

LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR READINGS

Section 1

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“BROWNIE”

Roger Fouts

Prereading Vocabulary

feisty	excitable, frisky, energetic
barely	hardly at all, only a little
chaperoned	looked after as an elder in charge
clambered	climbed awkwardly, scrambled
persistently	again and again, continuously
fender	the rounded, metal wheel-well protruding from the chassis of a truck or car, the mud-guard
sniping	attacking, biting
practically	in effect, nearly
devastating	profoundly damaging, causing extreme sadness and grief
aubade	a tribute to the dawn, usually a song or a poem

Idioms and Expressions

a fixture of our household	a person you are as used to seeing in your home as the fridge or the kitchen sink
baby-sat	took care of the kids while their parents were busy or away
he plowed ahead	went forward without pause
for a while	for some time
hit the brakes	stopped the car or truck abruptly

run him down

overtaken and then struck over

References

Chevy flatbed A popular American farm vehicle manufactured by Chevrolet; the back of a flatbed truck has no top, back or sides, which makes it easy to load with heavy things such as bales of hay.

Language Pointers

To compound means to join two or more things together to create a new thing.

A **compound adjective** is a descriptive word formed by joining two or more adjectives together. Compound adjectives are generally used to create more precise descriptions.

1. Compound Adjectives

Para. 2: “It happened during **cucumber-picking** season...”

Para. 2: “...me and my **nine-year-old** brother, Ed...”
 “...with my **twenty-year-old** brother, Bob...”

Para. 3: “...along the **well-worn** tire ruts in the road...”

Para. 3: “She was sniping at the **right front** tire.”

If the words used to create a compound adjective can stand alone and still make sense within the context of the sentence, hyphens are not used to join them together. For example, one could say, “She was sniping at the right tire,” or could say, “She was sniping at the front tire,” so no hyphen is necessary in the phrase, “sniping at the right front tire.” One could say, “along the worn tire ruts,” but not, “along the well tire ruts,” so a hyphen is necessary to create the compound adjective, “well-worn.”

A **compound sentence** is two or more independent clauses joined together with a coordinating conjunction such as “and” or “but.” The complete list of seven coordinating conjunctions available to form compound sentences may be memorized by the mnemonic device FANBOYS, standing for **f**or, **a**nd, **n**or, **b**ut, **o**r, **y**et, **s**o.

The following sentences from paragraph 3 comprise a complex sentence, a simple sentence preceded by a modifying phrase, then two compound sentences, then a simple sentence, standing in dramatic contrast after the much longer combinations coming before it. This is a fine example of effective sentence variation keyed to meaning. For more on simple, compound, and complex sentences, see “Preparing to Solve the 15 Common Errors” at the Text Enrichment Site, Handbook.

2. Simple vs. Compound Sentences

Para. 3: My brother Bob thought this was odd but didn't give Brownie much thought as he plowed ahead even as her barking became more frenzied. Then, without further warning, Brownie dove in front of the truck's front tire. I heard her shriek, **and** I felt a thump as we drove over her body. Bob hit the brakes, **and** we all got out. Brownie was dead.

In this example the use of long sentences, including two compound ones, adds impact to the stark, simple sentence that follows: "Brownie was dead."

+++

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

<H1>"Thanks for the Ride"

Alice Munro</H1>

<H2>Prereading Vocabulary</H2>

<GLOSSET><GLOS><KT>**absurdity**</KT> the quality of being ridiculous</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**acquiescent**</KT> compliant</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**billboards**</KT> large outdoor signs or advertisements</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**bootleggers**</KT> people selling goods (often alcohol) illegally</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**burrs**</KT> prickly seeds</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**derision**</KT> mockery, ridicule</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**fly-speckled**</KT> dotted with fly excrement</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**fraudulent**</KT> deceitful or dishonest</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**gravity**</KT> seriousness, significance</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**keenness**</KT> eagerness, enthusiasm</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**lassitude**</KT> weariness, fatigue</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**mope**</KT> be dejected, gloomy</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**omne animal**</KT> all living beings (Latin)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**plastered**</KT> stuck</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**premeditation**</KT> deliberate planning of some action</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**pretentious**</KT> an outward, exaggerated show of importance</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**privies**</KT> outside toilets</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**pudgy**</KT> overweight</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**pumps**</KT> water pumps</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**reducing**</KT> weight loss</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**slovenly**</KT> untidy</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**somnolent**</KT> sleepy, drowsy</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**stubble**</KT> the remains of grain stalks in a field after harvest</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**triste est**</KT> it is sad (Latin)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**verandah**</KT> an open balcony around the edge of a building</GLOS></GLOSSET>

<H2>Idioms and Expressions</H2>

<GLOSSET><GLOS><KT>**all-a-man left**</KT> a reference to square-dancing</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**bitching**</KT> complaining, whining</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>(to be) **broke**</KT> to have no money</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**nose-thumbing**</KT> to show irreverence, a lack of respect or concern</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**in a pinch**</KT> if absolutely necessary</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**stuck-up**</KT> snobbish, a feeling of superiority</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**toe-twirling**</KT> foolish pride</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>(to be) **touchy**</KT> to be sensitive about something</GLOS></GLOSSET>

<H2>References</H2>

<ML1><ITEM><LBL>**Burma-Shave signs**</LBL> advertising billboards for that men's shaving product, with interesting sayings or adages</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**CPR**</LBL> Canadian Pacific Railway</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Mickey Rooney**</LBL> an American movie star, the most famous child actor in America at one time</ITEM></ML1>

<H2>Language Pointers</H2>

<PARA>Direct speech is used frequently in this short story. When people are talking, however, the language used can be quite different (not as grammatically correct, because spoken more casually), from the language as normally written. The author can use direct speech in several ways to provide atmosphere in this short story and to help develop the characters of the people involved. These methods can be confusing to non-native speakers of English. Spoken language is always idiosyncratic.</PARA>

<NL>1. Words spelled the way they sound:<TB>

Linking Missing consonant(s) Other mispronunciation

Inna in a gran'daughter granddaughter peenies peonies

c'mon come on 'night goodnight clemantis clematis

gotta got to hangin' hanging

change's change is climbin' climbing

musta must have what'd what did

where's where does

ever'body everybody

<PARA>Another example of written form being used to imitate speech is the word “inter-esting.” The hyphens are used to show that each syllable is spoken slowly and carefully and with emphasis so that this adjective becomes a sarcastic comment on the irreverent story George has interrupted. Such slow speech is meant as mockery.</PARA></ITEM>

2. Questions being asked but not with a question word order:

When speaking, we may sometimes ask questions, particularly yes/no questions, without using “correct” word order. English speakers do this using sentence intonation, rising on the last syllable, to indicate that a question is being asked. Note the following examples from the story; the “missing” word or words are given in parentheses:

<EXM>“Okay if I call you Mickey?” (Is it . . .)

“There any other dance halls?” (Are there . . .)

“You want to go to a show?” (Do . . .)

“You got a car?” (Have . . .)

“Her mother not let her out at night?” (Doesn’t . . . let . . .)

“That so?” (Is . . .)

“You like that dress?” (Do . . .)

“That how you feel?” (Is . . .)

“You live near here?” (Do . . .) </EXM></ITEM>

3. “Eh” as a tag:

<PARA>The use of “eh” as a tag in a yes/no question is quite common in Canadian speech. Note the following examples:</PARA>

<EXM>“Fine, eh?”

“Feel like you finished your education tonight, eh?”

“Change’s as good as a rest, eh?”</EXM>

<PARA>Also note that the auxiliary verb needed to construct a yes/no question is missing in the first two examples. Once again, intonation is important in identifying these sentences as questions.</PARA></ITEM>

4. Missing vocabulary:

<PARA>In some spoken sentences, various words are “missing,” and so the utterances appear to be ungrammatical. Check the following examples and note the word or words that need to be “understood”:</PARA>

<EXM>“Dance hall down on the beach . . .” (The . . .)

“Too young.” (You’re . . .)

“. . . not so good either.” (. . . that’s . . .)

“Change’s as good as a rest, eh?” (A . . .)

“Doesn’t hear half what you say to her.” (She . . .)

“Depends.” (It . . .)

“My father’s.” (It’s . . .)

“Clean off, . . .” (It was cut . . .)

“Couldn’t open the coffin.” (They/We . . .)

“Used to take her out.” (He . . .) </EXM></ITEM></NL>

+++

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

<H1>“The Hockey Sweater”

Roch Carrier</H1>

<H2>Prereading Vocabulary</H2>

<GLOSSET><GLOS><KT>**abominable**</KT> hated, disgusting</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**Anglais**</KT> English (French)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**blazing**</KT> proceeding vigorously</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**Cher Monsieur**</KT> Dear Mr./Sir (French)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**counts**</KT> matters</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**daydreams**</KT> dreamlike thoughts of the future</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**Docteur**</KT> Doctor (French)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**persecution**</KT> harassment, persistently cruel treatment</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**strategies**</KT> plans to achieve a certain goal or outcome</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**tranquility**</KT> peace, calm, quiet</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**trounced**</KT> beat severely</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**vicar**</KT> a type of priest, minister, or
clergyman</GLOS></GLOSSET>

<H2>Language Pointers</H2>

<PARA>There are some good examples of the use of the conditional construction in this article. Conditional usage is always a variation of “If event A happens, then event B will occur.” There are some general verb tense rules that go along with the use of the conditional; please see “Conditional and Hypothetical Constructions” under “English Language Support Materials” at

<<URL><http://www.athabascau.ca/courses/engl/155/support/>

<PARA>Note the following examples from this reading:</PARA>

<EXM>“If you wear that old sweater, people are going to think we’re poor.”

(Clause A—simple present; Clause B—future with “going to”)

“... please send me what’s left, if there’s anything left.”

(Clause B [simple present] is followed by Clause A—simple present with future meaning [in this example])

“If you make up your mind about things before you try, my boy, you won’t go very far in this life.”

(Clause A—simple present; Clause B—simple future, negative)

“If you don’t keep this sweater, which fits you perfectly, I’ll have to write to Monsieur Eaton ...”

(Clause A—simple present; Clause B—simple future)

“And if he’s insulted, do you think he’ll be in a hurry to answer us?”

(Clause A—simple present; Clause B—simple future)

<NOTE>**Note:** It is grammatically correct to use a comma after Clause A when Clause A is used first in a sentence.</NOTE></EXM>

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“THE SUN IS YOUR ENEMY”

Douglas Coupland

Prereading Vocabulary

albino	born without any pigment in the skin, very white
tumblers	drinking glasses
sandpapered	rubbed with sandpaper, scoured with something rough
eschewed	avoided
pithy	short and to the point
appointed	officially chosen or designated
inevitability	certainty that something will happen, that fate is unfolding as it must
fascination	being extremely interested by something
ambivalent	torn between two sides, unsure
lanai	front facing patio (Hawaiian origin)
bungalow	a house built from a single level or floor
cosmetic surgery	often called plastic surgery, surgical operations to improve physical appearance, not to solve medical problems
liposuction	the surgical removal of body fat cells by vacuum
coyote-proof	constructed to keep out wild North American dogs
mini-malls	a shopping mall consisting of small specialty stores without any large chain department stores
chill	(colloquial) to relax
vandalized	damaged or destroyed in a criminal act
slacks	semi-formal pants, since the 1970s often made out of polyester
irked	bothered

lapsed	describes someone who no longer believes in or practices a religion
aflutter	shortened form of “in a flutter,” meaning agitated
garnered	gathered, gotten
survivalist	someone who stockpiles goods and builds bunker-like structures in preparation for a major catastrophe, an individual who practices survival skills such as coping with extreme climates or circumstances
serviceable	good enough, useable
taxidermied	a dead animal whose skin has been removed, preserved, and stuffed with material so as to appear alive has been taxidermied
analogy	a comparison between two processes or states
pedant	someone who excessively explains and/or argues small, inconsequential points, often with an inflated opinion of his or her own intellectual superiority
throttle	to physically attack, usually by choking
morose	unhappy, gloomy and silent
polyp	a small, harmless tumor or fleshy lump, usually growing in the nasal passages
malignant	cancerous, deadly
fleeced	colloquially means to be tricked out of money, literally means to have your fleece (the wool of a sheep) removed
aubade	a song or poem greeting the dawn
phenomenon	an occurrence or happening that is difficult to understand
keratosis lesion	a precancerous, open sore on the skin
ecstatic	experiencing ecstasy or extreme happiness
fissures	deep cracks
alluding	making reference to or suggesting something indirectly
carapace	a hard, exterior shell such as the back of a turtle

Idioms and Expressions

paper burns	small, painful cuts on the skin caused by accidentally catching the sharp, fine edge of a piece of paper
crooked their necks	to lengthen and bend necks into an awkward shape, usually to look upwards
rummaging through the dumpsters	to look through large trash bins, usually for something still edible that someone has thrown out as garbage
invade my space	a contemporary expression meaning to take over your home without being invited, to overstep personal boundaries
48-hour stubble	the beard-growth resulting from a man not having shaved his face for two days
some aging crock	insulting way to describe an older man, suggests he is somehow fraudulent
frittering away	to carelessly spend all of something
bond peddler	casual, mildly insulting term for a bond salesman, i.e. someone who sells debt securities
the drift	the intended meaning
surf Bunny	colloquial expression for a young woman who hangs out on the beach, either a surfer or a surfer's girlfriend

References

Brandon, Manitoba	a small Canadian city whose industries are primarily agriculture-related
Canadian prairies	a vast expanse of flat land in Western Canada, one of the world's foremost farming regions
Travelodge motel	a prominent hotel chain in the United States and Canada
Palm Springs, California	a desert city known to have a high ratio of retirees as well as an unusually large gay and lesbian community, the city is a

	popular celebrity retreat destination and notable for its expensive resorts and pool-side living
San Andreas fault	a large tectonic fault line or crack in the earth's surface; seismic activity along this fault causes frequent earthquake activity, and it is widely predicted that massive damage to the Palm Springs area is inevitable at some point in the not-too-distant future
Vegas showgirls	famous troupes of female dancers noted for their beauty and provocative costumes; they dance in large formations
Cutlass Supreme	a mid-sized car manufactured by Oldsmobile
a Mormon pamphleteering duo	missionaries of the Mormon faith who canvas door-to-door to provide information and find potential converts
Frigidaire	a mass-produced brand of refrigerator common in the United States
I. Magnin store	a now bankrupt high-fashion, luxury department store based in California, originated in high-end hotels
Navajo Indian blankets	textiles produced by the Navajo people who are native to California and known to be skilled weavers since at least the 1600s
nouvelle dinner	a fashionable meal prepared in the French manner of Nouvelle Cuisine, very stylized with an emphasis on lightness
Cathedral City	one of the cities in the Coachella Valley located between Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage; a large percentage of the population is Hispanic or Latino and services the resort and domestic service industry in Palm Springs
Bob Hope	Hope is an English-born, American entertainer famous for his vaudeville, Broadway, and military-tour performances in the first half of the 20 th century, as well as a prolific broadcasting career throughout the later part of the century. He died in 2003 at his home in California.
a Dali clock	melting clocks are a recurring image in the work of Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali and prominent in his famous painting <i>The Persistence of Memory</i> (1931)
Rancho Mirage	one of the cities in the Coachella Valley near Palm Springs noted for its golf resorts and country clubs; its population is almost entirely White

Rice Krispies	a common breakfast cereal made out of puffed, toasted rice; it is a classic of the Kelloggs corporation.
New York sidewalk ... card sharks	con artists who perform scams with card games or card tricks to cheat unsuspecting tourists and/or novices out of their money, common on New York city sidewalks
<i>Life Magazine</i>	a weekly, American news magazine of photojournalism published since 1936; extremely popular and culturally important for over forty years
Bondi Beach	a major beach in suburban Sydney, Australia, noted for its surf culture
valiums	a brand name drug widely prescribed, especially in the U.S., to reduce tension, anxiety, insomnia, and relief from symptoms of alcohol withdrawal; known to cause dependency, also known as Diazepam

Language Pointers

Juxtaposition is the side-by-side placing together of different things, either to highlight their similarities or to contrast their disparities. A sense of clash is produced when things that are juxtaposed do not fit together well. Douglas Coupland's *Generation X* characters are dissatisfied with the surreal, materialistic quality of modern life. One of the ways he creates a feeling of malaise is by juxtaposing vocabulary, styles, and scenarios that clash, for example, philosophizing during a beautiful sunset with picking "gunk" out of the snouts of dogs. The repeated clash of formal and colloquial, poetic and profane, intellectual and mundane, emphasizes the over-educated and under-employed circumstances his characters find themselves trapped in.

1. Clashing Vocabulary: Esoteric vs. Colloquial Language

These vocabulary choices clash within the sentences in which they are used.

Para. 2, sentence 4:
...nighttime pong of snapdragons... (pong is an esoteric term for "strong smell")

Para. 2, sentence 4:
...whiffs of swimming pool chlorine... (whiffs is a common term for "strong smell")

Para. 3, sentence 6:
...cottage cheesy guck... (guck is a very colloquial term that describes a slimy, unidentified substance)

Para. 3, sentence 6:
...winsome black mongrel eyes... (winsome is a formal, poetic adjective that means "lovely")

Para. 13, sentence 2:
...plonked herself down... (plonked is a colloquial way to say “sat down quickly”)

Para. 13, sentence 2:
... unconcerned by the impending fashion disaster... (“unconcerned”, “impending” and “disaster” are all formal, three-syllable words)

Para. 16, sentence 5:
...he thereupon commenced... (an excessively formal way to say “then he started”)

Para. 16, sentence 5:
...ways to ditch it... (a very casual way to say “get rid of it”)

2. Clashing Sentence Styles: Excessively Embellished vs. Unembellished

Para 2:
One and a half decades later my feelings are just as ambivalent and I sit on the front lanai of my rented bungalow in Palm Springs, California, grooming my two dogs, smelling the cinnamon nighttime pong of snapdragons and efficient whiffs of swimming pool chlorine that drift in from the courtyard while I wait for dawn.

Para 2:
My dogs are watching, too.

Para 16:
But then I tried to tell him that stuffed chickens are what life and new relationships was all about, but my explanation collapsed somewhere—the analogy became too mangled—and there was that awful woe-to-the-human-race silence you get from pendants who think they’re talking to half-wits.

Para 17 - 21:
“Chickens?” asked Dag.
“Yes, Chickens.”
“Well.”
“Yes.”
“Cluck cluck.”

Para. 37:
And what I *don’t* say is this: that this is also the same sun that makes me think of regal tangerines and dimwitted butterflies and lazy carp. And the ecstatic drops of pomegranate blood seeping from skin fissures of fruits rotting on the tree branch next door—drops that hang like rubies from their old brown leather source, alluding to the intense ovarian fertility inside.

Para. 4-5:
This world.
I tell you.

3. Clashing Imagery and Ideas: The Poetic vs. the Profane

Para. 3: "...the dewy surface of a bottle of cheap vodka..."

Para. 3: "I look east over the San Andreas fault that lies down the middle of the valley like a piece of overcooked meat."

Para. 22: "...I retired to the lanai where I am now, plucking possible yuppie fat from the snouts of my dogs and watching sunlight's first pinking of the Coachella Valley, the valley in which Palm Springs lies."

+++

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

"I SING THE SONG OF MY CONDOMINIUM"

Evelyn Lau

Prereading Vocabulary

condominium	a single apartment-style dwelling which is purchased and owned by the people living in it
morosely	very sad and quietly
erratic	sporadic, uneven, not regular
chummy	(informal) friendly
puttering	to spend time doing chores in a pleasant, relaxed way
litany	a long list of problems
gnashing	to grind your teeth together because you are very anxious or angry
proffering	to hold something towards somebody in your hands so that they can take it
frenzy	uncontrolled activity by a group of over-excited people

warbling	singing like a bird
bereftness	extreme sadness, hopelessness
obsession	an all-consuming, unhealthy interest in something to the exclusion of all else
vacillated	to quickly change one's feelings or opinions

Idioms and Expressions

my fancy turned to...	my feelings about what is interesting or desirable changed towards...
the growing ranks	the increasing numbers of a group of people
uncanny knack	seemingly supernatural skill or ability to do something that would appear impossible
house-warming party	a celebration held in a new home that someone has recently moved into
a good bargain	gotten for a low price, a good deal
in all good conscience	with respect to what is morally and ethically right

References

white picket fence	clichéd symbol of American domestic (i.e. pertaining to the home) bliss
soft focus	a photographic technique where details are somewhat blurred instead of very sharp
little Gertrude in John Cheever's <i>The Country Husband</i>	Little Gertrude is a character in the 1954 short story, <i>The Country Husband</i> , by Pulitzer-prize winning American author, John Cheever. The short story is widely-studied and is about the spiritual emptiness of suburban life. Little Gertrude is a minor character who often appears in various places around the neighborhood and inside people's homes, uninvited, to witness crucial moments in the plot.
White Shoulders	a brand name of common, mid-priced perfume

Loden (wallpaper)	(not commonly used) a deep-olive green, named for a German textile
Ranier Maria Rilke's <i>Autumn Day</i>	<i>Autumn Day</i> is the English translation of <i>Herbsttag</i> , a German poem about restlessness, homelessness and wandering, by great 20 th century Czech poet, Rilke.
Princess Marie von Thurn and Taxis-Hohenloe's castle	Between October 1911 and May 1912, Rilke stayed as a guest at the Castle Dunio in North-Eastern Italy where he wrote under the patronage of the Princess Marie of Thurn and Taxis. The castle was one of the homes of the princess' wealthy family.

Language Pointers

Jargon is a set of words and expressions used by a group of people in a particular profession or body of knowledge, such as the medical profession. Jargon typically frustrates those who don't understand it, and the word is often used disparagingly. In "I Sing the Song of my Condominium," Tan deploys Real Estate jargon to showcase her eventual inclusion into the once exclusive-seeming group.

1. Real Estate Jargon

prequalify	to achieve guaranteed approval from the bank
mortgage	the large loan agreement, usually from a bank, borrowed to buy real estate
tax returns	the annual income taxation paperwork filed to Revenue Canada on a yearly basis
RRSPs	Registered Retirement Savings Plans, a long-term savings for retirement account with tax benefits
yearly figure	an annual salary
interest rates	the fee in excess of an amount of money borrowed that must be repaid
car payments	monthly repayments towards a car loan
maximum RRSP payments	the greatest individual amount determined by Revenue Canada that one can put into their Registered Retirement Savings Plan in a given year without having to pay income taxes on the money
mutual funds	a professionally-managed investment

real-estate agent	a person who assists her or his clients in buying and selling homes (and other real estate) in order to earn a commission on every sale
500-square-foot	real estate is measured and described by its square-footage; the total floor-space of 500-square-feet is small
one-bedroom	homes are categorized and described, in real estate jargon, by the number of bedrooms they have
unit	a single-dwelling
suite	a slightly more appealing way to say apartment or set of rooms
first offer	the first sum of money a potential home-buyer offers to pay; the seller can accept or reject the offer, in which case subsequent offers might be made
sales history	the official documentation describing the ownership record of a building
current assessment	the appraised market value of a place determined by an official
penthouse	an expensive, luxury-suite that occupies the top-floor of an apartment building or condominium-complex
converted building	a building such as a warehouse that has been renovated into living spaces
priced below market value	for sale at a lower than average cost
would-be buyers	persons seeking to purchase real estate
display suite	an apartment in a complex used to show potential buyers what the other apartments, once built, will look like
price per square foot	the total price of a unit divided by the total floor space
monthly payments	the amount of the mortgage that will need to be repaid each month
financing company	a company that makes loans to individuals
fully renovated	completely repaired so that it is like new
bankruptcy	financial ruin, declared when one is unable to pay one's debts

price range	extending between the minimum and maximum amounts a person is able or willing to pay
contracts	official legal agreements
by-laws	laws made by local or municipal government
certified deposit cheques	funds that have been officially promised by a bank to clear in order to make an initial payment on a large purchase; American spelling is “checks”
take possession	to become the official owner on a designated date
homeowner	somebody who owns the real estate in which she or he lives

+++

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“THE KING AND I”

Michel Tremblay

Prereading Vocabulary

edifying	improves your mind or betters your moral character by teaching you a lesson
stentorian	very loud and powerful
manna	(biblical) a gift of heavenly food from God to the starving Israelites
depraved	morally corrupt
capitulations	defeats, surrenders
cellophane	a thin, transparent wrapper
listlessly	in a tired, uninterested way, without energy
blasé	unexcited

euphoria	short-lived but intense happiness
anonymous	unremarkable

Idioms and Expressions

dirty pictures	pornographic images
an Anglo	an English speaking Canadian
you little creep	small, unlikable person who is attempting something untoward
<i>in flagrante delicto</i>	(Latin) legal term meaning caught in the act of the crime
by omission	achieved without deliberate action
ages ago	colloquial, a very long time ago
lump in my throat	a feeling of constriction in the throat caused by emotion

References

Heidi	a 1927 film starring Shirley Temple in the wholesome role of a young Swiss orphan ; based on an 1880 children’s novel by Swiss author Johanna Spyin
Susan Hayward	a popular Hollywood film actress, played numerous leading lady roles during the 40s and 50s
Lana Turner	a film star, nicknamed “The Sweater Girl” because of her form-fitting apparel in her debut film, <i>They Won't Forget</i> (1937)
Marilyn Monroe lying in her Niagara Falls	Munroe was a glamorous, Hollywood icon. One movie poster advertising the film, <i>Niagara Falls</i> , released in 1953 and starring Marilyn Munroe, featured a larger-than-life Marilyn lying atop the Falls with water flowing over her scantily clad body.
Fernandel’s faces	a comedy star, France’s top comedic actor from the 30s through the 60s
Georges Guétaray	French film actor during the 40s and 50s, especially famous for his career as a singer and operetta star
Suzy Delair	French film star whose career spanned from the 30s through the 60s, also famous in France as a singer

the Palace theatre	a major 6-screen movie theatre in the centre of Montréal on Rue Sainte Catherine, opened in 1921 and closed in 2000
<i>The King and I</i>	<i>The King and I</i> is a 50s Broadway musical by Oscar and Hammerstein about an English widow who accepts a job as a live-in governess of the King of Siam's children; it is based on the novel <i>Anna and the King of Siam</i> by Margaret Landon. The 1956 film adaptation won 5 Academy awards including Best Actor (Yul Brynner), Best Actress (Deborah Kerr) and Best Music.
<i>La Presse</i>	a broadsheet newspaper founded in 1884, appealing to a middle-class readership, still popular in Quebec today
the Passe-Temps	a now defunct movie theatre on Montréal's Avenue du Mont-Royal
Mont-Royal Street	a popular, trendy Montréal hang-out with numerous theatres, patisseries, cafés, and boutiques
Pat Boone shoes	a popular singer in the 50s and 60s, Boone was also known as "the Kid in White Buck Shoes"; his footwear was emblematic of his clean-cut image
St. Catherine Street	Officially Rue St.-Catherine, it is downtown Montréal's primary commercial street; during the 50s it featured four large department stores and is still a major shopping destination
Ogilvy's	La Maison Ogilvy, founded 1886, better-known as Ogilvy's, is the last remaining major department store (from the 50s) on Montréal's Rue St.-Catherine where it is a popular and prominent landmark
Eaton's	Founded in 1869, Eaton's was once a landmark department store and Canada's most prominent retailer. In the twentieth century Eaton's was an uncommon Anglo presence in French-speaking Quebec, and in the late 50s and early 60s began to be seen by many in the growing Quebecois nationalist movement as a symbol of English-Canadian hegemony, especially because of its well-known English-only policy imposed on Francophone employees. After declaring bankruptcy in 1999, the chain is now defunct.
Remington and Plymouth labels	1950s record labels selling cheap, mass-produced and distributed classical recordings, low-cost and low-quality; both "competing" labels were by the same producer

Siamese man	a Thai man; Siam officially changed its name to Thailand in 1949
Patty Page and Gale Storm	best-selling 50s pop recording artists
Plateau Mont-Royal	densely populated center of a Northeast borough of the city of Montréal; a working-class neighborhood during the 50s, it is currently experiencing gentrification
Faubourg à mélasse	a working-class district in Montréal, now known as le quartier Sainte-Marie
Kresge's	now known as Kmart, a chain of discount department stores created by S.S. Kresge; Canadian Kresge's stores were sold to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1997
circumflex accents	an accent mark affecting the pronunciation of the vowels <i>ê</i> , <i>â</i> and <i>ô</i> in French; not used in English
joual	common name for the dialect of French spoken by working-class Montréalers; the name is derived from the pronunciation of the word "cheval" (horse) in that dialect
Krakatoa	an active Indonesian volcano with many eruptions in recorded history
Nirvana	Buddhist concept of highest spiritual attainment, a condition of extreme virtue, peace and bliss
8.5 on the Richter scale	The Richter scale measures the magnitude of earthquakes by their seismic activity; 8.5 is near the top and signifies a highly destructive earthquake causing severe damage within a 100 mile radius.
Cinemascope	an innovative widescreen movie format used from 1953-1967
Rogers and Hammerstein	Pulitzer Prize winning songwriting duo, famous for their many hit Broadway musicals

Language Pointers

1. *Faulty Parallelism for Humour*

When sentence elements are similar but fail to be expressed symmetrically, faulty parallelism occurs. Faulty Parallelism is a grammatical error that disturbs the flow of writing. In the following sentence, however, Tremblay uses it deliberately to achieve a comic effect:

Para. 1: “I wanted to see Susan Hayward in her strapless gowns, Lana Turner in her fuzzy sweaters, Marilyn Monroe lying in her Niagara Falls.”

2. *Use of Ellipses*

Ellipses (...) are used here to indicate a thought that trails off into silence and remains unfinished:

Para. 4: “If besides asking me my age, the cashier demanded some ID . . . if she called the police . . . if I landed in jail because I’d wanted to see a film that, in the end, was really too “adult” for me. . . .

3. *Hyperbole*

Hyperbole is intentional exaggeration used here for comedic effect:

Para. 3: “On Mont-Royal Street people were still talking about it.”

Para. 39: “The song was addressed to me personally!”

+++

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“NOT LIKE THE MOVIE”

Melisa-Maurice P. Jance van Renburg

Prereading Vocabulary

flourished	grew well and strong
dashing	handsome, charming, and well-dressed
practicums	work-experience assignments related to programs of study, intended to give students practical, hands-on experience
strenuous	difficult, requiring strength
cumulonimbus	a cloud formation usually producing heavy rains and storms
chaos	frenzied, unorganized activity, without any order

strobed	flashed on and off
contrived	constructed in an obvious way that seems false and unnatural

Idioms and Expressions

lived in “res”	to have lived in student residences or dorms
----------------	--

References

Purple Heart	a medal issued by the U.S. military, awarded to soldiers who have died or are wounded in military service
Florence	Florence Nightingale, a pioneer of modern nursing known for outstanding service during the Crimean War (1853–1856); a heroine
Cape Town	the third most populous city in South Africa
the Transvaal	an area of Northern South Africa
little Golf	a small model of car made by Volkswagen
Tim Horton’s	immensely popular Canadian chain of coffee and donut shops
Calgary Flames	an NHL hockey team based in the city of Calgary, Canada
pledged allegiance to the Queen	part of the Oath of citizenship in Canada that naturalizes immigrants as Canadian citizens

Language Pointers

1. *Cliché*

A cliché is an expression, phrase, image, or character that has been overused and has become stereotypical or trite. Writing that contains clichés or is composed in a clichéd style is stale, corny, and unoriginal. In the following examples, however, Melisa-Maurice P. Jance van Renburg uses clichés intentionally. She expects readers to recognize each cliché and how sharply the fantasies they describe are likely to contrast with reality.

clichéd imagery	Para. 1: “Her hair blew in the wind....” Para. 1: “...the single tear in her eye...” Para. 2: “...(his) bosom swollen with pride...”
-----------------	--

clichéd phrases	Para. 2: "...on the front lines of war..." Para. 2: "...two kids, a dog and a white picket fence." Para. 2: "Be careful what you wish for." Para. 12: "...to serve our fellow man."
clichéd characters	Para. 1: "...her true love..." Para. 2: "...a dashing young pilot..."
clichéd sentiments	Para. 1: "My love for men in uniform..." Para. 2: "...after the war, return as a heroine."

2. Adjectives ending in the -ic suffix

Para. 1: romantic	pertaining to romance, containing romance, ideal
Para. 1: dramatic	pertaining to drama, containing drama, adventure, and heroism
Para. 2: forensic	pertaining to the courts of law, used in connection with the legal system
Para. 4: academic	pertaining to academia, of an institute of higher learning
Para. 6: frantic	in a frenzied, anxious, disordered state
Para. 11: geriatric	pertaining to old-age, geriatrics