reveal harmful secrets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. to lay one’s cards on the table</td>
<td>v. a great surprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. a bolt from the blue</td>
<td>w. to talk frankly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. to tell tales out of school</td>
<td>x. to study or work until very late</td>
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<tr>
<td>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</td>
<td>MEANINGS</td>
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<td>1. ____________________</td>
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<td>3. ____________________</td>
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</table>
WORDSEARCH 43

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 4th Day
③ 4th Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 1st Day

Whistle Blowing

There appears to be a question of how much loyalty employees owe to their employers—whether private or governmental. Many companies go out of their way to encourage employees to make suggestions that will improve the way they operate. A ① employer will not criticize or reprimand an employee who points out problems having to do with the way other employees are harming the business. In fact, it should be in the bosses’ interest that the person who has become known as a “whistle blower” is encouraged to alert them to a problem.

However, many such whistle blowers face harsh punishment for calling attention to illegal or unethical actions. The whistle blower soon becomes a ② in the workplace. Under the ③ of some minor error, or other excuse, the informer might be demoted, transferred, or fired. This ④ often goes unreported. As a result, the employees go back to “business as usual” without any change. They become used to whatever they may see around them and to the belief that they should not make waves. Thus, no attempt to ⑤ the situation actually takes place.
HAVE WE MASTERED OUR ENVIRONMENT?

Natural disasters tend to nullify the best efforts of mankind. It is as though there are forces at work that are contemptuous of our proud achievements. Who has not read of or seen the waters that deluge our towns and cities, jeopardizing lives and culminating in the destruction of the results of endless work in the space of a few moments? We are all vulnerable to feelings of futility as we view the carnage caused to cattle from the sudden inundation. Despite the laudable advances made in technology, it can be seen that we cannot yet say we have mastered our environment. Disasters of this type, leaving only pathetic vestiges of homes and shops, are accepted as inevitable, and all we can do is to attempt to ameliorate the conditions that result.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. In spite of his efforts to cajole the girl, she remained aloof, and the ____________ of his efforts made him lugubrious.
2. To our consternation, modern ____________ has made feasible a spate of lethal devices that could lead to the inadvertent destruction of the world.
3. In order to ____________ the height advantage of his adversary, he abjured smoking and did an inordinate amount of exercise until he was the acme of litheness and dexterity.
4. We found it impossible to mollify the irate owner of three prize cats as he viewed the ____________ caused by our large dog.
5. The office was _______________ with requests for his autograph as the girls became cognizant* of his identity.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. nullify  
   a. slaughter
7. deluge (v.)  
   b. to flood
8. futility  
   c. abolish, cancel
9. carnage  
   d. applied science
10. technology  
    e. uselessness

**Today’s Idiom**

*to build upon sand*—to have a poor base, or not sufficient preparation

Because they were amateurs and without money, the political campaign was *built upon sand* and the candidate was a flash in the pan.*
**GOOD NEWS—AND BAD**

One of the latent dangers indigenous to our constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press has to do with the protection of the individual against the detriment that might come from news reports involving him. There are *libel* laws that protect against false charges. If an individual believes his character or livelihood have been damaged by a *defamatory* article, he can sue. As the *plaintiff* he must refute the story and show how the defendant caused him harm by printing a *canard*. The defendant attempts to substantiate the truth of the article. The printing of news may besmirch an individual’s character, but there is no way to alleviate this problem without changes in the Constitution. This would be tantamount to destroying the efficacy of our coveted right to learn the truth from the press. We all *deprecate* a situation in which someone suffers because of exposure in the newspapers. Only when the harm is caused by someone with a desire to malign under the guise of printing the news can the individual expect to win compensation through the courts.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The mayor vehemently denied there was any antipathy between the governor and himself and blamed this ____________ on their political opponents.
2. I resent your ____________ remark that depicts me as a culprit.
3. The egregious calumny of the defendant worked to the advantage of the ____________.
4. Publishers of newspapers and magazines augment their staff with lawyers to represent
them when they are sued for _______________.

5. The cynic* will _______________ the motives of anyone who tries to ameliorate* the iniquities* in our society.

Definitions Study these carefully for the fine differences in meaning.

6. libel (n.)  a. express disapproval

7. defamatory  b. the complaining party, in law

8. plaintiff  c. degradation by writing or publishing

9. canard  d. damaging character by false reports

10. deprecate  e. a made-up sensational story

TODAY’S IDiom

a pretty kettle of fish—a messy situation, a problem

He knew that when he attacked the sacred cow* he would be in a pretty kettle of fish. (Do you remember this idiom? It was used earlier in the book and should be familiar.)
**NEW WORDS**

**reputed**
ri piyú’ tid

**frail**
frāl

**potent**
pōt’ nt

**excoriate**
ek skôr’ ē āt

**devout**
di vout’

**WEEK 44 ♦ DAY 3**

**A PHILOSOPHER FOR OUR TIME**

Soren Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher who is reputed to be the forerunner of the current vogue* of existentialism. In appearance he was a frail and ungainly man. An extremely erudite* thinker and writer, he was a potent force in propagating* the new approach to life. His philosophy would excoriate those who believed that man could stand aside from life. In his philosophy it is a heresy* to take a detached point of view; it is incumbent* upon the individual to get involved. What is germane* is not that we exist, but that our existence is determined by our acts. He was a religiously devout man who fervidly* believed that the individual is always paramount.*

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Even though she was piqued* at his indolent* manner, it was pathetic* to listen to her ____________ him in public.
2. His awesome* mental dexterity* compensated* for his ____________ physical condition.
3. When Ben’s muscles began to atrophy,* the doctor initiated* therapy* with a ____________ new drug.
4. The drug is ____________ to have a salubrious* effect on nascent* conditions of this type.
5. Although he was a ____________ adherent* of the party, he remained aloof* during the vitriolic* primary campaign.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. reputed  a. thought, supposed, believed
7. frail  b. religious, sincere
8. potent  c. delicate, weak
9. excoriate  d. criticize severely
10. devout  e. powerful, strong, intense

TODAY’S IDIOM

to toe the mark— to obey or stick to a rule or policy
He wanted to kick over the traces,* but his parents made him toe the mark.
THE ISLAND OF WILD DOGS

The saga* of the introduction of that diminutive song bird, the canary, into the homes of the world as tame pets is an interesting one. In the sixteenth century a trading ship going to Italy stopped at an island named “Canis,” from the Latin word for wild dog, which could be found there in profuse numbers, off the coast of Africa. The dulcet song of the wild birds whetted* the interest of the captain. In impromptu cages hundreds were taken aboard to be traded. The sailors called these gray-green birds, spotted with yellow, “canaries.” As they approached the island of Elba, near Italy, a malevolent storm put the boat in jeopardy* of sinking. A member of the crew released the birds, and the intrepid* canaries instinctively flew towards land. The peasants on Elba took the wild canaries in as pets. Eventually, the birds found their way into homes throughout Europe where they were domesticated and bred for variety of song and shades of colors. The canaries prevalent* today differ greatly from the ones discovered over four hundred years ago.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. As the music reached a frenetic* tempo, the audience lost all decorum* and broke into ________________ dancing.
2. He had no qualms* about opposing the clique* who insidiously* exerted a ________________ influence on the president.
3. The connoisseur* was able to glean* a worthwhile painting from the ________________ variety of poor ones at the exhibit.
4. Europeans drive ____________ cars because their narrow roads and high prices for gasoline are not conducive* to or compatible* with our large ones.

5. The blasé devotee of the opera was awakened from his ennui* by the ____________ tones of the new soprano.

Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. diminutive  a. ill-disposed, ill-intentioned
7. profuse  b. tiny, small
8. dulcet  c. spur of the moment, offhand
9. impromptu  d. sweet or melodious to the ear
10. malevolent  e. overflowing, abundant

Today’s Idiom

to be under a cloud—to be in temporary disgrace or trouble

Until they discovered the real thief, he was under a cloud.
WEEK 44 ♦ DAY 5

REVIEW

The history, or derivation, of words is called “etymology.” This is a fascinating study and it gives insight to the background of words such as “canary,” and thousands of others. Knowing the history of a word helps you remember it.

REVIEW WORDS | DEFINITIONS
--- | ---
1. canard | a. flood
2. carnage | b. express disapproval
3. defamatory | c. intense, strong, powerful
4. deluge | d. sincere, religious
5. deprecate | e. sweet or melodious to the ear
6. devout | f. abundant, overflowing
7. diminutive | g. slaughter
8. dulcet | h. uselessness
9. excoriate | i. criticize severely
10. frail | j. damaging character by false reports
11. futility | k. a made-up sensational story
12. impromptu | l. small, tiny
13. libel | m. cancel, abolish
14. malevolent | n. ill-disposed, ill-intentioned
15. nullify | o. weak, delicate
16. plaintiff | p. the complaining party, in law
17. potent | q. applied science
18. profuse | r. believed, thought, supposed
19. reputed | s. offhand, spur of the moment
20. technology | t. degradation by writing or publishing

IDIOMS

21. a pretty kettle of fish | u. to be in temporary disgrace or trouble
22. to be under a cloud | v. to obey or stick to a rule or policy
23. to toe the mark | w. a messy situation, a problem
24. to build upon sand | x. to have a poor base, or not sufficient preparation
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SENSIBLE SENTENCES?
(From Weeks 41–44)

Choose the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. The station’s switchboard was *(deluged, deprecated)* by phone calls when the popular soap opera was cancelled.
2. The *(diminutive, frail)* ballplayer proved that size doesn’t matter in some sports.
3. Peter was surprised when his normally nervous boss seemed so *(blasé, aloof)* about the bad financial news.
4. Our mouths began to water when the *(dulcet, succulent)* dish was set upon the table.
5. Coming from a small city in Costa Rica, Ligia was not used to the *(potent, frenetic)* pace of life in Boston.
6. With *(bogus, insidious)* identification papers, the terrorists attempted to board the waiting airplane.
7. When the time came for Lisa to select a subject to major in, she found herself in a *(quandary, potpourri)*.
8. The *(malevolent, benevolent)* dictator was generally beloved by his people even though he limited their freedoms.
9. Only a *(negligible, manifest)* amount of gas escaped from the laboratory during the experiment.
10. The president of the School Board intended to *(excoriate, nullify)* the parents at the opening meeting.
WORDSEARCH 44

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 1st Day
③ 1st Day
④ 3rd Day
⑤ 1st Day

Reprieve for Wolves

One of the most difficult problems to resolve has to do with the conflicting interests of environmentalists and profit-making businesses. Examples of this dilemma appear frequently. While the dispute about cutting down a forest to preserve owls has been in the news, there appeared another conflict in the state of Alaska. Hoping to increase the number of tourists who seek to hunt deer and caribou, the State of Alaska ordered the killing of some of the ① number of wolves that prey on those animals.

This resulted in a ② of letters and articles condemning the ③ that would result from the anti-wolf policy. So, once again, the environmentalists, who maintain that the natural balance should not be interfered with, ran up against the Alaskan tourist industry, which wants to attract hunters who will increase the state’s revenue. After much publicity about the wolf hunt and articles that tended to ④ this policy, Alaska decided to ⑤ the proposed action.
**NEW WORDS**

**wistful**
wist’ fal

**raiment**
rā’ mənt

**brigand**
brig´ and

**corpulent**
kôr´ pyə lənt

**rail**
rāl

**WEEK 45 ✦ DAY 1**

**IN DAYS OF YORE**

Current novels are replete* with lurid* crimes, carnage* and death. Do you get *wistful* when you recall the romantic tales that begin with an innocent maiden travelling through the rustic* countryside? She is dressed in glittering *raiment*. The scene is idyllic.* Without warning, the group is set upon by a virile* *brigand*, who, in the most perfunctory* and callous* fashion, carries her off. Pandemonium* results! Her entourage* is in a state of bedlam.* Her *corpulent* escort is irate,* but unable to do anything to thwart* this debacle.* All he can do is *rail* against the catastrophe. What to do? What to do?

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The *potpourri* of au courant* fashionable _________________ includes the fatuous* and the discreet.*
2. While all disgruntled* men may _______________ against malevolent* or Machiavellian* leaders, democracy offers a way to ameliorate* iniquities* through the ballot.
3. Is there any veracity in the platitude* that ________________ men are jocose?*
4. To be candid,* there is little to be ________________ about in the “good old days.”
5. They captured the ________________ , and he was incarcerated* for a mandatory* period.
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. wistful  a. dress, clothing
7. raiment  b. scold, use abusive language
8. brigand  c. longing, pensive,* wishful
9. corpulent  d. robber, bandit
10. rail (v.)  e. fleshy, obese,* excessively fat

Today’s Idiom

to flog a dead horse—to continue to make an issue of something that is over

He thought he could keep the pot boiling* about his opponent’s winking at* crime, but he was flogging a dead horse.
The *raconteur* of our story about idyllic* times gone by goes on to elucidate* how the comely* heroine is taken to the bandits’ hideout. There, a *sullen* crew of cutthroats is gathered. They don’t wish to procrastinate;* she must be taken immediately to a foreign land where much treasure will be paid for her. Their cupidity* knows no bounds. The leader wants to hold her for ransom from her wealthy parents. The gang demurs;* they are reticent.* There is a *rift* among the criminals. Their leader remains truculent, and they agree to wait for just two days for the ransom money. An *emissary* from the grief-stricken parents is expected at any moment. The wan* maiden, her spirits at their nadir,* has time to *ruminate* about her lugubrious* fate.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in these sentences.

1. He alluded* to the ________________ caused in the school by the plethora* of hirsute* boys who ignored the criterion* for appearance.
2. Well known as a(n) ________________, he was never chagrined* when asked to tell a story from his large repertoire.*
3. Despite all attempts to mollify* her, she remained ________________ about the levity* caused by her slovenly* raiment.*
4. The obscure* country, an aspirant* for membership in the United Nations, sent a(n) ________________.
5. An anomaly* of our modern technology* is that the more we need to know, the less
Definitions Match the new words with their definitions.

6. raconteur  a. ill-humored, grim
7. sullen  b. ponder, reflect upon
8. rift  c. a skilled storyteller
9. emissary  d. a split, an opening
10. ruminate  e. an agent

Today's Idiom

*the die is cast*—an unchangeable decision has been made

The fat was in the fire* and *the die was cast* when he decided to tell the white lie about how he had found the money.
New Words

taut
 tôt

livid
 livˈ id

martinet
 märtˈ n etˈ

yen
 yen

bagatelle
 bagˈ a telˈ

Week 45 • Day 3

To the Rescue

Back at the castle, the situation is taut with emotion. The fair maiden’s mother is livid with fear and anxiety; she has attacks of vertigo.* She talks about her daughter’s audacity* in riding out into the ominous* forests despite many similar kidnappings. The girl’s father, a martinet who rules his family with an iron hand, staunchly* refuses to pay the ransom. Iniquity* shall not be rewarded! At this moment of crisis a heroic knight volunteers to rescue our heroine; he has had a secret yen for the young beauty. Avoiding rhetoric,* he pledges his all to castigate* those responsible for this ignominious* deed. He holds his life as a mere bagatelle against the duty he owes his beloved mistress. At the propitious* moment, he rides off to do or die for her.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The rabid* baseball fan lost his equanimity* and became ________________ when the star pitcher became pugnacious* and was removed from the game.
2. There was a ________________ international situation caused by the proximity* of unidentified submarines to our coasts.
3. When one enlists in the army, one expects to be under the aegis* of a ________________.
4. His ________________ for imbibing* and romping* with girls worked to his detriment*.
5. The little boy tried to wheedle* a larger allowance from his father by the caustic*
observations that it was a mere ________________ when compared to the allowances of his friends.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. taut  
7. livid  
8. martinet  
9. yen  
10. bagatelle

- a. strict disciplinarian  
- b. tense, keyed up, on edge  
- c. pale  
- d. a trifle  
- e. strong desire, strong longing

**Today’s Idiom**

*a cat’s paw—a person used as a tool or dupe*  
The spy used the innocent girl as *a cat’s paw* to get military information from the grapevine.*
NEW WORDS

callow
kal´ō

appalled
ə pôld´

penchant
pen´chant

decapitate
di kap´ə tät

termagant
tér´mə gənt

WEEK 45 • DAY 4

WELL DONE, SIR KNIGHT!

Seeking his adversaries,* the knight rides to their hideout. Despite his callow appearance, he is reputed* to disdain* danger and to be a prodigious* horseman. The kidnappers lose their equanimity* at his approach. They are appalled at the prospect, and they are in a quandary* as to which one will meet him on the field of combat. The leader, under duress,* rides out. “Do you have a penchant to die?” derides* the knight. More vituperative* remarks follow. They spur their horses toward each other. It takes but one blow for our hero to decapitate the villain. The others flee to avoid their imminent* destruction. The knight takes the maiden on his horse, and they ride back to the castle. Their wedding soon follows. Little does the knight realize that the fair maiden is a garrulous* termagant who will make his life miserable with caustic* remarks. Still, the cliché,* “And they lived happily ever after,” must conclude our fabricated* tale.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. We do not ____________ criminals because of our aversion* to such repugnant* punishments.
2. I do not wish to deprecate* your ____________ for cowboy music, but I find it banal.*
3. Why do you remain docile* while that ____________ besmirches,* maligns,* and belittles* you?
4. Each long holiday weekend we are ____________ at the carnage* on our
highways.

5. It was deplorable* the way the capricious* girl led the _____________ youth on a merry chase.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.</strong> callow</td>
<td>a. youthful, inexperienced</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7.</strong> appalled</td>
<td>b. behead</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8.</strong> penchant</td>
<td>c. a strong leaning in favor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9.</strong> decapitate</td>
<td>d. a scolding woman, a shrew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10.</strong> termagant</td>
<td>e. dismayed, shocked</td>
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</table>

**Today’s Idiom**

*coup de grâce— the finishing stroke*

When my girlfriend left me, it was a bitter pill to swallow,* but the *coup de grâce* was that she kept my engagement ring.
**WEEK 45 • DAY 5**

**REVIEW**

Language grows and changes. In “days of yore” there were not nearly as many words in our language as we have today. Within the next 50 years hundreds of new words will be added. Educated and alert individuals make new words part of their vocabulary as quickly as they come into accepted use.

**REVIEW WORDS**

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<tr>
<td>1. appalled</td>
<td>a. behead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. bagatelle</td>
<td>b. shocked, dismayed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. brigand</td>
<td>c. pale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. callow</td>
<td>d. a trifle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. corpulent</td>
<td>e. bandit, robber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. decapitate</td>
<td>f. an agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. emissary</td>
<td>g. grim, ill-humored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. livid</td>
<td>h. clothing, dress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. martinet</td>
<td>i. on edge, keyed up, tense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. penchant</td>
<td>j. strict disciplinarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. raconteur</td>
<td>k. wishful, pensive,* longing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. rail</td>
<td>l. a strong leaning in favor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. raiment</td>
<td>m. an opening, a split</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. rift</td>
<td>n. a skilled storyteller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. ruminate</td>
<td>o. inexperienced, youthful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. sullen</td>
<td>p. excessively fat, fleshy, obese*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. taut</td>
<td>q. reflect upon, ponder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. termagant</td>
<td>r. a shrew, a scolding woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. wistful</td>
<td>s. use abusive language, scold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. yen</td>
<td>t. strong desire, strong longing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDIOMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
<th>DEFINITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. a cat’s paw</td>
<td>u. the finishing stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. the die is cast</td>
<td>v. an unchangeable decision has been made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. coup de grâce</td>
<td>w. to continue to make an issue of something that is over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. to flog a dead horse</td>
<td>x. a person used as a tool or dupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY</td>
<td>MEANINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. _____________________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. _____________________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. _____________________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORDSEARCH 45

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 4th Day
② 4th Day
③ 1st Day
④ 2nd Day
⑤ 4th Day

Henry VIII and British History

Students in the United States should consider themselves lucky when it comes to studying the country’s history. The United States has been a nation for approximately 225 years. We would be ①_______ if we had to learn as much history as students in Great Britain, for their history goes back some 1,000 years! In that time England has had many interesting and unusual rulers. One who has fascinated us is Henry VIII. Ruling some 450 years ago, he became well known because of his many marriages and his ②_______ for doing away with some wives who displeased him.

In physical appearance he was unattractive—he was large and ③_______ . When his first wife could not bear him a son who would be heir to the throne, he divorced her. This caused a break with the Pope who refused to recognize the divorce. Henry VIII sent an ④_______ to the Pope and renounced Catholicism. He then married Anne Boleyn but decided to ⑤_______ her after quickly tiring of her. His third wife died in childbirth, and he divorced his fourth. His fifth, Katherine Howard, was also beheaded. Only his sixth wife was able to live on after Henry’s death in 1547. From this brief history of only one English ruler, it is easy to imagine how much an English history student must learn in order to prepare for an exam. In Henry VIII’s case, one would have to get a “head start.”
One of the anomalies* of our approach to history is the propensity* to study the venerable* empires of Europe, but we do not feel it incumbent* upon us to ascertain anything about the civilizations in our own hemisphere. We deprecate* the history of this part of the world as though progress lay dormant and that other peoples were irrelevant* until the settlers of North America arrived at Plymouth Rock. In South America, from 2000 b.c. until their empire reached its acme* at the beginning of the 16th century, lived the Incas. The site* of the capital city of the Inca empire, Cusco, lay at a height of 11,000 feet. This civilization is reputed* to have burgeoned until it covered more than 2,500 miles of the western part of the continent. Its population fluctuated* between 4 and 7 million. This empire had a highly efficacious* political and social system. Its potentate ruled with absolute power. As the empire conquered new lands, it would disseminate its language, religion, and social customs.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. While some moribund* economies atrophied* after World War II, others ______________ under the salubrious* effects of loans from the U.S.
2. In order to ______________ the relationship between his girlfriend and his brother, he kept a wary* and discreet* vigil.*
3. We are quick to ______________ calumny,* but reticent* about things that may be construed* as compliments.
4. He was appalled* at the apathy* concerning the important issue that had remained
for so long a time.

5. The callous* ______________ kept an imperturbable* mien* when requested to alleviate* the unconscionable* conditions existing in his land.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. ascertain  a. spread, scatter
7. dormant  b. discover, find out about
8. burgeoned  c. resting, asleep
9. potentate  d. flourished, grew
10. disseminate  e. ruler

**TODAY’S IDiom**

*straight from the shoulder*—in a direct, open way

I took the wind out of his sails* by telling him *straight from the shoulder* that I was not going to wink at* his apple polishing.*
The Inca emperor derived his prodigious power and authority from the gods. The paramount god was the sun god. It was from him the ruler passed on his prerogative to rule to his most astute son. This nepotism had worked with great efficacy for centuries. The land holdings were immense; there were rich farmlands and llamas and alpacas for wool. Precious metals were plentiful: silver, copper, bronze, and the most sacred of all, gold. This metal resembled the sun god whom they extolled. There was no dearth of idols and ornaments hammered from this gleaming metal. There was always more gold coming from the mines to replenish the supply. At the acme of his power, the Inca ruler died without naming the requisite successor. In 1528 two sons began an internecine struggle for control. For the next 4 years the empire sank into the lassitude caused by civil war.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. The emissary from the president tried to allay the fears that a deleterious ___________ feud was inevitable within the party.
2. A pragmatic philosopher ______________ the theory that we have noses in order to hold up our eyeglasses.
3. Your efforts to ingratiate yourself into your boss’s favor are nullified by the unmitigated ___________ manifest in this firm.
4. He gave his adversary the dubious ___________ of choosing the weapon by which he was to meet his inevitable end.
In the potpourri* of restaurants there is no _______________ of succulent* dishes.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. derived  a. scarcity, lack  
7. prerogative  b. involving conflict within a group, mutually destructive  
8. nepotism  c. an exclusive right or power  
9. dearth  d. descended from, received from a source  
10. internecine  e. favoritism toward relatives

**Today’s Idiom**

to rub a person the wrong way—**to do something that irritates or annoys**
The quickest way to rub a person the wrong way is to give him the cold shoulder.*
NEW WORDS

tyro
tů rō

sophistry
sof´ə strē

factitious
fak tish´əs

encomium
en kō´mēəm

obloquy
ob´lə kwē

WEEK 46 • DAY 3

A PERFIDIOUS* CONQUEROR

The feuding between the rival sons reached its pinnacle* in 1532; at that moment Francisco Pizarro came onto the scene. A native of Spain, he was sojourning* in Panama when he heard of the riches to be found in that far-off land. Overwhelmed with cupidty,* but still a tyro when it came to wresting* power and wealth from hapless* people, he joined with an inveterate* adventurer. They gathered a small band of mercenaries.* The first two attempts failed, and Pizarro returned to Spain to request authority and money in order to conquer the West Coast of South America. Whether by sophistry or cajolery,* he was given the requisite* aid. With a force of 180 men, the dregs* of society, he invaded Inca territory. He reached the city where the current ruler, Atahualpa, was holding court. The Incas welcomed Pizarro who, in a factitious display of friendship, heaped encomiums upon Atahualpa. Unknown to the Incas, Pizarro had brought guns that were still beyond the technology* of these people. The obloquy of his next act, ambushing the Incas and taking Atahualpa prisoner, will live in the history books that are replete* with tales of conquest.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Although he was erudite* about a copious* number of things, he was a naive,* callow* ___________ when it came to relating to girls.
2. John Wilkes Booth’s egregious* act remains an infamous* ___________ .
3. Her ___________ made use of every glib* artifice.*
4. In the office he played the ___________ role of a martinet,* while at home he
was filled with compassion*.

5. The modest prodigy* treated the fervid* ________________ that followed his performance as though they were a mere bagatelle.*

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. tyro  a. high praise
7. sophistry  b. beginner, novice
8. factitious  c. false reasoning or argument
9. encomium  d. sham, artificial
10. obloquy  e. disgrace, shame, dishonor

**TODAY’S IDIOM**

to draw in one’s horns—to become cautious

He knew he was out of his depth,* so he *drew in his horns* and quit the poker game.
THE END OF AN EMPIRE

The Machiavellian* Pizarro held the captured Atahualpa for ransom. He was adamant* about receiving a room filled with gold to the height of a man’s shoulder. This was taken as a hyperbole at first, but Pizarro knew the gullible* Incas would be munificent when it came to rescuing their sacred ruler. They did not procrastinate,* and a frenetic* collection of gold took place. Pizarro, to whom prevarication was natural in dealing with the Incas, had no qualms* about executing their ruler as soon as he had the gold. The Inca empire was moribund,* but the charisma that surrounded Atahualpa was such that, after his death, the Incas fought on tenaciously* in his name for several years. Eventually, superior weapons quelled* all opposition. A policy of genocide was adopted by the Spanish conquerors, and almost two million of these proud people died in the carnage* that followed. The saga* of an ancient civilization thus came to an end.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in these sentences.

1. Even those who were not fans of the movie star candidly* admit the ______________ that surrounded him.

2. The United Nations has outlawed ______________ as the ultimate* crime, which must be eradicated.*

3. Her constant ______________ made her a pariah* to her friends.

4. The rhetoric* soared into flagrant* ______________.

5. He was surprised by the ______________ gratuity* given by the usually
parsimonious* termagant.*

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

6. hyperbole  a. quality of leadership inspiring enthusiasm
7. munificent  b. planned destruction of an entire people
8. prevarication  c. deviation from the truth, lying
9. charisma  d. generous
10. genocide  e. exaggerated figure of speech

**Today’s Idiom**

to throw cold water—to discourage a plan or idea

I was going to pull up stakes* and move out lock, stock, and barrel,* but my wife threw cold water on the whole thing.
WEEK 46 • DAY 5

REVIEW

This is your last week. At this point you have worked with over 1100 of the most useful words and idioms in our language. The final review test will give you some idea of how well you have mastered them. From time to time you should re-read sections of this book to refresh your memory. Remember, keep learning new words at every opportunity!

REVIEW WORDS

1. ascertain
2. burgeoned
3. charisma
4. dearth
5. derived
6. disseminate
7. dormant
8. encomium
9. factitious
10. genocide
11. hyperbole
12. internecine
13. munificent
14. nepotism
15. obloquy
16. potentate
17. prerogative
18. prevarication
19. sophistry
20. tyro

DEFINITIONS

a. lack, scarcity
b. favoritism towards relatives
c. novice, beginner
d. artificial, sham
e. lying, deviation from the truth
f. ruler
g. scatter, spread
h. an exclusive power or right
i. dishonor, disgrace, shame
j. high praise
k. quality of leadership inspiring enthusiasm
l. asleep, resting
m. grew, flourished
n. planned destruction of an entire people
o. false reasoning or argument
p. mutually destructive, involving conflict in a group
q. received from a source, descended from
r. generous
s. exaggerated figure of speech
t. find out about, discover

IDIOMS

21. to draw in one’s horns
22. straight from the shoulder
23. to throw cold water

u. in a direct, open way
v. to discourage a plan or idea
w. to become cautious

www.drzaban.com
24. to rub a person the wrong way  x. to do something to irritate or annoy

**WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
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</table>

**MEANINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
WHICH WORD COMES TO MIND?  
(From Weeks 45–46)

Record separately the letter of the vocabulary word adjacent to the sentence or phrase that brings it to mind.

a. appalled  i. potentate
b. brigand  j. dearth
c. yen  k. livid
d. tyro  l. decapitate
e. corpulent  m. prevarication
f. prerogative  n. raconteur
g. genocide  o. taut
h. nepotism  p. internecine

1. “Hiring your nephew, eh?”
2. “All hail the sultan!”
3. “I just looked in the mirror; tomorrow we start our diet.”
4. The descent of the guillotine
5. “I have a strong desire to own Japanese currency.”
7. Now showing: The Pirates of Penzance
8. Best storyteller in town
9. The Civil War
10. “He claims to have the right to change his mind.”
WORDSEARCH 46

Using the clues listed below, record separately using one of the new words you learned this week for each blank in the following story.

Clues
① 1st Day
② 1st Day
③ 2nd Day
④ 1st Day
⑤ 3rd Day

Words, Words, Words

You have been strengthening and building a basic vocabulary as you have progressed through this book. The tests, quizzes, and exercises have helped you ①_______ how far you have advanced. We hope you have come to the end of 1100 Words You Need to Know with a command of vocabulary that has ②_______ from week to week. Your interest and attention have paid off in many ways. You have ③_______ pleasure and knowledge from reading passages on varied topics. You are better equipped to read, study, converse, and write with confidence.

The objectives that started you working on building your vocabulary should not now become ④_______ . A permanent desire to master new words should be an added value obtained from this book. We hope that any ⑤_______ you receive for your command of English vocabulary will spur you on to more and greater mastery of words you need to know.
**BURIED WORDS**

*(From Week 1–46)*

Locate the word being defined from the review words of the week indicated. Then find the embedded word that fits the definition (e.g., the answer to the first example is *automaton*, which contains the “buried” word *tomato*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW WORD</th>
<th>BURIED WORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>machine that behaves like a person</td>
<td>a common vegetable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unending</td>
<td>a fixed limit, definite period of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2nd Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to use lively gestures</td>
<td>a twitching of face muscles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basic, elementary</td>
<td>a small part of a dollar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expression of sympathy</td>
<td>a small portion, gratuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lacking brightness</td>
<td>a strong passion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4th Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to be touched</td>
<td>a sharp taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>publish</td>
<td>a school dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5th Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exemption</td>
<td>a joke, play on words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shortage</td>
<td>a large community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6th Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contrary</td>
<td>a part of a poem or song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dread, dismay</td>
<td>rear end of a boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7th Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>to end</td>
<td>school semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relentless, unappeasable</td>
<td>a heavy rope or chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8th Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forerunner</td>
<td>a drunken carousal, spree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>distant</td>
<td>give expression to feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9th Week:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
harmful
followers

10th Week:
read carefully
outstanding, prominent

11th Week:
to pass by
confirm

12th Week:
bitter criticism
perfection

13th Week:
undeniable
in an early stage

14th Week:
soft job
to strive for

15th Week:
debatable
an associate in crime

16th Week:
easy opposite
protection

17th Week:
perfect, complete
spread out in battle formation

18th Week:
polished, civilized
going from place to place

19th Week:
lavish
agree to finance
20th Week:
very sad
drag, move heavily
moderate in eating or drinking
stop, hold back

21st Week:
descendant
an electrically charged part of an atom or molecule
decay
a vulgar person, a heel

22nd Week:
relieve without curing
cease to please, a cloud
related to marriage
the core or point

23rd Week:
serving to pay back
an outlaw, a political conservative
unusual occurrence
a prophetic sign

24th Week:
unwise
an overly modest person
looking down on someone or something
entice, attract, allure

25th Week:
trembling, shaking with old age
strange
hurt, damage, injury
reduce by cutting, decorate

26th Week:
prevailing, common, general
a valley (poetical)
angry, antagonistic
steps over a fence

27th Week:
hesitate, waver, stumble
change, vary, transform
inflexible, unyielding
an obstruction

28th Week:
hinder, interfere, block
mischievous child
discord, hard sound, dissonance
false, cheap imitation

29th Week:
lack of interest
walkway
difficult to describe, undistinguished
style of writing

30th Week:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31st Week</td>
<td>rough, harsh, shrill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>harmful, bad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>three-pronged instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>take out, remove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd Week</td>
<td>out-of-date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pardon, excuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a bowlike curve or structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to put on as a garment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33rd Week</td>
<td>momentary, passing, fleeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>self-satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thin plate giving wind direction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fine thread sewn in patterns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34th Week</td>
<td>facial expression of disgust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>spacious, large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a spice, a club carried by an official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disgusting, distasteful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35th Week</td>
<td>a moralistic story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>haggard, thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>can be cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>female relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36th Week</td>
<td>person or thing that embodies or represents the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wish, envy, want</td>
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<td></td>
<td>a large book or volume</td>
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<td></td>
<td>a small bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37th Week</td>
<td>temporary stay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>beginning, to develop or exist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the act of going up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38th Week</td>
<td>easy to manage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>underhandedness, trickery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a shaded walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stylish, elegant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39th Week</td>
<td>unreasonable, without conscience</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>abuse, blame</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>child, or descendant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to give out in measured amounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th Week</td>
<td>works that an artist is ready to perform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>weakness, weariness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>forward, free, saucy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a young woman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
41st Week:
- slogan, pet phrase
- rush, flood
  trunk of a tree
  the top of the head

42nd Week:
- requirement
- change, variety
  locale, position
  plunge into

43rd Week:
- waste away
- desire to make amends, regret
  a memento of victory or success
  closely confined

44th Week:
- ill-disposed, ill-intentioned
- abundant, overflowing
  a brewed beverage
  to blend by melting

45th Week:
- a strong leaning in favor
- inexperienced, youthful
  to delight, fascinate, charm
  to permit

46th Week:
- artificial, sham
- mutually destructive, conflict within a group
  perform, behave
  to shut up, confine
SELECT THE CORRECT WORD FROM THE FOUR GIVEN THAT APPLIES TO THE CORRESPONDING LETTER IN THE BLANK.

With the 1. of the TV computerized games, many set owners have become 2. in trying to outwit the electronic toys. The 3. finds it almost impossible to react quickly enough. Before he or she can 4. what is going on, the little lights have sped by. Those who have a 5. for thinking and reacting quickly find these games a 6. problem. While the experts’ behavior appears 7., they really are 8. and 9. . If one is 10. about trying again and again, then the 11. of TV computer games can be mastered.

1. (a) rhetoric (b) prelude (c) advent (d) retrospect
2. (a) reticent (b) engrossed (c) slovenly (d) trivial
3. (a) wary (b) tyro (c) profuse (d) deplorable
4. (a) ascertain (b) obviate (c) deem (d) cajole
5. (a) lassitude (b) pall (c) legerdemain (d) penchant
6. (a) perverse (b) negligible (c) lugubrious (d) glib
7. (a) conjugal (b) frenetic (c) devout (d) ambiguous
8. (a) connubial (b) brash (c) facile (d) blunt
9. (a) aloof (b) affluent (c) overt (d) imperturbable
10. (a) bogus (b) elusive (c) tenacious (d) pecuniary
11. (a) effigy (b) malady (c) paroxysm (d) repertoire

It is 12. that women have 13. into fields of work that were, until recently, the 14. of men. It did not happen because of the 15. of the males, but it was largely due to the 16. insistence by women that they occupy their rightful place in our society. While some men still 17. women who seek to fill jobs previously closed to them, others take the 18. view that the only 19. for women should be their ability to do the work, and that 20. obstacles have no place in a democracy.

12. (a) unctuous (b) voluble (c) manifest (d) wistful
13. (a) perpetuated (b) burgeoned (c) advocated (d) spewed
14. (a) acme (b) taboo (c) antipathy (d) prerogative
15. (a) largess (b) ultimate (c) complicity (d) avarice
16. (a) pernicious (b) tenacious (c) ostensible (d) phlegmatic
17. (a) deprecate (b) aspire (c) permeate (d) covet
18. (a) discreet (b) pragmatic (c) precocious (d) rash
19. (a) remuneration (b) reproach (c) duplicity (d) criterion
20. (a) puissant (b) sporadic (c) capricious (d) zealous
*For reference only.

ANSWER SHEET—FINAL REVIEW TEST

1. A  B  C  D
2. A  B  C  D
3. A  B  C  D
4. A  B  C  D
5. A  B  C  D
6. A  B  C  D
7. A  B  C  D
8. A  B  C  D
9. A  B  C  D
10. A  B  C  D
11. A  B  C  D
12. A  B  C  D
13. A  B  C  D
14. A  B  C  D
15. A  B  C  D
16. A  B  C  D
17. A  B  C  D
18. A  B  C  D
19. A  B  C  D
20. A  B  C  D
21. A  B  C  D
22. A  B  C  D
23. A  B  C  D
24. A  B  C  D
25. A  B  C  D
26. A  B  C  D
27. A  B  C  D
28. A  B  C  D
29. A  B  C  D
30. A  B  C  D
31. A  B  C  D
32. A  B  C  D
33. A  B  C  D
34. A  B  C  D
35. A  B  C  D
36. A  B  C  D
37. A  B  C  D
38. A  B  C  D
39. A  B  C  D
**FINAL REVIEW TEST**

Below are 150 of the words that you have been studying, each followed by four possible definitions. Select the best answer from among the choices given.

To attain a mark of 60%, you would have to get 90 correct answers; 105 correct answers are worth a mark of 70%, 120 for 80%, 135 for 90%.

1. implore  
   (a) reject  
   (b) beg for assistance  
   (c) summon  
   (d) scold

2. voracious  
   (a) greedy  
   (b) vicious  
   (c) dull  
   (d) careless

3. badger  
   (a) to pester  
   (b) to cheat  
   (c) remind  
   (d) to insult

4. laconic  
   (a) tense  
   (b) bashful  
   (c) troublesome  
   (d) brief in expression

5. plethora  
   (a) overabundance  
   (b) helpless fit  
   (c) a weakness  
   (d) angry reaction

6. cajole  
   (a) force  
   (b) demand  
   (c) coax  
   (d) promise

(a) unappetizing
7. inadvertent (b) unintentional (c) unaware (d) unknown

8. mundane (a) forgetful (b) friendly (c) doubtful (d) worldly

9. jostle (a) joke with (b) interrupt (c) to push (d) leap quickly

10. brash (a) impudent (b) stubborn (c) angry (d) upset

11. sordid (a) varied (b) guilty (c) unable to speak (d) dirty

12. solace (a) pity (b) comfort (c) forgetfulness (d) great happiness

13. acrimonious (a) bitter (b) brilliant (c) tender (d) out of tune

14. egregious (a) important (b) infected (c) remarkably bad (d) swollen

(a) overweight
<p>| | | | |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td><strong>paucity</strong></td>
<td>(b) deafness</td>
<td>(c) shortage</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(d) doubt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td><strong>eschew</strong></td>
<td>(a) keep away from</td>
<td>(b) sneeze repeatedly</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) invite</td>
<td>(d) deny</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td><strong>voluble</strong></td>
<td>(a) priceless</td>
<td>(b) talkative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) sinful</td>
<td>(d) whining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td><strong>perfunctory</strong></td>
<td>(a) careless</td>
<td>(b) hopeful</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) without end</td>
<td>(d) evil</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td><strong>chagrin</strong></td>
<td>(a) loneliness</td>
<td>(b) dismay</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) opportunity</td>
<td>(d) suspicion</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td><strong>exacerbate</strong></td>
<td>(a) present arguments</td>
<td>(b) plead with</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) question closely</td>
<td>(d) irritate</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td><strong>indigent</strong></td>
<td>(a) unreasonable</td>
<td>(b) watchful</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) angry</td>
<td>(d) poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td><strong>stymie</strong></td>
<td>(a) hinder</td>
<td>(b) invent</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) confiscate</td>
<td>(d) cancel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
23. fretful
(a) lacking ambition
(b) dark
(c) worrisome
(d) mischievous

24. harbinger
(a) smooth-talker
(b) leader
(c) forerunner
(d) bit of advice

25. sanctuary
(a) cemetery
(b) agreement
(c) place of protection
(d) approval

26. astute
(a) keen
(b) reliable
(c) cheap
(d) able

27. blatant
(a) boastful
(b) disagreeably loud
(c) blossoming
(d) rigid

28. nefarious
(a) hungry
(b) watchful
(c) footsore
(d) villainous

29. virulent
(a) harmful
(b) sloppy
(c) sickly
(d) revolutionary

30. histrionics
(a) unreasonable acts
(b) nervousness
(c) display of emotions
(d) studies of the past
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>salient</td>
<td>(a) traveling</td>
<td>(b) resentful</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) sober</td>
<td>(d) outstanding</td>
</tr>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>wan</td>
<td>(a) pale</td>
<td>(b) sleepy</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) jealous</td>
<td>(d) unlucky</td>
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<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>corroborate</td>
<td>(a) represent</td>
<td>(b) confirm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) search</td>
<td>(d) produce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>lurid</td>
<td>(a) outraged</td>
<td>(b) sensational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) capable</td>
<td>(d) guilty</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>sanguine</td>
<td>(a) hopeful</td>
<td>(b) objectionable</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) rugged</td>
<td>(d) hard to discover</td>
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<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>sporadic</td>
<td>(a) occasional</td>
<td>(b) special</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) to the point</td>
<td>(d) blotchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>anathema</td>
<td>(a) treatment</td>
<td>(b) violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) apparatus</td>
<td>(d) a curse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>fortuitous</td>
<td>(a) lucky</td>
<td>(b) significant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(c) accidental</td>
<td>(d) huge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
39. archaic
(a) rival
(b) out of date
(c) healthful
(d) comical

40. timorous
(a) courageous
(b) ambitious
(c) fearful
(d) tense

41. eventuate
(a) to result finally
(b) pay your respects
(c) borrow
(d) interrupt

42. inchoate
(a) vague
(b) in an early stage
(c) uneasy
(d) ingenious

43. propitious
(a) suspicious
(b) hasty
(c) frank
(d) favorable

44. viable
(a) workable
(b) sensitive
(c) tasty
(d) quiet

45. incisive
(a) acute
(b) sluggish
(c) massive
(d) jittery

46. inveigh
(a) compose
(b) react to
(c) attack verbally
(d) penetrate
47. sinecure  
(a) urgent message  
(b) silly response  
(c) big responsibility  
(d) soft job

48. nettle  
(a) mix  
(b) suggest  
(c) irritate  
(d) suspend

49. abrogate  
(a) publish  
(b) portray  
(c) permit  
(d) cancel

50. extrinsic  
(a) loaded  
(b) containing wisdom  
(c) coming from outside  
(d) uncertain

51. asperity  
(a) artful handling  
(b) bitterness of temper  
(c) foolishness  
(d) concern

52. altruistic  
(a) unselfish  
(b) troublesome  
(c) dangerous  
(d) dignified

53. sedentary  
(a) hypnotic  
(b) largely inactive  
(c) scornful  
(d) musical

54. progeny  
(a) vigor  
(b) descendants  
(c) minority opinion  
(d) disease
55. cupidity
(a) affection
(b) fate
(c) greed
(d) harmony

56. impeccable
(a) faultless
(b) bold
(c) open to criticism
(d) slow to respond

57. perpetrate
(a) plant
(b) consume in haste
(c) slice
(d) commit

58. assiduous
(a) sly
(b) thrifty
(c) busy
(d) educated

59. abortive
(a) failing
(b) outside the law
(c) drowsy
(d) unprepared

60. tortuous
(a) spiteful
(b) inflicting pain
(c) frank
(d) winding

61. peregrination
(a) form of address
(b) travel
(c) insistence
(d) hospitality

62. myriad
(a) geometric figure
(b) voter’s choice
(c) countless number
(d) minority decision

(a) police squad
(b) official order
63. fiat
(c) carriage
(d) council

(a) lying
(b) abusive
(c) healing
(d) merciful
64. mendacious

(a) soothing
(b) obvious
(c) distinct
(d) wasteful
65. profligate

(a) different
(b) critical
(c) religious
(d) uneven
66. disparate

(a) well-oiled
(b) warlike
(c) very sad
(d) beyond dispute
67. lugubrious

(a) ordinary
(b) studious
(c) powerful
(d) dictatorial
68. puissant

(a) disconnected
(b) incomplete
(c) polished
(d) dry
69. desultory

(a) gratified
(b) superior
70. fulsome
   (c) sensitive
   (d) excessive

71. chimerical
   (a) accurate
   (b) imaginary
   (c) regional
   (d) rigid

72. recondite
   (a) observant
   (b) sincere
   (c) secret
   (d) willing to bargain

73. gamut
   (a) range
   (b) sleeve
   (c) intestine
   (d) bridge

74. irascible
   (a) conceited
   (b) patriotic
   (c) bumbling
   (d) irritable

75. perspicacious
   (a) vicious
   (b) shrewd
   (c) sweaty
   (d) light on one’s feet

76. taint
   (a) weaken
   (b) widen
   (c) contaminate
   (d) cause

77. aegis
   (a) fear
   (b) hope
   (c) kinship
   (d) protection

(a) prove
78. evince
   (b) throw away
   (c) exhibit
   (d) wonder

79. termagant
   (a) shrew
   (b) insect
   (c) ruler
   (d) coward

80. mien
   (a) appearance
   (b) hostile
   (c) cheerful
   (d) important

81. elucidate
   (a) hide
   (b) make clear
   (c) paint
   (d) sharpen

82. germane
   (a) sickly
   (b) foreign
   (c) charming
   (d) appropriate

83. mollify
   (a) turn against
   (b) appease
   (c) hope for
   (d) shorten

84. indolent
   (a) lazy
   (b) badly behaved
   (c) owing money
   (d) timely

85. impromptu
   (a) dangerous
   (b) not understood
   (c) wisely planned
   (d) spur of the moment
86. umbrage
(a) dark color
(b) offense
(c) waste
(d) generosity

87. artifice
(a) trickery
(b) historic finding
(c) newness
(d) gradual change

88. vacillate
(a) follow closely
(b) fluctuate
(c) aggravate
(d) dominate

89. vestige
(a) trace
(b) cloak
(c) entrance
(d) hope

90. adamant
(a) ambitious
(b) timely
(c) wasteful
(d) inflexible

91. nepotism
(a) without religion
(b) favoritism
(c) patriotism
(d) deception

92. reticent
(a) reserved
(b) in pain
(c) cooperative
(d) without example

93. tyro
(a) ruler
(b) beginner
(c) fire-setter
(d) warmer
94. staunch (a) evil smelling (b) tight fitting (c) whiten (d) strong

95. equanimity (a) sharing (b) self-control (c) hostility (d) lively

96. taut (a) tense (b) make fun of (c) pale (d) gradual

97. mortify (a) calm down (b) embarrass (c) strengthen (d) pretend

98. vapid (a) wet (b) quick (c) remarkable (d) foolish

99. covet (a) disguise (b) wish for (c) bury (d) change

100. condone (a) repeat (b) punish (c) forbid (d) pardon

101. fatuous (a) heavy (b) interesting (c) silly
102. imibe
(a) drink
(b) enter
(c) clear away
(d) change

103. ennui
(a) fashionable
(b) boredom
(c) together
(d) hopeless

104. salubrious
(a) sad
(b) dangerous
(c) painful
(d) healthful

105. carnage
(a) slaughter
(b) carrying away
(c) marriage
(d) anger

106. aloof
(a) painful
(b) reserved
(c) interested
(d) dishonest

107. vertigo
(a) dizziness
(b) color blindness
(c) ambition
(d) extreme height

108. foment
(a) become alcoholic
(b) investigate
(c) stir up
(d) calm down

109. inveterate
(a) anxious
(b) unknown
(c) questionable
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>(a)</th>
<th>(b)</th>
<th>(c)</th>
<th>(d)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110.</td>
<td>refute</td>
<td>fame</td>
<td>waste</td>
<td>disobey</td>
<td>disprove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111.</td>
<td>celerity</td>
<td>stardom</td>
<td>speed</td>
<td>clearness</td>
<td>sourness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112.</td>
<td>heinous</td>
<td>interference</td>
<td>talkative</td>
<td>evilly wicked</td>
<td>powerful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113.</td>
<td>quandary</td>
<td>dilemma</td>
<td>quiet place</td>
<td>hopeful sign</td>
<td>crowd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114.</td>
<td>efficacy</td>
<td>cheapness</td>
<td>ease</td>
<td>mystery</td>
<td>effectiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115.</td>
<td>austere</td>
<td>wild</td>
<td>feverish</td>
<td>unadorned</td>
<td>wishful</td>
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<tr>
<td>116.</td>
<td>moribund</td>
<td>marvelous</td>
<td>ambitious</td>
<td>gradual</td>
<td>dying</td>
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<tr>
<td>117.</td>
<td>noisome</td>
<td>unwholesome</td>
<td>challenging</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(c) loud
(d) newly arrived

118. spate
(a) rush
(b) excess
(c) insult
(d) shortage

119. nadir
(a) climax
(b) secret place
(c) lowest point
(d) happiest moment

120. halcyon
(a) peaceful
(b) ancient
(c) innermost
(d) careful

121. pragmatic
(a) repeating
(b) fat
(c) practical
(d) imaginative

122. atrophy
(a) prize
(b) begin again
(c) change direction
(d) waste away

123. discreet
(a) patient
(b) colorful
(c) cautious
(d) generous

124. callow
(a) cowardly
(b) unfeeling
(c) inexperienced
(d) private

(a) reflect upon
rumanate  (b) move away  
(c) reclassify  
(d) start anew

congenial  
(a) clever  
(b) agreeable  
(c) masterful  
(d) selective

decorum  
(a) behavior  
(b) attractiveness  
(c) liveliness  
(d) meeting place

banal  
(a) not allowed  
(b) nearly finished  
(c) trivial  
(d) highly respected

encomium  
(a) highest prize  
(b) secret plan  
(c) new idea  
(d) high praise

avarice  
(a) clear path  
(b) wealth  
(c) greed  
(d) positive statement

malign  
(a) slander  
(b) exterminate  
(c) join with  
(d) dismiss

venial  
(a) hopeless  
(b) unseen  
(c) pardonable  
(d) deadly  
(a) hard to hear
| 133. | dulcet | (b) sweet to the ear  
 | | | (c) soft to the touch  
 | | | (d) easy to see  
 | 134. | entreaty | (a) plea  
 | | | (b) agreement  
 | | | (c) capture  
 | | | (d) sudden end  
 | 135. | pensive | (a) limited  
 | | | (b) thoughtful  
 | | | (c) aged  
 | | | (d) retired  
 | 136. | bizarre | (a) busy  
 | | | (b) in a hurry  
 | | | (c) timely  
 | | | (d) fantastic  
 | 137. | requisite | (a) forgotten thought  
 | | | (b) requirement  
 | | | (c) added problem  
 | | | (d) lovely object  
 | 138. | livid | (a) disappointed  
 | | | (b) enraged  
 | | | (c) bored  
 | | | (d) pale  
 | 139. | pique | (a) resentment  
 | | | (b) condition  
 | | | (c) hidden from light  
 | | | (d) wishful thinking  
 | 140. | galvanize | (a) prepare to eat  
 | | | (b) arouse to activity  
 | | | (c) store away  
 | | | (d) experiment  

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141. extol
(a) explain
(b) apologize for
(c) praise highly
(d) describe honestly

142. allude
(a) avoid
(b) cover up
(c) yearn for
(d) suggest

143. slovenly
(a) slowly
(b) wisely
(c) dangerously
(d) carelessly

144. prerogative
(a) ask again
(b) exclusive right
(c) divided power
(d) first born

145. raiment
(a) clothing
(b) arrest
(c) left over
(d) bright color

146. abhor
(a) yearn for
(b) hate
(c) distrust
(d) join together

147. jocose
(a) dizzy
(b) merry
(c) sticky
(d) talkative

148. mentor
(a) coach
(b) enemy
(c) stranger
(d) writer
149. hirsute

(a) overly dressed  
(b) out-of-date  
(c) hairy  
(d) bald

150. excoriate  

(a) complete  
(b) win easily  
(c) criticize severely  
(d) clean thoroughly
PANORAMA OF WORDS

Originally introduced in the preceding edition, this section, in which you will find the 1100 words in sources as strikingly disparate as the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, Truman Capote, William Shakespeare, Agatha Christie, Thomas Mann, *TIME*, Machiavelli, and Tom Clancy, validates the contention that this selected group of vocabulary words has been widely used by educated writers.

Most issues of your local newspaper, for example, will contain at least a dozen of the words you have encountered in these pages. But they also appear in advertisements, obituary notices, weather forecasts, cartoons, and brochures of all sorts. Wherever else you come in contact with adult vocabulary—radio and TV shows, news broadcasts, college entrance exams, movie scripts, books—you are likely to find more than a few of the words in *1100 Words You Need to Know*.

Now, for a useful summary of what you have learned in the forty-six lessons, read through the “Panorama of Words,” noting the varied sources of their usage. Be aware that some of the following quotations have been adapted or edited for brevity.

**abhorr** “I *abhorr* the process of hiring public servants.” Senator Wayne Morse, speech, 4/17/61

**abjure** “Galileo was summoned before the inquisition where he was ordered to *abjure* his theory.” S. F. Mason, *Science Digest*, 5/98

**abortive** “His company made an *abortive* attempt to circle the enemy position but they fell back under fire.” Captain Ron Herbert, *Keep Your Medals*

**abounds** “A smart thriller that *abounds* with suspense and excitement!” Newspaper ad for film *The General’s Daughter*

**abrogate** “I decided to *abrogate* the agreement since General Motors was not living up to its part of the bargain.” Paul Sawyer, *Seeking Justice*

**abstemious** “Be more *abstemious* Or else, good night your vow.” William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

**absurd** “Many rules in the English language are *absurd* because they are based on Latin rules.” Bill Bryson, *Mother Tongue*

**access** “Everything was simplified, and we were gaining *access* to infinity: soon the moon, SOON THE MOON!” Editorial, *Le Figaro* (Paris), 8/14/61
**accommodate** “The awards will be given out at a place that will accommodate C-Span.” James Barron, “Public Lives,” *New York Times*, 6/10/99


**accost** Sir Toby: “You mistake, knight: accost is front her, board her, woo her, assail her.” William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

**acknowledged** “They used the Swiss routes and camp sites—which they later acknowledged—and by the end of April were established in full strength at their fifth camp.” James Ramsey Ullman, “Victory on Everest”

**acme** “He was the acme of a political figure.” John Gunther, *Inside U.S.A.*

**acrimonious** “We quickly learn of the acrimonious relationship between the Montagues and the Capulets.” *Playbill, Summary of Romeo & Juliet*

**acute** “The candidate presented an acute problem for his party because of his independent views.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, *Urban Politics*

**adamant** “The candidate was adamant in his refusal to answer an embarrassing question about his early use of drugs.” *TIME*, 8/12/99

**adherents** “The state employs a flag as a symbol for adherents to the government as presently organized.” U.S. Supreme Court decision, 1943

**admonished** “A little drummer boy grinned in me face whin I had admonished him wid the buckle av my belt for riotin’ all over the place.” Rudyard Kipling, “The Courting of Dinah Shadd”

**adroit** “Amazingly adroit in building model airplanes while he was in junior high, Eric moved on to an aeronautic career in his twenties.” Val Bakker, “Early Decision” [adapted]

**advent** “Industrial canning and the advent of freezing have reduced home canning to a curiosity.” Molly O’Neill, *New York Times*, 7/18/99

**adversaries** “Both fighters had nothing but kind words to say about their adversaries.” Hal Butler, “The Battle in the Rain”

**adverse** “Illogical as it may seem, adverse criticism can be very rewarding.” S. Andhil Fineberg, “Deflating the Professional Bigot”

**advocates** “Advocates of marriage classes contend that giving teens these tools could eventually curb the divorce rate.” Jodie Morse, “Hitched in Home Room,” *TIME*, 6/21/99
aegis “The Federal Reserve will remain under the aegis of the veteran head who was reappointed by the President yesterday.” New York Times, 1/5/00

afflicted “It afflicted the neighborhood with the stench of slime that was now laid bare.” Edmund Wilson, “The Man Who Shot Snapping Turtles”

affluent “You are affluent when you buy what you want, do what you wish and don’t give a thought to what it costs.” J. P. Morgan, quoted in Crown Treasury of Relevant Quotations

alacrity “When the price of A.T.&T. dropped significantly, fund managers moved with alacrity to accumulate more shares.” Ted David, CNBC Financial News

allay “The President’s message was an attempt to allay the fears of senior citizens.” “The Future of Medicare,” Washington Post, 3/16/98

alleged “I harvested the intelligence that Ricks was alleged to have laid off all that portion of the State of Florida that has been under water into town lots and sold them to innocent investors.” O’Henry, “The Man Higher Up”

alleviate “The report of the transportation division pointed out that the overcrowded highways required immediate attention in order to alleviate the long delays.” The Queens Courier, 1/11/00

alludes “Gertrude Stein’s phrase, ‘A rose, is a rose, is a rose’ alludes to nothing more or less than what she writes.” Alice B. Toklas, Time Capsule, 1933

aloof “Greta Garbo held herself so aloof from her co-stars, they felt they had not been introduced.” Alistair Cooke, The Great Movie Stars

altruism “The conflict is between selfishness and altruism.” Former Senator Estes Kefauver, campaign speech

ambiguous “If you disagree with a friend, be firm, not ambiguous.” Samuel Ornage, The Golden Book

ameliorate “Our aim should be to ameliorate human affairs.” John Stuart Mill

amicable “Their parting is effective Friday, and was described in their joint statement as ‘amicable’.” Bill Carter, “Lou Dobbs Quits CNN,” New York Times, 6/9/99

amnesty “No one is advocating wholesale amnesty for inmates solely because of advancing age.” Tamerlin Drummond, “Cellblock Seniors,” TIME, 6/21/99

amorous “A complete gentleman ought to dress well, dance well, have a genius for love letters, be very amorous but not overconstant.” Sir George Etherege, The Man of Mode
analogous “Not with the brightness natural to cheerful youth, but with uncertain, eager, doubtful flashes, analogous to the changes on a blind face groping its way.” Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*


annals “He would begin these annals with Columbus, and he would keep on with them until his hand was too palsied to hold a pen.” Catherine Drinker Bowen, *Yankee from Olympus*

anomaly “My mother was American, my ancestors were officers in Washington’s army, and I am an anomaly.” Winston Churchill, speech, 1953

anthropologist “Burning tobacco, anthropologists have found, was a religious practice over 2000 years ago in the Mayan culture.” *Journal of Urban Health*, 9/99

antipathy “There is no need to anticipate any antipathy from your future in-laws when you plan a wedding.” “Wedding Guide,” *Courier-Life Publications*, 7/99

antiquated “The custom of throwing rice at a newly married couple is an antiquated one, originally meaning a wish for many children.” “Wedding Guide,” *Courier-Life Publications*, 7/99

antithesis “Drunkenness is the antithesis of dignity.” Bergen Evans, “Now Everyone is Hip About Slang”

apathy “The younger generation exhibits apathy toward the issue of freedom of the press.” Herbert Brucker, *Journalist*

appalled “A calm and steady temperament deserted him while he stared, appalled, at the contents.” John Cheever, *The Wapshot Chronicle*

appellation “He went under the appellation of ‘Pretty Boy’ but to his victims he was anything but that.” Dexter Holcomb, *Did the Roaring Twenties Really Roar?* [adapted]

arbiter “Sonja Henie became the supreme arbiter of skating fashions.” Maribel Y. Vinson, “Ice Maiden”

arbitrary “My arbitrary decision not to run puts Massachusetts at a disadvantage and probably was a mistake.” Representative Martin Meehan in *Newsday*, 6/1/99

archaic “Many procedures of the law have long seemed archaic to laymen.” Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, quoted in *San Francisco Examiner*, 1/4/71

ardent “There is no more ardent performer than Judy Garland as she allows her emotions to
shine through.” Penelope Houston, *Sight and Sound*, 1954

**arrayed** “She *arrayed* herself in what seemed unbelievably beautiful clothes.” Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*

**artifact** “In caves in Chile, remains of horses have been found along with human *artifacts.*” A. Hyatt Verrill, *The Strange Story of Our Earth*

**artifice** “The successful advertiser will use any *artifice* to get his message seen.” E. S. Turner, *The Shocking History of Advertising*

**artless** “Behind the naive, *artless* manner, there was a woman scheming for success.” John Simon, *Reverse Angle*

**ascended** “As he set himself to fan the fire again, his crouching shadow *ascended* the opposite wall.” James Joyce, “Ivy Day in the Committee Room”

**ascertain** “Scientists have been trying to *ascertain* why dinosaurs became extinct so suddenly.” A. Hyatt Verrill, *The Strange Story of Our Earth*

**ascetic** “You don’t have to be an *ascetic* to wonder if there isn’t something a bit manic about the pace of getting and spending in today’s America.” Paul Krugman, “Money Can’t Buy Happiness. Er, Can It?,” *New York Times*, 6/1/99

**asinine** “We have developed what I believe is an *asinine* rating system for motion pictures.” Harold Owen, Jr., *The Motion Picture*

**asperity** “The path of beauty is not soft and smooth, but full of harshness and *asperity.*” Havelock Ellis, *The Dance of Life*

**aspirants** “A number of playwrights, small *aspirants* to the big screen, must already be pricing beach houses in Malibu.” Ross Wetzsteon, Introduction to *New Plays USA*

**aspire** “To humility indeed it does not even *aspire.*” John Henry Newman, *The Idea of a University*

**assets** “Berkshire Hathaway is a diversified holding company with *assets* in manufacturing, insurance, aircraft safety training, etc.” “Warren Buffet’s Fabulous Fund,” *Mutual Funds Magazine*, 6/99

**assiduously** “Richard Greenberg is aiming here for big laughs at the expense of the generation he so *assiduously* chronicled in the past.” Peter Marks, “Making Mincemeat of Boomer Values”

**astute** “From an *astute* standpoint, that’s exactly what the ballplayers should do instead of running out to mob the other guy.” Tim McCarver, *Baseball for Brain Surgeons*
atrophy  “Some people thought that too much reading would atrophy a girl’s brain forever.” Ann McGovern, *The Secret Soldier*

attenuated  “The players’ strike resulted in an attenuated and boring season.” *Sports Illustrated, 10/96*

attest  “Thousands of satisfied users can attest to the great features such as Voicemail and Caller ID that work the same way wherever you go on our network.” Newspaper ad for Internet company, *New York Times, 6/12/99*

atypical  “He is an atypical candidate, without glamour, fame or wealth.” *New York Post, 8/15/99*

au courant  “He seemed to be au courant with everything.” Arnold Bennett, *Lord Raingo*

audacity  “Boldness be my friend! Arm me, audacity, from head to foot!” William Shakespeare, *Cymbeline*

augmented  “The Russian army was augmented by helicopters and rocket-launching tanks in its attack on the defenders.” *Newsday, 11/27/99*

austere  “New York City was founded by austere puritan colonists who could never imagine the city as it is today.” Moses Riechin, *The Promised City*

automaton  “She’s an automaton; she has every quality in the world, and I’ve often wondered why it is with all that I’m so completely indifferent to her.” W. Somerset Maugham, *The Treasure*

avarice  “He could not disguise his avarice under a cloak of religion.” Ambrose Bierce

aversion  “During the last years of his administration the mayor showed an aversion to taking political risks.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, *Urban Politics*

avid  “CUNY will have no more avid and fierce supporter for its mission than himself.” Karen Arenson, “New Vice-Chairman of CUNY,” *New York Times, 6/10/99*

awesome  “Africa has some of the most awesome jungles in the world.” John Hersey, *Into the Valley*

badger  “There are other do’s and don’ts: don’t threaten your children, don’t badger them.” Newspaper ad for *Partnership for a Drug-Free America, New York Times, 11/4/99*

bagatelle  “He saw the benefits to his people as a mere bagatelle.” Winston Churchill, *Great Contemporaries*

balk  “She rested on the stair—a young woman of a beauty that should balk even the justice of
a poet’s imagination.” O. Henry, “Roads of Destiny”

**banal** “Mansfield Park is a bore! What might have been attractive on a TV screen proved to be uninteresting and banal on the big screen.” “Koch Goes To The Movies,” *Queens Courier*, 1/12/00

**barometer** “We watched carefully to see the ties that Mr. Smythe would wear as they were a sure barometer of the mood he would be in.” Loring Brewster, “Vermont’s Mr. Chips”

**bedlam** “There was bedlam as the crowd awoke to the relief of victory.” Dick Thatcher, *Against All Odds*

**begrudge** “Taxpayers never seem to begrudge the use of their money when spent on local projects important to them.” *Newsday*, 8/22/99

**belated** “When he made his belated entrance into the political campaign, he was told he had no chance.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, *Urban Politics*

**belittle** “To say this is not to belittle subject matter, which is clearly essential to any proper education.” William H. Kilpatrick, “Progressive Education”

**belligerence** “North Korea’s belligerence in planning to test a long-range missile has led to a dramatic change of course for Japan and South Korea.” Howard French, “Two Wary Neighbors Unite,” *New York Times*, 8/4/99

**benevolence** “My relationship to this land is purely spiritual: It’s a place of absolute silence, absolute benevolence.” Stephen Trimble, *Wilderness*

**bereft** “The pictures of the bereft survivors searching for their loved ones are painful to see.” *Newsday*, 9/19/99

**besiege** “He felt unable to carry the Confederate lines and settled down to besiege their fortifications.” David Herbert Donald, *Lincoln*

**besmirch** “A primary attack on any witness against your client is an attempt to besmirch his or her character.” Quoted in *New York Times Magazine*, 9/20/70


**bigot** “For only by claiming the limelight can the bigot draw followers and an income.” S. Andhil Fineberg, “Deflating the Professional Bigot”

**bizarre** “The police claim they were responding to the bizarre behavior of the man when they were forced to shoot him.” *New York Post*, 9/27/99
blasé “When he hit the home run that broke the record, he could no longer maintain his previously blasé attitude.” Newsday, 9/8/98


bliss “Is there anything to match the bliss on a teenager’s face the day she obtains her license to drive?” Car and Driver, 9/99

bluntly “Managers will put it bluntly: ‘You’ve got to catch the ball.’” Tim McCarver, Baseball for Brain Surgeons

bogus “The mayor denied his proposed change in the election law was a bogus attempt to seize more power.” New York Times, 9/25/99

bona fide “Milosevic, a bona fide villain, will pay for his war crimes—we can be sure of that.” Editorial, Washington Post, 5/28/99

brash “Baker’s brash manner quickly antagonized the other warehouse workers.” Seymour Broock, Labor Meets Its Match

brigands “The history of motion pictures shows that, from the earliest silent films, stories about western brigands would capture a large audience.” John Simon, Reverse Angle

bristle “No sooner had the dog caught sight of him, however, than it began to bristle and growl savagely.” H. G. Wells, The Invisible Man

buff “Grandpa was a stock market buff, hanging around the Dreyfus office most every weekday and following the yo-yo Dow Jones averages.” Eloise Ryan Abernethy, One Family’s Finances [adapted]

bulwark “That England, hedged in with the main, That water-walled bulwark, still secure And confidant from foreign purposes.” William Shakespeare, King John

burgeoned “In recent years programs on AM, FM, shortwave and low-powered stations have burgeoned.” Carlos Johnston, “Intelligence Report” Summer 1998

cache “Fagin drew from his cache the box which he had unintentionally disclosed to Oliver.” Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist

cacophony “At his side he had a battery run radio blasting forth a sickening cacophony of noise.” Freeman Tilden, The National Parks

cajole “We had to cajole tonight’s guest to come on the program because he’s something of a hermit.” Larry King on his CNN TV program, 8/25/99
**callous** “The movie industry was callous in the way it treated writers who came from New York.” Alex Ross, *New Yorker*, 2/23/98

**callow** “A group of newly arrived callow students followed nervously at the director’s heels.” Aldous Huxley, *Crome Yellow*

**calumny** “Overwhelmed by the calumny heaped upon him for his prejudice, he quickly resigned.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, *Urban Politics*

**canard** “It’s a canard to say I want to be a millionaire: I just want to live like one.” Toots Shor, quoted in *Life Magazine*, 10/12/69

**candid** “Sweepstakes companies must be more candid about the chances of winning a prize.” *AARP Bulletin*, 9/99

**candor** “He was struck by the candor and self-reliance of the women in these islands.” “Pacific Paradise,” *New York Times*, 8/9/99

**cant** “Although we hear much cant about loving one’s neighbor, life provides endless examples of just the opposite.” Paula Love, *The Will Rogers Book*

**capitulate** “The embattled leader refused to capitulate to demands for his resignation.” *Newsweek*, 8/19/99

**capricious** “The snow removal equipment is always ready to face the capricious weather changes during the winter.” *Newsday*, 12/24/98

**carnage** “Amid the carnage resulting from the earthquake, many acts of courage can be seen.” *New York Times*, 9/20/99

**castigates** “Here is Holofernes commenting upon Armando, a mad wordman who castigates another while himself vocalizes into a fine frenzy.” Harold Bloom, *Shakespeare*

**catastrophic** “Romeo changes enormously under Juliet’s influence, remains subject to anger and despair, and is as responsible as Mercutio and Tybalt for the catastrophic event.” Harold Bloom, *Shakespeare*

**caustic** “His habitual sullenness, stern disposition and caustic tongue produced a deep impression upon our young minds.” Aleksandr Pushkin, “The Shot”

**celerity** “The human mind acts at times with amazing celerity.” Benjamin Cardozo, *The Growth of the Law*

**cessation** “The evolutions of the waltzers were quieted, there was an uneasy cessation of all things as before.” Edgar Allan Poe, “The Masque of the Red Death”
chagrin “He spent great energy and achieved, to our chagrin, no small amount of success in keeping us away from the people who surrounded us.” James Baldwin, Notes of a Native Son

charisma “Yali radiated charisma and energy as he led his people.” Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel


chicanery “As a profession, lawyers have become associated with chicanery and confusion.” People, 2/4/99

chimerical “His utopia is not a chimerical commonwealth but a practicable improvement on what already exists.” George Santayana, The Sense of Beauty

clandestine “Mr. DeLay’s plan for another ‘independent’ group is nothing less than a proposal to create a clandestine and corrupt slush fund.” Editorial, New York Times, 6/1/99

cliché “The cliché ‘Politics makes strange bedfellows’ certainly applies in this situation.” Newsweek, 9/20/99

cliques “The tragic event points out the danger of forming cliques in school that shut out many.” Newsday, 5/15/99

coerce “The loan sharks sometimes have to coerce people in order to collect the debt.” Peter Kilborn, “Lenders Thrive on Workers in Need,” New York Times, 6/18/99

cogent “This article paints a clear and cogent picture of how to handle blowouts.” Car and Travel, 9/99

cognizant “I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states.” Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter From Birmingham Jail”

comely “An island peopled by the most comely women to be seen anywhere, Bora Bora is a must.” Travel, 11/99

commodious “The new baseball stadium offered a more commodious arena for the fans and players.” Sports Illustrated, 5/11/99

compassionate “In addition to professional skills, patients want a physician who is compassionate.” Advertisement for Maimonides Medical Center, 9/25/95

compatible “The policies of the party are not compatible with his conservative beliefs.” U.S. News and World Report, 8/25/99

compensatory “The compensatory factor was a new arrival; Anukul had a son born to him.”
Rabindranath Tagore, “My Lord, the Baby”

complacent “Weather experts warn not to be complacent about the possibility of a dangerous hurricane.” New York, 9/18/95


compounded “The match between England and Argentina, always a blood feud, was compounded by the memory of the Falklands crisis.” Henry Kissinger, “Pele,” TIME, 6/14/99


concocting “I am concocting a seduction; I do not require a pastry chef.” Ben Brantley, New York Times, 6/15/99

concomitant “The doses of the drug were increased with the concomitant result that he quickly became an addict.” Otto Friedrich, Before the Deluge

concur “Dr. Fishbein did not concur with his colleague’s diagnosis and urged the Harper family to seek an opinion from the head of the Urology Department at Columbia Presbyterian.” “Prostate Update,” Prostate Digest, 9/99


condolence “Words of condolence seem very poor things and yet they are all one can use to tell of one’s sympathy.” Maisie Ward, Father Maturin

condone “He does not condone the actions of any of the participants in the impeachment hearings.” New York Times Book Review, 9/26/99

conducive “The quiet calm of this garden is conducive to romance or repose.” “The Sophisticated Traveler,” 9/26/99

confidant “Lecter rents a lavish house not terribly far from the modest duplex of FBI agent Starling, his antagonist/confidant during the period seven years earlier.” Paul Gray, “Dessert Anyone?,” TIME, 6/21/99

conflagration “Did the firing of incendiary tear gas canisters cause or contribute to the

confronts “When we gaze into a seeming infinity of tomorrows, we face the challenge that any generation confronts when it looks ahead.” Editorial, “2000 and Beyond,” New York Times, 1/1/00


conjecture “We read to understand how to take care of ourselves, to prepare for the unexpected, to conjecture what we would do in similar situations.” Annie Proulx, “They Lived to Tell the Tale”

conjugal Hillary is Our Lady of Perpetual Conjugal Suffering; the patron saint of every woman who’s ever been wronged.” Maureen Dowd, “Rudy in Reverse,” New York Times, 6/6/99

connoisseur “This is the car for the connoisseur who doesn’t have to think about cost.” Car and Driver, 10/99

connubial “I never could imagine connubial bliss until after tea.” W. Somerset Maugham, Cakes and Ale

consternation “Father and son stared at each other in consternation and neither knew what to do.” Pearl Buck, The Good Earth

constricted “He grew up in slightly less constricted circumstances than his teammates.” Darcy Frey, The Last Shot

construed “Hemingway’s simple approach was construed as mysticism.” Robert Ruark, “Ernest Was Very Simple”

consummate “Arnold Zweig, a writer of consummate artistry, presents a picture of delicacy and charm that hovers on the brink of disaster.” Roger Goodman, World-Wide Stories

contemptuous “It is not difficult to feel contemptuous when studying the ugly behavior of some of the powerful figures of motion pictures.” Pauline Kael, I Lost It at the Movies

contort “He is an actor who can contort his face into any number of shapes.” People, 4/15/99

controversial “His three-year tenure was controversial and contained charges of racism.” Monte Williams, “Roosevelt Island Chief,” New York Times, 6/10/99

cope “Every single muscle in the body was strained to the uttermost throughout the watch to cope with the steering.” Thor Heyerdahl, Kon Tiki

corpulent “When he squeezed his corpulent body into a chair he seemed to be stuck there forever.” Charles W. Thompson, Presidents I Have Known

corroborated “Bill corroborated the captain’s statement, hurried back down the glistening ladders to his duty.” Hanson W. Baldwin, “R.M.S. Titanic”

coterie “The aristocratic coterie finally got the upper hand.” Edith Hamilton, The Greek Way

countenance “Behind a most pleasant countenance, this dictator has maintained a most brutal regime.” Newsweek, 2/21/98

coup “Newt Gingrich was nearly toppled in a coup attempt in the House.” Michael Duffy, “Who Chose George?,” TIME, 6/21/99

covert “In a covert manner, Knute traveled abroad that night.” Sinclair Lewis, “Young Man Axelbrod”


crave “It’s the perfect way for the Clintons to hang on to the power, glamour and excitement they both crave.” Bob Herbert, “It Could Happen,” New York Times, 6/6/99

criterion “This new product is useful, but the major criterion is its safety.” Car and Travel, 10/99


culminated “The years of physical and mental training culminated in the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.” Vim & Vigor, Summer 1998

culpable “When the jury found Stacy culpable, she collapsed in a state of shock.” Eloise R. Baxter, “Judgment Day”

culprit “We pointed out the tender age and physical slightness of the little culprit.” Thomas Mann, “Mario and the Magician”

cumbrous “Grizzly bears may look cumbrous and awkward, but don’t be deceived.” Nature, 2/97

cumulative “There can be an extraordinary cumulative strength in Mr. Foote’s plays.” Ben
cupidity “There is little real humor in this picture of cunning and cupidity as revealed by a petty contest for a paltry sum.” Liam O’Flaherty, “A Shilling”

curry “The candidates are visiting many senior centers in an attempt to curry support among the elderly.” AARP Bulletin, 9/99

cursory “Even a cursory glance at the text of the peace agreement shows that the Yugoslav leader has accepted NATO’s demands in full.” Tim Judah, “What Do We Do With Serbia Now?,” New York Times, 6/4/99

curtail “A court decision to a freeze on regulations to curtail cross-state pollution was unpopular.” “EPA’s Reduced Standards,” Newsday, 6/15/99

cynical “A cynical view of phone calls or mail offering free merchandise or membership is the safest approach.” Newsweek, 6/7/98

dearth “There was no dearth of criticism of his work.” H. L. Mencken, “The Case of Dreiser”

debacle “After leading the league for most of the season, September brought the debacle that ruined their hopes.” Roger Kahn, The Boys of Summer

debilitating “Exercise can help people overcome debilitating illnesses.” Vim & Vigor, Summer 1998

debris “They continued their support for earthquake victims in the debris of collapsed houses.” New York Daily News, 8/7/99

decade “Clearly, the first decade of the 21st century will be the ‘e-decade,’ as all forms of e-commerce and e-ways of life continue to grow.” Letter to the editor, New York Times, 1/1/00

decadence “I said earlier that the decadence of our language is probably curable.” George Orwell, Politics and the English Language

decapitate “The FBI hoped that the arrest of the drug lord would decapitate the illegal organization.” David Denby, Beyond Rangoon

declared “Some of the province’s most illustrious men visited the courthouse and declared within its four walls.” Hazel Grinnell, Travel Journal

decorum “My father’s sense of decorum was shattered by his son’s bad behavior in the restaurant.” Peter Balakian, Black Dog of Fate

decrepit “Some schools are in such decrepit condition that students will be transferred to safer schools until repairs can be made.” NYC Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew, Newsday,
deem “You shall stay here as long as the proper authorities deem necessary.” Bernard Malamud, *The Fixer*

defamatory “His defamatory remarks about minorities are transmitted on the Internet.” *TIME*, 8/30/99

degraded “The world is weary of statesmen who have become degraded into politicians.” Benjamin Disraeli

deleterious “These statutes will have a deleterious effect on the public interest.” Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark, speech, 1960

delineation “There is no need for an exact delineation of a standard for a permit to hold a street meeting.” Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, decision, 1951

deluded “Mrs. Barrows had deluded herself that you visited her last evening and behaved in an unseemly manner.” James Thurber, “The Catbird Seat”


delve “We can help you delve deeper into your destination and take you places most travel companies miss.” *Grand Circle Travel Booklet*

demeanor “You could tell by her demeanor that she was more than a bit upset by the unexpected news.” *New York Times*, 9/7/99

demur “At first the Crown Prince would demur, but after being prodded, he would generally choose dictation, which he liked least.” Elizabeth Gray Vining, *Windows for the Crown Prince*

denote “The origins of the letters ‘O.K.’ to denote ‘all right’ are not clear.” Bill Bryson, *Mother Tongue*

depict “How can one depict the beauty and impact of Grand Canyon in words or pictures?” Freeman Tildén, *The National Parks*

deleterious “The troops were amazed at the deplorable conditions in the refugee camp.” *Newsweek*, 5/12/97

deploy “Eisenhower expressed the hope that the United States would not be the first to deploy a weapon so horrible.” David McCullough, *Truman*

deprecate “Why do they always deprecate the efforts of a woman press secretary, but rarely a man doing the same job?” *New York*, 9/25/95

derived “His political success is derived mainly from the public awareness of his prominent family.” TIME, 2/16/98

derogatory “When a communist father noticed a religious program on TV, he uttered a derogatory statement and turned off the program.” J. Edgar Hoover, “Why Do People Become Communists?”

desist “My husband kicked me under the table and warned me to desist.” Phyllis Krasilovsky, “Pumpernickel in My Purse,” New York Times, 6/12/99

destitute “Our Supreme Court has said that any citizen has a Constitutional right to have counsel, and that the court must appoint a lawyer to defend the destitute.” Joseph Welch, “Should a Lawyer Defend a Guilty Man?”

desultory “Mortimer enters and, distracted by what his aunts are doing, plants a desultory kiss upon Elaine’s cheek.” Joseph Kesselring, Arsenic and Old Lace


detriment “The New York City Board of Education voted not to renew the chancellor’s contract as the majority viewed him as a detriment to improvements in education.” New York Newsday, 1/4/00

devout “This author has a devout following among young readers.” New York Times Book Review, 7/25/98

dexterity “Ali built his career based on his dexterity, both in the ring and in the use of colorful language.” Boxing, 3/95

diatribe “Rebecca Gilman’s new play could easily have been an easy diatribe against racism.” TIME, 6/7/99

dilettante “This art exhibit is not for the dilettante; the subject matter is too shocking.” New York Daily News, 10/3/99

diminutive “A giant of a chef, he is a diminutive, modest man.” New York Post, 10/10/99

discern “He could not see that the Justice’s face was kindly nor discern that his voice was troubled.” William Faulkner, “Barn Burning”

disciples “Rick and his disciples dominated the entire summer scene, making it unpleasant for those who were not part of the inner circle.” Ellis R. Sloane, Catskill Idyll [adapted]
discreet “When questioned about her husband’s illegal activities, she kept a discreet silence.” Newsday, 5/16/99

disdain “Hillary shows disdain for the idea that matters other than policy are anyone’s business.” Margaret Carlson, “Uh-Oh, the Real First Lady Shows Up,” TIME, 6/7/99

disgruntled “The police believe the damage was done by a disgruntled ex-employee.” Newsday, 5/16/99

disheveled “The wind tugged at and disheveled her hair.” William Cowper, The Task

dismantle “Wayne Huizenga’s move to dismantle the World Series Marlin squad has hurt the Florida team at the box office.” Ralph Kiner, baseball announcer, Fox Sports [adapted]

disparage “It (government control) has been called crackpot, but that doesn’t disparage it for me.” E. B. White, One Man’s Meat

disparate “At the moment standardized tests have a disparate racial and ethnic impact.” Abigail Thernstrom, “Testing, the Easy Target,” New York Times, 6/10/99

dispersed “The police waded in and dispersed the protesting crowd.” New York Post, 10/23/99

disseminate “In the history of the world, no other tool has allowed us to disseminate more information than the Internet.” Computer World, 5/99

dissent “In the totalitarian state that utopianism produced, dissent could not be tolerated.” Anthony Lewis, “Abroad at Home,” New York Times, 12/31/99

distraught “On the veranda of Banker White’s house Helen was restless and distraught.” Sherwood Anderson, “Sophistication”

diversity “Mr. Oates said this rare document belonged in Queens because it is the center of ethnic diversity for this country.” New York Times, 1/5/00

divulged “The DNA tests divulged enough evidence to free him from death row.” Newsweek, 2/17/98

docile “How long can they remain docile, living under such terrible oppression?” Business Week, 6/16/98

doddering “The image of the aged as suffering from memory loss and doddering mobility is far from accurate.” AARP Magazine, 9/99

doleful “The patients were left in doleful plight, as the whole country resounded with the consequent cry of ‘hard times’.” Washington Irving, “The Devil and Tom Walker”
domicile “At night he returned peaceably enough to his lonesome domicile.” Theodore Dreiser, “The Lost Phoebe”

dormant “The disease may lie dormant for years before becoming active and dangerous.” Johns Hopkins Health Letter, 5/97

dregs “Some certain dregs of conscience are yet within me.” William Shakespeare, Richard III

drudgery “And then she came to find the paralytic aunt—housework—janitor’s drudgery.” Anzia Yezierska, “Hunger”


dulcet “Her dulcet tones and intelligent reading of the story captivated the hearers.” “Our Town,” New York Times, 10/7/99

duped “Barnum knew the American public loved to be duped.” W. L. Phelps, American Entrepreneurs

duplicity “The duplicity of which he had been guilty weighed on his spirit.” H. C. Bunner, “Our Aromatic Uncle”

duress “Under duress she was forced to admit having lied during a 1994 deposition in her breach of contract law suit.” Associated Press report, Newsday, 6/24/99

edifice “My love was like a fair house built on another man’s ground so that I have lost my edifice by mistaking the place where I erected it.” William Shakespeare, The Merry Wives of Windsor

efficacy “He runs his office with the greatest efficacy.” Sally Quinn, Chicago Sun Times, 12/9/79


effrontery “In view of his personal background, we were astonished at his effrontery in attacking the morals of the candidate.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, Urban Politics

egotist “It takes an egotist to believe that nature has provided these beauties as a special act on his behalf.” Freeman Tilden, The National Parks

egregious “It is mystifying why some women still stick with Bill through so many egregious episodes.” Maureen Dowd, New York Times, 6/2/99
elapsed “True, a decent time had elapsed, and it was not even suggested that Waythorn had supplanted his predecessor.” Edith Wharton, *The Descent of Man* [adapted]

elicit “The experimental animal obviously hoped to elicit a reproduction of the pleasurable sensations he had experienced under laboratory conditions.” Loren Eiseley, “Man and Porpoise”

elucidate “The Secretary of State tried to elucidate the government’s policies in the troubled Middle East.” *New York Times*, 5/7/98

elusive “In his appearance there was something attractive and elusive which allured women and disposed them in his favour.” Anton Chekhov, “The Lady with the Dog”

emaciated “Twiggy, whose fame was related to her emaciated look, is now better known for her singing and dramatic talent.” Play review, *New Jersey Star Ledger*, 5/12/99

embellished “The prioress may not have told the correct story in all its details and she may even have embellished the story a little bit to make it more attractive.” Lin Yutang, “The Jade Goddess”

eminent “It was unbelievable that a man so eminent would actually sit in our dining room and eat our food.” V.S. Pritchett, “The Saint”

emissary “The mayor sent an emissary to the striking teachers in the hope of starting negotiations.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, *Urban Politics*

emitted “The smoke that was emitted when the bomb went off made some think it was a firecracker but I thought it was a revolver shot.” *Journal of Andre Gide*, Vol. I

emulate “Her companions she loved and admired but could not emulate for they knew things she did not.” Rose Macaulay, *The World My Wilderness*

encomiums “Isn’t it sad that we receive our highest encomiums after we are gone and unable to enjoy them?” James Farley, quoted in *Ruffles and Flourishes*

encumbrance “Maxim decided to dispose of the encumbrance of a whining wife and three disrespectful teenagers by leaving silently in the dead of the night.” Everett Dodds, *Greener Pastures* [adapted]

engrossed “The wasp was engrossed utterly in her task.” Alan Devoe, “The Mad Dauber”

enhance “Her breadth of experience and determination to enhance her knowledge have increased her value to Con Edison.” Con Edison Report, *Producing Excellence*, 1998

enigma “He was an enigma—by this I mean that he did not look soldierly nor financial nor artistic nor anything definite at all.” Max Beerbohm, “A.V. Laider”
ennui “The ennui and utter emptiness of a life of pleasure is fast urging fashionable women to something better.” Elizabeth Cady Stanton, The Newport Convention

entourage “Sinatra was the greatest but I was never a part of his entourage, his rat pack.” Comedian Buddy Hackett to New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, New York Daily News, 7/14/99

entreaty “The police captain made one more entreaty for the unruly crowd to leave.” New York Post, 10/23/99


epithets “Four scowling men sat in the dinghy and surpassed records in the invention of epithets.” Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat”

epitome “My community considers a man in uniform to be the living epitome of heroism.” Lucius Garvin, Collected Essays

equanimité “We have to call upon our whole people to stand up with equanimity to the fire of the enemy.” Winston Churchill, speech, 1942

eradicate “The urologist said that prostate cancer patients shouldn’t hang their hopes on having the vaccine eradicate the disease in the near future.” Associated Press, “Vaccine Fights Prostate Cancer,” Newsday, 10/21/99

erudite “The erudite historian, Prof. Garrett Clark, will speak on ‘Evaluating Democracy’ at our April meeting.” Lancaster Library Bulletin, Spring 2000

eruption “We have learned about this ancient city, frozen in time by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D.” Grand Circle Travel Booklet, 1999

escalation “There is a dangerous escalation in Kashmir as India and Pakistan are engaged in the worst fighting in decades.” Editorial, New York Times, 6/22/99

eschew “When in Rome, we decided to eschew Arithmetic.” Ruth McKinney, “Proof in Nine”

ethics “The vast majority of employees perform in a highly satisfactory manner because good work ethics exist in their kitchens.” Manual for School Food Service Managers in N.Y.C. Public Schools [adapted]

euphemism “But now he was merely an elder statesman, the euphemism for a politician who no longer has any influence.” Robert Wallace, “Not Him”

evaluate “Mr. Gooding hopes to find the answer if his mentor gives him the chance to evaluate the prisoner.” Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times, 6/4/99
evanescent “The incidents which give excellence to biography are of a volatile and evanescent kind.” Samuel Johnson, “The Rambler” No. 30

eventuated “Her illness following the chemotherapy eventuated in death.” Terrence Foy, St. Louis Blues

evince “The vote on Roe vs. Wade will show whether enough senators evince an interest in overturning the 1973 Supreme Court decision.” Elaine Povich, “Abortion Politics,” Newsday, 10/22/99

exacerbated “Jason Isringhausen’s injuries were exacerbated by his immaturity.” Howie Rose, Mets Baseball Announcer, Fox Sports, 6/8/99 [adapted]
excoriate “Senator Bradley refused to excoriate his opponent, preferring to take the high road in the campaign.” ABC Eyewitness T.V. News, 10/21/99

excruciating “An almost excruciating agitation results when a leaf falls into still water.” Jack London, “To Build a Fire”
exhort “There was no reason for me to exhort the guys to play hard because they were already giving me 110%.” Mets Baseball Manager Bobby Valentine on Radio Talk Show WFAN, 10/21/99

exonerate “There is no reason to exonerate him from the ordinary duties of a citizen.” Oliver Wendell Holmes, Collected Legal Papers


expedient “There exists the age old choice between a moral action and an expedient one.” Arthur Koestler, Darkness at Noon

expedite “There was a pressing need to expedite assistance to those suffering after the earthquake.” Newsday, 8/15/99

exploit “He has not wanted to exploit his fame as a basketball star for political advantage.” Boston Globe, 7/27/99

expunge “If the offender made it to adulthood without further problems, everything would be expunged.” James Kilpatrick, “Boy Learns Constitution—the Hard Way,” Burlington Vermont Free Press, 6/12/99

expurgate “Lenny resisted any attempt by the law to expurgate his language dealing with personal and private behavior.” “Lenny Bruce, Voice of Shock,” Atlantic Monthly, 5/86

extant “Rumors are extant that the Federal Reserve members are greatly concerned about the
irrational exuberance of investors.” Bloomberg Financial News, 4/12/98

**extinct** “There are many warnings that loss of habitat will make many species extinct in the near future.” “The Rotunda,” Publication of the American Museum of Natural History, 5/5/98

**extol** “They extol the largely nonexistent virtues of bygone eras.” Artemus Abruzzi, Commonsense

**extortion** “To the prince who goes forth with his army, supporting it by pillage and extortion, this open-handedness is necessary.” Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince

**extraneous** “The ballet struck me as extraneous and out of keeping with the rest of the play.” Wolcott Gibbs, More in Sorrow

**extrinsic** “Disdaining contributions from extrinsic lobbying groups, the candidate won my admiration and my vote.” Lawrence Burton, “Inside the Polls”

**exult** “YANKEES EXULT OVER PETTITTE’S PERFORMANCE” Headline, Sports Section, Newsday, 6/19/99

**exultation** “We face the year 2000 with a combination of concern and exultation.” Newsweek, 12/15/99

**fabricate** “Perhaps the dialogues that you fabricate are nothing more than monologues.” Miguel Unamuno, “Mist”

**façade** “He hid behind the façade of public servant to work at a private agenda.” H. L. Woods

**facet** “As soon as one becomes computer-literate, a new technical facet is introduced that challenges us once again.” New York Times, 10/25/99

**facetious** “Politicians must be careful about any facetious comment that can be turned into an opponent’s advantage.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, Urban Politics

**facile** “We are usually more facile with words we read than with words we use to write or speak.” Charlton Laird, The Miracle of Language

**factitious** “The opposition was challenged by a factitious outpouring of what appeared to be popular support for the government.” Robert Kaplan, Balkan Tragedy

**fallacious** “The demand was plausible, but the more I thought about it, the more fallacious it seemed.” A. D. White, Scams and Schemes [adapted]

**falter** “Should we falter in our determination to pursue an honorable solution to the problems of the Middle-East, and face unthinkable consequences?” I. F. Stone, “The Weekly Reader”
fastidious “A single small elephant tusk took no less than two months of fastidious work to excavate.” Brian Fagan, *Time Detectives*

fatal “What caused him to lose the election was his fatal mistake of not raising sufficient funds to publicize himself.” Jewell Bellush and Dick Netzer, *Urban Politics*

fatuous “After only a few seconds of silence, speakers of English seem obligated to say something, even making a fatuous comment about the weather.” Bill Bryson, *The Mother Tongue*

feasible “Everyone who has looked at the smart guns said there is no quick, feasible way of doing this.” Leslie Wayne, “Smart Guns,” *New York Times*, 6/15/99

feint “Young as Oliver was, he had sense enough to make a feint of feeling great regret at going away.” Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*

felicitous “The evening of hypnotism was not a felicitous one; we were frightened that we would lose our will or enter into unpleasant acts.” *Diary of Anais Nin*

felon “I was surprised to see this notorious felon become a regular at our bible discussion classes.” Rabbi Myron David, *A Chaplain’s Jail Tales* [adapted]

ferment “She herself yearned for calm, but lived in a neighborhood of ferment and daily chaos.” Alan Lelchuk, *American Mischief*

fervid “I’m a mixture of my mother’s determination and my father’s fervid optimism.” Gwen Robyns, *Light of A Star*

fetish “Today the automobile has become a fetish for one’s standing and accomplishments.” Mark Twain, *Autobiography*

fetters “The cruel fetters of the galley slaves were wet with blood.” Alex Haley, *Roots*

fiasco “Your $25 contribution to our fund will bring you an hilarious tape of the fiasco of an elementary school’s production of ‘Peter Pan.’” Public Broadcasting Announcement, 12/25/98

fiat “Pitching Coach Bob Apodaca’s fiat to Met hurlers was simple: pitch fast, change speeds, throw strikes.” Howie Rose, baseball announcer, Fox Sports, 7/8/99

flabbergasted “The President was flabbergasted when his private office recorded conversations were made public.” Herbert Brucker, *Journalist*

flagrant “Gene Savoy’s flagrant name dropping doesn’t seem to bother any of the visitors on board.” Brad Wetzler, “Crazy for Adventure,” *New York Times*, 6/6/99
flamboyant “Dame Judi Dench is not as flamboyant as the other British theatrical Dames such as Vanessa Redgrave or Maggie Smith.” *Playbill*, Vol. 9, No. 55

flay “There is no shortage of critics who flay the journalists for being sensation seekers rather than news gatherers.” Herbert Brucker, *Journalist*

fledgling “Women’s professional basketball, recently a fledgling sport, has taken root and grown into a major spectator event.” *Sports*, 9/14/99

flout “His ideas frightened the farmers, for he would flout and ridicule their traditional beliefs with a mocking logic that they could not answer.” S. Raja Ratnam, “Drought”

fluctuated “He fluctuated between mindless talk and endless silence.” Alix Shulman, “Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen”

foist “Eventually, advertisements began to foist off the use of perfume as a way to snare a man.” E. S. Turner, *The Shocking History of Advertising* [adapted]

foment “The petitioners were not attempting to foment violence by their peaceful actions.” Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, decision, 1960

forthwith “Get down to your Toyota dealer forthwith and take advantage of our holiday saleabration.” Toyota advertisement, CBS TV


fracas “Once the will was read, there followed a fracas that involved numerous law suits and lasted years.” *Fortune*, 2/16/91

fractious “The fractious couple received a tongue lashing from Judge Judy.” Arnold Feigenbaum, “Television Justice?”

frail “This frail woman has the strength to work where the strong turn away.” “Mother Teresa,” *New Republic*, 10/16/97

fraught “Ev’ry sigh comes forth so fraught with sweets, ’Tis incense to be offered to a god.” Nathaniel Lee, *The Rival Queens*

fray “To the latter end of a fray and the beginning of a feast, Fits a dull fighter and a keen guest.” William Shakespeare, *Henry IV*

frenetic “There is no place more frenetic than a newspaper office when a major story is breaking.” Herbert Brucker, *Journalist*
frenzy “They had a sense of the wildest adventure, which mounted to frenzy, when some men rose on the shore and shouted to them, ‘Hello, there! What are you doing with that boat?’ ” William Dean Howells, A Boy’s Town


frugal “He was famously frugal—‘so tight he damn near squeaked’ says a colleague.” Eric Pooley, “How George Got His Groove,” TIME, 6/21/99

fruitless “Since launching a diplomatic shuttle, the Russian envoy had spent dozens of fruitless hours with the Yugoslav dictator.” Johanna McGeary, “Why He Blinked,” TIME, 6/14/99

frustrated “I will not be frustrated by reality.” Ray Bradbury, Forever and the Earth

fulsome “I was appreciative of his sincere and fulsome praise.” Ruth McKinney, “A Loud Sneer for Our Feathered Friends”

furtive “Hogan directed a furtive glance up and down the alley.” John Steinbeck, “How Mr. Hogan Robbed a Bank”

futility “Resistance to changes in English language rules often ends in futility.” Bill Bryson, Mother Tongue

galvanize “While he could not galvanize an audience, he could make them think.” George Jean Nathan, House of Satan

gamut “At one end of the gamut of slang’s humor is what Oliver Wendell Holmes called ‘the blank checks of a bankrupt mind.’” Bergen Evans, “Now Everyone is Hip About Slang”

garbled “A garbled account of the matter that had reached his colleagues led to some gentle ribbing.” H. G. Wells, “The Man Who Could Work Miracles”

garrulous “The more he drank, the more garrulous he became, until he suddenly seemed to fade out.” Lawrence O’Brien, W. C. Fields

gaudy “This computer drawing program permits children to express themselves in the most gaudy art they can imagine.” Working Mother, 5/96

gaunt “Her gaunt expression was mistaken for weakness of spirit, whereas it told the sad story of her life.” George Eliot, Middle March

genocide “Accounts of the destruction of masses of people recall that genocide is an ancient practice.” Otto Friedrich, Before the Deluge
genre “There is a certain difference between a work called a romance and the genre known as the novel.” Nathaniel Hawthorne

germane “In assigning ratings to films, is it not germane to consider the nature and extent of violence shown?” The Hollywood Reporter, 5/19/97

gesticulating “‘Three times’ was still all he could say, in his thick, angry voice, gesticulating at the commissaire and glaring at me.” Francis Steegmuller, “The Foreigner”

gist “The gist of it is . . . love is a great beautifier.” Louisa May Alcott, Little Women

gleaned “I gleaned what I could from college, but independent reading soon broadened my horizons.” I. F. Stone, Weekly Reader

glib “It is not glib to maintain that truth can never be contained in one creed.” Mary Augusta Ward, Robert Elsmere

gratuity “What form of gratuity would compensate his informer’s key bit of information?” Dashiell Hammett, Red Harvest

gregariousness “We will take with us one thing alone that exists among porpoises as among men; an ingrained gregariousness.” Loren Eiseley, “Man and Porpoise”

grimace “When informed of the death of his best friend, he was unemotional, not a grimace marred his face.” James Jones, The Thin Red Line

grotesque “Nowadays, men have to work, and women to marry for money; it’s a dreadfully grotesque world.” Louisa May Alcott, Little Women

guise “Freedom is not worth fighting for, if, under its guise, one tries to get as much as he can for himself.” Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Seasoned Timber

gullible “‘Charles the horse was wonderful!’ cried a gullible goose.” James Thurber, “What Happened to Charles”

gusto “Ali faced each fight with supreme confidence and challenged his opponents with wit and gusto.” “His Greatest Challenge,” Sports Illustrated, 5/5/97

habitat “Billy begins to be happy about life only in an artificial but cozy habitat on another planet.” William Bly, Barron’s Book Notes, Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut

halcyon “The halcyon days we recall with pleasure had many clouded moments.” Wolcott Gibbs, New Yorker, 4/8/49

hapless “Parents, too, have an almost irresistible impulse to mold their children in their own image or at least graft a few of their own ambitions onto their hapless offspring.” Arthur
harassing “Over the next weeks came more amendments and harassing tactics including a motion to postpone selection of a new capital.” Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*

harbingers “It is easy enough to find harbingers of the episode in the early coverage of Mrs. Dole’s candidacy.” *TIME*, 5/24/99

haven “The desire to escape the city has filtered down into every other economic group, and as a result of the suburb’s popularity, that haven of refuge is itself filling up.” Lewis Mumford, “The Roaring Traffic’s Boom”


heinous “All crimes against a whole people are measured by the heinous ones carried out by Hitler.” *Civilization*, 12/99

heresy “Calvin had written that heresy was not an evil, deserving death.” Herbert Brucker, *Journalist*

heterogeneous “The family is heterogeneous enough to make quite a good party in itself.” Rose Macauley, *The World My Wilderness*

hirsute “The difference between this rock concert and one 10 years earlier is the marked decrease in hirsute young men.” *TIME*, 8/8/99

histrionics “Bobby Valentine’s histrionics will be irrelevant, because Rule 51 states that any manager who is ejected must remain in the clubhouse until the game is over.” Jack Curry, “Valentine is Suspended and Fined,” *New York Times*, 6/11/99

hoard “Many people give freely of their affections while you hoard yours.” Joseph Conrad, *Victory*

hoax “Frank Spencer, an anthropologist who rummaged through the bones of controversy to theorize about the identity of the mastermind behind the Piltdown Man hoax of 1912, died on Sunday.” Obituary notice, *New York Times*, 6/12/99

homogeneous “Archaeologists have unearthed evidence showing that the people of ancient Egypt were far from a homogeneous civilization.” Brian Fagan, *Time Detective*

hostile “He might commit some hostile act, attempt to strike me or choke me.” Jack London, *White Fang*

humility “Early in life I had to choose between arrogance and humility; I chose arrogance.”
Frank Lloyd Wright

**hyperbole** “It is not hyperbole to state that, most terribly, justice and judgment lie often a world apart.” Emmeline Pankhurst, *My Own Story*

**iconoclast** “He was an iconoclast about everything, except his love of money.” Garry Wills, syndicated newspaper column, 3/8/79

**idyllic** “The brilliant Hawaiian sunrise beckons you to a great breakfast as your tour of the idyllic islands begins.” Brochure for Perillo Tours

**ignominious** “Henry Clay had ambition to become president, but he faced an ignominious series of setbacks.” H. Foner, *Failed Candidates*

**ilk** “‘That’s the standard line,’ Ron said, ‘as promoted by some Japanese businessmen and American spokesmen of their ilk.’” Michael Crichton, *Rising Sun*

**imbibe** “I got up and went downstairs and into the kitchen to imbibe my first cup of coffee before going to the barn.” Glenway Wescott, *The Breath of Bulls*

**imminent** “I admired the easy confidence with which my chief loped from side to side of his wheel and trimmed the ship so closely that disaster seemed ceaselessly imminent.” Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*

**impeccable** “That is why the so-called ‘better’ juvenile books, skillfully constructed, morally sanitary, psychologically impeccable—don’t really make much of a dent on the child’s consciousness.” Clifton Fadiman, “My Life is an Open Book”

**impede** “Judge Jones has become known for her anger at defense lawyers who try to impede executions through legal maneuvers.” David Firestone, “Death Penalty Conference,” *New York Times*, 8/19/99

**imperative** “But unlike the others, Mrs. Hassan had yet another imperative: her son Huseyin has leukemia and needs blood.” Edmund L. Andrews, “I Cannot Die,” *New York Times*, 8/19/99

**imperceptibly** “In the two decades since W. Ugams had come to Boston, his status had imperceptibly shifted.” John Updike, *New Yorker*, 10/22/60

**imperturbable** “The Prince de Ligne had given the Empress Catherine the name of imperturbable, or immoveable.” Walter Tooke, *The Life of Catherine*

**impetuous** “He displayed the impetuous vivacity of youth.” Samuel Johnson, “The Rambler” No. 27

**impious** “The Sunis regard the Shias as impious heretics.” Matthew Arnold, *Essays in Criticism*
implacable “It seemed folly for this young man to hope to create a self-supporting farm in such an implacable environment.” Leland Stowe, Crusoe of Lonesome Lake

implored “No beggars implored Scrooge to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o’clock.” Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

importuned “Many businessmen were importuned to come to Washington.” John McDonald, On Capitol Hill

impresario “He was an egregious impresario of letters who kept a squad of writers churning out copy marketed under his signature.” C. J. Rolo, No Business Like Show Business [adapted]


imprudent “We are not so imprudent as to destroy the bees that work for us.” Robert Tanner, Principles of Agriculture

impunity “Swaraj means that not a single Hindu or Mussulman shall for a moment crush with impunity meek Hindus or Mussulmans.” Mohandas K. Gandhi, “The Untouchables”

inadvertently “In our report on NASCAR RACING, we inadvertently attributed a quote to Doris O’Bryant.” Correction made by TIME editors, 6/21/99

inane “When left with nothing to talk about, people resort to inane remarks about the weather.” Lawrence Kaminer, “A World of Strangers”

inanimate “We assumed that the inanimate body in the rubble was dead but the dog, trained to distinguish between live and dead bodies, knew better.” Stephen Kinzer, “Turkish Earthquake Relief,” New York Times, 8/21/99


inchoate “The general plan is inchoate and incoherent and the particular treatments disconnected.” Hillary Corke, Global Economy


incisive “Your hands are keen, your mind incisive, your sensitivity deep, your vision well honed.” Thomas A. Dooley, “To a Young Doctor”
inclement “The inclement weather that has given us fits recently is over, and I’m looking for blue skies for all of next week.” Weather forecast from ABC’s Sam Champion, Eyewitness News, 6/23/99

incoherent “So seldom do editors get what they think they want that they tend to become incoherent in their insistent repetition of their needs.” Jerome Weidman, “Back Talk”

incompatible “Once men tried to reach heaven by building a tower, and I made their formats incompatible.” Garrison Keillor, “Faith at the Speed of Light,” TIME, 6/14/99

incongruous “He was clothed with tatters of old ship’s canvas: and this extraordinary patchwork was held together by a system of various and incongruous fastenings.” Robert Louis Stevenson, Treasure Island

incontrovertible “The Wilsons lived in a universe of words linked into an incontrovertible firmament by two centuries of Calvinist divines.” John Dos Passos, U.S.A.

incredulous “The Nazi war on cancer?—other readers may be as incredulous as I was when this book came to my attention.” Michael Sherry, New York Times, 5/23/99

incumbent “As a Muslim, the Director of Interfaith Affairs for the Islamic Center said that it is incumbent on him to actively engage others in the service of Allah.” Jioni Palmer, “Vigil to Address Growing Violence,” Newsday, 10/10/99

indict “You can’t indict a whole nation, particularly on such vague grounds as these were.” Robert M. Coates, “The Law”

indifference “David sees Ham who, although now shows indifference to life, swims out to save people from a shipwreck.” Holly Hughes, Barron’s Book Notes, David Copperfield by Charles Dickens

indigenous “A MacArthur Foundation grant was given to Dennis A. Moore for helping to preserve the language and culture of indigenous groups in Brazil.” Announcement of MacArthur Grants, 6/23/99


indiscriminate “The indiscriminate spraying of pesticides add a new chapter, a new kind of havoc.” Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

indoctrinated “Teachers have indoctrinated students in practical subjects like home ec.” Jodie Morse, “Hitched in Home Room,” TIME, 6/21/99

indolent “This indolent weather turns a student’s thoughts toward last-minute truancy.” Darcy Frey, “The Last Shot”
inebriated “Red Skelton’s inebriated clown who was guzzling Smuggler’s Gin is one of the all-time great comedy sketches.” Paul De Simone, “They Made Us Laugh” [adapted]


inert “The Japanese drifted inert in his life jacket watching 449 approach until the bow crossed in front of him.” Robert J. Donovan, PT 109

inevitable “The ‘High Occupancy Vehicle’ lanes were an attempt to avoid the otherwise inevitable traffic delays on the Expressway.” Newsday, 9/23/99

inexorably “Note that it is all in one long sentence, developing inexorably like the slow decay of our lives.” Clifton Fadiman, “They Have Their Exits and Their Entrances”

infallible “He had an infallible ear for the way people spoke, and he imitated them in his writing.” Reader’s Encyclopedia

infamous “The unsubstantiated computer rumors for which the Internet is infamous began flowing within hours of the arrival of Jan. 1 in Asia.” Barnaby Feder, “Internet’s Cheering Squad Nervously Watches Clock,” New York Times, 1/1/00

infraction “Order cannot be secured through fear of punishment for an infraction against a political entity.” Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, decision, 10/64

ingratiate “This tax was abolished by Richard III to ingratiate himself with the people.” Sir Francis Bacon, Henry VII

inherent “Harvey lacked graduate degrees but his inherent knowledge of human nature enabled him to be successful as a personnel manager.” “Rungs on the Corporate Ladder,” American Management Association brochure

inhibition “With all this ‘inhibition’ stuff and Freudian approach and ‘group play,’ you get the distinct impression that people are actually afraid of their kids.” William Michelfelder, The Fun of Doing Nothing

iniquity “I lack iniquity Sometime to do me service.” William Shakespeare, Othello

initiate “The Russian army seems ready to initiate a new offensive against the defenders of the capital of Chechnya.” New York Post, 1/10/00

innate “Nothing makes the weak strong or the fearful brave as much as our bodies’ innate drive to stay alive.” William Safire, “Why Die?,” New York Times, 1/1/00

innocuous “Howell’s seemingly innocuous remark about Tanya’s footwear led to a torrent of
curses from the petite brunette.” George Sokolsky, “Very Thin Ice”

**inordinate** “Was it, perhaps, because his back had broken under his *inordinate* burden?” I. L. Peretz, “Buntcheh the Silent”

**insatiable** “One needs an *insatiable* curiosity to succeed in the new technical world-wide spread of information.” Jared Diamond, “Guns, Germs, and Steel”

**insidious** “For them, civilization is an *insidious* but no less sure and deadly poison.” Hernando Bates, *Central America*

**integral** “Let Office 2000 be an *integral* part of your productivity tools.” Newspaper ad for Microsoft Office 2000

**interjected** “The accountant *interjected*, saying that you can buy a better house in New Jersey than on Long Island for the same money.” Ken Moritsugu, “Nowhere to Build,” *Newsday*, 6/25/99

**interlopers** “Indeed, the magazine managers are treated as foreign *interlopers*.” Michael Woolf, “Tribune and Tribulation,” *New York*, 7/5/99

**interminably** “In his clean white shirt and blue jeans, with one hand resting carelessly on the black box, he seemed very proper and important as he talked *interminably* to Mr. Graves and the Martins.” Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”

**internecine** “Eight thousand zealots stabbed each other in *internecine* massacre.” L. H. Farrar, *Early Christians*

**interrogate** “The District Attorney of Nassau County is set to *interrogate* a Malverne police officer who was arrested on shoplifting charges.” Associated Press report, *New York Times*, 8/20/99

**intimidate** “New language could target loiterers with no apparent purpose other than to *intimidate* others from entering those areas.” Margaret Hornblower, “Ending the Roundups,” *TIME*, 6/21/99

**intrepid** “Scientists and support staff began celebrating the new year along with a planeload of tourists and seven *intrepid* skiers.” Malcolm Browne, “Absence of Midnight Doesn’t Darken Spirits,” *New York Times*, 1/1/00

**intrinsic** “We appear to have lost the belief that honesty is an *intrinsic* aspect of political leadership.” Editorial, *Christian Science Monitor*, 5/17/98

**introspective** “All had the thin, narrow faces and large, wide-open eyes—*introspective* eyes.” Ivan Cankar, “Children and Old Folk”
inundated “We do know that the moon’s surface has not been eroded by wind or rain or ice or snow and has not been inundated by oceans, lakes or rivers.” Lee A. DuBridge, “Sense and Nonsense About Space”

invalidate “Some Reagan and Bush appointees have proved far too willing to invalidate decisions made by Congress and the Executive branch.” Cass R. Sunstein, New York Times, 6/2/99

invective “I watched him walk into the clubhouse, kick a bench and break a toe, never once stopping the flow of invective.” Jack Altshul, “Why Should the Other Guy Beat Me?”

inveighed “The County Executive inveighed against scofflaws who owe a total of $60 million.” Television news broadcast, CBS, 6/23/99

inveterate “The inveterate Boston Red Sox fan faces seemingly endless disappointment.” Peter Balakian, “Black Dogs of Fate”

inviolable “The coach broke an inviolable rule by striking one of his players.” Don DeLillo, End Zone

irascible “He became so irascible that within six months he lost his wife and half of his office staff.” Herman Wouk, Don’t Stop the Carnival

irate “I got irate because people have been yelling at me my whole life.” Olivia Winslow, “Cop Tells of a Confession,” Newsday, 6/23/99

irrational “He became irrational and threatened to commit suicide.” Darcy Frey, “The Last Shot”

irrelevant “What has existed in the past seems to him not only not authoritative, but irrelevant, inferior, and outworn.” George Santayana, Character and Opinion in the United States

itinerant “Hamlet greeted the group of itinerant actors and made them part of a plan to trap Claudius.” Barron’s Educational Series, Book Notes

jaunty “The cadet was very trim in his red breeches and blue tunic, his white gloves spotless, his white cockade jaunty, his heart in his mouth.” Alexander Woolcott, “Entrance Fee”

jeopardized “Cancellation of the event would have jeopardized the financial survival of the organization.” Nat Hentoff, “Picket Lines are Labor’s Free Speech,” Village Voice, 6/15/99

jettison “He refused to jettison any of the manners and behavior that made him seem so odd.” William Connor, Daily Mirror, London, 1956

jocose “He caught the sound of jocose talk and ringing laughter from behind the hedges.”
“When the squeege man jostled him, the police officer said that he feared for his life.”

“When he finally reached Boston, he received a jubilant welcome.” Keith Ayling, “Race Around the World”

“Lee’s jurisdiction included the monitoring of boxing within New Jersey.”

“Theatrical vignettes are juxtaposed through alternating verses in clever boy-girl counterpoint.”

“He himself was so lost in the labyrinth of his own unquiet thoughts that I did not exist.” Daphne Du Maurier, Rebecca

“He pressed only the already tired horse at such speed that his spurs made lacerations in its sides, and at last the poor animal died.” Honore De Balzac, A Passion in the Desert

“The major reason for the lackluster look in their eyes was their discovery it is now possible to drive across the face of the nation without feeling you’ve been anywhere or that you’ve done anything.” John Keats, “The Call of the Open Road”


“Many new TV shows succeed because they lampoon the behavior of teenagers.”
John Leonard, New York, 10/15/97

“The remarkable trees formed good landmarks by which the place might easily be found again.” Washington Irving, “The Devil and Tom Walker”

“A largess universal like the sun, His liberal eye doth give to every one.” William Shakespeare, Henry IV

“To poets it’s vernal lassitude but to us it’s simply spring fever.” Brochure, Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce

“All our latent strength was now alive.” Winston Churchill, Their Finest Hour

“American historians, in their eagerness to present facts and their laudable anxiety to tell the truth, have neglected the literary aspects of their craft.” Samuel Eliot Morrison, By Land and by Sea
lax “The fact that his employer was lax on this score was one of many things that he had to condone.” Henry James, “Brooksmith”


legion “Though not Hollywood handsome, Tommy’s success with the fair sex was legion.” Janet Murphy, “Babylon on the Hudson”

lethal “By evening we couldn’t even get any more people indoors where they would have had some protection from the lethal fallout.” Florence Moog, “The Bombing of St. Louis”

lethargic “Ricky Henderson’s lethargic stroll toward second base led the sports reporters to blast him in yesterday’s papers.” Ralph Kiner, baseball announcer, Fox Sports News, 10/4/99

levity “There was something about the company’s president that made levity seem out of place.” Lloyd Sperling, A Boiler Room Operation

libel “Issues such as freedom of speech and libel are going to have to be rethought as the Internet makes everyone a potential publisher in cyberspace.” Thomas L. Friedman, “Boston E-Party,” New York Times, 1/1/00

liquidation “Hiding the forty-six comrades who were scheduled for liquidation became much easier.” David Hackett, The Buchenwald Report

lithe “Tasteless headlines screamed ‘Newtie’s Cutie’ to describe the lithe hymn-singing young staff member who inexplicably fell for her portly Newt.” Robert Reno, “Political Garbage,” Newsday, 8/19/99

livid “Livid with anger, the poster boy for road rage jumped out of his red convertible and came running toward us.” Letter to the Editor, “Big Road Hazard,” Newsday, 8/19/99


loathing “He had braced himself not to become entangled in her loathing for him.” Phillip Roth, American Pastoral

longevity “The longevity of metal parts is increased by this new process.” Report, General Motors Corporation

lucrative “Very quickly it became a surprisingly lucrative property.” David McCullough, The Great Bridge

lugubrious “Lugubrious notices on the passing of old friends were a feature of the local
lurid “We thought the rookie’s tale was too lurid to be believed, but it turned out to be true.” Chuck Cavanna, Life in the Minors

lush “Can one run for political office without the promise of lush campaign contributions from many sources?” “Steve Forbes; In His Own Debt,” Parade, 9/15/99

Machiavellian “Is there any clearer example of Machiavellian plotting than that of Iago in ‘Othello’?” John Simon, Reverse Angle

magnanimous “There was no way he was going to be magnanimous and share this prized baseball with anyone who claimed a share of the glory.” Don DeLillo, Underworld

maimed “Films in which characters are maimed or destroyed seem to be most popular with today’s youngsters.” Harold Owen, Jr., “The Motion Picture”

maladjusted “The natural assumption is that the teenage killers at Columbine H.S. were maladjusted youngsters but some neighbors denied that.” Letters to the Editor, Washington Post, 7/14/99

malady “Homesickness can be a disease as trivial as a slight cold or it can be a deadly malady.” Z. Libin, “A Sign of Summer”

malevolent “Our military action against the malevolent head of the Serbian government has finally ended.” Newsweek, 4/8/99

malign “His chosen weapon is the verbal hand grenade by which he can outrage and malign.” Kenneth Tynan, “On Don Rickles,” New Yorker, 2/20/78

malignant “The wailing chorus turned into a malignant clamor that swirled into my ears like an icy breeze.” Kenneth Roberts, Oliver Wiswell

malleable “Is the mayor able to change from an apparently rigid personality to one more malleable to differences?” Alec Kuczynski, “The Mayor’s Makeover,” New York Times Magazine, 8/1/99

malnutrition “The children of the Albanian refugees are suffering from malnutrition, and they need our help.” Red Cross Appeal for Funds

mammoth “She began to repair the ravages made by generosity added to love—a tremendous task, dear friends—a mammoth task.” O. Henry, “The Gift of the Magi”

mandate “With a federal mandate to convert to digital broadcasting by 2003, public TV stations are facing large capital expenditures.” Ellis Bromberg, “Federal Money Vital to Progress of PBS,” The News Gazette, Champaign-Urbana, 10/21/99
manifest “English is one of the great borrowing languages, more manifest in the origin of so many of our words.” Bill Bryson, Mother Tongue

manifest “China’s Xinhua News Agency treated manifold claims of procedural error with disbelief.” “Trying to Build Bridges in China,” TIME, 6/28/99

martinet “The prospect of having to talk to Sheila’s principal, a realmartinet, made him nervous, but he steeled himself to do it.” John Yount, “The Trapper’s Last Shot”

masticate “Trying to masticate a huge hamburger with an open mouth is a no-no.” Advice from Ms. Manners, syndicated columnist, 6/4/98

mastiffs “That island of England breeds very valiant creatures; their mastiffs are of unmatchable courage.” William Shakespeare, Henry V

materialism “Democracy always makes for materialism, because the only kind of equality that you can guarantee to a whole people is physical.” Katherine F. Gerould, Modes and Morals

matrons “For ladies they had the family of the American consul and a nice bevy of English girls and matrons, perhaps Lady Hamilton herself.” Edward Everett Hale, The Man Without a Country

maudlin “Uncle Billy passed rapidly into a state of stupor, the Duchess becamemaudlin, and Mother Shipton snored.” Bret Harte, “The Outcasts of Poker Flat”

megalomania “Charlie desperately wanted Armaxco to lease space in what so far was the worst mistake of his career, the soaring monster that his megalomania led him to call Croker Concourse.” Tom Wolfe, A Man in Full

mendacious “Hillary joined in efforts to dismiss as mendacious tarts all the women who claimed to have been involved with her husband.” Maureen Dowd, “The Boy Can’t Help It,” New York Times, 8/4/99

menial “It is difficult to visualize the numbers of menial laborers required to build the famous Egyptian pyramids.” E. A. Wallis Budge, The Mummy

mentor “To break into the political life of South Africa, one needed a highly placed mentor.” Nadine Gordimer, Face to Face

mercenary “We all like money . . . but Dickens surpassed most in a mercenary approach to his writings.” G. K. Chesterton, Charles Dickens

metamorphosis “For nearly a year, the dauber, undergoing metamorphosis, inhabits its silken dung-stoppered cocoon inside the mud cell.” Alan Devoe, “The Mad Dauber”

meticulous “Even later, in 1992, Barnstead’s meticulous records allowed researchers to put
names on six previously unidentified Titanic survivors.” “Titanic and Halifax,” The Nova Scotia Museum

*mien* “He had the *mien* of a man who has been everywhere and through everything.” Arnold Bennett, *The Old Wives Tale*

*milieu* “In the *milieu* of a heated baseball championship contest, tickets are being sold at highly inflated prices.” *New York Post*, 10/10/99

*modified* “Some schools claimed that the standard test was a lot harder than a *modified* version.” Ching-Cheng Ni, “Fewer Rumbles on Earth Test,” *Newsday*, 6/23/99

*mollify* “The mayor attempted to *mollify* his critics by pointing to the increased safety in the city.” *New York Daily News*, 8/15/99


*moribund* “After being *moribund* for years, interest in electric automobiles has revived.” *Car and Driver*, 6/97

*mortality* “Socrates loves talk of fundamental things, of justice and virtue and wisdom and love and *mortality*.” Hermann Hagedorn, *Socrates—His Life*

*mortify* “The comparisons between her sister’s beauty and her own no longer would *mortify* her.” Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

*motivate* “The loss of our star quarterback seemed to *motivate* the team to play even harder.” Bill Parcells quoted in *Sports Illustrated*, 9/12/98

*mundane* “Why bother with *mundane* musings when you can sit on the lawn and build cities out of grass clippings?” Enid Nemy, “The World is Her Cloister,” *New York Times*, 6/20/99

*munificent* “His *munificent* gift will enable us to place computers in all the elementary schools.” *Newsday*, 6/20/98

*murky* “Mud dumping from the bottom of Long Island has created a *murky* picture.” “Fishermen’s Woes,” *Newsday*, 6/22/99

*myriad* “Genius is not born with sight, but blind: it is influenced by a *myriad* of stimulating exterior circumstances.” Mark Twain, “Saint Joan of Arc”

*nadir* “He knew he had reached the *nadir* of his baseball career when they sent him to a minor league team.” Roger Kahn, *The Boys of Summer*

*naïve* “Woodrow Wilson was *naïve* to believe Yugoslavia could be formed after World War
I.” Letter to the Editor, New Yorker, 6/26/99

**nascent** “The once nascent Women’s National Basketball Association has arrived and is healthy and prosperous.” New York Times, 7/17/99

**nebulous** “There is a nebulous line between confidence and over-confidence.” Editorial, Wall Street Journal, 4/8/99

**nefarious** “A nefarious employee can still download secret weapons information to a tape, put it in his pocket and walk out the door.” William Safire, “Culture of Arrogance,” New York Times, 6/17/99

**negligible** “These politicians have voted themselves a big pay raise for the negligible amount of work they do.” The Queens Tribune, 8/6/98

**nepotism** “Political allies and family members filled government jobs as nepotism flourished.” Paul Alter, This Windy City

**nettled** “He was pretty well nettled by this time, and he stood in front of a bureau mirror, brushing his hair with a pair of military brushes.” James Thurber, “More Alarms at Night”

**neurotic** “We shall lose all our power to cope with our problem if we allow ourselves to become a stagnant, neurotic, frightened and suspicious people.” Walter Lippmann, “The Nuclear Age”

**neutralize** “The quinine that can neutralize his venom is called courage.” Elmer Davis, But We Were Born Free

**nirvana** “Nirvana is in putting your child to sleep, and in writing the last line of your poem.” Kahlil Gilbran, Sand and Foam

**noisome** “The noisome conditions in the refugee camps were a disgrace and a danger.” Newsday, 8/7/99

**nomadic** “After buying the big trailer, they spent a nomadic year visiting national parks out west.” “On the Road Again,” Travel Ideas International

**nominal** “As the nominal head of his party, the governor was courted by all the Sunday morning talk shows.” Archer Karnes, “Politics and Poker”

**nondescript** “Jane Austen can picture ordinary, commonplace and nondescript characters in ways denied to me.” Walter Scott, Journal, 1826

**nonentity** “With sufficient financial backing, almost any political nonentity could become a national contender.” Washington Post, 6/15/98
nostalgia “The various objects one picks up just before leaving a foreign country are apt to acquire an extraordinary souvenir-value, giving one a foretaste of distance and nostalgia.” Corrado Alvaro, “The Ruby”

nuance “With Minnie Driver adroitly mining each nuance of social primness, Jane is the first Disney cartoon heroine to provide her own comic relief.” Richard Corliss, “Him Tarzan, Him Great,” TIME, 6/14/99

nullify “Allowing our parks to decay is a sure way to nullify the beauty given to us by nature.” Freeman Tilden, The National Parks


nutritive “They searched for anything that had nutritive value, but often found nothing.” “The Irish Famine,” Harpers, 5/73

obese “The rush to lose weight by unproven methods often leads to complications for obese people.” Johns Hopkins Health Letter, Summer 1997

obliterate “They went out to survey the land for a possible railroad, but met with Indians on the warpath and were obliterated.” Freeman Tilden, The National Parks [adapted]

obloquy “Hitler and his Nazis showed how evil a conspiracy could be which was aimed at destroying a race by exposing it to contempt, derision, and obloquy.” Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, decision, 10/52

obscure “This book has serious purpose even if many will find that purpose obscure.” Decision of Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, 11/62

obsequious “and the survivor bound In filial obligation for some term To do obsequious sorrow.” William Shakespeare, Hamlet

obsess “To obsess over acquisitions is especially damaging to human felicity.” Llewelyn Powys, Earth Memories

obsolescence “After five centuries of obsolescence, Roman numerals still exert a peculiar fascination over the inquiring mind.” Isaac Asimov, “Nothing Counts”

obviate “Modest pre-emptive acting can obviate the need for more drastic actions at a later date that could destabilize the economy.” Alan Greenspan, quoted in New Jersey Star Ledger, 5/6/99

occult “Somehow, horror films have changed from one main figure who threatens a town or young women, to occult spirits that take over a normal human for unknown reasons.” Pauline
Kael, *I Lost It at the Movies*

**octogenarian** “Octogenarian film and stage director Elia Kazan received a mixed reception when he came up to collect his Lifetime Achievement Award.” Associated Press report, 4/7/98

**ominous** “There was a Sabbath lull in the air, which, in a settlement unused to Sabbath influences, looked ominous.” Bret Harte, “The Outcasts of Poker Flat”

**omnipotent** “In those comic strips there was always a cruel and omnipotent villain.” Letter, *New York Times*, 9/13/99

**omnivorous** “He became an omnivorous reader of the classics.” T. S. Lovering, *Child Prodigies*

**opprobrium** “General Sherman is still viewed with opprobrium in these parts of the South he once destroyed.” Edmund Wilson, *Patriotic Gore*

**opulent** “Poirot followed him, looking with appreciation at such works of art as were of an opulent and florid nature.” Agatha Christie, “The Dream”

**originated** “The early Egyptian rulers, in order to stop the practice of cannibalism, originated the method that protected the dead—mummification.” E. A. Wallis Budge, *The Mummy*

**ostensibly** “The race was ostensibly to test the reliability of the automobiles.” Keith Ayling, *The Race Around the World*

**ostentatious** “He affected simplicity, partly because he was ugly, but more because being ostentatious might have irritated those of whom he always spoke of as ‘my fellow citizens.’” Emil Ludwig, *Michelangelo*

**oust** “Politics will still exist as in the Republican campaign to oust Bill Clinton.” James Pinkerton, “Mediocre Pols,” *Newsday*, 6/17/99

**overt** “It is peculiarly shocking that Brutus practices overt self-deception.” Harold Bloom, *Shakespeare*

**pall** “A pall had descended upon Mr. Timberlake, and I understood why he did not talk to me about the origin of evil.” V. S. Pritchett, “The Saint”

**palliate** “Reducing the testosterone would palliate the cancer, the oncologist believed, but it wouldn’t be a cure.” Dr. Mervyn Elliot, “Medicine in the News”

**paltry** “Marvin was baffled by the paltry amount of money the widow was asking for her husband’s elegant Rolls Royce.” Barnett Lesser, “One Man’s Will”
panaceas  “Mrs. Clinton said that she was in Rochester to listen and learn not to offer panaceas for all civic problems.” Associated Press report, “Pre-Campaign Strategy,” 9/9/99

pandemonium  “Then, summoning the wild courage of despair, in pandemonium, a throng of revellers at once threw themselves into the black apartment.” Edgar Allan Poe, “The Masque of the Red Death”

parable  “When I had trouble keeping the kindergarten class quiet, I found that telling them a parable (the tortoise and the hare, for example) would get their undivided attention.” Lana L. Grossberg, A Teacher’s True Confessions

paradox  “Here was a paradox like the stellar universe that fitted one’s mental faults.” Henry Adams, The Education of Henry Adams

paragon  “An angel! or, if not An earthly paragon!” William Shakespeare, Cymbeline

paramount  “For him, winning was paramount; coming in second meant he had swum a poor race.” Len Sussman, “Born to Swim”

pariahs  “Apart from the other castes were the outcasts: India’s untouchables, or pariahs.” Barbara Walker, Women’s Encyclopedia

paroxysms  “The coughing did not even come out in paroxysms, but was just a feeble, dreadful welling up of the juices of organic dissolution.” Thomas Mann, The Magic Mountain

parsimonious  “His parsimonious thrift was relieved by a few generous impulses.” V. L. Parrington, Main Currents in American Thought

passé  “Everything old is new again is the theme for the designer’s adoption of passé styles and making them fashionable again.” Sophia Leguizamo, “New From Milan”

pathetic  “He is the latest loser trying to solve his pathetic life behind a gun.” Editorial, New York Post, 7/30/99

paucity  “In the dictator’s best-case scenario, he can hope for continuing control, thanks to a paucity of opponents.” Massimo Calabresi, “Is This the End for Milosevic?,” TIME, 6/21/99

pecuniary  “The most unpleasant thing of all was that his pecuniary interests should enter into the question of his reconciliation with his wife.” Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

pedagogue  “He is neither bandit nor pedagogue, but, like myself a broken soldier, retired on half pay for some years.” Stephen Vincent Benet, “The Curfew Tolls”

penance  “I have done penance for condemning Love, Whose high imperious thoughts have punished me With bitter fasts, with penitential groans.” William Shakespeare, The Two Gentlemen of Verona
penchant “Annabel had a penchant for silver fox coats but Midge said they were common.” Dorothy Parker, “The Standard of Living”

penitent “When father strode into the coal and ice office, he came out, the penitent clerk with him, promising to deliver a block of ice in time for dinner.” Clarence Day, Life with Father

pensive “It was only when he found himself alone in his bedroom in a pensive mood that he was able to grapple seriously with his memories of the occurrence.” H. G. Wells, The Man Who Could Work Miracles

penury “Afflicted by penury, it appeared that Putois had joined a gang of thieves who were prowling the countryside.” Anatole France, “Putois”

perceive “The subjects, as you perceive, were alarming but very agreeable.” Anton Chekhov, “A Slander”

peregrination “Each step he took represented an inward peregrination.” Gretel Ehrlich, “On the Road With God’s Fool”


perfidious “Alfred E. Ricks was the perfidious toad’s designation who sold worthless shares in the Blue Gopher Mine.” O. Henry, “The Man Higher Up”

perfunctory “Doc Martindale made a perfunctory examination and told Eli there was nothing to worry about.” MacKinlay Kantor, “The Grave Grass Quivers”

permeated “The play is permeated with scriptural imagery, notably a Last Supper.” Robert Brustein, New Republic, 6/7/99

pernicious “This chapter exposes a pernicious obstacle to students and teachers engaging in serious work together.” Robert L. Fried, The Passionate Teacher

perpetrated “Thanks to Mr. DeLay, we learn that violence perpetrated by gun owners is really the product of larger forces.” Editorial, “Mr. DeLay’s Power Play,” New York Times, 6/20/99

perpetuate “The laws would often do no more than perpetuate a legislator’s acts of injustice.” Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract


perspicacious “Nobody deserves the Lifetime Achievement Award more than Army Archerd, who is not only perspicacious, but a gentleman as well.” Liz Smith, Newsday, 6/2/99
pertinent “What seems pertinent is to observe that jazz gravitated toward a particular kind of environment in which its existence was probable.” Arnold Sunaard, Jazz, Hot and Cold

peruse “Stopping to peruse her mail, Raven didn’t notice that the front door was ajar.” Dolores Kent, Instant Gratification

everse “There is something contemptible in the prospect of a number of petty states with the appearance only of union, jarring, jealous, and pervasive.” Alexander Hamilton, speech, 1782

pesky “Oranges down there is like a young man’s whiskers; you enjoy them at first, but they get to be a pesky nuisance.” Ring W. Lardner, “The Golden Honeymoon”

phenomenon “This phenomenon is characterized by a temporary reversal of the normal atmospheric conditions, in which the air near the earth is warmer than the air higher up.” Berton Roueché, “The Fog”

phlegmatic “Duncan had a phlegmatic fourth quarter, dooming the Spurs’ opportunity to humble the New York Knicks.” TV announcer, NBA Finals, 6/22/99

phobia “My phobia was such that the slightest touch produced twinges of pain.” Guy De Maupassant, “Looking Back”

pinnacle “Their little barber-shop quartet reached the pinnacle of their career with a first-place finish on Major Bowes’ ‘Amateur Hour.’ ” David and Marge Buchanan, “No Business Like You Know What”

pique “In a fit of pique he raised his pistol to take aim at me but Masha threw herself at his feet.” Aleksandr Pushkin, “The Shot”

pittance “To be paid a mere pittance and yet to be suspected of theft; never in her life had she been subjected to such an outrage.” Anton Chekhov, “An Upheaval”

placards “Yet a mile away at the ultra-orthodox Mea Shearim neighborhood, wall placards now warn residents not to have Internet-linked computers in their homes.” Thomas Friedman, “All in the Family,” New York Times, 6/22/99

plaintiff “When the attorney for the palsied plaintiff finished, there wasn’t a dry eye in the courtroom.” Rose Axelsohn, “The Defense Rests” [adapted]

platitudes “The topic was, ‘What Is Life?’ and the students labored at it busily with their platitudes.” Philip Roth, American Pastoral

**plight** “I had the sense that his loneliness was not merely the result of his personal *plight.*” Edith Wharton, *Ethan Frome*

**poignant** “Keen, *poignant* agonies seemed to shoot from his neck downward through every fiber of his body and limbs.” Ambrose Bierce, “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”

**pondered** “As I made my way back, I *pondered* the significance of what I’d seen.” Nicholas Kristof, “1492: The Prequel”

**potent** “Those huge differences in income found in our society must have *potent* causes.” Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

**potentates** “The racing season at Saratoga invited all manner of society—from *potentates* to paupers.” Lanny Richards, “They’re Off!”

**potential** “We realized that this system had worked because the *potential* targets were so many that the Germans could not get a definite idea of where we would strike.” Ewen Montagu, *The Man Who Never Was*

**potpourri** “A *potpourri* of fresh fruits and cool cottage cheese make for a delicious lunch treat when the temperatures rise into the high 90s.” Martha Stewart, CBS News, 5/23/98


**precedent** “One can imagine a time when the voters ignore *precedent* and elect a woman to the office of President of the United States.” Barbara Walker, *The Women’s Encyclopedia*

**precipitate** “The weight of a finger might *precipitate* the tragedy, hurl him at once into the dim, gray unknown.” Stephen Crane, “An Episode of War”

**precluded** “I would be avenged; this was a point definitely settled—but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved *precluded* the idea of risk.” Edgar Allan Poe, “The Cask of Amontillado”

**precocious** “Pediatricians interviewed this week were somewhat divided on the value of TV viewing by *precocious* children.” Lawrie Miflin, “Tough Rules for TV,” *New York Times*, 8/4/99

**prelude** “Bounderby’s *prelude* to his main point was very well received by Mrs. Sparsit who said, ‘Very sagacious indeed, sir.’” Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*

**premise** “That train of reasoning has all the various parts and terms—its major *premise* and its conclusion.” T. H. Huxley, “We Are All Scientists”
premonition “There seemed to be a gentle stir arising over everything—a very premonition of rest and hush and night.” Mary Wilkens Freeman, “The New England Nun”


prestigious “He had finally reached his present prestigious position of wealth and security, and he felt he was entitled to sit back and enjoy his happiness.” Ronald Byron, “Happy Days for Harrison Gumedi”

pretext “Our mother had been expressly enjoined by her husband to give Madame Cornouiller some plausible pretext for refusing.” Anatole France, “Putois”

prevalent “On the all-news channels the most prevalent images were from a helicopter pursuing the police chase.” New York Post, 7/30/99

prevarication “They must honestly swear to this oath without prevarication or reservation.” Supreme Court Justice Byron White, speech, 12/1/64

privations “It aroused a strong response in our hearts when he told about their sufferings and privations.” Selma Lagerlöf, Harvest

prodigious “He knew from the moment he left the ground that it was a prodigious jump.” Joseph N. Bell, “The Olympics Biggest Winner”

prodigy “I grant you Clive—Clive was a prodigy, a genius and met the fate of geniuses.” Stephen Vincent Benet, “The Curfew Tolls”

proffer “Orin came to proffer his condolences when, wonder of wonder, he fell in love with the grieving widow.” Terence Cavanaugh, “An Ill Wind”

profligate “Her innocent appearance had a peculiar attraction for a vicious profligate, who had hitherto admired only the coarser types of feminine beauty.” Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov


profuse “He offered profuse apologies for his show of exasperation, and he volunteered to read to her, something in French.” Aldous Huxley, “The Giaconda Smile”
progeny “First, let me tell you whom you have condemn’d: Not me begotten of a shepherd swain, But issued from the progeny of kings.” William Shakespeare, *Henry IV*

prognostication “Nay, if an oily palm be not a fruitful prognostication I cannot scratch my ear.” William Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra*

prohibition “The U.S. public is slowly coming around to accepting the idea that a prohibition against the easy access to hand guns is inevitable.” Roger Rosenblatt, “Get Rid of the Damned Things,” *TIME*, 8/9/99

prolific “Isaac Asimov was a truly prolific writer, seemingly able to complete a book every two weeks.” Art Nichols, *Selling Your Manuscript*

promulgated “The rules and regulations are promulgated for the guidance of administrative employees, bureau heads, and supervisors.” “Rules and Regulations for Administrative Employees,” NYC Board of Education

propagate “The Republican leadership planned to propagate their philosophy for a huge tax cut during the summer recess.” Wolf Blitzer, CNN Nightly News, 7/14/99

propensity “You had a propensity for telling simple and professional tales before the war.” Joseph Conrad, “The Tale”

propinquity “It occurred to him that Varick might be talking at random to relieve the strain of their propinquity.” Edith Wharton, *The Desert of Man*

propitious “Sometime later, I will find a propitious ground and bury you there in the same grave.” Shen Chunlieh, “In Memory of a Child,” 1619

propriety “There is a propriety and necessity of preventing interference with the course of justice.” Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, decision, 10/28

proximity “Stryker had built a small cannery in close proximity to the house where the turtles were raised in shallow tanks.” Edmund Wilson, “The Man Who Shot Snapping Turtles”

prudent “Those who thought the prudent thing to do at the end of 1999 was to stay away from flying resulted in the slowest day of the year for every airline.” *TIME*, 1/12/00

pugnacious “Two pugnacious guard dogs in the railyard eliminated the nightly vandalism in a hurry.” Lewis Tumulty, “Civic Pride”

puissant “The combination of the drugs has become a puissant cocktail in the fight against AIDS.” Medical report, CBS News, 9/20/98

pungent “The pungent aroma of the cream puffs told Sadie that the man from Goobers had arrived.” Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”
puny “I have said that I am a weak and puny man, and you will have proof of that directly.” Max Beerbohm, “A. V. Laidler”

qualms “The manager had qualms about allowing him to continue playing with an injured hand.” Sports Illustrated, 6/16/98

quandary “New Year’s Eve presented a quandary for people in China, a country where the observance of non-political Western celebrations is a relatively recent phenomenon.” Elizabeth Rosenthal, “Party? What Party?,” New York Times, 1/1/00

quarry “The state troopers had tracked their quarry to the thickly wooded area near the crime scene.” Newsday, 4/10/98

quell “He also did not quell the speculation surrounding Van Gundy’s status as coach.” Mike Wise, New York Times, 5/25/99

quip “The audience screamed and applauded hysterically at every musical number, every quip, every little movement on the stage.” Liz Smith, Newsday, 6/2/99

rabid “Politicians avoid the appearance of being rabid on issues that seem to be evenly viewed by the voters.” Arthur Willner, “Taking Sides”

raconteur “As a popular raconteur, George Jessel was prized as a speaker at award ceremonies.” The Hollywood Reporter, 7/18/96

railed “He cursed and railed, and finally declared he was going to trail the raiders.” Zane Grey, Raiders of the Purple Sage

raiment “No matter what her raiment, Marilyn Monroe looked absolutely fabulous on the screen.” Billy Wilder quoted by Earl Wilson, Chicago Tribune, 2/28/76

rampant “What’s more curious about the determination to end social promotions is that the practice is far from rampant.” Romesh Ratnesar, “Held Back,” TIME, 6/14/99

rash “Thou art as rash as fire to say That she was false.” William Shakespeare, Othello

rationalize “It is the task of the scientist to rationalize the remains of extinct civilizations to discover their histories.” Brian Fagan, Time Detective

raucous “The 1968 Democratic nominating convention in Chicago was the scene of raucous confrontations.” I. F. Stone, Weekly Reader

razed “In the gorge, continually razed by the clawing wind, he would probably find his other dog.” Francisco Coloane, “Cururo . . . Sheep Dog”

realm “In all the churches of the realm the Blessed Sacrament is exposed night and day, and
tall candles are burning for the recovery of the royal child.” Alphonse Daudet, “The Death of the Dauphin”

rebuke “The defeat of the charter revision was viewed as a rebuke of his policies.” Editorial, New York Times, 11/7/99


recoil “It is a gesture of response to my remarks, and it always makes me recoil with a laugh.” Thomas Mann, “A Man and His Dog”

recondite “If it seems too recondite for anyone but dwellers in the groves of Academe, one must consider rhyming slang which originated in the underworld.” Bergen Evans, “Now Everyone Is Hip About Slang”

redolent “The scene—a decrepit classroom, redolent of moldy books, and the pencil shavings of generations of boys being ground into the hardwood floor.” Jon Robin Baitz, The Film Society

redress “There has been much discussion about the fairest way to redress centuries of discrimination.” “A Time to Begin,” Readers Digest, 5/92

refute “The tobacco industry has stopped trying to refute the charge that smoking is both dangerous and addictive.” U.S. News and World Report, 2/3/98

relegated “They were to be relegated to the outer circle of my life.” Van Wyck Brooks, Helen Keller

remiss “If the mayor thought that one of his commissioners had been remiss in following instructions, he would fly into a rage and throw his glasses at him.” David Rockefeller on Mayor LaGuardia, New York Times, 10/10/99

remote “The pull of the remote stars is so slight as to be obliterated in the vaster moments by which the ocean yields to the moon and sun.” Rachel Carson, The Sea Around Us

remuneration “Please mail your resume along with your expected remuneration to our Director of Personnel.” Want ad, New York Times, 7/7/99

repented “At his court martial, the officer admitted to the charges and repented.” “General Demoted,” Washington Post, 9/2/99

repertoire “He led a secret life as a forger of paintings, with the most famous as part of his repertoire.” Peter Landesman, New York Times, 7/18/99
**replenish** “We’ll dip down into our farm system to replenish our stock of left-handed pitchers.” Bobby Valentine, *ABC-TV Sports Interview*

**replete** “When a composition is so replete with errors, I call attention to only a few, the most important ones.” Fran Weinberg, English teacher, NYC High Schools

**repose** “Good night, good night! as sweet repose and rest Come to thy heart as that within my breast.” William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*

**reprehensible** “She thought that the prisoners, no matter how morally reprehensible their crimes, still should have the benefit of pretrial representation.” Jimmy Breslin’s syndicated column, *Newsday*, 6/15/99

**repressed** “General McClellan repressed his feelings about President Lincoln but he expressed his private anger in letters to his wife.” David Herbert Donald, *Lincoln*

**reprimand** “The difficulty lay in the fact the man had previously received a reprimand from his employer regarding his easy-going ways with the men under him in his department.” James Thurber, “Let Your Mind Alone”

**reproached** “When reminded that he knew little history, Henry Ford reproached his critics by reminding them that history would know him.” Quoted in *The Will Rogers Book*, Paula Love, editor, 1961

**repudiate** “If upheld, the decision would repudiate one of the Administration’s environmental achievements.” Editorial, *New York Times*, 5/19/99

**repugnant** “The behavior of the few rioters at the rock concert was repugnant to the huge, peaceful crowd.” “Woodstock Revisited,” *TIME*, 6/7/99

**repulse** “The cannons were set up to repulse a possible invasion but none was ever attempted.” Col. F. X. Prescott, “History as Our Teacher”

**reputed** “The language of Iceland has changed so little that modern Icelanders are reputed to be able to read sagas written thousands of years ago.” Bill Bryson, *Mother Tongue*

**requisite** “Secrecy is more requisite than ever during the sensitive negotiations over the release of our prisoners.” I. F. Stone, *Weekly Reader*


**respite** “The plan enabled the oiler and the correspondent to set respite together.” Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat”

**restrictive** “Mr. el Hage said that the law was too restrictive, claiming that he had nothing to

**reticent** “He was as inquisitive about the country as he was *reticent* about his business there.” Frances Gilchrist Woods, “Turkey Red”

**retort** “There is no need to *retort* to an employee who has written a critique of your original warning letter.” NYC Board of Education’s Food Service Division, *Guide for Managers*

**retrospect** “I shivered in *retrospect* when I thought of that afternoon meeting in the freezing hall.” Anna L. Strong, *The Chinese Conquer China*

**reverberated** “When that putt plunked into the hole yesterday, the 40,000 people exploded in a roar that *reverberated* through more than a century of U.S. Open history.” Dave Anderson, “Longest Final Putt,” *New York Times*, 6/21/99

**revere** “Paul McCartney and other celebrities who yet *revere* the name of rock-and-roll great Buddy Holly will host a tribute to him at the Roseland Ballroom.” Letta Taylor, “Tribute to Buddy,” *Newsday*, 9/3/99

**reverts** “She dreamily *reverts* to the hour when old age will throw down his frosts upon her head.” Walt Whitman, “Dreams”

**reviled** “Former Haitian President Aristede was *reviled* by orphanage graduates who claimed that he had lied to them about the promise of jobs.” Associated Press story, “Haiti Gunmen Confront Police,” *New York Times*, 6/25/99

**rhetoric** “Nothing good can come out of the *rhetoric* of hatred that will be heard at the rally.” New York Congressman Charles Rangel, ABC TV News, 9/2/99

**rife** “Cyberspace is *rife* with sweatshops but very few people realize it.” Karl Taro Greenfield, “Living the Late Shift,” *TIME*, 6/28/99


**romp** “She was expected to win the governor’s race in a *romp*.” Wolf Blitzer, CNN News, 2/2/98

**roster** “The *roster* of stars for our gala celebration includes Cher, Meatloaf, and Lyle Lovett.” Las Vegas hotel ad

**rudimentary** “Some of them were singing, some talking, some engaged in gardening, hay-making, or other *rudimentary* industries.” “The Other Side of the Hedge,” E. M. Forster

**rue** “When they make a mistake they will *rue* it.” Randi Feigenbaum, “Realtors’ Deal Irks...”
**ruminated** “Lou Gehrig, the great N.Y. Yankee star, *ruminated* on his career as he left because of an incurable illness: ‘I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth.’” Speech, 7/4/39

**rustic** “This week a *rustic* setting in the Berkshire Hills was a gathering place for a group that is dedicated to preserving the Yiddish language.” Tina Rosenberg, “Living an American Life in Yiddish,” *New York Times*, 9/3/99

**saga** “The *saga* of the Kennedy family has enthralled and saddened us.” Barbara Walters, quoted in *New York Times*, 7/10/99

**sage** “I am not a visionary, nor am I a *sage*—I claim to be a practical idealist.” Mohandas Gandhi quoted by John Gunther, *Procession*, 1965


**sally** “The next morning we decided to *sally* forth to try to find a site for our new home.” Stephen Leacock, “How My Wife and I Built Our Home for $4.90”

**salubrious** “For my later years there remains the *salubrious* effects of work: stimulation and satisfaction.” Kathe Kollwitz, *Diaries and Letters*, 1955

**salvation** “Maybe it is connected with some terrible sin, with the loss of eternal *salvation*, with some bargain with the devil.” Aleksandr Pushkin, “The Queen of Spades”

**sanctimonious** “There has never been a shortage of *sanctimonious* arguments for starting a war.” Peter Finley Dunne, *Mr. Dooley Remembers*

**sanction** “He received his father’s *sanction* and authority.” George Meredith, *Diana of the Crossways*

**sanctuary** “The identity of Rinehart may be a temporary *sanctuary* for the narrator, but it is another identity he must reject if he is to find himself as a person.” Anthony Abbott, *Invisible Man*

**sanguine** “I’m not *sanguine* about the Knicks’ chances to upset the San Antonio Spurs.” Telephone caller to WFAN Sports Radio Program, 6/8/99

**satiety** “One of the soldiers was given leave to be drunk six weeks, in hopes of curing him by *satiety*.” William Cowper, *Selected Letters*

**saturate** “Vanilla sweetens the air, ginger spices it; melting nose-tingling odors *saturate* the
kitchen.” Truman Capote, “A Christmas Memory”

**schism** “The schism between the manager and his best pitcher spilled over from the locker room onto the field.” Bob Klapisch, *The Worst Team That Money Could Buy*

**scion** “Al Gore is the Good Son, the early achieving scion from Harvard and Tennessee who always thought he would be President.” Maureen Dowd, “Freudian Face-Off,” *New York Times*, 6/15/99

**scoffed** “No one was injured except the woman who had scoffed at the belief.” Leonard Fineberg, “Fire Walking in Ceylon”

**scrutinized** “The jockey waited with his back to the wall and scrutinized the room with pinched, creepy eyes.” Carson McCullers, “The Jockey”

**scurrilous** “They were infuriated by the scurrilous articles about them that started to crop up in the tabloids.” Charles Blauvelt, *Edward and Wally*

**scurry** “Some small night-bird, flitting noiselessly near the ground on its soft wings, almost flapped against me, only to scurry away in alarm.” Ivan Turgenev, “Bezhin Meadows”

**sedate** “Few public places maintain a sedate atmosphere equal to the majestic chambers of the Supreme Court.” Milton Konvitz, editor, *Bill of Rights Reader*

**sedentary** “Seeger had seen him relapsing gradually into the small-town hardware merchant he had been before the war, sedentary and a little shy.” Irwin Shaw, “Act of Faith”

**senile** “Being on golf’s Senior Tour doesn’t mean that we’re senile.” Leon Jaroff, “Those Rich Old Pros,” *TIME*, 9/27/99

**serenity** “At the top, they planted the crucifix and gathered round, moved by the serenity.” Sontag Orme, “Solemnity and Flash in the Land of Jesus,” *New York Times*, 1/1/00

**servile** “Uriah Heep, so physically repulsive and hypocritically servile, fascinated David at first but later revolted him.” Holly Hughes, *Barron’s Book Notes, David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens

**shibboleths** Dialects are sometimes used as shibboleths to signal the ethnic or social status of the speaker.” Bill Bryson, *Mother Tongue*

**sinecure** “Matthew Arnold’s job was a sinecure, allowing him plenty of time to travel and write lyrics.” Nicholas Jenkins, “A Gift Improvised,” *New York Times*, 6/20/99

**singular** “The fate that rules in matters of love is often singular, and its ways are inscrutable, as this story will show.” Meyer Goldschmidt, “Henrik and Rosalie”
sinister “The man had a cordially sinister air.” Hernando Tellez, “Ashes for the Wind”

site “The site of the bison herd’s destruction was a tall cliff over which they were driven.” Brian Fagan, *Time Detectives*

skirmish “They never meet but there’s a skirmish of wit between them.” William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*

slovenly “The twenty-six year old’s slovenly appearance belied the fact that he was one of the Silicon Valley’s brightest stars.” Reuben Cowan, “Today Dot-Com”

sojourn “He returned from a long sojourn in Europe.” Alan McCulloch, *Encyclopedia of Australian Art*

solace “He read in a Bible that he had neglected for years, but he could gain little solace from it.” Theodore Dreiser, “The Lost Phoebe”


somber “There was a somber and moving tribute for his last game at Yankee Stadium.” John Updike, *New Yorker*, 10/22/94

sophistry “No amount of sophistry could disguise the obvious fact that the legislation was biased against one particular office holder.” *New York Times*, 9/2/99

sordid “The workmen used revolting language; it was disgusting and sordid.” Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”

spate “There has been a spate of tell-all memoirs, destroying the organization’s special status.” *Jewish Monthly*, 9/99

spew “It was obvious as the miles of electronic tape began to spew out the new patterns of American life that the census was to be of historic dimension.” Theodore H. White, *The Making of the President*

spontaneous “Professor Einstein burst out in spontaneous candidness.” Thomas Lee Bucky, “Einstein: An Intimate Memoir”

sporadic “TROOPS ENCOUNTER SPORADIC VIOLENCE” Headline, *Newsday*, 6/14/99

spurious “The only known picture, albeit a spurious one, had been printed some years earlier.” James Monaghan, *Diplomat in Carpet Slippers*

squeamish “My brother, who voted for Mr. Mbeki and who has faith in his leadership, is not squeamish.” Mark Mathabane, “South Africa’s Lost Generation”
stagnant “The place was small and close, and the long disuse had made the air stagnant and foul.” T. E. Lawrence, The Desert of the Stars

staunch “Known as a staunch supporter of the Republican agenda, the young politician astounded us all by his defection.” Monte Halperin, “Party Turncoat?”

steeped “Edward Francis had steeped himself in the internal mystery of the guinea pig.” Paul De Kruif, Hunger Fighters

stentorian “He proclaimed the fact in stentorian tones that were easily heard throughout the auditorium.” A. A. Berle, The 20th Century Capitalist Revolution

stereotypes “Treating the most respected leader in the land that way confirms the worst stereotypes and that really hurts us.” Alessandra Stanley, “Asking a Favor of the Pope,” New York Times, 6/12/99

stigmatized “People who so much as whisper during a performance are stigmatized as barbarians.” Joseph Wechsberg, The Best Things in Life

stipulated “I shall come out from here five minutes before the stipulated term, and thus shall violate the agreement.” Anton Chekhov, “The Bet”

strident “No matter how strident or insulting he became, he was not interrupted by the police.” New York Daily News, 9/5/99

strife “Either there is a civil strife, Or else the world, too saucy with the gods, Incenses them to send destruction.” William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

stunted “Their physical and mental development became stunted during childhood.” Roger Pineles, Shame of the Cities

stupor “If your child watches late night television and comes home from school in a stupor, she’s not getting enough sleep.” “Getting Enough Sleep,” Working Mother, 5/98


subjugated “The country had been bitterly divided, so ruthless in its determination to keep the black majority subjugated.” Sheryl McCarthy, “Mandela Was South Africa’s Perfect Choice,” Newsday, 6/17/99

subservient “From the earliest times, including the Bible, women have been counseled to be subservient to men.” Barbara G. Walker, The Women’s Encyclopedia

substantiate “The Queens District Attorney said that there were not enough facts to
substantiate the charges against the tour operator so no prosecution would take place.”
Queens Courier, 1/18/00

subterfuge “He was a free-will agent and he chose to do careful work, and if he failed, he took the responsibility without subterfuge.” Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, “A Mother in Mannville”


succinct “In clear and succinct tones, our division head proceeded to tear me to shreds in front of the entire staff.” Elley Falk, “They Promised Me a Rose Garden”

succulent “Use this coupon to get $1 off on a succulent holiday turkey.” Advertisement, Waldbaum’s Supermarket, 11/99

succumbed “This young gentleman was of an excellent family but had been reduced to such poverty that the energy of his character succumbed beneath it.” Edgar Allan Poe, “The Murders in the Rue Morgue”

sullen “My decision to leave put her into a sullen silence, broken only by a mumble under her breath.” Alan Lelchuk, “American Mischief”

sultry “The sun would shine up there in the lengthening spring day and pleasant breezes blow in sultry summer.” Maurice Walsh, The Quiet Man

sumptuous “In the summer the table was set, and the sumptuous meals—well, it makes me cry to think of them.” Mark Twain, Autobiography

superficial “His teachings had only a superficial relationship to the orthodox religion he advocated.” Carl Dreyer, “The Roots of Anti-Semitism”

superfluous “He drove through the beautiful countryside in silence; conversation would have been superfluous.” Travel and Leisure, 10/94

supine “The clergy as a whole were therefore obedient and supine.” G. M. Trevelyan, Carlyle

supplication “The last supplication I make of you is that you will believe this of me.” Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

surfeit “A surfeit of the sweetest things The deepest loathing to the stomach brings.” William Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night’s Dream

surge “In one wild surge they stormed into a police station, where the bewildered officers tried to maintain order.” James Michener, “The Bridge at Andau”
“The commanding officer surmised that the other ship in the cove was a coaster.” Joseph Conrad, *Tales of Hearsay*

“He was surreptitiously negotiating to have 70 percent of the payments turned over to himself.” David C. Johnson, “Tax Evasion Scheme,” *New York Times*, 1/1/00


“The widespread dislocation and downsizing in hospitals is symptomatic of relentless cost pressures.” Carol Eisenberg, “Nurses Contend With System’s Ills,” *Newsday*, 6/22/99

“The modern motion pictures have shown so much that once was considered taboo.” Harold H. Owen, Jr., *The Motion Picture*

“There is a tacit agreement in a civil conversation that each avoid making of it a monologue.” Rebecca West, “There Is No Conversation”

“The defense argued that poor police procedures had tainted the evidence.” *Newsday*, 6/19/98

“I hated it, not because of our one overcrowded closet, but because of intrusions and discomforts of a far less tangible nature.” Mary Ellen Chase, “A Room of My Own”

“We were tantalized by a glimpse of a brown bear and her cubs in the wood.” *Travel and Leisure*, 10/97

“Opponents of the proposed agreement claim it is tantamount to a surrender of holy land.” *USA. Today*, 1/13/00

“His face grew taut as he was questioned about his use of illegal drugs in his youth.” *New York Post*, 8/19/99


“In the first month of his service in the House, the young Congressman had the temerity to challenge his party’s Speaker; it was a mistake.” Blanche Kassell, *Up on the Hill*

“He took the tenable position that lawyers should never cross examine a witness without knowing the answer before asking the question.” Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

“Their talent and tenacious actions on the court will at last reward them.” Darcy Frey, *The Last Shot*
termagant “This book deals with the matrimonial adventures of an extremely rich and bullying *termagant*.” *Saturday Review*, 11/99

terminate “A continuation of such chronic lateness may lead us to *terminate* your employment.” Regulations of the NYC Board of Education’s Office of School Food & Nutrition Services

terse “The mayor sent a *terse* letter to the school’s chancellor over his cancellation of a meeting.” *New York Times*, 8/5/99

therapy “He will have to undergo long-term *therapy* before considering playing baseball again.” *The Washington Post*, 7/9/99

throng “When the *throng* had mostly streamed into the porch, the sexton began to toll the bell.” Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The Minister’s Black Veil”

thwarted “The man who made up the name for flies must have been *thwarted* in a life-long desire to have children, and at last found that outlet for his suppressed baby-talk.” Robert Benchley, “The Lure of the Road”

timorous “He was a *timorous* incompetent who was lucky to have good men under him.” W. A. Swanberg, *Citizen Hearst*

tinged “The sermon was *tinged*, rather more darkly than usual, with the gentle gloom of Mr. Hooper’s temperament.” Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The Minister’s Black Veil”

tolerated “They despise anyone who hasn’t had the luck to be born Masai, but for one reason and another, they *tolerated* me.” Robert W. Krepps, “Pride of Seven”

tortuous “The *tortuous* descent down the mountain resulted in one additional fatality, this time a sure-footed Sherpa guide.” Winston Adair, “Everest Takes Its Toll”

tradition “The town had a century-old *tradition*—an eight-hour canoe race.” Brenda Flock, “The Race”

tranquil “Over this house, most *tranquil* and complete, Where no storm ever beat, She was sole mistress.” Phyllis McGinley, “The Doll House”

transient “City championships and national tournaments, however thrilling, are *transient* moments.” Darcy Frey, *The Last Shot*

tremulous “‘Will Pa get hurt?’ asked Jane in a *tremulous* voice.” Jessamyn West, “Yes, We’ll Gather at the River”

trenchant “Mr. Salinger’s views on celebrity are often funny and *trenchant*.” Clyde Haberman, “A Recluse Meets His Match,” *New York Times*, 6/18/99
trend “We should make every effort to reverse the trend in popular music towards violent lyrics.” Portland Oregonian, 8/12/99

trivial “In the study of past civilizations, nothing is considered as a trivial discovery.” Brian Fagan, Time Detectives

truncated “It will be much harder if their state (Palestine) is so truncated, so cut up, that it is not viable.” Anthony Lewis, “The Irrelevance of a Palestinian State,” New York Times, 6/20/99

turbulent “Up to the turbulent surface came a peculiar-looking craft, risen from the calm but dangerous depth of the ocean.” Lt. Don Walsh, “Our Seven-Mile Dive to the Bottom”

turpitude “The government must be held responsible for these acts of moral turpitude resulting in so many civilian casualties.” TIME, 8/25/98

tussle “It often doesn’t pay to tussle with your child to take music lessons.” Working Mother, 5/96

tyro “The computer training center will soon turn a tyro into a successful user.” Senior News, 9/99

ubiquitous “Che Guevera has become ubiquitous; his figure stares out at us from coffee mugs and posters, pops up in rock songs and operas.” Ariel Dorfman, “Che,” TIME, 6/14/99

ultimate “The ultimate possibility for hero and chorus alike is stated in Father Mapple’s sermon, and it is to become a saint.” W. H. Auden, “The Christian Tragic Hero”

umbrage “I do not take umbrage when I’m looked over, I do when I’m overlooked.” Mae West, The Wit and Wisdom of Mae West, Joseph Weintraub, Editor

unabated “The summer list of auto fatalities continues unabated as three more Southampton teens are killed in a Sunday crash.” W. Mariano, “A Final Farewell,” Newsday, 6/25/99

unconscionable “Viewers of TV’s coverage of disasters find it unconscionable for mourning family members to be shown and interviewed so close up we can see the tears.” John Stephens, New York, 4/16/98

unctuous “Today’s car salesmen are a far cry from the high-pressured and unctuous ones of the past.” Car and Travel, 9/99

underwrite “We are pleased to feature those local businesses who help to underwrite our programs.” Patterns, monthly magazine of WILL, Champaign, Illinois

universal “With the approach of the new millennium we see an almost universal fear of major disruptions.” TIME, 9/19/99
unkempt “Budget cuts have resulted in overcrowded and unkempt camping sites in our parks.” Freeman Tilden, The National Parks

unmitigated “The crossword puzzle is the unmitigated sedentary hobby of Americans.” Bill Bryson, Mother Tongue

unsavory “Punishing students by assigning them more work, has made education unsavory and unappealing to the average student.” H. C. McKown, “The Three R’s Today”

unwieldy “Today’s light weight, compact cameras are a far cry from the unwieldy ones used by early photographers.” Popular Photography, 9/96

urbane “Their prose is less ornate, their urbane satire more muted.” Book review, New York Times

usurp “There is a constant struggle as one branch of government attempts to usurp some of the powers of the other.” Milton Konvitz, editor, Bill of Rights Reader

utopia “I was held spellbound by the middle-class utopia, without a blot, without a tear.” William James, “What Makes Life Significant”

vacillated “In planning for the book I vacillated between a selective, but deeper approach or a general, more limited approach.” Milton Konvitz, editor, Bill of Rights Reader

valor “Thrice have the Mexicans before us fled, Their armies broken, their prince in triumph led; Both to thy valor, brave young man, we owe.” Sir Robert Howard & John Dryden, The Indian Queen

vapid “The new James Bond movie lacks the excitement of the many before and is a vapid copy.” Newsday, 10/25/98

vehemently “The President spoke vehemently against any large tax cut.” New York Times, 9/16/99

veneer “Since then, she has frequently tried to crack the veneer of role, surface, and pose.” Mark Stevens, “Spice Girls,” New York, 6/21/99

venerable “Despite their huge popularity the most venerable papers refused to accept crossword puzzles as more than a passing fad.” Bill Bryson, Mother Tongue

venial “The coach tried to overlook the venial errors of his players and concentrated on the serious ones.” Sports Illustrated, 5/12/99

venom “The point envenom’d too! Then, venom, do thy work.” William Shakespeare, Hamlet

vertigo “Iron workers on beams, hundreds of feet above Broadway, were immune to periods
of vertigo.” Architectural Digest, 1/93

**vestige** “They kept at the rescue efforts as long as there was a *vestige* of hope for the earthquake victims.” *TIME*, 8/30/99

**vexatious** “This *vexatious* law suit dragged on interminably, becoming a legend in the process.” Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*

**viable** “The organism remains *viable* in the soil for years.” Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

**vicissitudes** “Her husband was not only faithful but patient in the face of remarkable *vicissitudes*.” Eliza Jane Berman, *Noble Minds*

**vigil** “The U.N. peacekeeping troops are keeping a *vigil* over the disputed area.” *New York Times*, 9/21/99

**vigilant** “I deny not but that it is of great concernment in the church and commonwealth to have a *vigilant* eye how looks demean themselves.” John Milton, “Aereopagitica”

**vilified** “One who belongs to the most *vilified* minority in history is not likely to be unaware of the freedoms guaranteed by our constitutions.” Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, decision, October 1943

**vindicated** “His family was certain that his actions would be *vindicated* when all of the facts became available.” “Pilot Blamed in Crash,” *New York Post*, 11/26/99

**virile** “The danger to our *virile* economy from weaknesses in the Far East should not be overlooked.” *Wall Street Journal*, 5/16/98

**virtuosity** “Employing his *virtuosity* as an orchestrator of suspense, the author puts Lector in Florence, Italy, speaking impeccable Italian.” Paul Grey, “Dessert, Anyone?,” *TIME*, 6/21/99

**virulently** “Another part of my hope was for communities of people of colour that, for the most part, have been *virulently* homophobic.” Mark Haslam, “When Bigotry Kills,” *Globe and Mail*, Toronto, 3/5/99

**vitiative** “This act is an attempt to *vitiative* the separation of powers upon which our democracy is founded.” Justice Earl Warren, *Bill of Rights Reader*, 1957

**vitriolic** “The speaker’s *vitriolic* comments about ethnic and religious groups brought condemnation from the mayor.” *New York Daily News*, 9/5/98

**vituperation** “To justify his action he used *vituperation*, calling his enemies ‘detestable pests.’” Barbara G. Walker, *The Women’s Encyclopedia*

**vivacious** “The performance of this *vivacious* leading lady made the play a delight.” *New York*
vogue “Examining the private lives of our political leaders is in vogue this election period.” New York, 9/4/99

volition “To prove her innocence, she took a lie detector test of her own volition.” New York Times, 9/21/99

voluble “He came to hate Ray Gribble and his voluble companions of the submerged tenth of the class.” Sinclair Lewis, “Young Man Axelbrod”

voluminous “The testimony in the case relating to the President’s actions has become voluminous.” Washington Post, 5/15/99

voracious “We spent a good number of our waking hours feeding voracious stoves.” Jean Stafford, “New England Winter”

vulnerable “Any vulnerable area in an otherwise strong person or structure is known as an Achilles heel.” Barbara G. Walker, The Women’s Encyclopedia

wan “Why so pale and wan, fond lover? Prithee, why so pale?” John Suckling, “Encouragement to a Lover”

wane “Japan, once an economic power, has seen its influence wane.” New York Times, 8/1/99

wary “These figures were wary in their movements and perfectly silent afoot.” Joseph Conrad, Lord Jim

wheedle “The first step of a politician is to wheedle the editorial backing of a newspaper.” Frederick Nebel, A Free Press

whet “The accepted purpose of coming attractions in movie theatres is to whet the viewers’ desire to see the film.” John Simon, Reverse Angle

whimsical “This is not a whimsical idea—it is a serious plan.” Calvin Klein, New York Magazine, 9/15/95

wince “He took the cruel blow without a wince or a cry.” A. Conan Doyle, The Last Book of Sherlock Holmes

wistful “I am sad when I see those wistful ads placed by the lovelorn in the classified columns.” E. B. White, The Essays of E. B. White

wrest “Their attempt to wrest control of the company was thwarted by the Colonel and his three supporters on the board.” Edmund Ward, Jr., “Bulls and Bears” [adapted]
yen “She could not resist the yen to see how her classmates had progressed so she agreed to attend the class reunion.” Woman’s Home Companion, 9/94

zealous “James I was zealous in prosecuting Scottish sorcerers.” George Lyman Kittredge, Witchcraft in Old and New England

zenith “At the zenith of her fame as a musical star, she was assassinated by a crazed fan.” H. Hudson, People, 7/21/97
NEW WORDS

impregnable
im preg’ nə bəl

toxic
tok’ sik

patriarch
pā trē ark’

neophyte
ne’ ā fit

extenuating
ik sten’ yōō āt ing

BONUS WEEK A ♦ DAY 1

TITANIC MYSTERY

On April 14, 1912, an incident took place that became a front page story in newspapers all over the world. It is a tale that has continued to capture the attention of movie and theatre goers, of opera and television audiences, of novelists and playwrights—it’s the story of the allegedly impregnable Titanic, the unsinkable majestic ocean liner that tumbled to the bottom of the icy Atlantic waters with 1600 passengers still aboard.

How could such a toxic tragedy have occurred? Could it have been avoided? How could the naval patriarch, Captain Edward Smith, no neophyte he, have allowed the disaster to happen? What were the extenuating circumstances that led to the death of that glorious White Star queen?

In September 1985, the hulk of the Titanic was found on the ocean’s floor, providing many answers to the questions that seamen and landlubbers had wrestled with over the years.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Coal miners are often subject to ________________ fumes.
2. Robert’s defense lawyer pointed out the ________________ conditions of the case.
3. Although Sarah was skillful at math, she was a ________________ at computers.
4. A company of marines was unable to penetrate the seemingly ________________ fortress.
5. Grandfather is the recognized ________________ of our family.
Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. impregnable  a. harmful
7. toxic  b. elder
8. extenuating  c. incapable of being entered
9. neophyte  d. beginner
10. patriarch  e. excusable

Today’s Idiom

a dry run—trial, test, exercise

Before opening night, the actors had several dry runs.
WHAT WENT WRONG?

Investigators found that a series of mistakes led to the sinking of the *Titanic*. A wireless message had come in from a French liner, warning of ice ahead, but that was a thousand miles away, and so, no need to worry. On April 13, the vessel *Rappphanock* also warned the *Titanic* of dangerous ice ahead. On the following day, there came a spate* of other warnings from a Cunard ship, a Dutch liner, and the White Star *Baltic*—all telling of icebergs about 250 miles from the *Titanic*’s current position. Next came the German *Amerika*, echoing the same forebodings, followed by the *California*, cautioning the *Titanic* about the field ice. Finally, the *Mesaba* called attention to an enormous belt of ice stretching directly across the *Titanic*’s path. All the messages *emanating* from sister ships should have had a profound* effect on Smith and company.

No one *miscreant* could be fingered, but a host of crew members were certainly blameworthy. Why didn’t Captain Smith’s officers react to those messages? Notations were indeed made on slips of paper but largely ignored and forgotten. There was no standard *protocol* for the handling of such messages; if there had been, Captain Smith would certainly have taken a *circuitous* route so as to avoid the dangerous icebergs.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Cindy took a ____________ route home to avoid the class bullies.
2. Caesar’s wife had ____________ about danger facing her husband.
3. The rulings ____________ from the local court were cheered by the
conservatives.

4. The class ____________ was made to remain after school.

5. Failing to follow ______________ got Sophia into trouble at the office.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their meanings.

- **6. forebodings**
  - a. one who behaves badly

- **7. emanating**
  - b. forms of ceremony

- **8. miscreant**
  - c. premonitions, evil omens

- **9. protocol**
  - d. roundabout

- **10. circuitous**
  - e. coming from

**Today’s Idiom**

to throw someone a curve—to do the unexpected

When I least expected it, Helen threw me a curve.
NEW WORDS

knell
nel
macabre
mə ka´ brə
ramifications
ram´ ə fi kə shəns
rapacious
ra pə´ shəs
insurgent
in sur´ jənt

BONUS WEEK A • DAY 3

DEATH KNELL FOR THE TITANIC
And then it happened. White in its innocence, a monstrous iceberg smashed into the luxury liner, ripping an ugly gash of 250 feet along the starboard and causing a fatal wound. Within seconds, thousands of cubic feet of water had penetrated the shattered hull. One after another, dominolike, the watertight compartments and bulkhead were flooded. The unthinkable had happened despite the absolute guarantees of the shipbuilders, Harland & Woolf.

There followed a macabre scene as the ship’s band, clad in their tuxedos, continued to play show tunes while hordes of terrified passengers, many in nightclothes, rushed toward the lifeboats. The crew called out, “Women and children first,” but their lack of an orderly plan for loading would have profound* ramifications. In fact, some boats that could hold 30 were sent into the Atlantic with only a handful of people—generally first-class passengers.

As panic began to take hold, the realization that there weren’t enough lifeboats exacerbated* the situation, bringing out the worst in a rapacious few. Several insurgent males ignored the crew and jumped into descending lifeboats. It was an act of shame they would have to live with for the rest of their lives.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The ________________ dictator used mustard gas against his enemies.
2. Additional troops were dispatched to deal with the ________________ threat.
3. When the ________________ sounded, the students closed their books and their minds.
4. Some critics were unhappy about the bloody ________________ scenes in the movie.
5. Heidi was concerned about the _____________ of her employer’s new policy.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

- **knell**
- **macabre**
- **ramifications**
- **rapacious**
- **insurgent**

a. complications
b. greedy, taking by force
c. gruesome
d. rebellious
e. sound of a bell

**Today’s Idiom**

*to cross the Rubicon*—a limit that allows for no return (The Rubicon was a river in Italy that Julius Caesar’s army crossed, knowing there was no retreat.)

When I *crossed the Rubicon* by signing the contract, I knew I could never go back on my commitment.
As one might have expected, manifold* law suits against the White Star Line began to crop up within weeks of the sinking and rescue. The glut of billionaires on board (Astors, Wideners, Guggenheims, Strausses, et al.) did not file any claims, but other cases went all the way to the Supreme Court and kept lawyers and judges busy for the next four years. The average claim had been for a modest $1500, and the average award, paid by the White Star Line, was a risible $1000. White Star’s top notch legal staff was accused of using dilatory tactics, tiring the claimants until they agreed to settle for a mere pittance*. Their lawyers called many claims specious and rejected them out of hand.

The denouement of the story is rather sad. American and British maritime law had long given special protection to ship owners on the grounds that their business was such a risky one. And so there was a limit to the amount of money that White Star could be assessed. In the end, they paid only 4% of the $16 million originally demanded by the survivors and were happy to close the books on the ocean disaster. We can imagine that if a similar tragedy were to take place today, the settlements would be in the hundreds of millions.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The play’s __________________ came with three dead bodies on the stage.
2. Umpires do not like pitchers who use ________________ styles.
3. In debating, ________________ arguments are rarely effective.
4. What Harry felt was ________________, Sally thought was pathetic.
5. Our choir has a _____________ of tenors and a shortage of sopranos.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. glut   a. delaying
7. risible b. laughable
8. dilatory c. oversupply
9. specious d. deceptively attractive
10. denouement e. outcome

Today’s Idiom

to brave the elements—to go out in bad weather

Despite the freezing rain, Cynthia decided to brave the elements.
# BONUS WEEK A ♦ DAY 5

## REVIEW

### REVIEW WORDS
- 1. circuitous
- 2. denouement
- 3. dilatory
- 4. emanating
- 5. extenuating
- 6. forebodings
- 7. glut
- 8. impregnable
- 9. insurgent
- 10. knell
- 11. macabre
- 12. miscreant
- 13. neophyte
- 14. patriarch
- 15. protocol
- 16. ramifications
- 17. rapacious
- 18. risible
- 19. specious
- 20. toxic
- 21. a dry run
- 22. to throw someone a curve
- 23. to cross the Rubicon
- 24. to brave the elements

### DEFINITIONS
- a. coming from
- b. a rebel
- c. aged male family leader
- d. gruesome
- e. roundabout
- f. complications
- g. tending to delay
- h. forms of ceremony
- i. lessening the seriousness
- j. sound of a bell
- k. premonitions, evil omens
- l. greedy, taking by force
- m. harmful, destructive
- n. oversupply
- o. deceptively attractive
- p. cannot be entered by force
- q. laughable, ludicrous
- r. one who behaves badly
- s. beginner, novice
- t. outcome
- u. a limit that allows for no return
- v. trial exercise
- w. do the unexpected
- x. go out in bad weather

Make a record of those words you missed.

*For reference only*
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SENSIBLE SENTENCES?
(From Week A)

Use the word that makes sense in each of the sentences below.

1. When the *(ramifications, knell)* of his action were explained, Roger apologized.
2. There is no known antidote for the *(specious, toxic)* poison.
3. Following *(forebodings, protocol)*, Ben bowed before the emperor.
4. The young *(patriarch, miscreant)* was brought before the judge.
5. Seeking his prey, the lion took a *(circuitous, dilatory)* route on the trail of the deer.
6. Victor’s weak explanation elicited* a *(risible, rapacious)* reaction from his teacher.
7. The *(insurgent, neophyte)* forces launched a successful attack.
8. We thought the *(knell, denouement)* of the play was ridiculous.
9. Harmful fumes were *(emanating, extenuating)* from the laboratory.
10. Critics rated the *(impregnable, macabre)* play to be the season’s best.
WORDSEARCH A

Using the clues listed below, fill in each blank in the following story with one of the new words you learned this week.

Clues
① 2nd Day
② 1st Day
③ 5th Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 3rd Day

AN UNUSUAL PERK

A study ⑥ from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene declared that one in eight adults in our major cities has diabetes, a ⑦ disease. Many, however, are not aware that they have it or how ⑧ it can be. There is a ⑨ of evidence revealing that the high blood sugar that affects diabetics is more characteristic of Asian Americans, African-Americans, and Hispanics than of the white population.

Unfortunately, many of the victims of diabetes do not take immediate steps to deal with the disease. New York City’s health commissioner has warned of the ⑩ of a failure to control the high blood sugar: blindness, amputations, and heart disease. In fact, diabetes is the nation’s fastest growing major disease.
**New Words**

**dolorous**

dō lā rās

**enervated**

en´ər vā tīd

**suffrage**

suf´rij

**cabal**

ka bal´

**odious**

o´dē ās

**BONUS WEEK B • DAY 1**

**GOOD NEWS—AND BAD**

On Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant sent a terse* dispatch to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. It contained the long-awaited sentence that the Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered. The *dolorous* Civil War that had crippled the young nation was finally over.

President Lincoln was only 56 at the time, but he looked twenty years older. The burden of being a wartime president had so *enervated* Lincoln that Surgeon General Barnes feared an imminent* nervous breakdown. When Grant’s news reached Lincoln, he went to the front windows of the White House and waved to the crowd below. He proceeded to make a brief speech about the problems of Reconstruction and advocated* the granting of *suffrage* to Negro soldiers.

Among the listeners was a Southern patriot, the popular actor John Wilkes Booth, almost as famous in the theater as his father, Junius. “That’s the last speech he will ever make,” said Booth to a fellow member of his *cabal* of conspirators. Booth’s *odious* plan was to assassinate Lincoln whom he hated passionately, while an associate, George Atzerodt, would do the same to Vice-President Andrew Johnson.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The dictator lied when he claimed he favored ________________ for women.
2. We were surprised when Ted’s happy expression turned into a ________________ one.
3. The members of the revolutionary ________________ were arrested and jailed.
4. Sylvia’s ___________ remarks caused the audience to turn against her.
5. _______________ by his long walk, Jose took to his bed.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. dolorous    a. right to vote
7. enervated   b. secret group of plotters
8. suffrage    c. worn out
9. cabal       d. sad
10. odious     e. despicable

TODAY’S IDiom

to kill the goose that laid the golden egg—to spoil a good deal

By being greedy, the accountant killed the goose that laid the golden egg.
THE DREAMS OF LINCOLN AND BOOTH

Lincoln’s family and friends remembered that the President had a prescient dream in March, several weeks before the fatal day, and provided them with a verbatim account. He told of entering the East Room in the White House where a throng* of people were gathered around an open coffin. In his reverie, Lincoln asked a soldier, “Who is dead in the White House?” “The President,” was the reply. “He was killed by an assassin.”

Mrs. Lincoln said, “I’m glad I don’t believe in dreams or I should be in terror from this time forth.” Lincoln’s was the calming voice, “Let’s try to forget it. I think the Lord in His own good time and way will work this out all right.”

Of course, all who loved Abe Lincoln would have been deeply agitated if they had known what John Wilkes Booth was planning. As a Southern secessionist, he despised the President. As a thespian, he romanticized the action that he could take to rid the nation of a cruel warmonger. Although he had not taken an active part in the Civil War, he was convinced that he could contribute to the Confederate cause by kidnapping the bearded despot. It wasn’t exactly clear in his mind whether he would “capture” Lincoln and take him to Richmond where he could be exchanged for Confederate prisoners of war—or whether he would just put a bullet in the President’s head.

Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. Yearning to be a _______________, Roger took lessons from a dramatic coach.
2. When he lost control of the militia, the ________________ was forced to flee.
3. Claiming to be ____________, the fortune teller took advantage of the gullible* woman.
4. With remarkable talent, the reporter was able to quote speeches ____________ .
5. In her ______________ , Ellen saw herself as the next U.S. President.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. prescient  a. dream
7. verbatim  b. actor
8. reverie  c. able to predict
9. thespian  d. word for word
10. despot  e. tyrant

Today’s Idiom

to carry coals to Newcastle—a waste of time (since Newcastle had a great deal of coal)

Telling the racing car driver how to drive is like carrying coals to Newcastle.
**NEW WORDS**

**pathological**  
path′ə loj′i kal  
articulate  
ar tik′ yə lit  
grandeur  
gran′ jər  
polemic  
pə lem′ ik  
impasse  
im′ pas

**BONUS WEEK B ▶ DAY 3**

**THE ASSASSINS MAKE READY**

The *pathological* yet *articulate* Booth had rounded up several co-conspirators and shared his delusions of *grandeur* with them. He had produced a *polemic* that convinced his crew that it would be a patriotic thing to capture the President. One of them was assigned to shut off the master gas valve at Ford’s Theatre when Mr. and Mrs Lincoln were seated there at the play. With all the lights out, Booth would bind and gag the President. Two men would lower Lincoln onto the stage, and then carry him out the rear door to a covered wagon waiting in the alley. They would head for Port Tobacco and then ferry across the Potomac to their ultimate* destination, Richmond, Virginia.

Several dry runs* had not worked out for the cabalists* who were about to reach an *impasse* when Booth learned that Lincoln would be celebrating General Grant’s victories with a party at Ford’s Theater on the night of April 14. He promised the small group that destiny was at hand; their bold act, he said, would make their names famous forever in the annals of U.S. history.

In the late afternoon of April 14, Booth watched a rehearsal of the play that would be performed that evening. He had reviewed his action plan and the escape route, and he believed it to be foolproof. He mouthing the phrase he would use after killing Lincoln, “Sic Semper Tyrannis” (“Thus always to tyrants”).

The curtain was about to go up on one of the darkest days in the country’s history.

**Sample Sentences** Use the new words in the following sentences.
1. The _______________ was broken when the union agreed to management’s offer.
2. In history class, we studied the _______________ of Greece and the glory of Rome.
3. Hal was surprisingly _______________ for a high school freshman.
4. The defense lawyer admitted that his client was a _______________ liar.
5. The team captain’s _______________ led to a fist fight in the locker room.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. pathological  a. well-spoken
7. articulate     b. magnificence
8. grandeur       c. disordered in behavior
9. polemic        d. deadlock
10. impasse       e. controversial argument

Today’s Idiom

an axe to grind—to pursue a selfish aim

Senator Smith was in favor of the bill, but we knew that he had an axe to grind.
**NEW WORDS**

**regimen**
rej´ a mən

denigrated
den´ i grāt ed

guile
gīl

**mortal**
mor´ tl

**inflicted**
in flikt´ ed

**BONUS WEEK B • DAY 4**

**“NOW HE BELONGS TO THE AGES”**

At 8:25 the Lincolns arrived at the theater. When they entered Booths 7 & 8, as *regimen* dictated, the band played “Hail to the Chief.” The 1675 members of the audience stood to honor the great man, and then the play commenced. It is reported that Booth said to a drunk who had *denigrated* his acting skill, “When I leave the stage, I will be the most famous man in America.”

At about 10 PM, with extreme *guile*, Booth had managed to be behind Box 7 in the darkness of the hallway. He saw the silhouette of a head above the horsehair rocker. Derringer in his hand, he aimed it between the President’s left ear and his spine. The shot was drowned out by laughter on the stage. Shouting “Revenge for the South,” Booth climbed over the ledge of the box and jumped onto the stage, breaking his leg in the process.

In pain, Booth limped out the stage door where his horse was waiting and made his getaway. Days later, however, he was cornered in a Virginia barn and shot. Three of the *cabal* members were arrested and hanged.

At the theater, a 23-year-old doctor attended to the wounded President. He found that the lead shot had lodged in Lincoln’s brain, a bad sign. Several soldiers carried Mr. Lincoln across the street to a private house. His family physician came and so did the Surgeon General. The President struggled throughout the long night, but it was apparent that a *mortal* wound had been *inflicted*, and he could not be saved.

At 7:22 A.M. it was over; two silver coins were placed on the assassinated President’s eyes. Then Secretary Stanton uttered the famous words, “Now he belongs to the ages.”
Sample Sentences Use the new words in the following sentences.

1. The blow to the boxer’s jaw turned out to be a ____________ one.
2. Using ____________, the magician pulled the wool over the spectators’ eyes.
3. Aunt Ethel’s morning ____________ called for three cups of coffee.
4. When her boss ____________ Martha’s stenographic ability, she quit.
5. The prison guards ____________ torture on some of the inmates.

Definitions Match the new words with their meanings.

6. regimen  a. leading to death
7. denigrated  b. defamed
8. guile  c. a system of control
9. mortal  d. trickery
10. inflicted  e. imposed upon

Today’s Idiom

to throw one’s hat in the ring—to run for political office

Before a gathering of the party’s faithful, the local congressman threw his hat in the ring for the position of senator.
BONUS WEEK B ◆ DAY 5
REVIEW

REVIEW WORDS
1. articulate
2. cabal
3. denigrated
4. despot
5. dolorous
6. enervated
7. grandeur
8. guile
9. impasse
10. inflicted
11. mortal
12. odious
13. pathological
14. polemic
15. prescient
16. regimen
17. reverie
18. suffrage
19. thespian
20. verbatim

DEFINITIONS
a. absolute ruler
b. hateful, despicable
c. secret group of plotters
d. actor
e. disordered in behavior
f. defamed one’s character
g. a controversial argument
h. able to speak clearly
i. able to know beforehand
j. greatness of character, magnificence
k. word for word
l. worn out
m. a system of control
n. to impose something painful
o. deadlock
p. a daydream
q. subject to death
r. the right to vote
s. sorrowful
t. trickery, deceit

IDIOMS
21. an axe to grind
22. to carry coals to Newcastle
23. to throw one’s hat in the ring
24. to kill the goose that laid the golden egg

u. a waste of time
v. to spoil a good deal
w. to pursue a selfish aim
x. to run for office

Study the words you missed.

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WORDSEARCH B

Using the clues listed below, fill in each blank in the following story with one of the new words you learned this week.

Clues
① 3rd Day
② 1st Day
③ 1st Day
④ 4th Day
⑤ 2nd Day

Perks Are In

Do you know what a “perk” is? Simply put, it’s an extra reward, a special benefit given to sweeten the job for an employee. Now an ① staffer at Serus, a software maker in California’s Silicon Valley, has skillfully described an incredible perk given to him and his fellow workers—a thrill-packed parachute plunge as they jumped from a plane 14,000 feet above the ground.

“Our employees work hard and can become ② ,” said a Serus executive, “and we want to invigorate them with sky dives, as well as cruises, beauty treatments at spas, birthday parties, maid services, and other creative perks that our ③ might conjure up.”

Of course, company executives are deeply interested in keeping productive staff members from quitting and going to work for competitors. And so, the host of perks they offer reflect the ④ behind their generosity. “Cash bonuses won’t have the same effect,” a CEO said. In a ⑤ remark he declared, “It’s like a parent who throws money at his child when what the youngster really wants is attention.”
SENTENCE COMPLETIONS
(From Weeks A and B)

Each sentence below has two blanks, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five sets of words labeled A through E. Choose the set of words that, when inserted, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. The ________ dictator used ________ to achieve his goals.
   a. rapacious...guile
   b. articulate...protocol
   c. odious...regimen
   d. dilatory...ramifications
   e. prescient...polemics

2. Having overcome the ________ ________, the executive had high hopes for the future.
   a. specious...cabal
   b. circuitous...knells
   c. dolorous...forebodings
   d. mortal...reverie
   e. toxic...insurgents

3. The ________ ________ fled the country with the millions he had stolen from the treasury.
   a. impregnable...neophyte
   b. pathological...despot
   c. dilatory...miscreant
   d. risible...insurgent
   e. articulate...patriarch

4. The ________ circumstances were clearly explained by the play’s ________.
   a. extenuating...denouement
   b. prescient...knell
   c. macabre...forebodings
   d. circuitous...protocol
   e. odious...polemic

5. “We have had a ________ of ________ tactics,” the judge declared, “and I will not put up with it.”
   a. regimen...toxic
   b. glut...dilatory
   c. cabal...odious
d. grandeur...verbatim

e. impasse...suffrage
Select the best word from the five choices to fit in the blanks below.

1. “There are no political _______ except in the imagination of political quacks.”
   —Francis Parkman
   a. compounds  b. panaceas  c. milieus  d. ethics  e. diatribes

2. “The effect of my _______ is that always busy with the preliminaries and antecedents, I am never able to begin the produce.”
   —Henri Amiel
   a. genre  b. expedient  c. iniquity  d. bias  e. prognostication

3. “Once philosophers have written their principal works, they not infrequently simply become their own _______.”
   —Theodore Haecker
   a. accomplices  b. disciples  c. cynics  d. arbiters  e. badgers

4. “I hate the aesthetic game of the eye and the mind, played by those _______ who ‘appreciate’ beauty.”
   —Pablo Picasso
   a. connoisseurs  b. charlatans  c. rustics  d. stentorian  e. paragons

5. “Anglo-Saxon _______ takes such very good care that its prophecies of woe to the erring person shall find fulfillment.”
   —George Gissing
   a. foreboding  b. morality  c. protocol  d. polemic  e. guile

6. “The universe is not friendly to _______ and they all perish sooner or later.”
   —Don Marquis
   a. icons  b. patriarchs  c. despots  d. insurgents  e. perennials

7. “_______ means influence.”
   —Jack London
8. “No one wants advice—only ________ .”
   —John Steinbeck
   a. corroboration  b. alacrity  c. delineation  d. dissent  e. jurisdiction

9. “If by the time we’re sixty, we haven’t learned what a knot of ________ and contradiction life is, we haven’t grown old to much purpose.”
   —John Cowper Powys
   a. vertigo  b. surmise  c. sophistry  d. privation  e. paradox

10. “The concept of ‘Momism’ is male nonsense. It is the refuge of a man seeking excuses for his own lack of ________ .”
    —Pearl Buck
    a. regimen  b. virility  c. grandeur  d. temerity  e. satiety

11. “_______ is the dabbling within a serious field by persons who are ill equipped to meet even the minimum standards of that field, or study, or practice.”
    —Ben Shahn

12. “Accustomed to the ________ of noise, public relations, and market research, society is suspicious of those who value silence.”
    —John Lahr
    a. realm  b. veneer  c. surfeit  d. diatribe  e. cacophony

13. “In almost every act of our lives we are so clothed in ________ and dissemblance that we can recognize but dimly the deep primal impulses that motivate us.”
    —James Ramsey Ullman
    a. volition  b. rationalization  c. sophistry  d. impunity  e. heresy

14. “When men talk honestly about themselves, one of the themes that crops up is a ________ for the old days, at least for an idealized version of them.”
    —Myron Brenton
    a. pretext  b. landmark  c. nostalgia  d. fetish  e. candor

15. “We love a congenial ________ because by sympathy we can and do expand our spirit to the measure of his.”
a. egotist  b. nonentity  c. iconclast  d. ascetic  e. disciple

16. “Man is certainly a ________ animal. A never sees B in distress without thinking C ought to relieve him directly.”
   —Sydney Smith
   a. discreet  b. benevolent  c. banal  d. whimsical  e. somber

17. “I cannot tolerate ________. They are all so obstinate, so opinionated.”
   —Joseph McCarthy
   a. arbiters  b. culprits  c. dregs  d. expatriates  e. bigots

18. “We look upon ________ as degrading. Our mothers’ voices still ring in our ears: ‘Have you done your homework?’”
   —Wilhelm Stekhel
   a. indolence  b. opulence  c. levity  d. invective  e. histrionics

19. “By far the most dangerous foe we have to fight is ________ —indifference from carelessness, from absorption in other pursuits.”
   —Sir William Osler
   a. umbrage  b. apathy  c. repose  d. nepotism  e. histrionics

20. “One who sees the ________ everywhere has occasion to remember it pretty often.”
   —Oliver Wendell Holmes
   a. inevitable  b. precedent  c. efficacy  d. idyllic  e. mundane

21. “There’s life for a ________ in the characters he plays. It’s such a beautiful physical escape. I enjoy the transformation of personality.”
   —Sir John Gielgud
   a. thespian  b. miscreant  c. termagant  d. tyro  e. sage

22. “The writing of a biography is no ________ task; it is the strenuous achievement of a lifetime, only to be accomplished in the face of endless obstacles.”
   —Havelock Ellis
   a. paltry  b. facile  c. lucrative  d. impious  e. egregious
23. “Cleanliness, said some _______ man, is next to godliness. It may be, but how it came to sit so near is the marvel.”

   a. abstemious  b. banal  c. comely  d. sage  e. devout

   —Charles Lamb

24. “I should like most candid friends to be anonymous. They would then be saved the painful necessity of making themselves _______.”

   a. venial  b. odious  c. sanctimonious  d. fractious  e. benevolent

   —J. A. Spender

25. “A stricken tree is beautiful, so dignified, so admirable in its _______ longevity; it is, next to man, the most touching of wounded objects.”

   a. rash  b. vulnerable  c. potential  d. singular  e. omnipotent

   —Edna Ferber

26. “Grandparents are frequently more _______ with their grandchildren than with their children. A grandparent cannot run with his son but can totter with his grandson.”

   a. raucous  b. congenial  c. sedate  d. tenacious  e. vexatious

   —Andre Maurois

27. “It is unjust to the child to be born and reared as the ‘creation’ of the parents. He is himself, and it is within reason that he may be the very _______ of them both.”

   a. veneer  b. requisite  c. antithesis  d. profuse  e. anathema

   —Ruth Benedict

28. “This, indeed, is one of the eternal _______ of both life and literature—that without passion little gets done; yet without control of that passion, its effects are largely ill or null.”

   a. trends  b. subterfuges  c. harbingers  d. fiats  e. paradoxes

   —F. L. Lucas

29. “What has maintained the human race if not faith in new possibilities and courage to _______ them.”

   a. divulge  b. flout  c. advocate  d. initiate  e. mandate

   —Jane Addams

30. “No sooner do we take steps out of our customary routine than a strange world _______
about us.”

—J. B. Priestly

a. surges  b. wanes  c. recants  d. juxtaposes  e. galvanizes

31. “As the two ________ cultures began to mingle, they encountered some revealing and shocking truths.”

—Nelson DeMille

a. venerable  b. transient  c. sedentary  d. disparate  e. servile

32. “Nothing is so exhausting as indecision, and nothing is so mired in ________ .”

—Bertrand Russell

a. futility  b. vituperation  c. subterfuge  d. foment  e. iniquity

33. “Most quarrels are ________ at the time, incredible afterwards.”

—E. M. Forster

a. rash  b. salient  c. trenchant  d. inevitable  e. whimsical

34. “We live at the mercy of a ________ word. A sound, a mere disturbance of the air sinks into our very soul sometimes.”

—Joseph Conrad

a. reviled  b. malevolent  c. vexatious  d. innocuous  e. evanescent

35. “There must be some good in the cocktail party to account for its immense ________ among otherwise sane people.”

—Evelyn Waugh

a. vogue  b. cupidity  c. calumny  d. audacity  e. asperity

36. “One drifting yellow leaf on a windowsill can be a city dweller’s fall, ________ and melancholy as any hillside in New England.”

—E. B. White

a. somber  b. cryptic  c. pungent  d. aloof  e. doleful

37. “For generations of German plutocrats, duelling was a bastion against weakness, effeminacy, and ________ .”

—Arthur Krystal

a. redress  b. sophistry  c. decadence  d. temerity  e. vituperation
38. “No one weeps more ________ than the hardened scoundrel as was proved when a sentimental play was performed before an audience of gangsters whose eyes were seen to be red and swollen.”

—Hesketh Pearson

a. copiously  b. vapidly  c. raucously  d. nominally  e. laudably

39. “My greatest problem is my dislike of ________, of battle. I do not like wrestling matches or arguments. I seek harmony. If it is not there, I move away.”

—Anais Nin

a. artifice  b. avarice  c. celerity  d. belligerence  e. diversity

40. “The only agreeable existence is one of idleness, and that is not, unfortunately, always ________ with continuing to exist at all.”

—Rose Macauley

a. bogus  b. compatible  c. culpable  d. felicitous  e. inviolable

41. “Diaries are sometimes meant to be a ________ record of one’s daily waking hours. Sometimes they are an unconscious relief from the day’s tensions.”

—Edna Ferber

a. zealous  b. tacit  c. terse  d. supine  e. prudent

42. “Was there ever a wider and more loving conspiracy than that which keeps the ________ figure of Santa Claus from slipping away into the forsaken wonderland of the past?”

—Hamilton Mabie

a. vigilant  b. venerable  c. sedate  d. frenetic  e. factitious

43. “For him who has no concentration, there is no ________.”

—Bhagavad Gita

a. tranquility  b. respite  c. solace  d. equanimity  e. humility

44. “Real excellence and ________ are not incompatible; on the contrary, they are twin sisters.”

—Jean Lacordiare

a. potential  b. inhibition  c. propinquity  d. equanimity  e. humility

45. “Children are cunning enough behind their innocent faces, though ________ might be a kinder word to describe them.”
a. recondite  b. prudent  c. fatuous  d. incisive  e. inexorable

46. “It is not easy to _______ of anything that has given us truer insight.”
   —John Spalding
   a. repent  b. rue  c. recant  d. eschew  e. cant

47. “There is no diplomacy like _______. You may lose by it now and then, but it will be a loss well gained if you do. Nothing is so boring as having to keep up a deception.”
   —E. V. Lucas
   a. hyperbole  b. chicanery  c. serenity  d. candor  e. opprobrium

48. “In America I was constantly being introduced to _______ persons by people who were unmistakably superior to those notables and most modestly unaware of it.”
   —John Ayscough
   a. eminent  b. ostentatious  c. mendacious  d. intrepid  e. garrulous

49. “It is because nature made me a _______ man, going hither and thither for conversation that I love proud and lonely things.”
   —W. B. Yeats
   a. magnanimous  b. fastidious  c. doleful  d. banal  e. gregarious

50. “My greatest problem here, in a _______-loving America, is my dislike of polemics, of belligerence, of battle.”
   —Anais Nin
   a. docile  b. polemic  c. fastidious  d. implacable  e. nebulous
THE LIGHTER TOUCH 100

The following jokes contain some of the words you have been taught in this book. Even the humorists know how to make use of a challenging vocabulary.

1. Henry joined Alcoholics Anonymous. He still imbibes, but under an assumed name.
2. A hapless man was run over by a steamroller. He’s in the hospital, in Rooms 36-42.
3. My father’s accountant treats people with compassion. His office has a recovery room.
4. Samson must have been quite a thespian, because he brought down the house.
5. Inanimate owls don’t give a hoot.
6. You’re probably an octogenarian if dialing long distance wears you out.
7. You have a right to be wary on a cheap airline if the oxygen mask has a meter on it.
8. The magnanimous husband bought his wife a clothes dryer—50 feet of clothesline.
9. He’s so proud of his longevity, he has an autographed Bible.
10. Victor has a voracious appetite; his favorite food is seconds.
11. With a pugnacious wife, it’s always better to give than to receive.
12. Henry Ford had millions, and yet he never had a yen for a Cadillac.
13. A woman in Tibet looked at her stove and quipped, “Oh, my baking yaks.”
14. The rabbit’s progeny consisted of ten bunnies. It beat the record by a hare.
15. My astute fish swims backwards. It keeps the water out of his eyes.
16. He made a bogus claim about the surgery to remove an ingrown cell phone.
17. The intrepid paratrooper spent three years climbing down trees he never climbed up.
18. Van Gogh had a voluminous output. As of today, Americans own 423 of his 72 paintings.
19. The frugal man complained about the cost of raising a baby. The nurse said, “Sure, but look how long they last.”
20. The maladjusted baby just started to eat solids—his crib, blanket, pillows.
21. My old neighborhood bristled with trouble; even the candy store had a bouncer.
22. Uncle Eddie is not bereft of curly locks. He’s just taller than his hair.
23. Today’s financial phenomenon—a dollar saved is a quarter earned.
24. “What is the name of your bank?” I asked the timorous investor. “Piggy,” he replied.
25. I don’t like my garrulous barber, because he talks behind my back.
26. The prudent girl found the key to looking beautiful—she hangs out with real ugly people.
27. The pigeons in our neighborhood are quite prescient, because they always know when my Dad has polished our car.
29. I’m such a dilatory reader that it takes me six weeks to read the Book of the Month.
30. Some make sporadic payments when their bills are due, some when overdue, some never do.
31. I asked the literary dilettante, “Have you read all of Shakespeare?” “I think so,” he replied, “unless he’s written something lately.”
32. A flying goose in a quandary asked, “Why do we always follow the same leader?” The goose next to him answered, “Because he’s got the map.”
33. A bore is the guy who, when you ask him how he feels, he tells you so with gusto.
34. The pertinent advice my father was given was to buy a used car when it was new.
35. A trenchant remark: a cat has nine lives, but a bullfrog croaks every night.
36. My family had to jettison our car. It had low mileage, but most of it from being towed.
37. The charity was reputed to have raised three million dollars. Now they are going out in search of a disease.
38. Squeamish about paying a restaurant check, he reached for it as though it were a subpoena.
39. He’s so parsimonious he tosses money around like manhole covers.
40. Han’s parents weren’t too thrilled with him. His mother had a penchant for wrapping his lunch in a road map.
41. The pompous actor ran the gamut from A to B.
42. Our glib doctor is a humorist. He said my uncle has the body of a 20-year-old—a twenty-year-old Chevy.
43. We call our vigilant dog Rolex, because he’s a watchdog.
44. My artless neighbor lost her dog but refused to put an ad in the newspaper—he said his dog can’t read.
45. Our doctor has a lucrative practice; he just bought a cemetery.
46. We heard of the asinine chicken who sat on an ax, trying to hatchet.
47. Mark asked his sage waiter, “What do you call two thousand pounds of Chinese soup?” The answer was, “Won ton.”
48. Last Christmas I told Santa what I wanted. His retort was, “Me, too.”
49. The abstemious young man boasted that he had finally given up trying to quit smoking.
50. P.T. Barnum’s grotesque two-headed man asked him for a raise. “After all,” he said, “I have two mouths to feed.”
51. Eddie is a paragon of style. He has a suit for every day of the year—and this is it.
52. It was so cold that, when the thermometer plunged to its nadir, I sneezed and broke my Kleenex.
53. My profligate brother was a two-letter man in college. Monday and Friday he wrote home for money.
54. She comes from a confused family. During the Civil War they were fervid supporters of the East.
55. Aunt Helen underwent plastic surgery after Uncle Ted, the martinet, cut up her credit cards.
56. Dr. Grill gave me an infallible cure for insomnia: “Get lots of sleep.”
57. My inebriated uncle stopped drinking recently. Two bars sued him for nonsupport.
58. The teenage driver is alleged to have received a ticket for making a U-turn in the Lincoln Tunnel.
59. The new miracle drug is a hoax. It keeps you alive only until your bill is paid.
60. What a fiasco was his attempt to raise eggplants by burying a chicken!
61. When I scrutinize the obituary column, it seems that everybody dies in alphabetical order.
62. I enjoyed the levity of the bumper sticker: DYSLEXICS OF THE WORLD UNTIE!
63. You know that bad times are rampant when couples get married because they need the rice.
64. An egotist is a man who doesn’t go around talking about other people.
65. Cousin Randy was in the sixth grade so long, they thought he was the pedagogue.
66. I’ve got a lot of frozen assets—ten T.V. dinners.
67. The English complain about nepotism, but the Queen got her job through family.
68. I caught a fish so mammoth that the picture required two cameras.
69. Jerry was frustrated trying to find his glasses without his glasses.
70. Never make an undertaker your adversary. Sooner or later he’ll have you dead to rights.
71. My affluent uncle always gives me cash for Christmas because it always will be the right size.
72. There was an awesome mishap at the circus yesterday. The lion tamer needs a tamer lion.
73. Did you hear of the plight of the new human cannonball? He was hired and fired the same night.
74. My brother made his first income since college. He had the audacity to sell the car my father gave him for graduation.
75. A conscience is that ominous inner voice that warns you someone is watching.
76. There’s no need to revere Jeff as a speaker; he never opens his mouth unless he has nothing to say.
77. The judge asked, “What bizarre reason can you have for freeing this defendant?” A juror replied, “Insanity.” The judge asked, “All twelve of you?”
78. In our neighborhood we don’t worry about crime in the street. The felons make house calls.
79. My parents went on an opulent cruise. The smokestacks had filter tips.
80. You can expedite your weight loss by giving up only two things: a knife and a fork.
81. Roger is so phlegmatic that he puts more people to sleep than ether.
82. She’s such a dupe that she put a zip code on the Gettysburg Address.
83. My erudite neighbor has a B.A., an M.A., a Ph.D., but no J.O.B.
84. We flew on a pecuniary airline. To save money, they use student drivers.
85. Our cuckoo clock is old and decrepit. All it does now is come out and shrug.
86. Eloise is a child prodigy; she can describe how an accordion works without using her hands.
87. Our neighbor had the temerity to borrow our car and then say, “Your air bag works.”
88. Dad’s birthday gift to Mom was not conducive to connubial bliss. She expected a Mercedes but got a toaster.
89. I read about the corpulent jockey who kept putting a la carte before the horse.
90. On our vacation, my father asked the imperturbable hotel clerk, “Do you take children?” “No,” the clerk answered, “only cash and credit cards.”
91. He had universal bad luck. He spent years paying off a funeral plot, and then he died at sea.
92. My grandfather used to suffer from senility, but he forgot all about it.
93. Now I know why we could never keep up with our neighbors. The Joneses were just indicted for tax evasion.
94. In all candor, the movie was so bad that people were waiting in line to get out.
95. Aunt Minnie is so fastidious that when she’s having guests, she runs around putting in fresh lightbulbs.
96. There was such a paucity of money in his family that they couldn’t give his sister a sweet sixteen until she was twenty-eight.
97. Procrastination has its good side—you always have something to do tomorrow.
98. We went sightseeing until our eyes were sore. Then they took us to an idyllic sight for sore eyes.
99. Uncle Arthur acknowledged that Aunt Blanche must be descended from Noah because whenever they went anywhere, she took two of everything.
100. I know it’s a cliché, but on a trip whatever you want is in the other valise.
articulate “The senator’s supporters were upset by the adjectives used to describe him: clean and articulate.” Editorial, The New York Times

cabal “If a cabal’s secrets are revealed to the wind, you should not blame the wind for revealing them to the trees.” Kahlil Gibran

circuitous “Although it took a circuitous route, the curveball finally reached the catcher’s mitt.” Red Smith

denigrated “Napoleon’s henchmen denigrated the memory of Voltaire whose name the Emperor abhorred.” Christopher Morley

denouement “We all sat awaiting the denouement of the play in silence.” Mayne Reid

despot “The universe is not friendly to despots, and they all perish sooner or later.” Don Marquis, The Almost Perfect State

dilatory “Between dilatory payment and bankruptcy there is a great distance.” Samuel Johnson

dolorous “Diabetic patients are constantly tormented by dolorous sensations.” William Roberts

emanating “The feudal idea viewed all rights as emanating from a head landlord.” John Stuart Mill

enervated “I have had one of my many spasms which has almost enervated me.” Lord Nelson, Letters

extenuating “In Clive’s case there were many extenuating circumstances.” Dame Rose Macaulay

foreboding “We are more disturbed by forebodings of a calamity which threatens us than by one which has befallen us.” John Lancaster Spalding

glut “The world in that age had a glut rather than a famine of saints.” R. S. Fuller, Holy War

grandeur “I have studied the glories of Greece but am more impressed by the grandeur of Rome.” Rainer Maria Rilke

guile “Oh, that deceit should steal such gentle shapes, And with a virtuous vizard hide foul guile.” Shakespeare, Richard III
impasse “We expect the impasse between Britain and Iran to be resolved this weekend.” United Nations Press Release

impregnable “The Maginot Line, a French system of fortifications, was considered impregnable at the start of World War II. The Columbia Encyclopedia

inflicted “Many of the cares that we are inflicted with are but a morbid way of looking at our privileges.” Sir Walter Scott

insurgent “The insurgents’ improvised explosive devices killed six more American soldiers yesterday.” Michael Ware, CNN TV Broadcast

knell “Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell / That summons thee to heaven or to hell.” Shakespeare, Macbeth

macabre “The Mardi Gras parade featured rowdy celebrants wearing macabre masks and colorful costumes.” Eliza Berman, Let the Good Times Roll

miscreant “This is the basic measure of damages, and it’s owed by the miscreants to the company and shareholders.” Ben Stein, State of the Union

mortal “All is mortal in nature, so is all nature in love mortal in folly.” Shakespeare, As You Like It

neophyte “The elaborate masked ritual of the courtroom holds attraction only for the neophyte and layman.” David Riesman

odious “You told a lie, an odious damned lie.” Shakespeare, Othello

pathological “A pathological liar is one whose lies are suggestive of a mental disorder.” Webster’s Medical Dictionary

patriarch “If a patriarch wants to put his foot down, the only safe place to do it in these days is in a note-book.” Florida Scott-Maxwell

polemic “My greatest problem here, in a polemic-loving America, is my dislike of polemics, of belligerence, of battle.” Anais Nin, The Diaries of Anais Nin

prescient “The Spanish Republic fell in April 1939, and World War II began soon after because those prescient fighters had not been heeded.” Edward Rothstein, Spanish Civil War

protocol “The most advantageous protocol is very rarely the one I did follow.” Andre Gide

ramifications “I don’t live in a laboratory; I have no way of knowing what ramifications my actions will have.” Hugh Prather
rapacious “Charles V levied fines with rapacious exactness.” James Robertson

regimen “I guarantee weight loss when my regimen is followed strictly.” Dr. Robert Atkins

reverie “All through the ages, people have regarded their reveries as sources of wisdom.” Rollo May

risible “He is the most risible misanthrope I ever met with.” Tobias Smollett, Humphrey Clinker

specious “It was a specious argument but delivered so effectively that it was convincing.” Murray Bromberg, Wagers of Sin

suffrage “My successor was chosen by general suffrage.” John Marsden

thespian “I regard Liev Schreiber as the outstanding thespian of our times.” Ben Brantley, Theatre Critic, The New York Times

toxic “A hope, if it is not big enough, can prove toxic; for hope is more essentially an irritant than a soporific.” William Bolitho

verbatim “Court reporters have to be able to take 250 words a minute in their verbatim accounts.” Court Reporters’ Association Guide
ANSWERS

◆ WEEK 1

Day 1 1. replete 2. eminent 3. steeped 4. voracious 5. indiscriminate 6. d 7. c 8. a 9. e 10. b


Day 3 1. compounded 2. annals 3. paradoxes 4. tinge 5. realm 6. b 7. e 8. d 9. c 10. a

Day 4 1. drudgery 2. badgers or badgered 3. perceives or perceived 4. implored 5. interminable 6. e 7. c 8. a 9. b 10. d

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 1. annals 2. replete 3. matron 4. implore 5. interminable

◆ WEEK 2


Day 2 1. hapless 2. irate 3. furtive 4. plethora 5. felon 6. e 7. b 8. d 9. c 10. a

Day 3 1. vigilant 2. adroit 3. fabricate 4. pretext 5. gesticulate 6. c 7. a 8. b 9. e 10. d


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 2. felon 2. pretext 3. cajole 4. fabricate 5. vigilant

◆ WEEK 3
Day 5

k 19. f 20. p 21. v 22. w 23. u 24. x

WORDSEARCH 3 1. cessation 2. wrest 3. infamous 4. bristle 5. caustic

❖ WEEK 4

Day 5

o 19. s 20. q 21. w 22. v 23. x 24. u


WORDSEARCH 4 1. aspirant 2. sordid 3. belittle 4. scurrilous 5. frenzy

❖ WEEK 5

Day 1 1. rampant 2. clandestine 3. ethics 4. inane 5. concur 6. e 7. c 8. b 9. d 10. a
Day 2 1. culprit 2. inexorable 3. duress 4. admonish 5. flagrant 6. c 7. e 8. b 9. d 10. a
Day 3 1. egregious 2. acrimonious 3. duplicity 4. paucity 5. distraught 6. d 7. c 8. b 9. e 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 5 1. ethics 2. pernicious 3. acrimonious 4. culprit 5. flagrant

❖ WEEK 6

Day 1 1. sally 2. affluent 3. consternation 4. feasible 5. discern 6. d 7. b 8. e 9. a 10. c

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 6 1. quell 2. consternation 3. fiasco 4. discern 5. laudable

❖ WEEK 7

Day 1 1. implacable 2. jurisdiction 3. paroxysm 4. skirmish 5. reprehensible 6. b 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. c
Day 4 1. terminate 2. forthwith 3. oust 4. revert 5. exacerbate 6. c 7. d 8. e 9. b 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 7 1. skirmish 2. turbulent 3. cognizant 4. indigent 5. reprehensible
**WEEK 8**


Day 2 1. sinister 2. besieged 3. afflicted 4. malnutrition 5. privation 6. b 7. e 8. d 9. a 10. c

Day 3 1. ubiquitous 2. remote 3. harbinger 4. thwart 5. malignant 6. b 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. c


Day 5


PARTS OF SPEECH 1. h 2. e 3. b 4. j 5. a 6. c 7. d 8. f 9. o 10. k 11. l 12. n 13. i 14. g, m

WORDSEARCH 8 1. succumb 2. sanctuary 3. harbinger 4. ascend 5. afflict

**WEEK 9**

Day 1 1. extortion 2. impresario 3. bigot 4. asset 5. adverse 6. c 7. e 8. b 9. d 10. a

Day 2 1. entourage 2. virulent 3. spew 4. venom 5. blatant 6. b 7. a 8. e 9. c 10. d

Day 3 1. loath 2. solicit 3. astute 4. advocate 5. ineffectual 6. d 7. e 8. a 9. b 10. c


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 9 1. scrutinize 2. vexatious 3. virulent 4. astute 5. nefarious

**WEEK 10**


Day 2 1. obsessed 2. mastiff 3. doleful 4. pertinent 5. wan 6. b 7. e 8. d 9. a 10. c

Day 4 1. imminent 2. squeamish 3. engrossed 4. salient 5. inert 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. e 10. d

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 10 1. squeamish 2. recoil 3. engrossed 4. desist 5. interject

❖ WEEK 11

Day 1 1. poignant 2. garbled 3. fruitless 4. inundated 5. sanguine 6. d 7. a 8. e 9. b 10. c


Day 3 1. elapse 2. sporadic 3. domicile 4. lax 5. meticulous 6. b 7. e 8. d 9. a 10. c


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 11 1. garbled 2. meticulous 3. inundate 4. comprehensive 5. sanguine

❖ WEEK 12

Day 1 1. diatribe 2. ilk 3. incoherent 4. fortuitous 5. inhibitions 6. d 7. e 8. c 9. b 10. a


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 12 1. prestigious 2. flamboyant 3. ilk 4. inhibitions 5. remuneration

❖ WEEK 13

Day 1 1. importune 2. haven 3. subjugate 4. surreptitious 5. incontrovertible 6. b 7. a 8. e 9. d 10. c

Day 2 1. eventuated 2. subterranean 3. emit 4. ultimate 5. viable 6. b 7. e 8. d 9. a 10. c


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 13 1. cryptic 2. importune 3. ultimate 4. viable 5. incredulous

❖ WEEK 14

Day 1 1. nettle 2. aspire 3. inveigh 4. overt 5. relegate 6. d 7. e 8. a 9. b 10. c

Day 2 1. supine 2. razed 3. repulse


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 14 1. nettled 2. inveighed 3. stereotype 4. bias 5. scurry

WEEK 15

Day 1 1. complicity 2. liquidation 3. culpable 4. recant 5. accomplice 6. b 7. d 8. c 9. e 10. a

Day 2 1. preclude 2. alleged 3. abrogate 4. invalidate 5. access 6. e 7. b 8. a 9. c 10. d

Day 3 1. extrinsic 2. persevere 3. landmark 4. declaim 5. fetter 6. d 7. e 8. b 9. c 10. a

Day 4 1. nomadic 2. paragon 3. controversial 4. asperity 5. epithets 6. b 7. c 8. a 9. e 10. d

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 15 1. abrogate 2. culpable 3. epithets 4. recant 5. controversial

WEEK 16


Day 2 1. prolific 2. antithesis 3. sedentary 4. frugal 5. bulwark 6. a 7. c 8. e 9. b 10. d


Day 5

WORDSEARCH 16 1, frugal 2, cache 3, interloper 4, temerity 5, cupidity

❖ WEEK 17

Day 1 1, fallacious 2, consummate 3, concoct 4, perpetrate 5, subterfuge 6, c 7, b 8, d 9, a 10.

Day 2 1, manifold 2, fraught 3, impeccable 4, resourceful 5, assiduous 6, c 7, d 8, b 9, e 10, a

Day 3 1, hoax 2, components 3, labyrinth 4, evaluate 5, murky 6, a 7, b 8, c 9, d 10, e

Day 4 1, gullible 2, deploy 3, attest 4, exult 5, enigma 6, e 7, a 8, b 9, c 10, d

Day 5

REVIEW 1, c 2, d 3, g 4, e 5, i 6, a 7, f 8, p 9, l 10, k 11, j 12, n 13, b 14, m 15, o 16, q 17, t 18, s 19, h 20, b, r 21, u 22, v 23, w 24, x

WORDSEARCH 17 1, assiduous 2, resourceful 3, fallacious 4, labyrinth 5, consummate

❖ WEEK 18

Day 1 1, innate 2, abortive 3, modify 4, spontaneous 5, accommodate 6, a 7, e 8, b 9, d 10, c

Day 2 1, crave 2, myriad 3, irrelevant 4, urbane 5, veneer 6, d 7, b 8, c 9, a 10, e

Day 3 1, deem 2, buff 3, romp 4, latent 5, inherent 6, e 7, c 8, d 9, b 10, a

Day 4 1, tortuous 2, conjugal 3, peregrination 4, itinerant 5, barometer 6, b 7, a 8, c 9, d 10, e

Day 5

REVIEW 1, c 2, f 3, j 4, o 5, q 6, i 7, m 8, l, d 9, d, l 10, a 11, n 12, t 13, s 14, r 15, p 16, h 17, g 18, k 19, e 20, b 21, v 22, x 23, w 24, u

WORDSEARCH 18 1, barometer 2, itinerant 3, myriad 4, deem 5, accommodate

❖ WEEK 19

Day 1 1, profligate 2, strife 3, legion 4, coup 5, megalomania 6, e 7, c 8, a 9, d 10, b
Day 2 mendacious, exonerate, expatriate, fiat, amnesty, c, 7, a, 8, d, 9, e, 10, b

Day 3 dismantle, sumptuous, parsimonious, pecuniary, underwrite, d, 7, b, 8, c, 9, e

Day 4 restrictive, blunt, nostalgia, rife, balk, e, 7, c, 8, b, 9, d, 10, a

Day 5

REVIEW, r, 2, l, 3, j, 4, a, 5, c, 6, e, 7, h, 8, n, 9, p, 10, g, 11, i, 12, t, 13, s, 14, q, 15, m, 16, k, 17, o, 18, b, 19, d, 20, f, 21, x, 22, u, 23, v, 24, w

WORDSEARCH 19, legion, underwrite, rife, balk, blunt

WEEK 20

Day 1 nebulous, reviled, indict, pesky, derogatory, d, 7, b, 8, e, 9, c, 10, a

Day 2 repose, abstemious, redolent, omnivorous, disparate, b, 7, e, 8, d, 9, a, 10, c

Day 3 extant, vicissitudes, edifice, sultry, trenchant, d, 7, b, 8, e, 9, c, 10, a

Day 4 lugubrious, puissant, unabated, maudlin, levity, e, 7, d, 8, a, 9, c, 10, b

Day 5

REVIEW, o, 2, g, 3, a, 4, c, 5, k, 6, i, 7, e, 8, d, 9, b, 10, f, 11, h, 12, m, 13, l, 14, n, 15, j, 16, t, 17, q, 18, p, 19, s, 20, r, 21, v, 22, w, 23, u, 24, x

HAPLESS HEADLINES, 1, j, 2, e, 3, d, 4, t, 5, h, 6, q, 7, i, 8, r, 9, f, 10, k

WORDSEARCH 20, pesky, unabated, indict, redolent, reviled

WEEK 21

Day 1 opulence, scion, obsequious, indoctrinate, fulsome, b, 7, e, 8, c, 9, a, 10, d

Day 2 lush, ponder, destitution, supplication, decadence, e, 7, b, 8, c, 9, d, 10, a

Day 3 disciple, metamorphosis, penance, ascetic, desultory, b, 7, d, 8, c, 9, e, 10, a

Day 4 nurture, bona fide, salvation, nirvana, materialism, d, 7, e, 8, b, 9, a, 10, c

WORDSEARCH 21 1. metamorphosis 2. disciple 3. salvation 4. bona fide 5. ponder

❖ WEEK 22

Day 1 1. juxtapose 2. incompatibility 3. cope 4. plight 5. covert 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. e 10. a

Day 2 1. fabricate 2. connubial 3. demur 4. appellation 5. incapacitated 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. a 10. b

Day 3 1. escalation 2. indifference 3. potential 4. cumulative 5. recondite 6. d 7. e 8. a 9. b 10. c


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 22 1. indifference 2. plight 3. acknowledge 4. cope 5. prelude

❖ WEEK 23

Day 1 1. maladjusted 2. heterogeneous 3. perspicacious 4. analogous 5. gamut 6. e 7. a 8. b 9. d 10. c


Day 3 1. enunciate 2. irascible 3. introspective 4. pedagogue 5. inordinate 6. e 7. c 8. b 9. a 10. d


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 23 1. pedagogue 2. decade 3. heterogeneous 4. gamut 5. perspicacious
Week 24

Day 1 1. inanimate 2. artifact 3. fetish 4. anthropologist 5. bizarre 6. d 7. a 8. e 9. c 10. b
Day 2 1. tainted 2. prohibition 3. imprudent 4. taboo 5. imperative 6. c 7. e 8. b 9. d 10. a

Day 5

ADJ. LDRS./NOUN FOL. 1. m 2. c 3. a 4. o 5. e 6. k 7. b 8. j 9. i 10. g
WORDSEARCH 24 1. imprudent 2. inviolable 3. artifact 4. imperative 5. inanimate

Week 25

Day 1 1. eruption 2. puny 3. debris 4. awesome 5. dispersed 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. e 10. b
Day 2 1. conflagration 2. obliterate 3. rue 4. initiate 5. deplorable 6. c 7. b 8. d 9. e 10. a
Day 3 1. hoard 2. sage 3. congenial 4. aegis 5. detriment 6. b 7. d 8. e 9. c 10. a

Day 5

WORDSEARCH 25 1. deplorable 2. obliterate 3. rue 4. detriment 5. aegis

Week 26

Day 1 1. hostile 2. prevalent 3. lethargic 4. paramount 5. remiss 6. b 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. c
Day 2 1. aversion 2. superficial 3. rebuke 4. evince 5. vogue 6. b 7. c 8. e 9. d 10. a
Day 4 1. acute 2. transient 3. gist 4. terse 5. cogent 6. e 7. c 8. d 9. b 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 26 1. prevalent 2. inevitable 3. superficial 4. cogent 5. jettison

WEEK 27

Day 1 1. array 2. culminate 3. pinnacle 4. ardent 5. obscure 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. a 10. e

Day 2 1. bereft 2. exultation 3. constrict 4. prodigy 5. falter 6. d 7. e 8. c 9. b 10. a


Day 4 1. inveterate 2. pungent 3. adamant 4. humility 5. egotist 6. b 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. c

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 27 1. retrospect 2. ardent 3. obscure 4. culminate 5. falter
**WEEK 28**

Day 1 1. propinquity 2. vulnerable 3. cacophony 4. exploit 5. bedlam 6. b 7. e 8. a 9. c 10. d


Day 3 1. sedate 2. serenity 3. equanimity 4. compatible 5. revere 6. b 7. c 8. e 9. a 10. d


Day 5


**DOING DOUBLE DUTY** 1. hoard 3. transient 6. sedate 7. sage 8. rebuke 10. obscure 11. exploit

WORDSEARCH 28 1. impede 2. serenity 3. cacophony 4. irrational 5. infallible

**WEEK 29**


Day 2 1. apathy 2. exhort 3. inebriated 4. fracas 5. adversary 6. d 7. c 8. e 9. b 10. a

Day 3 1. gusto 2. banal 3. platitude 4. indolent 5. garrulous 6. c 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. b

Day 4 1. dilettante 2. atypical 3. nondescript 4. wane 5. pique 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. e 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 29 1. apathy 2. pathetic 3. indolent 4. platitude 5. adversary

**WEEK 30**


Day 2 1. condescend 2. malign 3. jocose 4. candor 5. mortify 6. c 7. d 8. e 9. a 10. b


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 30 1. extinct 2. galvanize 3. peremptory 4. malign 5. candor

❖ WEEK 31

Day 1 1. fervid 2. heresy 3. prudent 4. ostensible 5. spurious 6. c 7. d 8. e 9. a 10. b


Day 3 1. concomitant 2. strident 3. lassitude 4. deleterious 5. efficacy 6. e 7. c 8. d 9. b 10. a

Day 4 1. incumbent 2. ferment 3. dissent 4. attenuated 5. arbiter 6. c 7. d 8. b 9. e 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 31 1. deleterious 2. spurious 3. ostensible 4. dissent 5. concomitant

❖ WEEK 32

Day 1 1. expedite 2. celerity 3. profound 4. alleviate 5. prodigious 6. d 7. c 8. e 9. a 10. b


Day 4 1. salubrious 2. archaic 3. facetious 4. rabid 5. emulate 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. e 10. a

Day 5


conservative 7, nadir 8, tiny 9, condemn 10, clear 11, authentic 12, harmful 13, helpful 14, wordy 15, urbane

WORDSEARCH 32 1, prodigious 2, usurp 3, celerity 4, venerable 5, salubrious

❖ WEEK 33

Day 1 1, complacent 2, debilitate 3, occult 4, somber 5, impetuous 6, c 7, e 8, d 9, b 10, a

Day 2 1, foment 2, slovenly 3, quarry 4, discreet 5, glean 6, a 7, e 8, b 9, c 10, d

Day 3 1, penitent 2, evanescent 3, reproach 4, tantamount 5, abjure 6, c 7, b 8, d 9, e 10, a

Day 4 1, connoisseur 2, allay 3, propensity 4, wary 5, deter 6, c 7, e 8, d 9, a 10, b

Day 5

REVIEW 1, d 2, t 3, f 4, s 5, e 6, g 7, q 8, p 9, a 10, r 11, n 12, m 13, c 14, h 15, k 16, o 17, b 18, i 19, j 20, l 21, v 22, x 23, w 24, u

WORDSEARCH 33 1, abjure 2, wary 3, complacent 4, somber 5, glean

❖ WEEK 34

Day 1 1, cumbersome 2, interrogate 3, vigil 4, divulge 5, site 6, e 7, c 8, a 9, b 10, d

Day 2 1, unmitigated 2, commodious 3, antiquated 4, fluctuate 5, disheveled 6, b 7, d 8, a 9, e 10, c

Day 3 1, tenacious 2, calumny 3, grimace 4, asinine 5, façade 6, d 7, c 8, b 9, e 10, a

Day 4 1, au courant 2, pittance 3, unkempt 4, noisome 5, fastidious 6, c 7, e 8, d 9, b 10, a

Day 5

REVIEW 1, p 2, q 3, k 4, b 5, t 6, s 7, h 8, f 9, i 10, r 11, g 12, j 13, n 14, l 15, c 16, e 17, a 18, d 19, o 20, m 21, x 22, v 23, u 24, w

WORDSEARCH 34 1, unmitigated 2, asinine 3, tenacious 4, antiquated 5, au courant

❖ WEEK 35

Day 1 1, lampoon 2, whimsical 3, parable 4, sanctimonious 5, countenance 6, d 7, a 8, e 9, c


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 35 1. parable 2. refute 3. hirsute 4. equanimity 5. whet

WEEK 36

Day 1 1. degrade 2. venial 3. genre 4. unsavory 5. candid 6. c 7. e 8. b 9. a 10. d

Day 2 1. grotesque 2. compassion 3. epitome 4. repugnant 5. dexterity 6. b 7. e 8. a 9. d 10. c

Day 3 1. acme 2. depict 3. naive 4. copious 5. vehemently 6. c 7. d 8. b 9. e 10. a


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 36 1. copious 2. naive 3. epitome 4. ignominious 5. depict

WEEK 37

Day 1 1. servile 2. sojourn 3. confront 4. volition 5. antipathy 6. d 7. c 8. e 9. b 10. a


Day 5
REVIEW 1, f 2, e 3, d 4, j 5, l 6, m 7, h 8, i 9, g 10, c 11, o 12, t 13, s 14, n 15, r 16, q 17, b 18, k 19, p 20, a 21, x 22, w 23, u 24, v

WORDSEARCH 37 1, nascent 2, felicitous 3, halcyon 4, confront 5, superfluous

❖ WEEK 38


Day 2 1. fatal 2. passé 3. facets 4. procrastinate 5. stagnant 6. b 7. c 8. e 9. a 10. d


Day 4 1. chicanery 2. docile 3. tacit 4. reticent 5. retort 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. e 10. b

Day 5
REVIEW 1, f 2, k 3, l 4, r 5, e 6, c 7, b 8, d 9, h 10, s 11, i 12, q 13, j 14, a 15, g 16, o 17, n 18, m 19, t 20, p 21, v 22, u 23, w 24, x

WORDSEARCH 38 1, homogeneous 2, trend 3, reticent 4, tantalize 5, facet

❖ WEEK 39

Day 1 1. saga 2. imperturbable 3. belated 4. decrepit 5. vacillates 6. b 7. d 8. c 9. e 10. a


Day 5
REVIEW 1, m 2, n 3, p 4, a 5, j 6, i 7, h 8, f 9, d 10, k 11, t 12, g 13, r 14, l 15, b 16, o 17, q 18, c 19, s 20, e 21, v 22, u 23, x 24, w

WORDSEARCH 39 1, infraction 2, heinous 3, opprobrium 4, imperturbable 5, staunch
**WEEK 40**

Day 1 1. clique 2. rhetoric 3. facile 4. extol 5. mentor 6. b 7. e 8. d 9. a 10. c
Day 3 1. proximity 2. lassitude 3. vapid 4. unwieldy 5. vitiate 6. c 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. b
Day 4 1. fatuous 2. repertoire 3. imperceptible 4. contort 5. augment 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. e 10. a

Day 5


HAPLESS HEADLINES 1. e 2. k 3. p 4. c 5. q 6. g 7. d 8. s 9. n 10. a

WORDSEARCH 40 1. umbrage 2. extol 3. fatuous 4. imperceptible 5. vilify

**WEEK 41**

Day 2 1. sanction 2. insidious 3. allude 4. potpourri 5. denotes 6. d 7. c 8. e 9. b 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 41 1. insidious 2. bogus 3. propriety 4. intrinsic 5. sanction

**WEEK 42**

Day 1 1. negligible 2. quandary 3. expedient 4. callous 5. blasé 6. c 7. b 8. d 9. e 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 42 1. requisite 2. blasé 3. capricious 4. diversity 5. delve

Week 43

Day 1 1. ameliorate 2. roster 3. stunt 4. atrophy 5. maim 6. c 7. a 8. b 9. e 10. d


Day 4 1. vestige 2. pariah 3. aloof 4. guise 5. pragmatic 6. b 7. c 8. e 9. d 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 43 1. benevolent 2. pariah 3. guise 4. iniquity 5. ameliorate

Week 44

Day 1 1. futility 2. technology 3. nullify 4. carnage 5. deluged 6. c 7. b 8. e 9. a 10. d

Day 2 1. canard 2. defamatory 3. plaintiff 4. libel 5. deprecate 6. c 7. d 8. b 9. e 10. a

Day 3 1. excori ate 2. frail 3. potent 4. reputed 5. devout 6. a 7. c 8. e 9. d 10. b

Day 4 1. impromptu 2. malevolent 3. profuse 4. diminutive 5. dulcet 6. b 7. e 8. d 9. c 10. a

Day 5


WORDSEARCH 44 1. profuse 2. deluge 3. carnage 4. excoriate 5. nullify

❖ WEEK 45

Day 1 1. raiment 2. rail 3. corpulent 4. wistful 5. brigand 6. c 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. b

Day 2 1. rift 2. raconteur 3. sullen 4. emissary 5. ruminate 6. c 7. a 8. d 9. e 10. b

Day 3 1. livid 2. taut 3. martinet 4. yen 5. bagatelle 6. b 7. c 8. a 9. e 10. d


Day 5


WORDSEARCH 45 1. appalled 2. penchant 3. corpulent 4. emissary 5. decapitate

❖ WEEK 46

Day 1 1. burgeoned 2. ascertain 3. disseminate 4. dormant 5. potentate 6. b 7. c 8. d 9. e 10. a

Day 2 1. internecine 2. derived 3. nepotism 4. prerogative 5. dearth 6. d 7. c 8. e 9. a 10. b


Day 5


WHICH WORD? 1. h 2. i 3. e 4. l 5. c 6. m 7. b 8. n 9. p 10. f

WORDSEARCH 46 1. ascertain 2. burgeoned 3. derived 4. dormant 5. encomium
Buried Words

1st Week: automaton interminable
2nd Week: gesticulate rudimentary
3rd Week: condolence lackluster
4th Week: tangible promulgate
5th Week: impunity paucity
6th Week: perverse consternation
7th Week: terminate implacable
8th Week: harbinger remote
9th Week: virulent entourage
10th Week: peruse salient
11th Week: elapse corroborate
diatribe utopia
12th Week: incontrovertible
13th Week: inchoate
14th Week: sinecure aspire
15th Week: controversial accomplice
16th Week: antithesis bulwark
17th Week: consummate
deploy

18th Week: urbane
iterant

19th Week: sumptuous
underwrite

20th Week: lugubrious
abstemious

21st Week: scion
decadence

22nd Week: palliate
connubial

23rd Week: compensatory
phenomenon

24th Week: imprudent
contemptuous

25th Week: doddering
detriment

26th Week: prevalent
hostile

27th Week: falter
adamant

28th Week: impede
cacophony

29th Week: apathy
nondescript

30th Week: malign
wheedle

31st Week: strident
deleterious

32nd Week: archaic
condone

33rd Week: evanescent
complacent
grimace
34th Week: commodious

35th Week: parable
gaunt
epitome
covet

36th Week: sojourn
nascent

37th Week: malleable
chicanery

38th Week: unconscionable
vituperation

39th Week: repertoire
lassitude

40th Week: shibboleth
spate

41st Week: requisite
diversity

42nd Week: atrophy
repent

43rd Week: malevolent
profuse

44th Week: penchant
callow

45th Week: factitious
internecine

Words in Context
Answers to Final Review Test

1. b  2. a  3. a  4. d  5. a  6. c  7. b  8. d  9. c  10. a  11. d  12. b  13. a  14. c  15. c  16. a  17. b  18. a  19. b  20. d  21. d  22. a  23. c  24. c  25. c  26. a  27. b  28. d  29. a  30. c  31. d  32. a  33. b  34. b  35. a  36. a  37. d  38. c  39. b  40. c  41. a  42. b  43. d  44. a  45. a  46. c  47. d  48. c  49. d  50. c  51. b  52. a  53. b  54. b  55. c  56. a  57. d  58. c  59. a  60. d  61. b  62. c  63. b  64. a  65. d  66. a  67. c  68. c  69. a  70. d  71. b  72. c  73. a  74. d  75. b  76. c  77. d  78. c  79. a  80. a  81. b  82. d  83. b  84. a  85. d  86. b  87. a  88. b  89. a  90. d  91. b  92. a  93. b  94. d  95. b  96. a  97. b  98. d  99. b  100. d  101. c  102. a  103. b  104. d  105. a  106. b  107. a  108. c  109. d  110. d  111. b  112. c  113. a  114. d  115. c  116. d  117. a  118. a  119. c  120. a  121. c  122. d  123. c  124. c  125. a  126. b  127. a  128. c  129. d  130. c  131. a  132. c  133. b  134. a  135. b  136. d  137. b  138. d  139. a  140. b  141. c  142. d  143. d  144. b  145. a  146. b  147. b  148. a  149. c  150. c
ANSWERS

❖ Week A

Day 1


Day 2


Day 3

1. rapacious 2. insurgent 3. knell 4. macabre 5. ramifications 6. e 7. c 8. a 9. b 10. d

Day 4


Day 5

REVIEW


SENSIBLE SENTENCES?


WORDSEARCH A

1. emanating 2. toxic 3. rapacious 4. glut 5. ramifications

❖ Week B

Day 1


Day 2

Day 3
1. impasse 2. grandeur 3. articulate 4. pathological 5. polemic 6. c 7. a 8. b 9. e 10. d

Day 4

Day 5
REVIEW

WORDSEARCH B
1. articulate 2. enervated 3. reverie 4. guile 5. prescient

SENTENCE COMPLETION
1. a 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. b

VOC/QUOTES
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