

SAT VOCABULARY GUIDE

THE ELOQUENT ONES



LEVEL A

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The Eloquent Ones

Unit 1

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 1.*

Greetings from the WPA

April 10, 1937
Butte, Montana

Dearest Rose,

I'd say I've been meaning to write for ages, and I think of you often, but I know you loathe and that sort of **servile** sentimentally, and I wouldn't **wrangle** about it next time we meet. Moe and I were just talking about when the three of us were together in Chicago. we got to reminiscing, and soon we were goofing around like we used to—we must have reverted halfway to infancy! he said you are working for the Works Progress Administration in New York. I have been writing for the WPA myself

Things got worse in Chicago after you left. I was in and out of odd jobs, mostly out of them, and I moved back to Montana. I stayed in Missoula for a bit, at my parents' house, which is the same **citadel** of good manners and polite that I remember. I am grateful they took me in, but I felt uncomfortable about it. I do not know why I should feel like **laggard** when everyone else is out of work, too, but it really got me down and put me in a **churlish** state of mind. After weeks of grumpily **hovering** around the house. I found work at a ranch that provided room and board.

When the job ended, I lucked into some work for the WPA. I am writing "objective descriptions" of town, countryside, and work projects. I watched construction on the Fort Peck dam. Now I am in Butte, climbing through **rubble** and machinery at the copper mines nearby. By official **decree**, I am here to record facts and figures, but I cannot resist interviewing the miners, and I believe this is the best writing work I've done. I will send you an **excerpt** one I have written more.

Send a letter if you can, or I'll come see you in New York when I am done with Butte.

Yours,
Henry

June 3, 1937
New York City, New York

Dear Henry,

It has been hard times out east, too, and worse this year, just after it had seemed the country was **groping** its way back to normalcy. The only artists I know making a living with their art are working for their WPA, and I am lucky to be one of them. I have done a series of food woodcuts for posters and may soon have a chance to **collaborate** with another painter on a mural for a hospital. Some of the work that the WPA artists produce is very good, but I haven't spent as much time worrying about **plaudits** and praise as about keeping the work lined up. Around two thousand New York artists are working for the Federal Arts Project this year. The pay's not much, but I wonder what I would be doing without it. Wonder is the beginning of wisdom but that is the kind of wisdom I am happy to put off.

just back from waiting on the predictably long line of our paychecks. it has become a social event. we pass the time chatting about painting and **jostling** each other out of line for a laugh.

I can hardly imagine you in New York, but that does not **preclude** your arrival.

Love,
Rose

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Adage

- (*n.*) a proverb, wise saying

EX. One way to begin an informal speech or an oral report is to quote an old _____

II. Bonanza

- (*n.*) a rich mass of ore in a mine; something very valuable, profitable, or rewarding; a source of wealth or prosperity; a very large amount; sudden profit or gain

EX. The thrilling adventure movie set in Alaska proved to be a box-office _____

III. Churlish

- (*adj.*) lacking politeness or good manners; lacking sensitivity; difficult to work with or deal with; rude

EX. The store manager instructed all the salesclerks to avoid _____ replies to customers' questions.

IV. Citadel

- (*n.*) a fortress that overlooks and protects a city; any strong or commanding place a medieval.

EX. A medieval _____ once guarded the capital city of the Greek island of Rhodes.

V. Collaborate

- (*v.*) to work with, work together

EX. Several students plan to _____ geology project for the annual science fair.

VI. Decree

- (*n.*) an order having the force of law; (*v.*) to issue such an order; to command firmly or forcefully

EX. Caesar Augustus issued a _____ that all the world be taxed.

EX. Why does nature always seem to _____ nasty weather for our annual family picnic.

VII. Discordant

- (*adj.*) disagreeable in sound, jarring; lacking in harmony

EX. Their little spat struck a _____ note in our otherwise happy family get-together.

VIII. Evolve

- (*v.*) to develop gradually; to rise to a higher level

EX. Authors hope that their notes, descriptions, and character sketches will _____ into a book.

IX. Excerpt

- (*n.*) a passage taken from a book, article, etc.; (*v.*) to take such a passage; to quote

EX. My essay includes a long _____ from a speech by Sojourner Truth.

EX. If you _____ some material from a reference book, be sure to enclose it in quotation marks.

X. Grope

- (*v.*) to feel about hesitantly with the hands; to search blindly and uncertainly

EX. When the power failed, we had to _____ in the dark to find a working flashlight.

XI. Hover

- (*v.*) to float or hang suspended over; to move back and forth uncertainly over or around

EX. A large group of vultures _____ in the air above the wounded animal.

XII. Jostle

- (*v.*) to make or force one's way by pushing or elbowing; to bump, brush against; to compete for

EX. I tried not to _____ other riders as I exited the crowded bus.

XIII. Laggard

- (*n.*) a person who moves slowly or falls behind; (*adj.*) falling behind; slow to move, act, or respond

EX. Tour guides often have to urge _____ to keep up with the rest of the group.

EX. Tenants who are _____ in paying rent run the risk of being forced to move.

XIV. Plaudits

- (*n., pl.*) applause; enthusiastic praise or approval

EX. The skaters who won the gold medals gratefully accepted the _____ of their fans.

XV. Preclude

- (*v.*) to make impossible, prevent, shut out

EX. Three wrong answers will _____ any contestant from entering the quiz show's final round.

XVI. Revert

- (*v.*) to return, go back

EX. Control of a property usually _____ legal owner when a lease is up.

XVII. Rubble

- (*n.*) broken stone or bricks; ruins

EX. Bulldozers and wrecking balls soon reduced the damaged building to a heap of smoking _____.

XVIII. Servile

- (*adj.*) of or relating to a slave; behaving like or suitable for a slave or a servant, menial; lacking spirit or independence, abjectly submissive
EX. Most serious performers prefer constructive criticism to _____ flattery.

XIX. Vigil

- (*n.*) a watch, especially at night; any period of watchful attention
EX. Thousands attended the solemn _____ at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

XX. Wrangle

- (*v.*) to quarrel or argue in a noisy, angry way; to obtain by argument; to herd; (*n.*) a noisy quarrel
EX. My brother and sister always _____ whose turn it is to take out the trash.
EX. The customer got into a nasty _____ the shopkeeper.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, the thirteen states (**hovered, wrangled**) so much that the nation seemed to be in danger of breaking up.
2. All those who (**decreed, collaborated**) with the enemy in the hope of gaining special favors will be punished severely.
3. The little club that they set up to talk over community problems (**evolved, jostled**) over the years into a national political organization.
4. As we searched through the (**rumble, citadel**) after the earthquake, it was heartbreaking to find such articles as a teakettle and a child's doll.
5. Every time he quotes an old (**vigil, adage**), he looks as though he has just had a brilliant new idea.
6. She raised so many objections to attending the dance that it was obvious she was (**groping, precluding**) for an excuse not to go.
7. The "broken-down old furniture" that the woman left to her children turned out to be a (**bonanza, rubble**) of valuable antiques.
8. I chose to read a(n) (**decree, excerpt**) from Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman for my poetry recitation.
9. The assembly speaker may have been boring, but that was no excuse for the students' (**laggard, churlish**) behavior toward him.
10. At midnight, the sentry took his post, standing (**citadel, vigil**) over the cache of weapons.
11. For weeks, an anxious world (**wrangled, hovered**) between war and peace as diplomats desperately struggled to resolve the crisis.
12. After much (**wrangling, precluding**), the student council was able to convince the principal to give students more passing time between classes.
13. A president needs advisors who will frankly explain what they really think, rather than just offer (**servile, discordant**) agreement and constant approval.
14. The landscape artists want to (**collaborate, evolve**) with the architects so that the entire house looks as though it is part of the natural environment.

15. The committee found it impossible to reach any agreement on the matter because the views of its members were so (**churlish, discordant**).
16. When I fumbled the ball on the three-yard line, the (**plaudits, excerpts**) of the crowd suddenly turned into jeers and catcalls.
17. After I had broken curfew for the third time in one week, my angry parents (**precluded, decreed**) that I was grounded for the rest of the term.
18. I refuse to accept the excuse that the pressures of a new job caused you to (**revert, grope**) to your old habit of cigarette smoking.
19. There are times when we all need to be (**jostled, reverted**) away from old, familiar ideas that may no longer be as true as they once seemed.
20. The principal was quick to approve new programs for our club but (**servile, laggard**) in providing financial support for them.
21. From the hundreds of newspaper items, the lawyer carefully (**collaborated, excerpted**) three short paragraphs that supported his case.
22. The fact that he was found guilty of a felony many years ago doesn't (**evolve, preclude**) his running for mayor.
23. I have always regarded our colleges and universities as (**citadels, plaudits**) of learning and bastions against ignorance and superstition.
24. After the operation, we sat in the hospital lounge, keeping a nightlong (**vigil, bonanza**) until we heard from the doctor.
25. I hate when people (**hover, rubble**) over me when I'm on my computer.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 2

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 2.*

Instant Cash

Who can imagine life today without an Automated Teller Machine (ATM)? They are available in **bountiful** numbers throughout the world. Yet that virtually indispensable dispenser of cash is less than half a century old!

The first mechanical cash dispenser was the brainchild of an **enterprising** Turkish American inventor, Luther George Simjian. His two hundred patents included devices such as flight simulators, a meat tenderizer, and self-posing portrait cameras. When the idea of an automated banking machine struck him, he registered twenty patents before any bank agreed to give it a trial run. It is easy to assume that the inventor of such a popular machine was laughing all the way to the bank. Simjian's cash machine, however, did not prove **durable**. Within six months of its installation in New York City in 1939, the device was removed due to lack of customer acceptance.

It was not until 1967, nearly thirty years later, that Barclays Bank, in a **gingerly** launch, cautiously rolled out a self-service machine in London, England, which proved successful. The mechanism was relatively primitive, at least by today's standards. The first cash machines relied on customers' use of prepaid tokens to retrieve envelopes with a fixed amount of cash inside.

Soon afterwards, many other banks became **avowed** champions of the cash machine. The banks' ostensible rationale was customer service. But it would be foolish to **minimize** the many advantages that cash machines proffered to the banks themselves. By the late 1970s, the highest fixed cost for the average large bank was its branches. The greatest variable cost and **detriment** to profits were its staff. Cash deposits and cash withdrawals accounted for a veritable **glut** of a typical bank's transactions. With their perennially **frugal** eye, bank accountants swiftly recognized that self-service operations could reduce branch staff costs by 70 percent.

Experts quickly determined that public acceptance of ATMs pivoted on convenience, simplicity, **speed**, security, and trust. Location was a key factor. For maximum efficiency, ATMs had to be located near public transport or in a shopping mall, not at a branch. The busier and more congested the location the better. Now, 75 percent of all cash dispensed by banks to their customers comes from cash machines. Devices that were originally spurned by the public are now **venerated** as essential institutions. Public acceptance of deposits by machine was significantly slower than customers' usage of ATMs for withdrawals. In general, it seems that customers still prefer and trust an over-the-counter transaction for deposits.

The future of the ATM seems assured. However, cash machines pose some interesting, unanswered questions. Will banks succeed, for example, in persuading their customers to **veer** away from long-ingrained habits and to utilize ATMs as often for deposits as for withdrawals? Will banks develop **oblique** advertising pitches, ingeniously slotted into the ATM program, and calculated to exploit revenue opportunities?

And what about security? An intriguing option is the issue of biometrics for customer identification. Everyone today knows about the problem of passwords. There are simply too many of them in people's lives. So, the possibility that customers will be able to identify themselves at the neighborhood ATM by, say, using a fingerprint on the screen or through face recognition (biometrics) might herald a real improvement. Biometrics will **invalidate** the cunning plans of **wanton** impostors. Now firmly established, ATMs may have an interesting future ahead of them.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Antics
- (*n. pl.*) ridiculous and unpredictable behavior or actions
EX. The _____ of the chimpanzees amused the crowds at the zoo.
- II. Avowed
- (*adj., part.*) declared openly and without shame, acknowledge
EX. The governor was an supporter of the plan to aid public libraries throughout the state.
- III. Banter
- (*v.*) to exchange playful remarks, tease; (*n.*) talk that is playful and teasing
EX. There is nothing my friends and I enjoy more than to _____ good-naturedly for hours.
EX. Casual _____ helps to pass the time during a long journey.
- IV. Bountiful
- (*adj.*) giving freely, generous; plentiful, given abundantly
EX. On Thanksgiving Day, people all over America celebrate the _____ gifts of nature.
- V. Congested
- (*adj., part.*) overcrowded, filled or occupied to excess
EX. The doctor grew very concerned when the patient's lungs became _____ with fluid.
- VI. Detriment
- (*n.*) harm or loss; injury, damage; a disadvantage; a cause of harm, injury, loss, or damage
EX. The home team survived a six-game losing streak with almost no _____ to its standing in the league.
- VII. Durable
- (*adj.*) sturdy, not easily worn out or destroyed; lasting for a long time; (*n. pl.*) consumer goods used repeatedly over a series of years
EX. Denim is a very _____ kind of fabric.
EX. Many people own household _____ such as furniture and appliances.
- VIII. Enterprising
- (*adj.*) energetic, willing and able to start something new; showing boldness and imagination
EX. An _____ young person may turn a hobby into a way of earning money.

- IX. Frugal
- (*adj.*) economical, avoiding waste and luxury; scanty, poor, meager
EX. At home, we usually prepare _____ but nourishing and delicious meals.
- X. Gingerly
- (*adj., adv.*) with extreme care or caution
EX. Difficult and demanding customers should be handled in a _____ and courteous manner.
EX. Pedestrians made their way _____ along the slippery, snow-covered streets.
- XI. Glut
- (*v.*) to provide more than is needed or wanted; to feed or fill to the point of overstuffing; (*n.*) an oversupply
EX. Hollywood studios _____ theaters with big-budget action movies during the summer season.
EX. When there is a _____ of gasoline on the market, prices at the pump may drop dramatically.
- XII. Incognito
- (*adj., adv.*) in a disguised state, under an assumed name or identity; (*n.*) the state of being disguised; a person in disguise
EX. Just before the battle of Agincourt, Shakespeare's King Henry V prowls through his camp _____.
EX. In a way, makeup artists are practitioners of the fine art of _____.
- XIII. Invalidate
- (*v.*) to make valueless, take away all force or effect
EX. Lawyers will try to _____ the contract.
- XIV. Legendary
- (*adj.*) described in well-known stories; existing in old stories (legends) rather than in real life
EX. Ajax was one of the _____ Greek heroes who fought before the walls of Troy.
- XV. Maim
- (*v.*) to cripple, disable, injure, mar, disfigure, mutilate
EX. Each year, accidental falls _____ thousands of people, some of them for life.
- XVI. Minimize
- (*v.*) to make as small as possible, make the least of; to make smaller than before
EX. Whenever you are in a car, you should wear your seatbelt to _____ the risk of injury in an accident.
- XVII. Oblique
- (*adj.*) slanting or sloping; not straightforward or direct
EX. The boxer's _____ blow left his opponent unscathed.

XVIII. Veer

- (*v.*) to change direction or course suddenly, turn aside, shift
EX. The huge storm finally _____ out to sea, leaving much destruction in its wake.

XIX. Venerate

- (*v.*) to regard with reverence, look up to with great respect
EX. In a number of cultures, it is customary for people to _____ the oldest members of society

XX. Wanton

- (*adj.*) reckless; heartless, unjustifiable; loose in morals; (*n.*) a spoiled, pampered person; one with low morals
EX. The brave superhero soon put a stop to the evil villain's acts of _____ cruelty.
EX. The main character in the popular miniseries was a charming but heartless _____.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. The mad Roman emperor Caligula believed that he was a god and expected people to (**venerate, veer**) him.
2. Our friendship has proved to be (**enterprising, durable**) because it is based on mutual respect and honesty.
3. I didn't want Charlotte to know that I was watching her, but occasionally I managed to steal a few (**oblique, legendary**) glances at her.
4. When they saw that they had been caught red-handed, they resorted to all kinds of (**detriments, antics**) in a vain attempt to prove their "innocence."
5. It was bad taste on your part to use that (**venerating, bantering**) tone when we were discussing such a sad event.
6. As a(n) (**avowed, gingerly**) supporter of women's rights, she believes that men and women should receive the same pay if they do the same jobs.
7. I will not try to (**minimize, banter**) the difficulties we face, but I am sure that we can overcome them by working together.
8. Although I love sports, I sometimes feel that television is becoming (**maimed, gluttoned**) with athletic events of all kinds.
9. After living for so long on a (**frugal, durable**) diet, I was amazed when I saw the variety of rich dishes served at the banquet.
10. Imagine our surprise when we found a trunk full of albums recorded by the (**legendary, incognito**) performer Ray Charles.
11. We are grateful for the (**frugal, bountiful**) legacy that our great artists and composers have given us.
12. April wrapped her puppy's wound (**gingerly, obliquely**) to avoid causing the pup any more pain.
13. Why do you suppose someone whose face is known all over the world would want to travel (**obliquely, incognito**)?
14. Detectives turn off the lights and use soft beams at the scene of a crime, as evidence is easier to see in (**wanton, oblique**) lighting.

15. Instead of just waiting for things to get better by themselves, we must be more **(legendary, enterprising)** in working for improvements.
16. We were shocked by their **(bountiful, wanton)** misuse of the money their parents had left them.
17. Self-confidence is a good quality; but if it is carried too far, it can be a **(detriment, glut)** to success in life.
18. Because of his repeated traffic violations, his driver's license has been **(congested, invalidated)**.
19. Orders for **(enterprising, durable)** goods such as computers and cell phones were up this year, thanks to a recent boost in our economy.
20. Your speech would have been better if you had stayed with your main idea instead of **(veering, bantering)** off to side issues.
21. The **(legendary, wanton)** deeds of Sherlock Holmes are so well known that many people think he really lived.
22. Children may be **(maimed, avowed)** in spirit as well as in body if they do not have a secure and loving home environment.
23. Instead of approaching him timidly and **(frugally, gingerly)**, tell him frankly what is on your mind.
24. Building a new skyscraper there will bring thousands of additional people into an area that is already **(invalidated, congested)**.
25. The politician tried to **(venerate, minimize)** his role in the cover-up.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 3

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 3.

Grand Columbian Unites the World

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World's Columbian Exposition to Open

Chicago Rolls Out Red Carpet for World Visitors

Chicago, Illinois-Drum roll, please!

After years of **prodigious** preparation and immense hard work, the World's Columbian Exposition, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's landing in America, opens to the public on May 1, 1893. It's spectacular! It's **audacious**! It's like nothing you've ever seen before!

Come one, come all, and experience the great World's Fair on the shores of Lake Michigan. President Grover Cleveland will be on hand to officially cut the ribbon.

Hundreds of thousands of electric lightbulbs will light up the night sky and illuminate the buildings. There will be exhibits from each state in the union and from many foreign countries that show the **relevant** inventions, achievements, and wares of each.

Commercial, agricultural, scientific, and artistic industries will be represented. Flags of the world will be **tethered** together in harmony. It promises to be the greatest monument to human progress witnessed thus far.

But the Fair will offer much more than homage to hard work and ingenuity. The organizers have **amassed** a plethora of captivating sideshows and entertainment.

The Midway Plaisance has been **allotted** as the site for musical reviews and street buskers, dancing, and carnival rides-including Mr. George Ferris's magnificent Chicago Wheel, standing 250 feet tall and offering a bird's-eye view of the Fair.

There is sailing on the lake and lagoons, and gondola rides on the Venetian waterways and canals. A long, moving sidewalk along the lakefront pier will take you to the casino-for just a nickel a **ticket**! Norway is sending a life-sized model of a Viking ship, and the Liberty Bell is traveling from Philadelphia aboard a flatbed rail car. Pyrotechnics and fireworks will herald the arrival of a replica of Columbus's vessels from Spain. Plus, the Hall of Agriculture will feature an 11-ton "Monster Cheese" sent by Canada and a 1,500-pound chocolate Venus de Milo (no sampling allowed!).

For the ladies, an added enticement is The Women's Building, designed by Miss Sophie Hayden, who graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in architecture the only woman to date to do so. And the Horticultural Hall is a paradise of exotic plants and flowers. Also not to be missed: The Court of Honor, at the center of the expo, known as the White City for its luminous white buildings.

New York, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., and our own hometown **vied** for the honor of hosting the exposition, and Chicago won. Some were **skittish**: Could Chicago pull it off? After the city suffered such devastating losses in the Great Fire two decades earlier, skeptics voiced concern. One wag said the choice of Chicago was "as mad as a March hare." And while it is true that planners **grappled** with delays, bad weather, and **myriad** logistical nightmares, prominent leaders and ordinary citizens worked in **unison** to make the exposition a success.

An **elite** group of top architects led by Daniel Burnham designed the 200 magnificent exposition buildings. These designers chose a classical architectural theme, which vexed and **perturbed** a few **willful** modernist planners but pleased the majority. Renowned landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted creator of New York's lush Central Park laid out the fairgrounds at Jackson Park, and it will be a most welcome addition to the city's panorama.

From our **perspective** (admittedly biased!), the Windy City is the perfect choice to host world visitors and celebrate our age of innovation and prosperity. The discovery of America deserves a splendid commemoration and all indications point to a grand triumph!

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Allot
- (v.) to assign or distribute in shares or portions
EX. The teacher _____ each student on the first day of school.
- II. Amass
- (v.) to bring together, collect, gather, especially for oneself; to come together, assemble
EX. A prudent investor can _____ a fortune in the stock market over the long run.
- III. Audacious
- (adj.) bold, adventurous, recklessly daring
EX. The audience cheered the _____ trapeze artists.
- IV. Comply
- (v.) to yield to a request or command
EX. Employees who fail to _____ company's rules may lose their jobs.
- V. Devoid
- (adj.) not having or using, lacking
EX. The old well on my grandparents' property has long been _____ of water.
- VI. Elite
- (n.) the choice part of a group of people or things; (adj.) superior
EX. Each year, the social _____ of the community sponsors several events to benefit local charities.
EX. You can get a fine education regardless of whether you attend an _____ school.
- VII. Grapple
- (n.) an iron hook used to grab and hold; (v.) to come to grips with, wrestle or fight with
EX. A ship equipped with _____ may be used to recover large pieces of wreckage from the ocean floor.
EX. Store employees _____ with the thieves and held them until the police arrived.
- VIII. Incapacitate
- (v.) to deprive of strength or ability; to make legally ineligible
EX. In the 1940s and 1950s, polio _____ thousands of people each year all over the world.

- IX. Instigate
- (*v.*) to urge on; to stir up, start, incite
EX. Several demonstrators in the angry crowd did their best to _____ a riot.
- X. Longevity
- (*n.*) long life, long duration, length of life
EX. The sea turtle is known for its _____
- XI. Myriad
- (*adj.*) in very great numbers; (*n.*) a very great number
EX. Scientists continue to make new discoveries in their studies of the _____ life-forms of the jungle.
EX. You will find information about a _____ of subjects on the Internet.
- XII. Perspective
- (*n.*) a point of view or general standpoint from which different things are viewed, physically or mentally; the appearance to the eye of various objects at a given time, place, or distance
EX. The designs for the children's playhouse were drawn to scale and in the right _____
- XIII. Perturb
- (*v.*) to trouble, make uneasy; to disturb greatly; to throw into confusion
EX. The rude and disruptive behavior of several party guests _____ the host and hostess.
- XIV. Prodigious
- (*adj.*) immense; extraordinary in bulk, size, or degree
EX. Few intellects have rivaled the _____ mind of Albert Einstein.
- XV. Relevant
- (*adj.*) connected with or related to the matter at hand
EX. I found several Web sites that provided information _____ to the topic of my research paper.
- XVI. Skittish
- (*adj.*) extremely nervous and easily frightened; shy or timid; extremely cautious; unstable, undependable
EX. Only an experienced and confident rider should mount a _____ horse.
- XVII. Tether
- (*n.*) a rope or chain used to fasten something to a fixed object; the outer limit of strength or resources; (*v.*) to fasten with a rope or chain
EX. Some young people find it difficult to break the emotional and financial _____ that bind them to their parents.
EX. Before the storm, I _____ the boat securely to the dock.

XVIII. Unison

- (*n.*) a sounding together; agreement or accord
EX. The members of our new student orchestra need to practice playing in _____.

XIX. Vie

- (*v.*) to compete; to strive for victory or superiority
EX. Many actors _____ the famous director's new film.

XX. Willful

- (*adj.*) stubbornly self-willed; done on purpose, deliberate
EX. After lengthy deliberations, the jury found the defendant guilty of _____ murder.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Jane Addams was not only profoundly (**perturbed, instigated**) by the suffering of other people but also tried hard to help them.
2. Great new discoveries in science can be made only by men and women with intellectual (**compliance, audacity**).
3. He has had such bad experiences with motorcycles that he has become extremely (**audacious, skittish**) of them.
4. If we have to share the same locker, please try to keep your things in the space (**allotted, amassed**) to you.
5. Perhaps in the long-term (**longevity, perspective**) of history, some events that seem very important now will prove to be minor.
6. She had devoted her life to (**amassing, minimizing**) not material riches but the love, respect, and thanks of every member of this community.
7. She delivered a simple, low-key speech, completely (**devoid, relevant**) of fancy language or emotional appeals.
8. My neighbor has all kinds of colorful kites and wind socks (**devoid, tethered**) to stakes in her yard, claiming that they keep the deer from eating her plants.
9. The bitter strike closed shops, shut down factories, and (**incapacitated, allotted**) an entire industry for months.
10. The defense has told you about the defendant's unhappy childhood, but how is this (**relevant, willful**) to the question of innocence or guilt?
11. Mr. Ponce knew that it was Tyler who blew the whistle in class, as Tyler is always (**amassing, instigating**) trouble.
12. I wonder why the camp directors were unwilling to (**comply, vie**) with my request to keep a pet snake in my tent.
13. How do you explain the fact that in practically every country the (**elite, longevity**) of women is greater than that of men?
14. (**Willful, Perturbed**) with her son's lazy ways, Ms. Lowry called the boy into the house, demanding that he clean up his room immediately.

15. As I glanced upward at the giant sequoia, I realized how (**prodigiously**, **audaciously**) tall these trees truly are.
16. We will never have a well-organized or effective club if all the members insist (willfully, skittishly) on having their own way.
17. As I stared at the luscious chocolate swirl cake, I bravely (**incapacitated**, **grappled**) with temptation-but the chocolate cake won!
18. People who come from rich and socially prominent families don't always belong to the intellectual (**myriad**, **elite**).
19. Our course in life sciences has given us some idea of the (**myriad**, **unison**) varieties of plants and animals inhabiting the earth.
20. I don't think anyone can hope to (**vie**, **perturb**) with Gloria in the election for "Most Popular Student."
21. Unless you want to (**amass**, **instigate**) a quarrel, don't make insulting remarks about my friends and family.
22. By the twentieth mile of a marathon, many runners have reached the end of their (**perspective**, **tether**).
23. Can you imagine what a (**relevant**, **prodigious**) amount of research is needed for a multivolume reference book such as the Encyclopedia Britannica?
24. In the next chorus, please try to sing in (**unison**, **compliance**).
25. Do you really think your story is (**relevant**, **compliant**) to this conversation?

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 4

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 4.*

Toni Cade Bambara

Toni Cade Bambara (1939-1995) wore many hats during her lifetime: writer, editor, teacher, filmmaker, activist, and social worker. Born in Harlem, she came of age during the civil rights movement and the stirrings of feminism. Bambara **deplored** social injustice. Her disapproval spurred her to work hard to **oust** injustice from American society. Her career united diverse interests in a single-minded effort to build and **bolster** equality and tolerance.

As a young woman, Bambara lived in New York City. She gained a faculty position at Livingston College, a new unit of Rutgers University designed to serve underprivileged students. She achieved academic recognition by editing the landmark anthology *The Black Woman* (1970). This collection featured poems, essays, and stories by stellar African American writers, including Alice Walker, Audre Lorde, and Nikki Giovanni. When one **peruses** the anthology today, it is hard to imagine that no one before Bambara had attempted such a project.

Two years later, Bambara **mustered** a group of short stories for her publication entitled *Gorilla, My Love*. It decisively **annulled** any doubt that Bambara was a major new voice in American fiction. The stylistic traits that her work was **prone** to are clearly visible: urban settings, first-person narrators, the theme of community, and an uncanny mastery of the spoken word. For Bambara, urban language was far from **frivolous**. Instead, she used it to plunge the reader into a real and edgy world. Bristling with sassy humor, Bambara's leading characters are often young black girls who refuse to knuckle under to prejudice or disrespect. Strong and self-reliant, they feel no **qualms** about talking back, as is shown by Squeaky, the narrator in one of Bambara's best-known stories, "Raymond's Run." Squeaky may not have been born on Easy Street, but as portrayed by Bambara, she possesses a wealth of wisdom and compassion at an early age.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Bambara **sustained** a hectic schedule of teaching, writing, and social and political activism. Her first novel, *The Salt Eaters* (1980), focuses on a fictional community organizer, Velma Henry. After suffering a nervous breakdown, Velma seeks **recourse** with an untraditional healer. In the novel, Bambara presents illness and pain as metaphors for social and political oppression. Health issues **obsess** many of the characters. The novel presents multiple perspectives and an intricate, experimental structure. *The Salt Eaters* won the American Book Award and the Langston Hughes Society Award in 1981.

During this period, Bambara was also active in documentary film work. Such films, she felt, could shake up indifferent viewers who had become **blasé** or **staid** about injustice and inequality. Her script for the film *The Bombing of Osage Avenue* (1986) received best documentary awards from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters and the National Black Programming Consortium.

It was also during this period that Bambara began the novel that many critics consider her masterpiece: *Those Bones Are Not My Child*. Harrowing and suspenseful, the novel presents a city caught in the grip of political and racial tensions. Sadly, Bambara did not live to complete this work. She died of cancer on December 9, 1995. The Nobel Prizewinning novelist Toni Morrison, ever **solicitous** of her good friend Bambara, saw the book through to publication. Bambara's work remains popular and is often included in anthologies of notable stories for young adults.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Annul

- (v.) to reduce to nothing; to make ineffective or inoperative; to declare legally invalid or void

EX. The state legislators voted by an overwhelming majority to _____ the out-of-date law.

II. Blasé

- (adj.) indifferent, bored as a result of having enjoyed many pleasures; apathetic

EX. Battle-hardened soldiers may tend to become a bit _____ about the dangers they face.

III. Bolster

- (v.) to support, give a boost to; (n.) a long pillow or cushion; a supporting post

EX. When you write a research paper, you should always use appropriate facts to _____ your case.

EX. The sofa has four comfortable _____.

IV. Deplore

- (v.) to feel or express regret or disapproval

EX. Social critics _____ widespread decline in good manners.

V. Frivolous

- (adj.) of little importance, not worthy of serious attention; not meant seriously

EX. I'll ignore your _____ suggestion.

VI. Muster

- (v.) to bring together for service or battle; to gather or summon; to amount to, comprise, include; (n.) a list of military personnel; a gathering, accumulation

EX. You will need to _____ your courage to face the bully who has been tormenting you.

EX. The sleepy new recruits assembled on the parade ground for the early morning _____.

VII. Nonentity

- (n.) a person or thing of no importance

EX. We may not be movie stars, but we did not deserve to be treated as _____ by the presumptuous and haughty headwaiter.

VIII. Obsess

- (v.) to trouble, haunt, or fill the mind

EX. If you allow fear of failure to _____ you, you will find it difficult or even impossible to achieve your goals in life.

- IX. Ornate
- (*adj.*) elaborately decorated; showily splendid
EX. If you ask me, an _____ gilded frame distracts the viewer's eye from a simple.
- X. Oust
- (*v.*) to remove, drive out of a position or place
EX. Military leaders _____ the duly elected president and took over the government.
- XI. Peruse
- (*v.*) to read thoroughly and carefully
EX. It is wise to have a lawyer _____ agreement before you sign it.
- XII. Porous
- (*adj.*) full of tiny holes; able to be penetrated by air or water
EX. Some synthetic materials are as _____ and strong as natural sponges.
- XIII. Promontory
- (*n.*) a high point of land extending into water
EX. We chose a high _____ overlooking the sea as the perfect spot for our picnic lunch.
- XIV. Prone
- (*adj.*) lying face down; inclined, likely
EX. Unfortunately, I am _____ to earaches and sinus infections.
- XV. Qualm
- (*n.*) a pang of conscience, uneasiness, misgiving, or doubt; a feeling of faintness or nausea
EX. Don't you have serious _____ about voting for such a relatively unknown and inexperienced candid?
- XVI. Recourse
- (*n.*) a person or thing turned to for help or advice; the act of seeking help or protection
EX. If my letter of complaint fails to get results, I will still have _____ to a higher authority.
- XVII. Residue
- (*n.*) a remainder, that which remains when a part has been u up or removed
EX. A _____ of sticky taffy made the pan difficult to clean.
- XVIII. Solicitous
- (*adj.*) showing concern or care; fearful or anxious about someone or something
EX. Neighbors made _____ inquiries about the state of the elderly couple's health.

XIX. Staid

- (*adj.*) serious and dignified; quiet or subdued in character or conduct
EX. Many companies have a dress code which requires that all employees wear _____ colors such as navy or gray.

XX. Sustain

- (*v.*) to support, nourish, keep up; to suffer, undergo; to bear under, withstand; to affirm the validity of
EX. You may _____ a serious eye injury if you forget to wear your safety goggles when you work with chemicals or power tools.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Isn't it strange that a great American writer like Emily Dickinson was considered a (**nonentity**, **promontory**) in her own lifetime?
2. admire the way Anne delivered a long, involved speech entirely without (**muster**, **recourse**) to written notes.
3. If you want to learn to play chess, I suggest that you begin by (**deploring**, **perusing**) a summary of the rules.
4. The team doctor ran onto the field toward the (**prone**, **solicitous**) figure of the injured football player.
5. The novelist is known for her (**staid**, **ornate**) writing style, using many unusual words, figures of speech, and involved constructions.
6. think that talking loudly on the phone in public so that everyone knows about you private life is (**deplorable**, **blasé**) behavior.
7. When the mile run began, Ken quickly took the lead, but we knew that he could not (**sustain**, **obsess**) that pace for the entire race.
8. After the claims of all the creditors have been satisfied, the (**residue**, **qualms**) of the estate will be shared by the children.
9. My uncle is (**sustained**, **obsessed**) with football and spends all day Sunday watching every game on television.
10. I hope someday to build a house on that (**nonentity**, **promontory**) commanding a beautiful view of the bay.
11. Because they failed to deliver the goods on time, we felt justified in (**annulling**, **perusing**) the entire contract.
12. it is all very well to criticize and (**bolster**, **deplore**) the mistakes of young people, but why don't you also give them credit for their good qualities?
13. After months of rejection, Leah decided to hire a professional manager, hoping to (**peruse**, **bolster**) her acting career.
14. While my sister's memory is as retentive as a steel trap, mine seems to be as (**porous**, **blasé**) as a sieve.

15. The way the witness blushed and stuttered when questioned (**ousted, bolstered**) my suspicions that he was not telling the truth.
16. I would not call Lucy a friend, as she made no (**qualms, muster**) about sharing your secret with everyone!
17. My brother tried to appear (**blase, obsessed**) when he was named to the honor society, but I know that he was thrilled.
18. I like jokes as much as anyone, but I don't approve of making such (**frivolous, porous**) remarks when a serious matter is under discussion.
19. We learned that behind the old professor's (**ornate, staid**) exterior there was a keen wit, and a lively sense of what life is all about.
20. After being the apple of her eye for years, I suddenly found myself (**ousted, sustained**) from her affections by an upstart rival.
21. "It will take all the strength we can (**annul, muster**) to dislodge the enemy from that hill," the general observed grimly.
22. Only a person who is (**obsessed, bolstered**) with a desire to create beautiful music can become a great pianist or violinist.
23. That wonderful woman could not have been more (**solicitous, frivolous**) of me if she had been my own mother.
24. believed at the time that I was justified in refusing to help them, but later I felt some (**qualms, recourse**) about it.
25. Those who think recess is a (**staid, frivolous**) activity do not see its purpose.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 5

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 5.*

Reality Check

Can we please write an **epitaph** for reality TV? It's been a controversial, even **volatile** issue since the very first reality shows appeared. Are the programs harmless escapism and fun, as their many fans claim? Or are they mean-spirited, vulgar displays that deserve our **disdain**? Some believe there is **ample** evidence that reality TV is contributing to the dumbing down of America.

Let's get real: Reality TV isn't going away any time soon, and reality programs, whether they're off-the-wall dramas or over-the-top competitions, are massive money makers that **pulverize** competing shows in the ratings. It's not **plausible** that TV executives will pull the plug on their cash cows.

But reality shows are proliferating at an alarming rate. More and more outrageous scenarios and crazy ideas--often aimed at the most **plebeian** tastes--are being given the green light. Standards are at an all-time low. Show directors create contrived situations--"Let's send the cast to Italy and unleash our 'heroes' on an unsuspecting populace!" or "Let's put a bunch of troubled people in **proximity** and see what happens!" Some programs are clearly **facetious** and light-hearted, but others leave us shaking our heads at the producers' **indiscriminate** lack of judgment, good taste, and values.

Meanwhile, reality shows that pit people against each other can be downright cruel. Participants are required to undergo humiliating trials and perform risky stunts as they vie for cash and prizes. We watch contestants **cower** in fear as they confront writhing snakes, poisonous spiders, and other terrifying things. Or we cringe as they break down in tears in reaction to verbal abuse hurled at them by egotistical experts. Viewers are left wondering if the unprincipled show creators have an **ethical** bone in their bodies.

Just how real are these people and their adventures? Evidence indicates some shows are scripted, or at least mapped out ahead of time. It's pretty obvious that most are playing to the camera. Ordinary people become instant celebrities, but they're often exploited by the media and **don't** know how to handle their fame. The message is faulty: You don't have to work hard or be talented to achieve success; you just need to land on a reality show. It's not that easy they're living in a fool's paradise.

As for "rehab" shows: Watching minor celebrities (or "D-listers") act out like toddlers and throw tantrums and scheme is like watching a train wreck in slow-mo--we can't turn away. There's **intrigue**! It's addictive! Just be sure to come back after the commercial break to see the next shocking and outlandish revelation!

Reality show devotees argue that there's nothing wrong with giving people what they want. Others make the case that only snobs put down reality TV-and they can always change channels if they don't like what's on. But when more people tune in to watch a reality star get married than watch the nightly news, or when more people can name the cast of a reality show than can name their own state's senators, our society is in *big* trouble.

We're experiencing reality overload, and it is time for a reality check. The Federal Communications Commission should **assert** its **jurisdiction** and put the brakes on the worst aspects of reality TV. Proponents of free speech might be **aghast**, but the **national** freak show needs to be tamed.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Addendum
 - (n.) a thing that is added; an appendix or addition to a book or written document
EX. The woman amended her will with an _____ when her husband suddenly died.
- II. Aghast
 - (adj.) filled with amazement, disgust, fear, or terror
EX. People were _____ at the senseless brutality of the crime.
- III. Ample
 - (adj.) more than enough, large, spacious
EX. Thanks to the wet spring weather, birds and other animals will have an _____ food supply for the rest of the year.
- IV. Apparition
 - (n.) a ghost or ghostly figure; an unexplained or unusual appearance
EX. The vivid _____ seemed so real that it completely unnerved me.
- V. Assert
 - (v.) to declare or state as truth, maintain or defend, put forward forcefully
EX. Throughout the trial and the lengthy appeal process that followed, the defendant _____ her innocence.
- VI. Cower
 - (v.) to crouch or shrink away in fear or shame
EX. The kittens _____ by the huge, growling dog. in the corner, frightened.
- VII. Disdain
 - (v.) to look upon with scorn; to refuse scornfully; (n.) a feeling of contempt
EX. I _____ their cowardly behavior.
EX. Fair-minded people feel _____ respect for racism.
- VIII. Epitaph
 - (n.) a brief statement written on a tomb or gravestone
EX. Most people never stop to consider the words that might one day appear as their own _____.
- IX. Ethical
 - (adj.) having to do with morals, values, right and wrong; in accordance with standards of right conduct; requiring a prescription for purchase
EX. New developments in medicine often lead to discussions of important _____ questions.

- X. Facetious
- (*adj.*) humorous, not meant seriously
EX. We had to laugh at her _____ remarks.
- XI. Inaudible
- (*adj.*) not able to be heard
EX. Some high-frequency sounds are _____ even the keenest human ear.
- XII. Indiscriminate
- (*adj.*) without restraint or control; unselective
EX. The _____ slaughter of white whales brought that species to the brink of extinction.
- XIII. Intrigue
- (*n.*) crafty dealings, underhanded plotting; (*v.*) to form and carry out plots; to puzzle or excite the curiosity
EX. Investigators uncovered a shocking network of lies and international _____.
EX. The old album full of faded family pictures and postcards from exotic places _____ me.
- XIV. Jurisdiction
- (*n.*) an area of authority or control; the right to administer justice
EX. Cases involving robbery and assault are usually tried under the _____ of the state courts.
- XV. Plausible
- (*adj.*) appearing true, reasonable, or fair
EX. Their story didn't sound _____ to me.
- XVI. Plebeian
- (*adj.*) common, vulgar; belonging to the lower class; (*n.*) a common person, member of the lower class
EX. The couple's taste in cars is quite _____.
EX. At one time, the _____ of ancient Rome were excluded from holding public office of any kind.
- XVII. Prodigal
- (*adj.*) wastefully extravagant; lavishly or generously abundant; (*n.*) one who is wasteful and self-indulgent
EX. We have a tight budget, but we make an exception for _____ celebrations of family birthdays.
EX. The elderly man told us that he greatly regretted the years he spent living the life of a _____.
- XVIII. Proximity
- (*n.*) nearness, closeness
EX. The house's _____ to schools is an asset.

XIX. Pulverize

- (*v.*) to grind or pound to a powder or dust; to destroy or overcome (as though by smashing into fragments)

EX. At many old mills in Vermont, granite stones were used to _____ the grain.

XX. Volatile

- (*adj.*) highly changeable, fickle; tending to become violent or explosive; changing readily from the liquid to the gaseous state

EX. A person who is usually calm and collected may nevertheless sometimes behave in a _____ manner.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. I wonder how many asteroids Superman could (**disdain**, **pulverize**) with his bare hands.
2. You can show respect for your supervisors without seeming to (**assert**, **cower**) whenever one of them speaks to you.
3. Deciding who is or isn't eligible for school athletic teams is not within the (**proximity**, **jurisdiction**) of the student council.
4. The purpose of this experiment is to find out whether a substance will dissolve more rapidly in water if it is thoroughly (**cowered**, **pulverized**).
5. Although I may not agree with what you have to say, I will always (**assert**, **disdain**) your right to say it.
6. Your thoughtless remarks hurt me deeply, even though you say that you were merely trying to be (**plausible**, **facetious**).
7. In recent decades, we have been forced to make greater use of our (**ample**, **inaudible**) coal supply to meet our growing energy needs.
8. It takes a practiced eye to make out the (**epitaphs**, **addendums**) on old, weather-beaten tombstones in a country churchyard.
9. One of the most (**intriguing**, **prodigal**) mysteries I have ever read involved a priest and was set in the Wild West.
10. I do not believe that people who come from poor families should be regarded as (**apparitions**, **plebeians**).
11. Government officials believe the pirate situation occurring in the high seas remains (**inaudible**, **volatile**) and requires immediate action.
12. My neighbor's furniture is supposed to be "original" and "colorful," but I think it is a(n) (**indiscriminate**, **facetious**) collection of junk.
13. It will take the two of us months of strict economizing to make up for this one weekend of (**ethical**, **prodigal**) shopping.
14. , In Shakespeare's Macbeth, the witches show the title character three prophetic (**ethics**, **apparitions**).

15. I find my friend's stories about life in her native country most (**plebeian, intriguing**).
16. Only a snob would show such (disdain, intrigue) for someone who doesn't drive a fancy car.
17. The tenant wanted the landlord to include a mold (**apparition, addendum**) in his lease so the owner would be responsible for any mold problems.
18. The (**proximity, epitaph**) of the leaders' ideas on many subjects made it easy for them to work together during that critical period of our history.
19. Sometimes, it is difficult to tell if my brother is being (**facetious, ethical**) or if he really means the things he says.
20. The voters, (**volatile, aghast**) that such scandal could occur in their town, demanded the mayor's immediate resignation.
21. I thought that my whispers to you were (**prodigal, inaudible**), but I learned otherwise when the teacher told me in no uncertain terms to be quiet.
22. Her moods are so (**ample, volatile**) that we never know if she will be in a good humor or down in the dumps.
23. His explanation that he is failing math because "the teacher is down on me" doesn't seem (**plausible, volatile**).
24. Lawyers may be punished by disbarment if it can be shown that they have violated the (**ethics, epitaphs**) of the legal profession.
25. The (**apparition, proximity**) of nuclear war inspired the international agreement.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 6

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 6.*

Diary of a Young Migrant Worker

This is a fictional diary of 12-year-old Eldora Soto Vega, a Mexican American girl in a family of migrant farmworkers in California in 1940. The family lived in temporary camps and moved from farm to farm to follow seasonal work, picking crops.

September 15, 1940

We are now on an enormous farm in the San Joaquin Valley, picking cotton. My brother Emilio is back after picking grapes in Napa. The long, hot days in the fields picking avocados and cantaloupes made us tired, because we started at five in the morning! The Anglos **ostracize** campesinos, and we stay in our own camps, sometimes living near an irrigation ditch. We use the ditch water for all our needs, and Mamá said this is why many get sick. The other farmworkers don't live like kings, but at least their camps have toilets and running water.

October 5, 1940

A few of the Anglo kids around here are nice, but most are **aloof** and ignore us, and some are just plain mean. I am jealous of a girl who **flaunts** her new jacket, **basking** in compliments, while my shoes are two sizes too small. My mother called California "the Land of Milk and Honey," but I am more **forthright**: How can such a bountiful place be so cruel?

We are **scapegoats** when anything goes wrong like yesterday, one of the bushels of cotton went missing. The foreman blamed my father, but we all know it was the foreman's nephew who misplaced it.

November 8, 1940

We are camped at another farm 20 miles north, picking peas. The rain is leaking through our shack's roof of burlap and palm leaves and onto my diary. It's one of the many **defects** of our little dwelling, but at least the rain gives us a chance to rest. My name, Eldora, means "golden," and Papá said he wanted to **instill** pride in me by giving me a name with significance. I try to remember that when I see signs like this one at the park: For White People Only. Mexicans and Filipinos Keep Out."

December 1, 1940

Our **genial** neighbor, Señora Medina, has set up a taqueria for the workers. She is getting a little old for fieldwork, but she wants to help the community, for in time of test, family is best. There was only enough corn dough for one taco each, and I am **abashed** to admit I took a second one. Señor Medina caught me, and I'm scared of **repercussions**, so I'll hide until things blow over!

December 6, 1940

I heard Mamá telling Papá she had a **premonition** something terrible would happen, and she was right. Our old car broke down, and now it's propped up on bricks because Papá sold the tires. Mamá tries to hide her **anguish**, but she is worried, because we can be "repatriated" to Mexico at any time, especially if we can no longer get from place to place. We were all born here, but we have no papers to prove it, and many others have already been sent back in a **purge** of Mexican and Mexican American workers. Officials say they want to keep the few jobs for "real" Americans. That's why Papá won't join a strike, even though he agrees with the strikers, because he can't risk being arrested.

December 20, 1940

Everyone says to stop dreaming, but I am **resolute** when I am grown, I will have a little house, and it will be more than a shack made out of cardboard boxes. I will have a garden, too. And I will go to school, and my children will not have to work like my brothers and sisters and I must.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Abashed

- (*adj., part.*) embarrassed, ashamed, or nonplussed

EX. I was thoroughly _____ by the foolish mistake I made at the dinner party.

II. Aloof

- (*adj.*) withdrawn, standing apart from others by choice

EX. In almost every office or business, there are some people who keep decidedly _____ from their coworkers.

III. Anguish

- (*n.*) great mental suffering, distress, or pain; (*v.*) to cause deep pain or sorrow

EX. Survivors of a natural disaster often suffer great mental _____ long after their terrible ordeal is over.

EX. The child's disappearance _____ every member of the community.

IV. Articulate

- (*v.*) to pronounce distinctly; to express well in words; to fit together into a system; (*adj.*) able to use language effectively; expressed clearly and forcefully

EX. A successful candidate can _____ ideas in a way that makes them acceptable to voters.

EX. To be successful as a professional lecturer, a person must, of necessity, be _____.

V. Bask

- (*v.*) to be in, or expose oneself to, pleasant warmth; to take pleasure in or derive enjoyment from

EX. Because they are cold-blooded, lizards and other reptiles must _____ in the sun to regulate their body temperature.

VI. Defect

- (*n.*) an imperfection, flaw, or blemish of some kind; (*v.*) to desert a cause or organization

EX. There is no one who does not have at least one serious character _____.

EX. In 1948 the Dixiecrats, a group of Southern Democrats, _____ from the Democratic Party and held their own presidential nominating convention.

VII. Finesse

- (*n.*) delicate skill; tact and cleverness; (*v.*) to accomplish something by cleverness, good judgment, or skillful evasion

EX. To become a champion, a tennis player needs to combine power with _____.

EX. Skilled politicians know how to _____ their answers to embarrassing questions from reporters.

VIII. Flaunt

- (*v.*) to wave or flutter showily; to display in a conceited, offensive way

EX. Some people seem to need to _____ wealth and good fortune in life.

IX. Forthright

- (*adj.*) frank, direct, straightforward

EX. I appreciate the _____ way in which you express your opinions, even when they do not agree with my own.

X. Genial

- (*adj.*) cordial, pleasantly cheerful or warm

EX. The _____ host and hostess made each party guest feel especially welcome.

XI. Instill

- (*v.*) to add gradually; to introduce or cause to be taken in

EX. How can parents best _____ in their children a love for reading?

XII. Ostracize

- (*v.*) to exclude from a group, banish, send away

EX. Society _____ those who commit acts of treason.

XIII. Premonition

- (*n.*) forewarning or foreboding of a future event

EX. I felt a vague _____ of danger as I entered the abandoned building.

XIV. Pseudonym

- (*n.*) a pen name, name assumed by a writer

EX. It is wise to use a _____ to protect your privacy when you chat on the Internet.

XV. Purge

- (*v.*) to wash away impurities, clean up; (*n.*) the process of getting rid of something or someone decisively

EX. A soaking rainstorm will usually _____ the air of pollutants.

EX. The change of government was achieved through an election, not through a brutal _____.

XVI. Rehabilitate

- (*v.*) to make over in good form; to restore to good condition or to a former position

EX. Government agencies have spent sums of money trying to _____ run-down inner-city neighborhoods.

XVII. Repercussion

- (*n.*) an effect or consequence of some action or event, result; an echo or reverberation

EX. The _____ of the 1929 stock market crash were felt all over the world.

XVIII. Resolute

- (*adj.*) bold, determined; firm

EX. Commencement-day speakers generally urge graduates to be _____ in pursuit of their dreams.

XIX. Retentive

- (*adj.*) able to hold, keep, or recall; retaining knowledge easily

EX. A _____ memory is a great asset for any actor.

XX. Scapegoat

- (*n.*) a person or thing carrying the blame for others

EX. In ancient times, a messenger who brought bad news was often made the _____ for it and killed.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Many female authors once used male (**repercussions**, **pseudonyms**) because it was considered improper for women to write novels.
2. She has lived (**aloof**, **retentive**) from other people for so long that it is hard for her to take part in everyday social affairs.
3. He's cleverly managed to (**rehabilitate**, **finesse**) his way into a very important position in this company.
4. It will be better if we all take responsibility for the mistake instead of letting one employee be the (**pseudonym**, **scapegoat**).
5. His prejudices are so strong that he wants to (**ostracize**, **bask**) all members of minority religious groups.
6. Jefferson preferred to (**articulate**, **defect**) his ideas about government and religion in writing rather than give public speeches.
7. Although he was trying to look unconcerned, I could see that he was much (**abashed**, **aloof**) by the teacher's criticism.
8. An actor who has (**basked**, **instilled**) for so long in the favor of the public finds it hard to realize that he or she is no longer popular.
9. It was shocking how quickly the singer was (**ostracized**, **defected**) for voicing her opinions about free speech.
10. She is not the most (**forthright**, **genial**) person in the world, but in her own way she is at least trying to be friendly.
11. The new governor's address was an unusually (**articulate**, **abashed**) and effective description of the challenges facing the state in the years ahead.
12. No matter how much time or effort it takes, I will (**purge**, **instill**) these unfair charges of disloyalty from my reputation!
13. Is it our duty to try to (**ostracize**, **instill**) a faith in democracy in the people of other lands?
14. My (**anguish**, **finesse**) at the loss of a loved one was all the greater when I realized that my carelessness had caused the accident.

15. The college student did not understand the serious (**premonitions, repercussions**) of plagiarism when he downloaded an essay from the Internet.
16. How can we ever forgive him for (detecting, purging) from our great cause at the very time we needed him most?
17. Fortunately, the soil is so (resolute, retentive) of moisture that the weeks of dry weather did not damage our crops.
18. By teaching her son how to garden and fish, Hilary hoped to (**flaunt, instill**) in him a love of nature.
19. I did not think that such an innocent conversation could have such serious (**repercussions, scapegoats**) on the outcome of an election.
20. It is possible to be honest and (**forthright, retentive**) in stating your views and opinions without being cruel or tactless.
21. Shakespeare tries to convey Brutus' (**defects, premonitions**) of defeat at Philippi by having Caesar's ghost appear to him the night before the battle.
22. We should now be just as (**genial, resolute**) in fighting for peace as the Americans of two hundred years ago were in fighting for independence.
23. It would be good taste on his part not to (**flaunt, ostracize**) all the honors and awards that he has won.
24. The purpose of our prison system is not just to punish offenders but to (**flaunt, rehabilitate**) them.
25. Many people view cats as (**finesse, aloof**) and averse to cuddling.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 7

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 7.*

The Discriminating Pigeon

by C.W. Senghor

The **attribute** of intelligence is a difficult aspect of animal life to measure. **Predatory** behavior, courtship rituals, nesting instincts, and many other phenomena are relatively easy to describe. But there is no single accepted definition or **doctrine** of intelligence. Nevertheless, scientific experiments have demonstrated sophisticated learning, memory, and problem-solving behavior in a variety of animal species. The chimpanzee remains the **acme** of animal intelligence, with other **exotic** creatures, including dolphins and elephants, not far behind. Less well-known is the remarkable intelligence of the **unassuming** pigeon.

Experiments investigating pigeon intelligence date back sixty years. Few people would list the bird among the world's smartest animals. Some might even **belittle** the pigeon in this regard. But one has to give credit where credit is due. The body of evidence is growing so fast that scientists in the field of animal cognition are practically **wallowing** in data on the mental feats of these familiar birds. The results increasingly **convey** an impression of the pigeon as a curiously discriminating critter.

Experiments dating back to the 1980s indicate that pigeons perform better than most animals on the "mirror test." This test determines whether an animal can recognize its reflection in a mirror. Humans, chimpanzees, and other apes recognize their reflections without prior training, as do elephants and dolphins. Pigeons require training before they associate their reflections with their bodies. Nevertheless, that they can be trained to perform this way makes pigeons unusual. Of course, scientific interpretations of the mirror test have **wavered** over the years. But the study of self-recognition in animals reached a new **juncture** with experiments in which pigeons were alternately shown live and pre-recorded video images of themselves. The results, published in 2008 by Koji Toda and Shigeru Watanabe, indicate that pigeons can learn to distinguish between live and pre-recorded images of themselves. Self-recognition in pigeons remains a controversial issue. But these experiments support scientists who take a **stance** in favor of the claim that pigeons have a kind of self-awareness.

Professor Watanabe heads the Brain and Evolution unit of Japan's Keio University. Decades of research into animal minds are housed behind his beaming eyes and **jaunty** smile. Among Watanabe's and his colleagues' most intriguing work are experiments in which pigeons were trained to distinguish between paintings by Picasso and paintings by Monet. The trained pigeons could discriminate between paintings by the two artists with remarkable accuracy. In another experiment, pigeons were taught to distinguish between two groups of paintings by children. The first group of paintings had been judged by observers as "good" paintings, while the second group had been judged as "bad." The pigeons quickly learned the difference and accurately distinguished between "good" and "bad" when shown new paintings.

These experiments are remarkable. But there's little chance that pigeons will replace human art critics in making distinctions between the **tawdry** and the tasteful. The pigeon's ability to discriminate between different kinds of paintings, like its self-recognition, depends on prior training. Left on their own, pigeons don't recognize themselves in mirrors or seem to care much for art. Considerations like these might diminish our awe at the pigeon's mental powers. But there's no chance that the bird's brainy reputation will be entirely **ravaged**. The facts are in, and the pigeons have earned a place in the ranks of our planet's intelligent animals.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Acme

- (n.) the highest point

EX. A perfect game is the _____ of any pitcher's career in baseball.

II. Attribute

- (n.) a quality or characteristic belonging to or associated with someone or something; (v.) to assign to, credit with; to regard as caused by or resulting from

EX. The _____ I most admire in you is your willingness to give everyone's opinions a fair hearing.

EX. The doctor _____ my runny nose and itchy eyes to multiple allergies.

III. Belittle

- (v.) to make something appear smaller than it is; to refer to in a way that suggests lack of importance or value

EX. Candidates for public office may resort to negative ads that _____ their opponents' records.

IV. Convey

- (v.) to transport; to transmit; to communicate, make known; to transfer ownership or title to

EX. Please _____ our best wishes to your parents on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

V. Doctrine

- (n.) a belief, principle, or teaching; a system of such beliefs or principles; a formulation of such beliefs or principles

EX. No two religions see eye to eye on every fine detail of _____

VI. Excise

- (v.) to remove by cutting; (n.) an indirect tax on the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a commodity or service

EX. If you _____ that irrelevant remark, you will improve your essay.

EX. The _____ imposed on products such as tobacco and alcohol have skyrocketed.

VII. Exotic

- (adj.) foreign; charmingly unfamiliar or strikingly unusual

EX. A recipe may call for _____ herbs and spices that are difficult to obtain.

VIII. Haggard

- (*adj.*) thin, pale, and careworn as a result of worry or suffering; wild-looking

EX. The _____ refugees were given food, clothing, and temporary shelter.

IX. Jaunty

- (*adj.*) lively, easy, and carefree in manner; smart or trim in appearance

EX. I bought a _____ straw hat.

X. Juncture

- (*n.*) a joining together; the point at which two things are joined; any important point in time

EX. Our property ends at the _____ of the two stone walls.

XI. Menial

- (*adj.*) lowly, humble, lacking importance or dignity; (*n.*) a person who does the humble and unpleasant tasks

EX. During the Great Depression, people were thankful to have work of any kind, no matter how _____.

EX. Teenagers in need of work can often find jobs as _____ in grocery stores and restaurants.

XII. Parry

- (*v.*) to ward off, fend off, evade, avoid; (*n.*) a defensive movement in fencing and other sports

EX. An effective press secretary can _____ almost any question a reporter asks.

EX. The challenger's swift _____ caught the champion completely off guard.

XIII. Predatory

- (*adj.*) preying on, plundering, or piratical

EX. Owls and other _____ birds play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature.

XIV. Ravage

- (*v.*) to destroy, lay waste, ruin; (*n.*) ruinous damage, destruction

EX. Swarms of locusts _____ the farmer's fields and orchards.

EX. No one can escape the _____ of time.

XV. Stance

- (*n.*) a way of holding the body; an attitude or position on an issue

EX. A fashion model's _____ is calculated to show off a designer's clothing to best advantage.

XVI. Tawdry

- (*adj.*) showy and flashy but lacking in good taste

EX. An excess of gold braid and glittery beads gave the costumes a _____ look.

XVII. Turncoat

- (*n.*) a person who switches to an opposing side or party
EX. Strikers generally consider those workers who cross the picket lines to be _____.

XVIII. Unassuming

- (*adj.*) not putting on airs, unpretentious; modest
EX. Many celebrities remain _____ their fame and wealth.

XIX. Wallow

- (*v.*) to roll about in a lazy, clumsy, or helpless way; to overindulge in; to have in abundance; (*n.*) a wet, muddy, or dusty area used by animals as a sort of bath; a state of moral or physical collapse
EX. After a strenuous hike, I was too tired to do anything but _____ blissfully in a hot bath.
EX. On the Serengeti Plain, _____ offer animals much-needed relief from the sun's scorching rays.

XX. Waver

- (*v.*) to move to and fro, become unsteady; to show lack of firmness or decision
EX. The committee _____ for several days before choosing the winner of the essay contest.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. For many years the towns and villages along the Normandy coast of France showed the (**ravages**, **doctrines**) of the great invasion of 1944.
2. Instead of answering my question, the skillful debater (**parried**, **ravaged**) by asking a question of her own.
3. The captain was deeply worried, even though he tried hard to appear confident and (**haggard**, **jaunty**) to the passengers.
4. We were infuriated by the (**unassuming**, **tawdry**) speech in which he tried to portray himself as a great national leader.
5. My mother's dream vacation is to spend several weeks on a(n) (**exotic**, **menial**) island in the South Pacific.
6. After waiting for news of her loved ones for several days, the woman looked careworn and (**haggard**, **menial**).
7. The immigrants never (**excised**, **wavered**) in their determination to become American citizens.
8. Even after pitching two no-hit games this season, Stan was the same quiet and (**exotic**, **unassuming**) boy we had always known.
9. Thieves are essentially a (**predatory**, **jaunty**) class of criminals because they live off what they can take from others.
10. He hoped that election to the presidency would be the (**acme**, **junction**) of his long and brilliant career in public service.
11. One must be careful these days, as (**excise**, **predatory**) phone calls from dishonest companies are on the rise.
12. During our trip to China, we sampled such (**predatory**, **exotic**) dishes as thousand-year-old eggs and bird's nest soup.
13. Americans expect candidates to take a definite (**stance**, **parry**) on each of the important issues in a national election.
14. So long as you continue to (**waver**, **wallow**) in self-pity, you will lack the strength needed to solve your problems.

15. When asked about your commitment to your values, do not (**waver, convey**), but stand firm in your beliefs.
16. I am thoroughly disgusted by people who try to make themselves seem more important than they really are by (**belittling, conveying**) others.
17. History teaches us that in any great conflict, there will be some (turncoats, menials) willing to go over to the enemy.
18. The general (**belittled, attributed**) our failure to win the battle to a lack of sufficient forces rather than to a lack of courage.
19. Did you know that pigs can't pant, so they (**ravage, wallow**) in mud to keep their bodies cool on hot summer days?
20. "If we are to keep the body politic healthy," the senator remarked, "we must (**excise, attribute**) the cancer of racial prejudice from it."
21. He is so conceited that it is hard to (**convey, wallow**) to him the simple idea that he did not win the essay competition.
22. Our system of justice is based on the (**acme, doctrine**) that defendants are presumed innocent unless the prosecution can prove them guilty.
23. No matter how (**menial, tawdry**) the assignment may be, take pride in your work, and do your best.
24. When I arrived at the critical (**stance, juncture**) in my career, I realized that my whole future would depend on the decision I was about to make.
25. My doctor (**attributed, parried**) my dizziness and vertigo to an inner ear infection.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 8

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 8.*

Aquatic Robotics

Two-thirds of Earth's surface is covered with water. Human beings have yet to **infiltrate** most of this unexplored and **cryptic** terrain. Instead, their most important **proxies** underwater are robots. The field of undersea robotics has grown rapidly in recent years. It is now an essential part of ocean exploration.

At the very foundation of robot design is the performance of tasks that are difficult, repetitive, or dangerous. These same words describe undersea exploration. For example, the important missions of marine research often require a descent to great depths. Vast areas of the ocean floor remain inaccessible to humans no matter what protective **attire** they wear or equipment they use. And no eager explorer, however **fervent**, would carry out a deep diving stint lasting months at a time. Robotics engineers began to pick up on these challenges in the 1990s. They channeled their efforts into developing three **divergent** types of undersea robots. One type is a remote-controlled vehicle that is towed behind ships. Another type is really a miniature submarine that carries a human crew and is equipped with robot arms. A third type of robot is fully autonomous, carrying out a survey in an **unflagging** fashion that no human could hope to match.

Undersea robots are designed to aid humans in a variety of endeavors. Some of these are ecological. For instance, an early objective of the Odyssey robot series that was developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was to investigate the decreasing number of humpback whales on Stellwagen Bank, a large underwater plateau at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay. Another Odyssey mission took the robot to the bottom of the Labrador Sea between Newfoundland and Greenland. There, even the notoriously rough winter weather could not **nullify** the robot's mission to explore ocean oxygenation. In this process, surface waters in high latitudes near the poles become oxygen-rich but also cold and dense. The cold, dense water **plummets** to the bottom in plumes, where it provides energy for many kinds of life. Without Odyssey's assistance in such missions, human efforts would have been to no **avail**, given the conditions. The latest Odyssey robot can even hover in place, like a helicopter. It can be controlled remotely with a joystick.

Scientists are not the only ones using aquatic robots. Undersea robots are also important for military uses. The robot crab Ariel, for example, may be used to clear mines from minefields that **abut** the shore. No obstacle or crevice stops Ariel. Few humans would remain calm and **stoical** performing such a hazardous duty. Military robots are also used to find enemy submarines and to protect coastal areas.

At present, there is virtually no **perceptible** limit on the array of uses for undersea robotics. The British independent robot *Autosub4*, for example, has been used to explore herring behavior in the North Sea and to locate valuable metals at the bottom of a Scottish lake. Tethered underwater vehicles called ROVs have assisted marine archaeologists in locating and exploring shipwrecks, including that of the Titanic. And after the massive Gulf oil spill disaster in 2010, cleanup analyses and efforts relied heavily on ROVs. It is safe to **proclaim** that undersea exploration in the twenty-first century will increasingly be the domain of robots as they go where humans cannot hope to follow.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Abut

- (v.) to join at one end or be next to; to support, prop up
EX. Land that _____ a river or lake is considered a highly desirable location on which to build a summer home.

II. Attire

- (n.) clothes, apparel, garb; (v.) to dress, adorn, or bedeck
EX. The special _____ that firefighters wear helps to protect them from flames and smoke.
EX. The children happily _____ their stuffed animals in holiday outfits and accessories.

III. Avail

- (v.) to be of use or benefit to; to make use of; to take advantage of; to profit or benefit; (n.) use, benefit, or value
EX. Be sure to _____ yourself of all the services that the school library has to offer.
EX. I tried repeatedly to contact my neighbor by phone, but to absolutely no _____.

IV. Crony

- (n.) a very close friend, chum, buddy
EX. We have been _____ ever since we met in the second grade.

V. Cryptic

- (adj.) puzzling, mystifying, or enigmatic
EX. The letter to the editor was so _____ that I couldn't be certain what the writer had actually intended to say.

VI. Divergent

- (adj.) going in different directions; different from each other; departing from convention, deviant
EX. Two people may be close friends despite their having very _____ interests and beliefs.

VII. Enmity

- (n.) hatred, ill-will
EX. Despite a long, close, and tense match, the defeated player felt no _____ toward the new champion.

VIII. Fervent

- (adj.) very earnest, emotional, passionate; extremely hot
EX. The president delivered a _____ plea for tolerance and unity.

IX. Gaunt

- (adj.) thin and bony, starved looking; bare, barren
EX. We left food and water for the _____ alley cat.

- X. Infiltrate
- (*v.*) to pass through or gain entrance to gradually or stealthily
EX. Some of our men _____ the enemy's camp and captured their leader.
- XI. Nullify
- (*v.*) to make of no value or consequence, cancel, wipe out
EX. After seven days, you cannot _____ the contract without being charged a penalty.
- XII. Perceptible
- (*adj.*) capable of being grasped by the senses or mind
EX. There was no _____ improvement in the patient's condition despite the doctors' best efforts to treat the infection.
- XIII. Plummet
- (*v.*) to plunge straight down; (*n.*) a weight fastened to a line
EX. Gannets and other seabirds _____ headfirst into the ocean to catch small fish and squid.
EX. Experts think the pierced round stones found at the site served as _____ to weight fishing nets.
- XIV. Proclaim
- (*v.*) to declare publicly or officially
EX. We _____ loyalty to our country when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- XV. Proxy
- (*n.*) an agent, substitute; a written permission allowing one person to act in another's place
EX. The vice president may be called upon to be the president' _____ at the funeral of a foreign leader.
- XVI. Rankle
- (*v.*) to cause anger, irritation, or bitterness (with the suggestion that the pain grows worse with time)
EX. Insults may _____ a person for many years.
- XVII. Scavenger
- (*n.*) a person who collects or removes usable items from waste materials; an animal that feeds on refuse or dead bodies
EX. A few _____ such as catfish and other bottom feeders will help to keep a fish tank clean.
- XVIII. Stint
- (*v.*) to limit, be sparing or frugal; (*n.*) a limit or restriction; a fixed share of work or duty; a period of activity
EX. Good hosts never _____ on food and drink for the guests who attend their parties.
EX. A _____ as the guest host of a popular talk show may be a big career break for a young comedian.

XIX. Stoical

- (*adj.*) self-controlled, not showing feeling in response to pleasure or pain
EX. The refugees' _____ acceptance of their plight was deeply moving.

XX. Unflagging

- (*adj.*) tireless, continuing with vigor
EX. After the votes were counted, the candidates paid tribute to the _____ loyalty of their supporters.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. In the unforgettable words of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson (**proclaimed**, rankled) to the world that a new nation had been born.
2. The (**unflagging**, gaunt) and leafless trees seemed to add to the gloom of that wintry scene.
3. We gave strict instructions to the work crew, telling them that, when they install the countertop, they must make sure that it (**abuts**, plummets) the wall.
4. The two candidates are working hard to get the voters' support, but in my opinion there is no (**perceptible**, cryptic) difference between them.
5. Our hopes for a winning touchdown (**availed**, plummeted) in the last minute when Jim fumbled and South High recovered the ball.
6. Although the woman was filled with grief, she remained (**gaunt**, stoical) during the poignant memorial service.
7. I pretended that being ignored by the "best people in town" meant nothing to me, but actually those snubs (**rankled**, nullified) deeply.
8. During the prolonged dry spell, the farmers' (**fervent**, perceptible) prayers for rain were seldom answered.
9. Let me state my absolute (**stoicism**, enmity) for those who seek to bring about political change through violent means.
10. Our farm used to (**stint**, abut) the high school football field, but now a highway separates the two tracts of land.
11. All the heroism of our men could not (**abut**, avail) against the enemy's superior forces.
12. Large numbers of stockholders allowed (**scavengers**, proxies) to vote in their place.
13. It is a sad fact of experience that postwar political blunders can often (**nullify**, infiltrate) or even reverse the results of battlefield triumphs.
14. In a democracy, we expect people to have (**gaunt**, divergent) views and to express them openly.
15. We made phone calls, sent e-mails, and combed the neighborhood on foot, but our search for the lost dog was to no (**stint**, avail).

16. After the big snowstorm, the trees seemed to be (**attired, cronies**) in white lace.
17. In spite of my efforts to keep them at bay, spring weeds always manage to (**infiltrate, proclaim**) my vegetable garden.
18. When the temperature suddenly (**plummeted, nullified**) to below freezing, the hikers made the wise decision to descend the mountain.
19. President Kennedy bore his pain in such a (**perceptible, stoical**) manner that few people realized how much he suffered from his World War II back injury.
20. I understand that pigeons are (**plummets, scavengers**) by nature, but I still don't like them pecking around our picnic table, looking for crumbs.
21. If we had a good civil service system in this town, the mayor wouldn't be able to put his (**cronies, enmities**) on the public payroll.
22. Before going to college, my brother did a (**stint, proxy**) as an apprentice radio operator on an oceangoing tanker.
23. For her (**unflagging, divergent**) devotion to every good cause in our community, we honor this wonderful woman.
24. It didn't take me long to master the (**fervent, cryptic**) greetings, signs, and handshakes that were part of the club's rituals.
25. The moon is sometimes faintly (**proxy, perceptible**) in the morning sky.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 9

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 9.*

Tecumseh of the Shawnee

The great Shawnee leader, Tecumseh (Shooting Star), was born in 1768 in Ohio country. Like the land he was born to, the 45 years of his life were marked by war. Control of the fertile region had been contested for centuries, even before Europeans arrived. By the time Tecumseh was born, the British were the region's dominant power. British settlement continued to expand westward, **encroaching** on tribal lands. Irritated tribal leaders **chafed** at the expansion, and some sought to **fend** off the tide of settlers with violence. One of these leaders was Tecumseh's father, who was killed in a battle with the British in 1774. Soon after, the Shawnee sided with the British against the American colonies in the Revolutionary War.

When the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, Tecumseh was 15 years old. American forces continued to clash with tribes in Ohio and the surrounding region in a prolonged conflict referred to as the Northwest Indian War. Tecumseh fought in many battles and became the leader of a band of Shawnee warriors. The Northwest Indian War ended in 1794, with the Native Americans forced to **capitulate** and hand over most of the Ohio lands to the United States. Tensions between the native tribes and settlers cooled. Many tribal leaders even encouraged their people to adopt aspects of the settlers' culture.

This period of relative calm did not last long. Many Native Americans remained **disgruntled** at the spread of settlements and the now **predominant** U.S. authority that allowed settlers to take land with **impunity**. A true warrior never seeks glory, but by 1808, Tecumseh had emerged as a leader of **renown**. He travelled throughout the region to build an alliance strong enough to confront the United States. In his new role as a political leader, Tecumseh was a **prodigy**. He was a talented and **disarming** speaker, full of poise and purpose. **Endowed** with an impressive physique, he presented a charismatic **mien**. He won thousands over to his cause. Tecumseh's Confederacy, as it came to be known, drew together many tribes.

The situation grew **dire** with the signing of the Treaty of Fort Wayne, which opened some 3 million acres of land to U.S. settlers. Tecumseh and 400 warriors met with Governor William Henry Harrison of the Indiana Territory to demand the treaty be nullified. When Harrison refused, Tecumseh headed south to recruit more allies for his Confederacy. Tribal forces carried out scattered raids on white settlers. While Tecumseh was away, Harrison led about 1,000 militia and army troops to Prophetstown. There he defeated the main force of Tecumseh's Confederacy at the Battle of Tippecanoe on November 7, 1811. Memory of that victory would serve Harrison well decades later as he sought to become the ninth president. Tecumseh, on the other hand, saw his plans begin to go **awry**. The Confederacy, **bludgeoned** by the defeat, would now take more time to develop.

As Tecumseh set out to rebuild the Confederacy, the War of 1812 broke out between Britain and the United States. The conflicts in the Northwest were one of the leading causes of this war, as many in the United States blamed the British for inciting the Indians to violence and supplying them with firearms. Tecumseh sided with the British and helped them defeat the Americans at Detroit. About a year later, Tecumseh was killed during the Battle of the Thames on October 5, 1813. His Confederacy surrendered soon after, giving the United States control over the Northwest frontier.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Apt

- (*adj.*) suitable, fitting, likely; quick to learn
EX. The appropriate greeting card for a particular occasion is one that expresses _____ sentiments

II. Awry

- (*adj., adv.*) in a turned or twisted position or direction; wrong, out of the right or hoped-for course
EX. After running to catch the bus, I realized that my clothing was all _____.
EX. If something went _____ during a countdown, NASA officials would cancel a shuttle launch.

III. Bludgeon

- (*n.*) a short club used as a weapon; (*v.*) to strike with a heavy club; to use force or strong arguments to gain some point
EX. Early humans fashioned _____ from the thick limbs of trees.
EX. Heavy-handed writers tend to _____ readers with explanations of their characters' motives.

IV. Capitulate

- (*v.*) to end resistance, give up, throw in the towel
EX. When I saw that I had been outmaneuvered by my opponent, I had no choice but to _____.

V. Chafe

- (*v.*) to warm by rubbing; to wear sore by rubbing; to feel annoyance or dissatisfaction, annoy, irk; to strain or press against; (*n.*) a sore or injury caused by rubbing
EX. The American colonists _____ under the many unjust laws imposed on them by King George III.
EX. To keep that raw _____ from becoming infected, you should put a clean bandage on it.

VI. Defile

- (*v., trans.*) to make unclean or dirty, destroy the purity of; (*v., intrans.*) to march in a single line or in columns; (*n.*) a narrow passage; gorge, canyon
EX. Those who _____ a house of worship will be punished to the full extent of the law.
EX. The victorious troops _____ for review.
EX. We hiked through the rocky _____.

- VII. Dire
- (*adj.*) dreadful, causing fear or suffering; warning of trouble to come; demanding immediate action to avoid disaster
EX. Environmentalists warn of the _____ consequences of the destruction of the world's rain forests.
- VIII. Disarming
- (*adj.*) charming, tending to soften unfriendliness or suspicion
EX. My best friend has a most _____ smile
- IX. Disgruntled
- (*adj., part*) in bad humor, discontented, annoyed
EX. When flights are delayed because of bad weather, airline passengers may become extremely _____.
- X. Encroach
- (*v.*) to advance beyond the usual or proper limits, trespass
EX. Where suburbs _____ on unspoiled forests or wetlands, delicate ecosystems may be disrupted.
- XI. Endow
- (*v.*) to furnish, equip, provide with funds or some other desirable thing or quality
EX. Wealthy individuals often make provisions in their wills to _____ their favorite charities.
- XII. Fend
- (*v.*) to ward off, resist; to get along, manage
EX. The picnic was enjoyable, but we spent quite a bit of time _____ off ants and mosquitos.
- XIII. Impunity
- (*n.*) freedom from punishment
EX. Bullies must be made to realize that they cannot push other people around with _____.
- XIV. Mien
- (*n.*) air, manner; appearance; expression
EX. A person may adopt a cheerful _____ in an attempt to conceal sorrow or anger.
- XV. Penal
- (*adj.*) having to do with punishment
EX. Devil's Island, off the coast of French Guiana, was once the site of an infamous _____ colony.
- XVI. Pertinent
- (*adj.*) related to the matter at hand, to the point
EX. The joke you told was very amusing, but I fail to see how it was _____ to the conversation.

XVII. Predominant

- (*adj.*) the greatest in strength or power; most common
EX. Cy Young, for whom the coveted pitching award is named, was once the _____ pitcher in baseball.

XVIII. Prodigy

- (*n.*) something wonderful or marvelous; an unusual feat; a child or young person with extraordinary ability or talent
EX. The careers of some musical _____ have turned out to be short-lived.

XIX. Reclus

- (*n.*) a person who leads a life shut up or withdrawn from the world
EX. An individual who has suffered a great emotional loss may become something of a _____.

XX. Renown

- (*n.*) fame, glory
EX. Some writers earn acclaim during their lifetime, but others win _____ only after their death.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Some great composers, including Mozart and Mendelssohn, were (**pertinent**, **apt**) musicians from a very early age, demonstrating an amazing talent for writing music.
2. During the winter the wind usually blows from the north in that area, but during the summer southerly currents are (**predominant**, **awry**).
3. After a horrible accident, the one-time celebrity lived his life as a (**prodigy**, **recluse**), permanently turning his back on public life.
4. His plain clothing and quiet (**prodigy**, **mien**) were not what we expected in a famous Hollywood director.
5. Why does she (**bludgeon**, **capitulate**) people she barely knows with her arguments and strong opinions?
6. The Declaration of Independence mentions a number of "unalienable rights" with which all people "are (**endowed**, **chafed**) by their Creator."
7. The college my sister attends is a small one, but it has gained a great deal of (**recluse**, **renown**) for the quality of its faculty.
8. The injured quarterback (**chafed**, **defiled**) at sitting on the bench while his team was being badly beaten on the field.
9. Nature is kind to us in many ways, but we must learn that we cannot violate its laws with (**impunity**, **renown**).
10. Although the child was terrified of shots, the skillful nurse (**capitulated**, **disarmed**) the weeping boy by singing a funny song.
11. Do you understand how someone can live as a (**mien**, **recluse**) even in the mids of a great city?
12. The lecturer is a man who served ten years in prison and is now devoting his life to bringing about reforms in our (**penal**, **predominant**) system.
13. Yes, we are still friends, but not as close as we used to be; something has gone (**awry**, **dire**) in our relationship.
14. Mosses and lichens- -which can survive extremely cold temperatures--are (**predominant**, **dire**) plants in the Arctic tundra.

15. Marie is (**apt, endowed**) to forget where she puts important things, such as her keys, wallet, and glasses.
16. He claims to be a patriot, but his disregard for the powerless (**encroaches, defiles**) the great ideals on which this nation was built.
17. The message of a great work of literature may be as (**pertinent, disgruntled**) today as it was when it was first written.
18. My problem was to (**fend, bludgeon**) off their unwelcome attentions without being openly insulting.
19. As we use up the earth's fossil-fuel supplies, we are faced with an increasingly (**disarming, dire**) need to develop new energy sources.
20. I was so (**chafed, disarmed**) by the way he asked for a loan that to my surprise I found myself giving him the money.
21. When the featured singer failed to appear, the (**disgruntled, apt**) fans demanded their money back.
22. A team as determined as ours is will never (**capitulate, endow**), even if it is losing badly in the final moments of a game.
23. Alvin York performed such (**impunities, prodigies**) on the battlefields of France that he was awarded this nation's highest honors.
24. The rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution do not permit citizens to (**fend, encroach**) on the rights of others.
25. The starch in this shirt collar is (**disarming, chafing**) my neck.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 10

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 10.*

The Adventures of Narváez and Cabez de Vaca in the New World

On June 17, 1527, the Narvaez expedition departed from Spain to claim Florida for the Spanish crown. By this time, Spain's **transition** from European kingdom to global empire was well underway. The Spanish were experienced seafarers and colonizers, and by all accounts, the Narvaez expedition was **devised** in **accord** with the best practices of the day. The risks **entailed** in such ventures remained high, however. The Narvaez expedition was a **veritable** disaster.

Five ships set out that day, carrying 600 men led by the conquistador Pánfilo de Narvaez. After three months at sea, the fleet landed on the island of Hispaniola. While the officers procured horses and ships, about 100 men deserted. Weeks later, the expedition arrived at Cuba. At least 80 men, two ships, and many supplies were lost to a hurricane. More bad weather **vexed** the fleet as it sailed around the Cuban coast, and **dexterous** navigation proved no match for the elements.

The battered fleet reached the Florida coast in April 1528, with a crew of about 400 men. They **bartered** with the native villagers, exchanging beads and cloth for food. The villagers must have felt some **trepidation** at the Spaniards' arrival, as they abandoned the village overnight. The Spaniards soon encountered another village, where they heard rumors of gold to the north. Narvaez decided to split the party, sending 300 men north by land to **ferret** out the rumored gold, and the rest to sail up the coast. One officer, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, argued that it would be wiser to keep the group together. Narváez overruled the dissenter and **upbraided** him with a **curt** reply, accusing him of cowardice. It was a rash decision that the travelers would come to **rue**, but they knew little then of the **impending** challenges.

The 300 men who headed north never saw their ships again. They encountered hospitable villagers who supplied them with food, but they found no cities of gold. Drained of **vitality** by guerilla **attacks**, food shortages, and disease, the expedition returned south. There, the exhausted men built crude boats, hoping to reach Spanish settlements in Mexico. Most of the men, including Narvaez, died during this desperate journey. About 80 men, including Cabeza de Vaca, landed on an island inhabited by the Karankawa tribe, who enslaved the Spaniards. After a harsh winter, only 15 members of the expedition remained. They learned to live among the Karankawa as captive medicine men, practicing the art of healing, moving with their captors between the island and the mainland. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

Unable to convince the other Spaniards to escape, Cabeza de Vaca set off on his own into the wilderness. He roamed some 150 miles along the coast, making a living as a trader. In the summer of 1532, he encountered three other survivors of the expedition, who were slaves of a local tribe. Cabeza de Vaca joined these men in captivity, and the four planned their escape. Their chance came in the spring of 1535. While their captors were **engrossed** in a feast, the four Spaniards escaped into the desert and headed south for the Rio Grande. Months later, they stumbled upon a party of Spanish slave-hunters, who led them to Mexico City. Nearly nine years after the Narváez expedition had set out from Spain, the journey of these four final survivors had finally reached its end.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Accord

- (n.) agreement, harmony; (v.) to agree, be in harmony or bring into harmony; to grant, bestow on
EX. The labor union reached an _____ with management before the midnight deadline.
EX. The Nobel Committee _____ the Peace Prize to the Red Cross in 1917, 1944, and 1963.

II. Barter

- (n.) an exchange in trade; (v.) to exchange goods
EX. By definition, _____ does not involve the exchange of money in any form.
EX. According to the Hebrew Bible, Esau, the brother of Jacob, _____ away his birthright for a hot meal.

III. Curt

- (adj.) short, rudely brief
EX. Tour guides are trained to give complete and polite answers to questions, not _____ responses

IV. Devise

- (v.) to think out, plan, figure out, invent, create
EX. The advertising agency _____ commercials promoting the new car.

V. Dexterous

- (adj.) skillful in the use of hands or body; clever
EX. The _____ movements of those master chefs we see on TV took years of practice to perfect.

VI. Engross

- (v.) to occupy the complete attention of, absorb fully
EX. The exciting new film _____ every member of the audience.

VII. Entail

- (v.) to put a burden on, impose, involve; to restrict ownership of property by limiting inheritance; (n.) such a restriction
EX. Reaching your goals will _____ both hard work and sacrifice.
EX. By tradition, an _____ requires that our great-grandmother's paintings must pass to the oldest child.

VIII. Ferret

- (n.) a kind of weasel; (v.) to search or hunt out; to torment, badger
EX. _____ were once used to chase rabbits and other pests from their burrows.
EX. No matter how long it takes, we'll keep asking questions until we _____ out the true story.

IX. Habituate

- (v.) to become used to; to cause to become used to
EX. Rookies who quickly _____ themselves to discipline can make important contributions to a team.

X. Impending

- (adj., part.) about to happen, hanging over in a menacing way
EX. If you have studied hard, you have no reason to worry about your _____ final exams.

XI. Personable

- (adj.) pleasing in appearance or personality, attractive
EX. A group of very _____ and enthusiastic teens volunteered to help senior citizens with daily chores.

XII. Rue

- (v.) to regret, be sorry for; (n.) a feeling of regret
EX. It is only natural to _____ mistakes and missed opportunities.
EX. My heart was filled with _____ when I realized how thoughtlessly I had behaved.

XIII. Scoff

- (v.) to make fun of; to show contempt for
EX. People once _____ at the notion that the use of personal computers would become widespread.

XIV. Transition

- (n.) a change from one state or condition to another
EX. Because of a change in leadership, the country is undergoing a period of political _____

XV. Trepidation

- (n.) fear, fright, trembling
EX. Even veteran actors experience just before they go on stage _____

XVI. Upbraid

- (v.) to blame, scold, find fault with
EX. The police officer _____ the driver for blocking the crosswalk.

XVII. Veritable

- (adj.) actual, true, real
EX. Those dusty old boxes in my grandparents' attic contained a _____ treasure trove of rare books and valuable antiques.

XVIII. Vex

- (v.) to annoy, anger, exasperate; to confuse, baffle

EX. The annual task of filling out federal and state income tax returns _____ many people.

XIX. Vitality

- (n.) strength, energy; the capacity to live and develop; the power to endure or survive

EX. To win a marathon, a runner must have patience, speed, and exceptional _____.

XX. Whimsical

- (adj.) subject to odd ideas, notions, or fancies; playful; unpredictable

EX. Rube Goldberg was famous for _____ drawings of wildly impractical contraptions.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Rachel Carson hoped her book *Silent Spring* would prompt people to be in (**accord**, **trepidation**) with her view on the use of insecticides.
2. Millions of people, not only in India but in all parts of the world, came to regard Gandhi as a (**veritable**, **dexterous**) saint.
3. The mayor warned of a(n) (**whimsical**, **impending**) crisis unless measures are taken immediately to conserve the city's water supply.
4. When we moved from an apartment to a house, we found that being homeowners (**entails**, **scoffs**) more responsibilities than we had imagined.
5. A long series of minor illnesses sapped his (**vitality**, **transition**), leaving him unable to work.
6. Instead of trying to (**rue**, **devise**) an elaborate excuse, why not tell them exactly what happened and hope for the best?
7. (**Engrossed**, **Vexed**) in texting, the pedestrian, completely oblivious to his environment, fell right into a manhole.
8. Our science teacher (**engrossed**, **upbraided**) us when we failed to follow proper safety precautions in the lab.
9. Do not (**scoff**, **barter**) at him because he wants to be a good student.
10. The years of adolescence mark the (**transition**, **accord**) from childhood to adulthood.
11. Despite my best efforts, I was unable to (**habituate**, **ferret**) out the time and place of the meeting.
12. In spite of my (**vitality**, **trepidation**) about making a speech at the assembly, I found it an enjoyable experience.
13. As the screaming fans stormed the stadium, security prepared for an (**upbraided**, **impending**) riot.
14. My uncle told me that dropping out of school at an early age was a decision he has always (**rued**, **ferreted**).
15. You may find it hard to become (**engrossed**, **upbraided**) in the study of irregular verbs, but you'll have to master them if you want to learn French.

16. My ingenious sister (**engrossed, devised**) a gadget that opens cans, secures nails, and loosens bolts.
17. Although we all long for world peace, we should not allow ourselves to (**entail, barter**) away our liberties to secure it.
18. My cousin is full of (**personable, whimsical**) ideas that may not be practical but are a lot of fun to discuss.
19. The (**vitality, transition**) from country living to city living was more difficult than I imagined.
20. The telegram contained a(n) (**impending, curt**) message ordering me to return home as soon as possible.
21. I wouldn't describe our hostess as merely (**personable, veritable**); I think she is a truly captivating woman.
22. Good office managers must be (**dexterous, curt**) in using their powers to meet goals without discouraging employees.
23. Presidents need capable assistants who will shield them from minor problems that may (**vex, devise**) them.
24. During the oil crisis of the 1970s, Americans had to (**habituate, vex**) themselves to lower indoor temperatures and decreased use of private transportation.
25. Lucinda (**upbraided, bartered**) the fidgety children for their rude behavior.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 11

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 11.*

Working Like a Dog

Last month, Working Dog magazine editor Fran Y. DeSoto sat down with dog trainer I. Lee Hsu to find out more about service dogs and therapy dogs.

Interviewer: I. Lee Hsu, you're an animal trainer who works with **service dogs** and **therapy dogs**. What is the difference?

Hsu: If you **delve** into it, there are many differences. The **conventional** view is that service dogs are guide dogs for the blind or the hearing impaired, and while that's true, they are also trained to pull wheelchairs, be alert to the sounds of a telephone ringing or a smoke detector beeping, and even retrieve keys or call 911. Service dogs are picked for specific characteristics and temperament. They are not pets; they are working dogs. But that's not to say that a strong, loving partnership **doesn't** develop between the dog and the person. The intelligence, kindness, and **gallantry** of these dogs can't be underestimated.

Therapy dogs provide comfort and healing to their owners or to people in hospitals, retirement homes, rehabilitation facilities, or any therapeutic setting. The dogs are brought into a milieu where someone needs TLC tender, loving care and they are just about the best stress busters around! Therapy dogs are usually pets and don't have the same rigorous training as the service dogs, though they must be well-behaved.

Interviewer: Which breeds make better service dogs or therapy dogs?

Hsu: Labradors and golden retrievers are the most popular choice for service dogs. I'll **cite** a few reasons: They are smart, obedient, confident, hardworking, and highly trainable. Dogs that are too distractible, exuberant, or shy don't make the cut. Therapy dogs come in all types and sizes and can be any breed, as long as they are friendly and respond well to touch and lots of handling.

Interviewer: How does a dog become a service dog?

Hsu: I work with an organization that breeds and trains service dogs, and then matches them with people. The dogs live with a foster family for the first year to socialize them and get them used to being around all types of people and situations. Then a period of intensive training **ensues** before the dogs are paired with a human partner.

Interviewer: How do therapy dogs help people?

Hsu: I could **regale** you with heartwarming stories of therapy dogs brought into hospitals to visit sick children or into a home for the elderly or disabled. The dogs are there to be themselves and allow people to pet them. They calm and soothe, lower blood pressure, boost health, and provide much-needed affection. They have proven invaluable in **appeasing** kids who have suffered a traumatic event or soldiers who have sustained a **calamitous** injury.

Interviewer: What is a trainer's role?

Hsu: Trainers **impart** their knowledge and experience to both dog and prospective owner. Like humans, dogs have unique traits and **quirks**, and some can be **overbearing** towards other dogs-so we weed out dogs that might cause problems. I have had to **mediate** a few minor scuffles, but nothing too crazy or **outlandish**.

Interviewer: What's your favorite part of the job?

Hsu: It's gratifying to see the young service dogs chow down after a long day of training. There's **judicious** use of rewards, and they have their playtime, too—it's not all work. And it's satisfying to see the positive difference these dogs make in people's lives.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Appease

- (v.) to make calm, soothe; to relieve, satisfy; to yield to
EX. A snack of fresh fruit should _____ your hunger until mealtime.

II. Belated

- (adj.) late, tardy
EX. The _____ arrival of the party's guest of honor put the hosts in an awkward position.

III. Calamitous

- (adj.) causing great misfortune
EX. In 1906, a _____ earthquake and fire leveled much of the city of San Francisco.

IV. Cite

- (v.) to quote; to mention; to summon to appear in court; to commend, recommend
EX. Be sure to _____ your sources when you write a research paper.

V. Conventional

- (adj.) in line with accepted ideas or standards; trite
EX. Many people have rather _____ taste in clothing.

VI. Decoy

- (v.) to lure into a trap; (n.) a person or thing used to lure into a trap
EX. The Pied Piper _____ all the children away from the town of Hamelin by playing his flute.
EX. Painted wooden _____ are prized by collectors of folk art as well as by hunters.

VII. Delve

- (v.) to dig; to search deeply and thoroughly into
EX. Scholars continue to _____ into all aspects of America's Civil War.

VIII. Ensue

- (v.) to follow in order, come immediately after, and as a result
EX. When an airplane crashes, both investigations and lawsuits can be expected to _____

IX. Gallantry

- (n.) heroic courage; respect and courtesy; an act or statement marked by a high level of courtesy
EX. The Medal of Honor is awarded by Congress to those who perform acts of "conspicuous _____" in combat

- X. Impart
- (*v.*) to make known, tell; to give, pass something on
EX. All over the world, elders _____ the traditions of their culture to younger generations.
- XI. Judicious
- (*adj.*) using or showing good judgment, wise, sensible
EX. Cautious and _____ people consider all their options before making important decisions.
- XII. Mediate
- (*v.*) to bring about an agreement between persons or groups, act as a go-between; (*adj.*) occupying a middle position; indirect, acting through an intermediary
EX. A neutral third party often _____ contract talks between labor and management.
EX. The name of the _____ star in Orion's Belt is Alnilam.
- XIII. Milieu
- (*n.*) the setting, surroundings, environment
EX. An authentic _____ is an essential ingredient in a good historical novel.
- XIV. Outlandish
- (*adj.*) strange, freakish, weird, foreign-looking; out-of-the-way, geographically remote; exceeding reasonable limits
EX. Imaginative and _____ outfits are popular attire at a costume party.
- XV. Overbearing
- (*adj.*) domineering, haughty, bullying; overpowering, predominant
EX. An _____ person has a strong need to be in charge all the time.
- XVI. Pert
- (*adj.*) high-spirited; lively; bold, saucy; jaunty
EX. Most adults are willing to tolerate a certain amount of _____ behavior in children.
- XVII. Quirk
- (*n.*) a peculiar way of acting; a sudden twist or turn
EX. A writer may be famous for creating characters who are full of interesting _____.
- XVIII. Regale
- (*v.*) to feast, entertain agreeably
EX. Most people are eager to _____ their friends with accounts of their vacation adventures.
- XIX. Shiftless
- (*adj.*) lazy, lacking in ambition and energy; inefficient
EX. How can anyone lead a _____ life when there are so many interesting things to learn and to see?

XX. Taint

- (n.) a stain or spot; a mark of corruption or dishonor; (v.) to stain or contaminate

EX. The _____ of bribery or other corrupt practices can put an end to the career of a public official.

EX. When toxic chemicals _____ lakes and rivers, many fish and other animals die.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. One of the chief functions of the United Nations is to (**appease, mediate**) disputes between member nations.
2. If you believe a story as (**outlandish, conventional**) as that, I think you would believe anything!
3. Our neighbor came over to (**regale, delve**) us with all the gossip that we had missed during our trip.
4. Though Benedict Arnold originally fought for the American cause, his name is forever (**ensued, tainted**) by his ultimate act of treachery.
5. The best way to (**mediate, impart**) a spirit of patriotism to young people is to teach them about the ideals on which this nation is built.
6. Although some may dismiss "rags-to-riches" stories as silly, I can (**cite, appease**) many examples of wealthy, powerful people who had humble beginnings.
7. Shawn has the most annoying (**quirk, decoy**); he cracks his knuckles loudly just before he turns on his computer.
8. The more I (**regale, delve**) into mythology, the more clearly I see how these ancient stories help us understand the basic truths of life.
9. Language that seems appropriate in the (**milieu, taint**) of the locker room may be totally out of place in the classroom.
10. Although my grandfather did not want to sell his vintage motorcycle, he finally agreed when a collector made him a(n) (**tainted, outlandish**) offer.
11. Foolishly, Neville Chamberlain attempted to avoid a second world war by (**citing, appeasing**) Hitler's demands for territory in Europe.
12. When he finally made (**belated, outlandish**) repayment of the money he owed me, he acted as though he was doing me a big favor.
13. The company has called in an efficiency expert to increase productivity and root out (**judicious, shiftless**) work habits.
14. Whatever his later failures, let us remember that he won the nation's highest military decoration for (**gallantry, decoy**) in action.

15. Although Marge forgot her sister's birthday, she did manage to send her a (**tainted, belated**) birthday card.
16. Helen's physical appearance does not make her stand out, but her high spirits and (**overbearing, pert**) demeanor make her captivating and appealing.
17. Trying to (**regale, appease**) her best friend, Maya agreed to dine at a pizzeria when she really wanted to eat at the new Chinese restaurant.
18. We will not allow ourselves to be (**decoyed, imparted**) into supporting candidates who try to mislead the voters.
19. I am taking this step with my eyes open, and I will accept full responsibility for whatever may (**ensue, impart**).
20. Though some people believe we should make more use of nuclear power, others insist that such a decision would be (**pert, calamitous**).
21. In debate she has the (**overbearing, shiftless**) manner of one who believes firmly that she is never wrong.
22. By careful planning and (**belated, judicious**) investments, Sue greatly increased the fortune that her parents had left her.
23. As every baseball player knows, a knuckleball is extremely hard to hit because its flight is full of unexpected (**quirks, milieus**) called breaks.
24. Instead of relying on a (**calamitous, conventional**) textbook, our social studies teacher uses many different materials and media in the classroom.
25. Do you know the proper way to (**cite, ensue**) a source from the Internet?

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 12

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 12.*

To The Bat Cave!

One day in the late 1800s, while riding near New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns, cowboy Jim White thought he saw smoke plumes rising in the distance. On closer approach, however, he found that this impression was a **fallacy**. What he had really glimpsed was a cloud of bats emerging from the entrance to a **capacious** cave.

It was a **pivotal** moment that changed the history of Carlsbad Caverns. For millions of years, this spectacular underground formation was known only to a sprinkling of Paleo-Indians and to a millionfold colony of bats. Now the caverns would be the **recipient** of world-class scientific investigation and the attention of countless tourists.

The subterranean geological wonders of Carlsbad Caverns are impressive, but it is the bats that grab everyone's attention. From April to October, the cavern ceilings **teem** with hundreds of thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). The cave is a maternity roost where the bats bear and rear their young. The total darkness of the cave is a refuge for the bats from predators and from people. For centuries, bats have been the victims of countless myths and **caustic** criticism. These false **tenets** are a Pandora's box for these creatures, engendering hatred and fear that has caused humans to mistreat and misunderstand bats for centuries. For people who like bats, a view of thousands upon thousands of bats flying out of the mouth of the cavern for a night of hunting is not to be missed.

Their flight may appear erratic or even **ungainly**. But nature has **bestowed** on bats one of the most sophisticated guidance systems known to science. Mexican freetails, like most bats, use echolocation to navigate and to locate their prey. The bats send out ultrahigh frequency sounds, similar to those emitted by dolphins and whales. When these signals strike an object, their reflections enable the bat to pinpoint the object and fly accordingly. This process occurs in a fraction of a second. Echolocation ensures that practically no **ruse** or evasive action will allow a bat's targeted prey to escape.

A Mexican freetail's **voracious** appetite is one of the bat's prime gifts to humanity. On its nightly flights, one bat may gorge on half its weight in prey. They eat mosquitoes, moths, and other night-flying insects. The bats of Carlsbad Caverns are small. They weigh in at four to five ounces and have a twelve-inch wingspan. But experts estimate that these diminutive creatures dispose of more than one million pounds of insects annually. Without the bats, the corn and cotton growers in the region would find their agricultural pest problems far less **tractable**. In addition to helping farmers with insect control, bats also provide fertilizer in the form of guano, or droppings. Bat guano was mined for some years after the discovery of the caverns. Mining guano might seem gross or **nauseating**, but it was highly profitable. Guano mining is no longer allowed, as it disturbs the stunning cave environment and the bats.

Nowadays, Carlsbad Caverns is recognized as a unique national treasure. Preservation groups organize **crusades** to maintain the pristine beauty of the caves and to ensure that tourists do not **deface** the rock formations. Meanwhile, the bats inhabit the caves as they have for millennia.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Abdicate

- (v.) to resign, formally give up an office or a duty; to disown, discard
EX. Of all England's monarchs, Edward VIII was the only one to _____ the throne voluntarily.

II. Bestow

- (v.) to give as a gift; to provide with lodgings
EX. The nation will _____ its highest civilian honor on the noted educator.

III. Capacious

- (adj.) able to hold much, roomy
EX. Whenever I go beach-combing, I take along a backpack with _____ compartments and pockets.

IV. Caustic

- (adj.) able to burn or eat away by chemical action; biting, sarcastic
EX. All _____ household liquids, such as drain cleaners, must be kept out of the reach of children.

V. Crusade

- (n.) a strong movement to advance a cause or idea; (v.) to campaign, work vigorously
EX. Rachel Carson's landmark book *Silent Spring* sparked the _____ to ban the use of DDT.
EX. The people who _____ for civil rights in America during the 1960s came from all walks of life.

VI. Deface

- (v.) to injure or destroy the surface or appearance of; to damage the value, influence, or effect of; to face down, outshine
EX. In many towns, those who _____ walls with graffiti must pay a fine and clean up the mess.

VII. Embargo

- (n.) an order forbidding the trade in or movement of commercial goods; any restraint or hindrance; (v.) to forbid to enter or leave port; to forbid trade with
EX. The U.S. Congress may impose an _____ against a country that violates trade agreements.
EX. In wartime, the president may _____ goods from countries that trade with the nation's enemies.

VIII. Fallacy

- (*n.*) a false notion or belief; an error in thinking
EX. Reviewers cited several major _____ in the controversial author's newest book.

IX. Levity

- (*n.*) a lack of seriousness or earnestness, especially about things that should be treated with respect; buoyancy, lightness in weight
EX. A bit of _____ may help you to cope with difficult people or situations.

X. Mendicant

- (*n.*) beggar; (*adj.*) depending on begging for a living
EX. People who have fallen on hard times may have no choice but to become _____.
EX. _____ friars roamed the streets of medieval towns and cities, asking for coins.

XI. Nauseate

- (*v.*) to make sick to the stomach; to fill with disgust
EX. The fumes that _____ everyone in the building were traced to a faulty heating system.

XII. Negate

- (*v.*) to nullify, deny, bring to nothing
EX. One offensive remark may well _____ the goodwill a politician has built up among voters.

XIII. Pivotal

- (*adj.*) vitally important, essential
EX. The D-Day invasion was _____ to the Allies' eventual victory in Europe in World War II

XIV. Recipient

- (*n.*) one who receives; (*adj.*) receiving; able or willing to receive
EX. The first American _____ of the Nobel Prize for literature was the novelist Sinclair Lewis.
EX. A long list of _____ charities may benefit from a wealthy individual's generosity.

XV. Ruse

- (*n.*) an action designed to confuse or mislead, a trick
EX. Thieves employ a variety of _____ to gain entrance to homes and apartments.

XVI. Teem

- (*v.*) to become filled to overflowing; to be present in large quantities
EX. Our national parks _____ with visitors during the summer months.

XVII. Tenet

- (*n.*) an opinion, belief, or principle held to be true
EX. One of the primary _____ of medicine is to do no harm to the sick and injured.

XVIII. Tractable

- (*adj.*) easily managed, easy to deal with; easily wrought, malleable
EX. A _____ colleague is preferable to one who is unwilling to cooperate or compromise.

XIX. Ungainly

- (*adj.*) clumsy, awkward; unwieldy
EX. The first time I tried to ice-skate, my movements were hesitant and _____.

XX. Voracious

- (*adj.*) having a huge appetite, greedy, ravenous; excessively eager
EX. Newly hatched caterpillars are _____ eaters of leafy green plants.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Although the play is titled Julius Caesar, I think that the (**pivotal**, **ungainly**) character, on whom all the action depends, is Mark Antony.
2. The Slam-Dunk Giveaway will send one lucky (**recipient**, **mendicant**) on a paid vacation for two to lovely Hawaii.
3. The fact that she is not a member of the Board of Education does not (**negate**, **abdicate**) her criticisms of the school system.
4. His mind is closed, as though he had placed a(n) (embargo, crusade) on new ideas.
5. I am willing to become a veritable (**recipient**, **mendicant**) in order to raise money for that most worthy cause.
6. It's good to be open to new ideas, but don't become so (**mendicant**, **tractable**) that you have no firm opinions of your own.
7. When the United States gives out foreign aid, are the (**recipient**, **pivotal**) nations supposed to make repayment?
8. It is a (**fallacy**, **tenet**) to say that because no human being has ever traveled to Mars, no human being ever will.
9. We will not allow you to (**embargo**, **abdicate**) your responsibilities as a leading citizen of this community.
10. She is a very severe critic, and the (**capacious**, **caustic**) comments in her reviews have made her many enemies.
11. . With such a (**pivotal**, **voracious**) appetite, the meat-eating dinosaur T. Rex was a horrifying hunter and scavenger.
12. As soon as the new highway extension was built, the sleepy town began to (**teem**, **bestow**) with activity.
13. A favorite bedtime (**tenet**, **ruse**) of small children is to keep asking for a glass of water to delay having to go to sleep.
14. One of the (**tenets**, **fallacies**) of modern art is to experiment with forms, materials, and processes to create new ways of looking at everyday objects.
15. I can forgive most human weaknesses, but I am (**nauseated**, **defaced**) by hypocrisy.

16. "All that I have to (**negate, bestow**) on you," said the elderly father to his son, "is an honorable family name."
17. Instead of launching a great (**crusade, fallacy**) to save the world, why not try to help a few people in your own neighborhood?
18. She has a (**capacious, tractable**) mind that seems able to hold endless information and ideas on any subject.
19. Although the students made jokes about the coming exams, we knew that beneath the (**ruse, levity**) they were quite worried.
20. Weather and pollution had so (**defaced, nauseated**) the statue that its original expression was no longer distinguishable.
21. The four-foot waves made the boat pitch up and down, causing many passengers to become (**capacious, nauseated**).
22. Has anyone ever measured how many hours of TV time are needed to satisfy a small child's (**tractable, voracious**) appetite for cartoons?
23. One guiding (**tenet, levity**) of our energy program is that it is just as important to avoid wasting energy as it is to increase its production.
24. The tall boy who appeared so (**caustic, ungainly**) as he walked through the school corridors was agile and coordinated on the basketball court.
25. (**Voracious, Caustic**) fumes can produce injuries to eyes, skins, and lungs.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 13

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 13.*

Steven P. Jobs: 1955-2011

October 6, 2011

By Tomiko Sato

Steven P. Jobs, the charismatic co-founder of the computer company Apple, Inc., died on Wednesday at the age of 56. The cause of death was complications from pancreatic cancer.

The **enormity** of Mr. Jobs's impact on the many industries he touched still remains to be measured. Over the past thirty-five years, virtually since the beginning of his adult life, he grew into an iconic figure that symbolized both the computer revolution and everyday life in the digital age. In the entrepreneurial Mr. Jobs, a mastery of technology **dovetailed** almost seamlessly with a passion for stylish, sleek design and an intuitive business sense. To many consumers, the combination proved irresistible, as the loyalty of millions of Apple customers must **attest**.

Steven Paul Jobs was born the son of a young unwed couple in San Francisco, California, on February 24, 1955. Paul and Clara Jobs adopted the boy and raised him in Cupertino, in what is now known as Silicon Valley. The region was shortly to become the world center of computer technology.

The young Steve Jobs grew up with a pronounced rebellious streak, together with a fondness for mischievous pranks-evidence of a **wry** sense of humor. Youth proved no **impediment** to the child's passion for knowledge and electronics, **steadfast** passions that would last a lifetime. In 1969, Steve Jobs befriended Steve Wozniak, who shared his interest in electronic devices. After Jobs dropped out after one semester at Reed College, he and Wozniak joined a computer hobby club together. Soon after, they went into business together. The two started by assembling personal computers in Mr. Jobs's garage. Thus, in 1976, Apple Computer was born. It was a success from the start.

By 1980, at the age of twenty-five, Mr. Jobs's net worth had exceeded \$200 million. Yet numerous twists and turns awaited him in his career. In 1985, after bitter disputes with the Apple Board of Directors, Mr. Jobs was exiled from his own company. Some entrepreneurs in his position might have been expected to become **forlorn** and lose hope. But Mr. Jobs never **faltered** in his determination to be a leader in technology. Without **loitering**, he bought a small computer graphics company and transformed it into the highly successful Pixar Animation Studios. When Pixar went public, Mr. Jobs became a billionaire.

In 1997, when Apple's directors again became disenchanted with management, they invited Mr. Jobs back to run the company. By this time, his eccentricities were well known. Never one to suffer fools gladly, Mr. Jobs could be withering in his critiques of colleagues and subordinates: His **pithy** appraisals of their efforts were often characterized as **haughty**, even arrogant, but Mr. Jobs swiftly grasped the **imperative** at Apple. He created an alliance with a man he once **vilified**, Bill Gates of Microsoft, although both men had accused each other of **plundering** trade secrets and stealing technical know-how. Gates agreed to invest millions in Apple-with Jobs at the helm. In just a few years, Mr. Jobs triumphed with a series of innovative products that became emblematic of an upscale digital lifestyle. Although these products were expensive, consumers must have believed that you get what you pay for: Each device captured the market, aided by Mr. Jobs's legendary ability to **adapt** product launches into epochal events.

Mr. Jobs is survived by his wife Laurene, his sisters Mona Simpson and Patty Jobs, and four children.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Adapt

- (v.) to adjust or change to suit conditions

EX. As anyone who moves to a new home can tell you, it takes time to _____ to new surroundings.

II. Attest

- (v.) to bear witness, affirm to be true or genuine

EX. I can _____ to the truth of her story because I, too, saw what happened.

III. Dovetail

- (v.) to fit together exactly; to connect so as to form a whole; (n.) a carpentry figure resembling a dove's tail

EX. We may be able to _____ our activities with theirs if we all plan ahead.

EX. We examined the fine _____ the carpenter used to construct the antique chest.

IV. Enormity

- (n.) the quality of exceeding all moral bounds; an exceedingly evil act; huge size, immensity

EX. The _____ of the disaster shocked and saddened the nation.

V. Falter

- (v.) to hesitate, stumble, lose courage; to speak hesitatingly; to lose drive, weaken, decline

EX. The newscaster's voice _____ as he announced to the nation that the president was dead.

VI. Foreboding

- (n.) a warning or feeling that something bad will happen; (adj.) marked by fear, ominous

EX. As the hurricane neared, residents of towns along the coast were filled with _____.

EX. All through that long and sleepless night, I was troubled by _____ thoughts.

VII. Forlorn

- (adj.) totally abandoned and helpless; sad and lonely; wretched or pitiful; almost hopeless

EX. When my best friend moved to another state halfway across the country, I felt extremely _____.

VIII. Haughty

- (*adj.*) chillingly proud and scornful
EX. The _____ tone of voice in which you refused my invitation offended me deeply.

IX. Impediment

- (*n.*) a physical defect; a hindrance, obstacle
EX. You must not let _____ in your path keep you from pursuing your dreams.

X. Imperative

- (*adj.*) necessary, urgent; (*n.*) a form of a verb expressing a command; that which is necessary or required
EX. If you step on a rusty nail, it is _____ that you see a doctor as soon as possible.
EX. The writing of a thank-you note to acknowledge a gift or act of kindness is a social _____.

XI. Loiter

- (*v.*) to linger in an aimless way, hang around, dawdle
EX. Some students always _____ in the school yard long after classes are over for the day.

XII. Malinger

- (*v.*) to pretend illness to avoid duty or work, lie down on the job
EX. If you _____ too often, no one will believe you when you really do fall ill.

XIII. Pithy

- (*adj.*) short but full of meaning
EX. A good editorial should be _____.

XIV. Plunder

- (*v.*) to rob by force, especially during wartime; to seize wrongfully; (*n.*) property stolen by force
EX. In the Old West, rustlers _____ ranches and farms for cattle and horses.
EX. Thieves often use a third party called a fence to sell jewelry and other _____.

XV. Simper

- (*v.*) to smile or speak in a silly, forced way; (*n.*) a silly, forced smile
EX. Strangers may find it easier to _____ about trivial matters than to have a serious conversation.
EX. The camera caught me with a _____ on my face.

XVI. Steadfast

- (*adj.*) firmly fixed; constant, not moving or changing
EX. I urge you to be _____ in your efforts to achieve your goals in life.

XVII. Vaunted

- (*adj.*) much boasted about in a vain or swaggering way
EX. The rookie's _____ strength was no match for the veteran's skill and experience.

XVIII. Vilify

- (*v.*) to abuse or belittle unjustly or maliciously
EX. Voters have become thoroughly disgusted with candidates who _____ their rivals' reputations.

XIX. Waif

- (*n.*) a person (usually a child) without a home or friend; a stray person or animal; something that comes along by chance, a stray bit
EX. The spunky _____ who triumphs over many hardships is a popular character in film and fiction.

XX. Wry

- (*adj.*) twisted, turned to one side; cleverly or grimly humorous
EX. Charles Addams was famous for _____ cartoons chronicling the adventures of a ghoulish family.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Most people know the story of Cinderella, a poor, mistreated (**waif**, **impediment**) who marries a prince and lives happily ever after.
2. Your outstanding report card and teacher evaluations (**attest**, **adapt**) to the fact that when you apply yourself, you can be successful.
3. Many ad campaigns deliberately (**loiter**, **vaunt**) the superiority of a product over all its competition.
4. The (**foreboding**, **enormity**) of the construction project will provide hundreds of jobs for people over the next five years.
5. People who migrate from the suburbs to the city often find it difficult to (**adapt**, **dovetail**) to the noise and crowded conditions.
6. Thinking it no crime to borrow from the past, Elizabethan dramatists often (**vilified**, **plundered**) ancient writings for suitable plots.
7. In the opening scene of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, there is a strong sense of (**foreboding**, **enormity**) that something terrible is going to happen.
8. The police sometimes use laws against (**faltering**, **loitering**) to prevent the gathering of unruly crowds.
9. No matter how well qualified you may be, an inability to get on well with other people will prove a serious (**imperative**, **impediment**) in any field of work.
10. Mutual respect and understanding among all racial and ethnic groups remains a(n) (**imperative**, **waif**) in the life of this nation.
11. The (**pithy**, **haughty**) advice given by Ben Franklin in *Poor Richard's Almanac* has rarely been equaled for its good common sense.
12. Despite our own exhaustion, we made one final, (**pithy**, **forlorn**) attempt to save the drowning swimmer, but our efforts were to no avail.
13. Monday morning seems to be a favorite time for the employees to practice the fine art of (**foreboding**, **malingering**).
14. I believe that it is (**adapt**, **imperative**) that we protect our lakes, rivers, and wetlands, as they provide us with clean drinking water.

15. "I did what I thought best at the time," the president replied, "and I deeply resent their cowardly attempts to (**vilify, plunder**) my actions."
16. Ample food supplies in the United States (**attest, vilify**) to the abilities of American farmers.
17. For a time, it was fashionable for supermodels to look like (**waifs, loiterers**), but that undernourished look has lost its appeal.
18. To (**simper, falter**) now, at the very threshold of victory, would mean that all our earlier struggles and sacrifices had been in vain
19. When she learned that she had not been chosen for the job, she made a (**wry, forlorn**) joke, but this did not conceal her deep disappointment.
20. His (**haughty, steadfast**) attitude toward those he considered "beneath him" was a sure sign of lack of breeding and simple good manners.
21. The director told him to smile like a "dashing man about town," but all he could do was (**adapt, simper**) like a confused freshman.
22. Political leaders should feel free to change their minds on specific issues while remaining (**steadfast, wry**) in their support of their principles.
23. Hordes of savage barbarians swept into the province, committing one (**impediment, enormity**) after another on the defenseless population.
24. The temperaments of the partners in the business (**dovetail, attest**) so well that they can work together without the slightest friction or conflict.
25. Dexter, our beagle, looks so (**vilified, forlorn**) when we leave him behind.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 14

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 14.*

Now Arriving on Track 1: New York Dry Goods

In the United States in 1862, plans began to develop for building a railroad linking the east coast and the west coast. The Transcontinental Railroad, finished in 1869, would span the country and forever change travel and life in the United States.

September 12, 1869

Dear William:

I was pleased to receive your letter inquiring about our operations here in San Francisco. Business has flourished since opened our western office over a decade ago. The frenzy of the gold rush days has subsided, but there is now sufficient population and enterprise in our region to support a growing commerce. There is steady demand for the dry goods I import from your father's New York warehouse. From time to time, our business is **amplified** by new railroad construction, a new discovery of silver, or a new mine.

I agree with your assessment of our prospects. The completion of the Pacific Railroad, at last linking the coasts of our great nation, marks a new **epoch** in commerce. Yet it would be **naive** to depend entirely on rail transport for our imports anytime soon, or to expect the oceanic traffic to be **obliterated**. Already, the steamers have lowered their prices. Of course, where time is of the essence, we will prefer the overland route. I am **gratified** to report that our first shipments arrived at the new Alameda station. This transcontinental railroad is a sign of progress to come and of a seemingly **infinite** potential in this country. It will drive the growth of commerce. But it is also a measure of what has already been achieved. Would the great men who invested their wealth in this project have **estranged** themselves from their capital if there were not already a great demand for transport across the continent?

As to your prospects, there is always a place for you here, should you decide to come to California and add your strength to the pursuit of our **kindred** interests. The work in our office is for the most part quite **tedious**, though you're welcome to a share if your tastes run to the **bland**. You may prefer to manage shipments to the **vendors** and merchants we supply in California, Utah, and Nevada. I confess I've grown tired of dealings with customers. Too many of them prove **arrogant** and **irascible**. I just overheard a local man arguing with our shopkeeper over the price of some fine linen. The way he put on airs, even pretending the cloth was defective, calls to mind the old saying, the bigger the hat, the smaller the farm. I'd be relieved to put the storefront's oversight in your hands. If you have some other role in mind, we can find a **niche** that suits you.

Recently, I spoke with William Ralston. He had a hand in establishing the Bank of California some five years ago. He is keen to see San Francisco blossom into a great city and says that recent growth in local manufacturing will continue. The city itself, hardly more than a clutter of canvass tents and **ramshackle** houses when I arrived, has matured into a fine urban center. There are many elegant homes, and entertainments enough to keep a young man like yourself occupied in your leisure hours. This year saw the opening of the California Theater, another of Mr. Ralston's projects, which makes an impressive addition to our city life.

I await word of your decision.

Affectionately,
Uncle Albert

Mr. Ramshackle

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Amplify
- (v.) to make stronger, larger, greater, louder, or the like
EX. Some court rulings _____ the authority of the individual states.
- II. Armistice
- (n.) a temporary peace, halt in fighting
EX. Diplomats hope to negotiate an _____ between the warring nations.
- III. Arrogant
- (adj.) haughty, too convinced of one's own importance
EX. An _____ individual is likely to find it difficult to work as part of a team.
- IV. Bland
- (adj.) gentle, soothing, mild; lacking interest or taste
EX. Some people prefer to live in a place where the climate is _____ and unchanging all year round.
- V. Disclaim
- (v.) to deny interest in or connection with; to give up all claim to
EX. Both candidates _____ any ties to special-interest groups.
- VI. Epoch
- (n.) a distinct period of time, age
EX. The mapping of the human genetic code marked the start of a promising new _____ in medicine.
- VII. Estrange
- (v.) to drift apart or become unfriendly; to cause such a separation; to remove or keep at a distance
EX. A long and bitter feud _____ a family may that was once close-knit
- VIII. Gratify
- (v.) to please, satisfy; to indulge or humor
EX. Experts advise parents not to _____ a child's every whim.
- IX. Infinite
- (adj.) exceedingly great, inexhaustible, without limit, endless; (n., preceded by the) an incalculable number, the concept of infinity; (cap. /) a name for God
EX. It may take _____ patience to be a parent, but the rewards are equally great.
EX. A belief in the _____ is a source of comfort and hope to many people who are in distress.

- X. Irascible
- (*adj.*) easily made angry, hot-tempered
EX. Working for an _____ boss can be very difficult indeed
- XI. Kindred
- (*n.*) a person's relatives; a family relationship; (*adj.*) related by blood; like, similar
EX. If you have any long-lost _____ you may be able to use the Internet to locate them.
EX. People who feel that they are _____ spirits usually have many interests in common.
- XII. Naive
- (*adj.*) innocent, unsophisticated, showing lack of worldly knowledge and experience
EX. A _____ person may be easily taken in by get-rich-quick schemes.
- XIII. Niche
- (*n.*) a decorative recess in a wall; a suitable place or position for a person or thing
EX. That _____ in the hallway is a perfect spot for a vase of fresh flowers.
- XIV. Obliterate
- (*v.*) to blot out completely, destroy utterly
EX. An earthquake can _____ large portions of a major city in a matter of minutes.
- XV. Ramshackle
- (*adj.*) appearing ready to collapse, loose and shaky
EX. A few _____ buildings are all that remain of the old mining town.
- XVI. Ransack
- (*v.*) to search or examine thoroughly; to rob, plunder
EX. Robbers _____ the house for cash and other valuables.
- XVII. Rote
- (*n.*) unthinking routine or repetition, a fixed or mechanical way of doing something; (*adj.*) based on a mechanical routine
EX. Most people learn to type by _____.
EX. _____ memorization can be helpful when you begin to study a foreign language.
- XVIII. Solvent
- (*adj.*) able to meet one's financial obligations; having the power to dissolve other substances; (*n.*) a liquid used to dissolve other substances; something that solves, explains, eliminates, or softens
EX. If you want to remain _____, set a budget and stick to it.
EX. To remove tar and paint from your hands, you may have to use a _____.

XIX. Tedious

- (*adj.*) long and tiresome

EX. Sometimes I find it hard to pay close attention to a _____ lecture.

XX. Vendor

- (*n.*) a person who sells something

EX. If the appliance you purchased turns out to be defective, you should return it to the _____.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Every week she meets with a small circle of (**naive**, **kindred**) souls whose greatest interest in life is the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.
2. Rioters smashed windows and (**disclaimed**, **ransacked**) government offices as they attempted to overthrow the dictator.
3. A person who behaves with (**kindred**, **arrogant**) disregard for the feelings of others is likely to have very few friends.
4. He found a comfortable (**niche**, **rote**) for himself at a bank and worked there quite happily for more than forty years.
5. Although I was furious, I faced my accusers with a (**tedious**, **bland**) smile.
6. We are now learning the hard way that our energy sources are not (**infinite**, **ramshackle**) and that we will have to use them carefully.
7. You will learn that nothing is more (**amplifying**, **gratifying**) than to face a problem squarely, analyze it clearly, and resolve it successfully.
8. The spirit of the new law to protect consumers is not "Let the buyer beware" but, rather, "Let the (**vendor**, **solvent**) beware."
9. My next-door neighbor is a(n) (**tedious**, **arrogant**) individual with a remarkable talent for boring me out of my wits.
10. What is important for the children is not a(n) (**infinite**, **rote**) recital of the poem but an understanding of what the words really mean.
11. Rather than (**disclaim**, **obliterate**) their religious faiths, many Protestants, Catholics, and Jews left Europe to settle in the New World.
12. I (**ransacked**, **gratified**) my brain feverishly, but I was unable to find any way out of the difficulty.
13. In Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*, the protagonist is so (**naive**, **tedious**) that he does not understand that he is being trained to become a pickpocket.
14. The beginning of commercial television in the 1940s marked a revolutionary (**niche**, **epoch**) in the history of mass communications.
15. Several (**vendors**, **epochs**) at the fair were giving away free samples to entice customers to buy their wares.

16. Whenever my supervisor gets into one of his (**bland, irascible**) moods, I know that I'm in for some high drama before the day is out.
17. Some people are worried that sizable asteroids could hit Earth and (**obliterate, ramshackle**) entire cities.
18. They claim to have "buried the hatchet," but I fear they have only declared a temporary (**vendor, armistice**) in their feud.
19. Over the years, the vigorous foreign policy that this country pursued greatly (**amplified, gratified**) our role in world affairs.
20. The excuse that he offered for his absence was so (**solvent, ramshackle**) and improbable that it fell apart as soon as we looked into it.
21. The business had been losing money for years; but thanks to new management, it is once again (**infinite, solvent**).
22. The job of a mediator is to help (**kindred, estranged**) parties find a basis for settling their differences.
23. Can anyone be so (**naive, irascible**) as to believe that all famous people who endorse products on TV actually use those products?
24. I am willing to forgive you, but I don't know if I can ever (**obliterate, estrange**) the memory of your dishonesty from my mind.
25. Cleaning house is not a difficult chore; it's simply (**bland, tedious**).

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 15

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 15.*

Muckraking Journalist Ida M. Tarbell

Ida M. Tarbell was a pioneer investigative journalist. Her 1902-1904 magazine serial exposé, "The History of the Standard Oil Company," did much to reform the United States oil industry. It changed the face of journalism and was the **crucial** catalyst for the breakup of the Standard Oil Trust in 1911. Her nineteen-part **opus** painted a scathing portrait of the shady practices of Standard Oil and its founder and president, John D. Rockefeller, America's first billionaire.

That it was a woman who helped bring down an oil empire may have surprised some in an era when women were still regarded as the "weaker sex." But it did not surprise those who knew Ida Tarbell.

While outwardly modest, with the **veneer** of a polite and proper lady, Tarbell **embodied** daring and courage. She had a passion for exposing the truth.

She also claimed an oil-related **heritage**. Tarbell was born in 1857 in Hatch Hollow, Pennsylvania. Her father became an independent oil producer and refiner in the state's oil-rich region. Young Ida watched as he lost his business due to Rockefeller's **mercenary** practices, which involved **reciprocal** agreements between powerful railroad interests and a select group of large oil refiners. These tactics effectively shut out smaller companies.

Tarbell never forgot the **fiasco** that had **befallen** her father. It played a key role in shaping her later career. After high school, she attended Allegheny College (she was the sole female in her **freshman class** in 1876). She taught science briefly before becoming a writer. She moved to Paris, France, to work on a biography of a French revolutionary, and returned home at the invitation of a publisher who was starting a political and literary magazine.

Tarbell composed acclaimed pieces for the monthly McClure's Magazine on Napoleon Bonaparte and Abraham Lincoln. But this was just a dry run. It was her carefully researched and **rational** articles on illicit industrial practices **garnished** with her trademark spirited insights that made her famous. And it proclaimed the era of the Progressive and the muckraker (a term made popular by President Theodore Roosevelt to describe how the journalists "dug up the dirt" on those they investigated).

Shrugging off the **strictures** of conventional journalism, Tarbell and her muckraking cohorts dug deep to uncover injustice and corruption. They avoided the moral **abyss** of yellow journalism, which focused on sensationalism rather than truth. Instead, they presented facts to win over converts to the Progressive cause, which fought for political reform, better working conditions, and civil rights. They targeted hazardous conditions in coal mines, issues of child labor, disease-ridden hospitals, filthy and overcrowded slums, fake patent medicines, and more. Their articles **exasperated** politicians, business tycoons, and bigwigs whose illegal or **negligent** practices were investigated. But they thrilled the public. They also galvanized official investigations and prompted legal reforms. Tarbell's celebrated series of articles on Standard Oil were the opening salvo. A 1911 Supreme Court decision dissolved the oil monopoly into numerous smaller companies. Many of these companies are still active today. The work of the muckrakers led to stricter child labor laws and the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. The muckrakers influenced how investigative reporters work to this day.

Ida Tarbell lived to the age of 84, writing almost up to the day she died. She gained an international reputation as a writer, historian, and editor.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Abyss
- (n.) a deep or bottomless pit
EX. Mountain climbers must take great care lest they slip and fall into an _____.
- II. Befall
- (v.) to happen, occur; to happen to
EX. It is only natural to worry from time to time about the ills that may someday _____ us.
- III. Crucial
- (adj.) of supreme importance, decisive, critical
EX. In many adventure films, the hero always arrives just at the _____ moment.
- IV. Dregs
- (n. pl.) the last remaining part; the part of least worth
EX. The _____ of bitterness are all that remain of our former friendship.
- V. Embody
- (v.) to give form to; to incorporate, include; to personify
EX. The villain in a melodrama _____ cold-blooded ruthlessness.
- VI. Exasperate
- (v.) to irritate, annoy, or anger
EX. Small children sometimes _____ adults with endless questions.
- VII. Fiasco
- (n.) the complete collapse or failure of a project
EX. With the bases loaded, our star pitcher gave up a home run, turning a close game into a _____.
- VIII. Garnish
- (v.) to adorn or decorate, especially food; (n.) an ornament or decoration, especially for food
EX. The chef _____ our salad with colorful edible flowers.
EX. When it comes to mystery novels, I prefer those that have a _____ of wit.
- IX. Heritage
- (n.) an inheritance; a birthright
EX. A rich _____ of human history and creativity is housed in the world's libraries and museums.

- X. Inert
- (*adj.*) lifeless, unable to move or act; slow, inactive
EX. In order to keep patients _____ during surgery, doctors use various general anesthetics
- XI. Mercenary
- (*adj.*) acting or working for self-gain only; (*n.*) a hired soldier, a soldier of fortune
EX. A fortune hunter's motives are _____ rather than romantic.
EX. A country that does not have a standing army may need to call upon _____ to fight in its wars.
- XII. Negligent
- (*adj.*) marked by carelessness or indifference; failing to do what should be done
EX. A driver who is _____ about obeying traffic regulations may end up causing an accident.
- XIII. Oblivion
- (*n.*) forgetfulness, disregard; a state of being forgotten; an amnesty, general pardon
EX. Down through the ages, poets have described sleep as a kind of _____ that brings relief from woe.
- XIV. Opus
- (*n.*) an impressive piece of work, especially a musical composition or other work of art
EX. Many scholars consider Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel paintings to be his greatest _____.
- XV. Pallid
- (*adj.*) pale, lacking color; weak and lifeless
EX. A long illness may leave a person looking extremely frail and _____.
- XVI. Parable
- (*n.*) a short narrative designed to teach a moral lesson
EX. Sermons are often based on _____ from the New Testament.
- XVII. Rational
- (*adj.*) based on reasoning; able to make use of reason; sensible or reasonable
EX. Calm and _____ analysis should lead you to a solution to most problems.
- XVIII. Reciprocal
- (*adj.*) shared; involving give-and-take between two persons or things; working in both directions; (*n.*) (*math*) a number that, when multiplied by another number, gives 1
EX. A _____ understanding of each other's likes and dislikes is important in a close friendship.
EX. The fraction $\frac{4}{3}$ is the _____ of the fraction $\frac{3}{4}$.

XIX. Stricture

- (*n.*) a limitation or restriction; a criticism; (*medicine*) a narrowing of a passage in the body

EX. Most religions impose dietary _____ of some sort on their followers.

XX. Veneer

- (*n.*) a thin outer layer; a surface appearance or decoration; (*v.*) to cover with a thin layer

EX. Some people may adopt a thin _____ of friendliness to hide their true feelings toward others.

EX. Furniture makers often _____ sturdy but common wood with a finer, more costly variety.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. My uncle, who was a West Point graduate, (**embodied, garnished**) all the qualities suggested by the phrase "an officer and a gentleman."
2. What a relief to turn from those (**pallid, negligent**) little tales to the lively, vigorous, earthy stories of Mark Twain.
3. Because decent people would have nothing to do with him, he soon began to associate with the (**dregs, fiasco**) of humanity.
4. "The heroism of these brave men and women speaks for itself and needs no (**oblivion, garnishing**)," said the senator.
5. Underneath the (**veneer, oblivion**) of her polished manners, we recognized the down-to-earth young woman we had known in earlier years.
6. If our leadership is timid and (**mercenary, inert**), we will never be able to solve the great problems that face us.
7. As he undertook that big job without any sound preparation, all of his ambitious plans ended in a resounding (**stricture, fiasco**).
8. Isn't it tragic that the religious groups fighting each other are separated by a(n) (**parable, abyss**) of misunderstanding?
9. After his crushing defeat in the election, the candidate returned to his hometown and disappeared into (**heritage, oblivion**).
10. I spent months planning the fund-raiser, but it turned out to be a (**garnish, fiasco**): the guest speaker cancelled at the last minute, and the band was two hours late.
11. Experience teaches us that many of the things that seemed so (**crucial, inert**) when we were young are really of no ultimate importance.
12. When the court found that the car company had been (**negligent, rational**) selling cars with substandard brakes it was ordered to pay millions in fines.
13. There are times when it is good to let your imagination run free, instead of trying to be strictly (**rational, crucial**).
14. Marion turned (**opus, pallid**) when she received the news that her grandfather had suffered a stroke.

15. A descendant of one of the Founding Fathers of this country, she strove all her life to live up to her distinguished (**abyss, heritage**).
16. If you are (**reciprocal, negligent**) about small sums of money, you may find that you will never have any large sums to worry about.
17. Using the (**dregs, veneer**) in the teacup, the fortune teller gave the young woman a reading about her happiness.
18. The plan of the two schools to exchange members of their faculties proved to be of (**rational, reciprocal**) advantage.
19. Any significant (**dregs, stricture**) of the passages leading to the heart will hinder the normal flow of blood to that organ and cause cardiac arrest.
20. It's hard for people to admit that some of the misfortunes that (**befall, garnish**) them are really their own fault.
21. In this early novel by Dickens, we have an (**abyss, opus**) that gives us a wonderful picture of life in nineteenth-century England.
22. Such familiar stories as "Little Red Riding Hood" are really (**parables, veneers**) that tell a child something about the conditions of human life.
23. Once the war had been won, the victors laid aside their high-minded ideals and became involved in a (**mercenary, pallid**) squabble over the spoils.
24. Her constant chattering while I'm trying to do my vocabulary exercises (**exasperates, embodies**) me more than I can say.
25. The ancient treasure lies at the bottom of an (**abyss, oblivion**) in the Pacific Ocean.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 16

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 16.*

I'll Wait for the Movie

Cue scene: Middle-Earth characters Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli leap off a ship, swords in hand, to **breach** archenemy Sauron's lines in the epic Battle of Pelennor Fields. This is a crucial moment in the movie version of *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*. Alas, the haunting showdown with the ghostly **brigands** does not actually occur in author J.R.R. Tolkien's books.

Film fans do not have to speak Elvish to enjoy director Peter Jackson's blockbuster *Lord of the Rings* (LOTR) trilogy. But do the movies do justice to Tolkien's enduring and popular novels? And is it possible for the LOT purist to watch the films without cringing at every discrepancy? Readers are often disappointed with movie adaptations of their favorite novels. In fact, they might be **predisposed** to dislike any movie version. This is a perennial problem for film directors, scriptwriters, readers, and moviegoers alike.

Filmmakers often **commandeer** the story and make it their own. Their motivation might be this cliché: "a picture paints a thousand words." They eliminate characters or events, or they add new ones. And authors can't complain: When they sell the rights to their work, they usually **relinquish** control. Filmmakers understand that their audience is **opinionated**, as evinced by LOTR fans posting online comments about Jackson's adaptation. Some claim that Jackson made a **muddle** of the books, that his tinkering is **spurious**, or that the films show only **spasmodic** flashes of greatness. Other fans show **unbridled** enthusiasm, saying that Tolkien's **perennial** classics are too long and **diffuse** and that the director's snipping was essential. And some fans are more **circumspect** in their criticism, realizing it is impossible to please everyone.

The **dilemma** facing filmmakers is that reading a book is a more interactive experience than watching a movie. A reader visualizes every scene in the book and decides what the characters look and sound like, what they wear, how their environs appear. For those who read the LOTR books first, the movie's Frodo may not resemble the Frodo they imagined. How can Peter Jackson's vision of Middle-Earth reflect the ones created in the mind's eye of millions of readers?

It is easy to imagine that moviegoers and readers are always **deadlocked** over which medium is better. Those who have read the book may come away from the multiplex disappointed: The movie left out so much! Why was that memorable scene transposed to the beginning? On the other hand, those who see the movie first may be awed by the director's imaginative retelling or by the stirring music and special effects. Most movies based on books retain key characters, scenes, and themes. Directors and scriptwriters strive to tell the same story and evoke the same emotions as the author of the original book. Both share an audience yet address one that is exclusively their own.

In the end, directors must rely on fans to accept the limitations of the movie. How is it possible for a two-hour movie (or even a sprawling movie trilogy) to include all of the details woven throughout a long novel? A movie that attempted to do this would end up unwieldy and **cumbersome** a surefire way to disappoint moviegoers and book lovers alike.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Admonish

- (v.) to caution or advise against something; to scold mildly; to remind of a duty

EX. The librarian had to _____ the noisy students several times before they settled down.

II. Breach

- (n.) an opening, gap, rupture, rift; a violation or infraction; (v.) to create an opening, break through

EX. Because of a serious _____ of the rules, two players were ejected from the game.

EX. Our troops were unable to _____ the enemy's lines during the battle.

III. Brigand

- (n.) a bandit, robber, outlaw, highwayman

EX. Ancient caravans passing through desolate areas were sometimes attacked by _____.

IV. Circumspect

- (adj.) careful, cautious

EX. It is important for a diplomat to behave in a manner that is both discreet and _____.

V. Commandeer

- (v.) to seize for military or official use

EX. Under certain circumstances the U.S. government has the right to _____ private property.

VI. Cumbersome

- (adj.) clumsy, hard to handle; slow-moving

EX. The bus was filled to capacity with holiday shoppers carrying large and _____ packages.

VII. Deadlock

- (n.) a standstill resulting from the opposition of two equal forces or factions; (v.) to bring to such a standstill

EX. After fifteen innings, the score remained a frustrating 3-to-3 _____.

EX. The refusal of labor and management to modify their demands _____ the contract negotiations.

VIII. Debris

- (n.) scattered fragments, wreckage

EX. After the storm, the beach was littered with driftwood and other _____.

IX. Diffuse

- (v.) to spread or scatter freely or widely; (adj.) wordy, long-winded, or unfocused; scattered or widely spread

EX. The scent of lilacs slowly _____ through the open window.

EX. The speech was so long and _____ that most audience members were thoroughly confused by it.

X. Dilemma

- (n.) a difficult or perplexing situation or problem

EX. During the crisis the President found himself caught in a painful _____.

XI. Efface

- (v.) to wipe out; to keep oneself from being noticed

EX. Time had _____ almost all signs of the struggle that took place on that famous battlefield.

XII. Muddle

- (v.) to make a mess of; muddle through: to get by; (n.) a hopeless mess

EX. Too much stress and too little sleep will almost certainly _____ a person's ability to concentrate.

EX. The _____ was principally caused by their failure to carry out the general's orders properly.

XIII. Opinionated

- (adj.) stubborn and often unreasonable in holding to one's own ideas, having a closed mind

EX. My friend is so _____ that sometimes she will not listen to a reasonable proposal.

XIV. Perennial

- (adj.) lasting for a long time, persistent; (n.) a plant that lives for many years

EX. Pizza is a _____ favorite of young and old alike in the United States.

EX. A garden of _____ is relatively easy to maintain.

XV. Predispose

- (v.) to incline to beforehand

EX. My genetic makeup seems to _____ me to colds and sore throats.

XVI. Relinquish

- (v.) to let go, give up

EX. Severe illness forced me to _____ my role in the school play.

XVII. Salvage

- (v.) to save from fire or shipwreck; (n.) property thus saved

EX. Fortunately, we were able to _____ a few things from the fire.

EX. _____ from sunken ships can be of great value to archaeologists and historians.

XVIII. Spasmodic

- (*adj.*) sudden and violent but brief; fitful; intermittent
EX. _____ flashes of lightning and booming thunderclaps were accompanied by torrential rain.

XIX. Spurious

- (*adj.*) not genuine, not true, not valid
EX. Manufacturers who make _____ claims for their products may face fines or lawsuits.

XX. Unbridled

- (*adj.*) lacking in restraint
EX. Sometimes the _____ enthusiasm of sports fans can get a little out of hand.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Like the rings a pebble makes when tossed in a pool of water, the good feelings generated by the speech (**diffused, relinquished**) through the crowd.
2. To ensure they are not resented, the most powerful nations in the world must be extremely (**circumspect, opinionated**) in their foreign policy.
3. Instead of trying to (**admonish, commandeer**) the support of the student body, we must earn it by showing our sincerity and ability.
4. An economy in which the marketplace is considered "open" is one in which competition is more or less (**muddled, unbridled**).
5. Our city government seems to have (**breached, muddled**) into a first-rate financial crisis.
6. The robber barons were a group of nineteenth-century captains of industry who amassed wealth by means that a (**brigand, salvager**) might use.
7. The evidence intended to show that some races or nationalities are superior to others proved to be completely (**spurious, cumbersome**).
8. The dean (**effaced, admonished**) the members of the team for neglecting their homework assignments.
9. In general, she is a confident person, so I'm sure she will be able to (**commandeer, salvage**) a few shreds of self-respect from her humiliating failure.
10. His attempts to rid his administration of inefficiency were so (**unbridled, spasmodic**) that he came to be called the "reformer by fits and starts."
11. After the fire, investigators searched through the (**debris, dilemma**) for clues that might reveal the cause.
12. Since she is so convinced that there is only one right way her way I find her too (**circumspect, opinionated**) for my liking.
13. My mother broke the (**debris, deadlock**) in the quarrel between my brother and me by saying that neither of us could use the car.
14. Developing nations in all parts of the world face the (**perennial, spurious**) problem of gaining a higher level of economic growth.
15. The senator refused to (**efface, relinquish**) the floor to any other speaker before he had finished his statement.
16. If only I could (**predispose, efface**) the memory of the look of shock and disappointment on my mother's face!

17. Even her refusal to dance with him did not seem to make a (**deadlock, breach**) in his gigantic conceit.
18. The nation was faced with a (**dilemma, brigand**) in which either to advance or to retreat might endanger its vital interests.
19. The organization of some government agencies is so (**cumbersome, perennial**) that it is all but impossible to know who is responsible for various activities.
20. How can you expect to succeed at your new job when you are (**diffused, predisposed**) to believe that it is "not right" for you?
21. After we agreed on the lineup of songs, we then (**salvaged, deadlocked**) over the choice of a name for our band.
22. When his precious collection of (**perennials, debris**) was torn up and trampled, the gardener was first heartbroken, then angry.
23. Although he was the world's expert on the subject, his lectures were so (**unbridled, diffuse**) that even his greatest fans grew bored.
24. When we discovered that she had never completed college, we knew that her claims of having once been a lawyer were (**spurious, opinionated**).
25. In spite of weeks of practice, he made a (**breach, muddle**) of his performance.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 17

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 17.*

Cowgirl Up!

People today may consider cowgirls to be folk heroines, but many of the women who helped open America's western cattle country would have **jeered** and laughed at the term. It had a hint of the **dissolute** until well into the 20th century. Cowgirls were associated with **comely** female sharpshooters, ropers, and trick riders of Wild West shows. At that time, working in entertainment meant **expulsion** from respectable society. But, it is said that you can't judge a horse by its color, and the West benefited from the work of all the women there.

There was a precedent in the West for women ranchers in the areas governed by Spain from 1697 to 1848. Husbands and wives co-owned vast **homesteads**. Under Spanish law, wives could inherit property. Land ownership **fortified** the social status of women. Early generations of ranch women were **unflinching** and determined as they undertook all but the heaviest chores. They rode horses, herded cattle, and performed much of the work wealthy ranchers could **compensate** cowboys to do, and all the while, these women tended their homes and families. Their contributions helped turn struggling ranches into **lucrative** enterprises.

Some women of the old West are legends, while others have stories that have only been remembered by their families. Susan McSween lived in New Mexico at the time of Billy the Kid and the Lincoln County Wars. Rather than **adjourn** to a humdrum town life after her husband's murder in 1878, young Susan McSweeney purchased a ranch. Soon McSween, "The Cattle Queen of New Mexico," owned over 8,000 head of cattle. She lived much of her life running her ranch and selling real estate.

Lily Casey grew up in the early 1900s in a one-room house in West Texas, where, as a young child, she drove the family wagon to town to sell eggs. Her family bought a ranch in New Mexico when she was 11 years old. Casey's mother did not find the **alien**, difficult ranch work **tantalizing**, so Casey began overseeing most of the ranch work when she was barely a teenager. Exhausted by running the ranch without support, Casey left home at age 15 to teach in a town 500 miles away. She rode a horse all the way and arrived at her new job, **sullied** and hungry, 28 days later. Casey taught for many years before returning to ranching during the 1930s.

Nobody would pin the label **mediocre** on the life of Martha Jane Canary. Born in 1852 in Missouri, she was separated from her family at an early age. To support herself, she worked **erratically** as a waitress, a nurse, a pony express rider, a mule- and ox-team driver, and a gold prospector. It was during her time as an army scout that she met Buffalo Bill and earned her famous nickname, "Calamity Jane." She traveled through much of the West, and stories of her adventures **proliferated**. She died in South Dakota in 1903. She is buried next to another western hero whose life is **fodder** for outrageous stories Wild Bill Hickok.

While early ranch women were the first cowgirls, such women exist today. The National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Texas first opened its doors in 1975 and has over 150 inductees. Among the cowgirls honored are a Pulitzer Prize winner, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation, and a Supreme Court Justice.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Adjourn

- (v.) to stop proceedings temporarily; move to another place
EX. The judge _____ the hearing until ten o'clock the following morning.

II. Alien

- (n.) a citizen of another country; (adj.) foreign, strange
EX. Movies about _____ from outer space have been extremely popular for decades.
EX. An _____ species of plant or animal can upset the balance of an ecosystem.

III. Comely

- (adj.) having a pleasing appearance
EX. The proud parents and their _____ children posed for a family portrait.

IV. Compensate

- (v.) to make up for; to repay for services
EX. The manufacturer was ordered to _____ customers injured by the defective product.

V. Dissolute

- (adj.) loose in one's morals or behavior
EX. The mad Roman emperor Caligula led an extravagant and _____ life.

VI. Erratic

- (adj.) not regular or consistent; different from what is ordinarily expected; undependable
EX. Students who have an _____ attendance record may find themselves disciplined by the principal.

VII. Expulsion

- (n.) the process of driving or forcing out
EX. The Biblical story of the _____ of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden is told in Genesis.

VIII. Feint

- (n.) a deliberately deceptive movement; a pretense; (v.) to make a deceptive movement; to make a pretense of
EX. The chess master's opening _____ gave her an immediate advantage.
EX. His uncanny ability to _____ and counterpunch made the champ unbeatable.

- IX. Fodder
- (*n.*) food for horses or cattle; raw material for a designated
EX. Every experience in life is _____ for a novelist's imagination.
- X. Fortify
- (*v.*) to strengthen, build up
EX. The soldiers _____ the garrison against the expected attack.
- XI. Illegible
- (*adj.*) difficult or impossible to read
EX. The effects of air pollution have rendered the inscriptions on many old gravestones _____.
- XII. Jeer
- (*v.*) to make fun of rudely or unkindly; (*n.*) a rude remark of derision
EX. To _____ at someone with a disability is absolutely inexcusable.
EX. Umpires and other referees quickly become immune to the _____ of angry fans.
- XIII. Lucrative
- (*adj.*) bringing in money; profitable
EX. Many people find that they can turn a favorite hobby into a highly _____ business.
- XIV. Mediocre
- (*adj.*) average, ordinary, undistinguished
EX. The team's number-one draft pick turned out to be a rather _____ player, not a star who could lead them to the championship.
- XV. Proliferate
- (*v.*) to reproduce, increase, or spread rapidly
EX. Because malignant cells _____, early detection of cancer is absolutely crucial to successful treatment.
- XVI. Subjugate
- (*v.*) to conquer by force, bring under complete control
EX. "We must act quickly," the general said, "in order to _____ the rebel forces."
- XVII. Sully
- (*v.*) to soil, stain, tarnish, defile, besmirch
EX. The Nixon-era Watergate scandal _____ the image of politicians in the minds of many voters.
- XVIII. Tantalize
- (*v.*) to tease, torment by teasing
EX. When I am on a diet, the treats in bakery windows seem to have been but there to _____.

XIX. Terse

- (*adj.*) brief and to the point

EX. The manuscript for my short story was returned to me with a _____ letter of rejection.

XX. Unflinching

- (*adj.*) firm, showing no signs of fear, not drawing back

EX. Everyone admires the _____ courage with which firefighters and other rescue workers carry out their dangerous jobs.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. We all experience fear and panic, but the leader of a great nation must be able to (**tantalize**, **subjugate**) such emotions.
2. Though a veteran soldier is often a well-tuned fighting machine, a raw recruit must be trained to avoid becoming cannon (**feint**, **fodder**).
3. His behavior is so (**erratic**, **terse**) that we never know what to expect from him.
4. When I first noticed how (illegible, **lucrative**) my roommate's handwriting was, I suggested that he sign up immediately for a course in penmanship.
5. I would be unwilling to vote for the (**expulsion**, **fodder**) of club members just because they are behind in their dues.
6. The desire to force everyone to accept the same set of ideas is completely (**illegible**, **alien**) to the spirit of democracy.
7. After the formal dinner was over, we (**adjourned**, **tantalized**) to the den in order to continue our conversation in a more relaxed atmosphere.
8. At one point in our fencing match, my opponent unexpectedly (**sullied**, **feinted**) to the left and threw me completely off guard.
9. The Rake's Progress paints a grim and uncompromising picture of some of the more (**dissolute**, **alien**) and degrading aspects of human behavior.
10. In my opinion, his writing is so bad that he will have to improve a great deal just to reach the level of (**mediocrity**, **compensation**).
11. To keep my self-respect, I must stand (**comely**, **unflinching**) before the authorities and tell them the truth as I see it.
12. For centuries people have turned to the support of their friends and family to (**fortify**, **proliferate**) themselves against the shocks of daily life.
13. "No," she said, "I won't (sully, adjourn) your ears by repeating those mean and nasty rumors."
14. All great athletes should know that the same fans who are cheering them today may be (**jeering**, **subjugating**) them tomorrow.
15. As soon as I entered that charming little cottage, I noticed that everything in it was neat and (**erratic**, **comely**).
16. Over the years I've noticed one thing about rumors: Where the facts are few, fictions (**proliferate**, **fortify**).
17. A best-selling book that is then made into a movie may be more (**dissolute**, **lucrative**) than the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

18. Even though I must work hard for a living, I feel that the company I'm with amply (**subjugates, compensates**) me for my time and effort.
19. Instead of all those long, flowery passages, why don't you try to write more in the (**mediocre, terse**) and direct style of a good newspaper reporter?
20. I can understand how ordinary people sometimes feel (**tantalized, jeered**) by the wealth and luxuries they see displayed on television programs.
21. When I asked my mother why she wouldn't let me borrow the car, she (**comely, tersely**) explained that she needed it for herself.
22. The (**feint, alien**), two-headed and covered with green scales, was grateful that the local people had welcomed him in spite of their misgivings.
23. The basketball team's uncharacteristic losing streak made the (**jeers, feints**) echoing throughout the arena sting even more.
24. The detective was frustrated by the (**illegibility, expulsion**) of the letter, which made it difficult to determine who had written it.
25. The little girl wanted to see her brother flinch, so she made a sudden (**sully, feint**).

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 18

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 18.*

A Polar Controversy

Today, traveling by air greatly **abridges** the time it once took to reach the North Pole. In the first decade of the 20th century, before airplanes, reaching that remote, frozen destination was no easy task. Those who attempted it had to **surmount** hazardous conditions, such as **rifts** in thick, drifting sea ice and bitter winds that made breathing painful. Nonetheless, reaching the Pole first was an elusive prize that adventurers ardently sought. Then toward the end of that decade, two **eminent** American explorers, Frederick Cook and Robert E. Peary, friends and co-travelers, each claimed to have done so. Which one actually hit the jackpot? After all, a "first" cannot be achieved twice!

The two men shared a passionate commitment to polar exploration, but diverged in their attitudes and methods. Cook took a keen interest in the indigenous hunters. He strove to learn their culture and language. In contrast, Peary, who had undertaken several Arctic journeys, treated the native peoples he encountered in a manner one would never **condone** today. He approached the Arctic dwellers as a **marauder** would, **pilfering** their grave sites and selling the remains.

Cook left his base camp in Annoatok, Greenland, in February of 1908, and he claimed later that he reached the Pole on April 21 after enduring two months of brutal conditions. Once he determined his location by sextant, he began his long trek back to Annoatok, arriving there a year later. In his exhausted and emaciated state, he bore little **semblance** to a human being. Then, during his recovery, he learned that Peary had begun his own polar expedition eight months earlier, in August 1908. His strength restored, Cook journeyed overland by sled to a Danish trading post that was 700 miles away, but he left behind most of his expedition records, intending to have them shipped later. In August 1909, several months after Cook's departure, Peary arrived at Annoatok, convinced that he had been the first to reach the Pole on April 6, 1909. Hearing that Cook was claiming to have won the race the previous year made him **irate**. This news led him to try to discredit his fellow adventurer; he later accused Cook of **fabricating** accounts of such past achievements as his successful assault on the summit of Mount McKinley. Peary even refused to take Cook's expedition records with him aboard the ship that took him home, so they were lost forever.

Cook was heartsick that his former colleague would try to **usurp** his claim with these attacks. Their friendship was now **terminated**- and thus began a lifelong **altercation**. Once back in the United States, Peary and his associates kept busy casting doubts on Cook's reliability. Cook did not take these attacks lying down. He was in Europe, writing *My Attainment of the Pole* to make his case more forcefully.

Peary stayed on the offensive and soon gained public favor. A congressional committee investigated Peary's claims, and although it passed a bill honoring him, many **dissented**, remaining unconvinced by his so-called proofs. The committee officially credited him--not with discovering the North Pole, but simply with Arctic exploration resulting in its discovery.

Both explorers claimed to have buried objects at the North Pole, but such evidence has never been found. Nor have Cook's records shown up. Both explorers have their **adherents**, and the question of who reached the Pole first remains unanswered, although Peary's name is the one that is most associated with the discovery. Peary's efforts notwithstanding, Cook's claim has proven hard to **exorcise**. One reason: More recent visitors to the polar region have confirmed as accurate his original vivid descriptions.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Abridge
- (v.) to make shorter
EX. Travel by air _____ time needed to reach far-distant places.
- II. Adherent
- (n.) a follower, supporter; (adj.) attached, sticking to
EX. The senator's loyal _____ campaigned long and hard for her reelection.
EX. Before we could repaint the walls of our living room, we had to remove an _____ layer of wallpaper.
- III. Altercation
- (n.) an angry argument
EX. A noisy _____ in the next apartment kept me awake for hours.
- IV. Cherubic
- (adj.) resembling an angel portrayed as a little child with a beautiful, round, or chubby face; sweet and innocent
EX. How well those photographs of the month-old twins capture the _____ expressions on their faces!
- V. Condone
- (v.) to pardon or overlook
EX. Our parents have always made it crystal clear to us that they do not _____ rude behavior.
- VI. Dissent
- (v.) to disagree; (n.) disagreement
EX. Justices have an option to _____ from a ruling issued by a majority of the Supreme Court.
EX. Some people give voice to their _____ on issues of public policy by writing letters to newspapers.
- VII. Eminent
- (adj.) famous, outstanding, distinguished; projecting
 - EX. A group of _____ scientists met to discuss long-term changes in Earth's climate.
- VIII. Exorcise
- (v.) to drive out by magic; to dispose of something troublesome, menacing, or oppressive
EX. We must do all we can to _____ the evils of hatred and prejudice from our society.

- IX. Fabricate
- (v.) to make, manufacture; to make up, invent
EX. Threads from the cocoons of caterpillars called silkworms are used to _____ silk.
- X. Gluttony
- (n.) engaging in extreme eating or drinking; greedy overindulgence
EX. In the Middle Ages, _____ was considered one of the Seven Deadly Sins.
- XI. Irrate
- (adj.) angry
EX. Long delays caused by bad weather are likely to make even the most unflappable traveler _____.
- XII. Marauder
- (n.) a raider, plunderer
EX. Edgar Allan Poe's story "The Gold Bug" concerns treasure buried by the _____ Captain Kidd.
- XIII. Pauper
- (n.) an extremely poor person
EX. During the Great Depression, many people were reduced to leading the desperate lives of _____.
- XIV. Pilfer
- (v.) to steal in small quantities
EX. An employee who _____ from the petty cash box will get caught sooner or later.
- XV. Rift
- (n.) a split, break, breach
EX. Failure to repay a loan can be the cause of an angry _____ between longtime friends.
- XVI. Semblance
- (n.) a likeness; an outward appearance; an apparition
EX. Despite a bad case of stage fright, I tried to maintain a _____ of calm as I sang my solo.
- XVII. Surmount
- (v.) to overcome, rise above
EX. Wilma Rudolph _____ childhood illness and physical disabilities to win three Olympic gold medals.
- XVIII. Terminate
- (v.) to bring to an end
EX. If you fail to perform your job satisfactorily, your boss may _____ your employment.
- XIX. Trite
- (adj.) commonplace; overused, stale
EX. When you write an essay or a story, be especially careful to avoid using _____ expressions.

XX. Usurp

- (v.) to seize and hold a position by force or without right

EX. The general who led the coup _____ the office of the duly elected president.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. The fact that Abraham Lincoln was able to (**surmount**, **terminate**) the handicap of a limited education does not mean that you should quit school.
2. It is the sacred duty of all Americans to oppose any attempt to (**abridge**, **condone**) or deny the rights guaranteed to us in the Constitution.
3. If you ever saw how vigorously my dog attacks his food, practically inhaling it, you would understand why I accuse him of (**gluttony**, **altercation**).
4. One can't become a good writer just by (**surmounting**, **adhering**) closely to rules laid down in standard grammar books.
5. I do not entirely (**usurp**, **condone**) your misconduct, but I can understand, to a degree, why you behaved as you did.
6. The comforting presence of relatives did much to (**exorcise**, **pilfer**) the patient's feelings of alarm at the thought of undergoing major surgery.
7. Either party has the right to (**terminate**, **surmount**) the agreement that has been made whenever the partnership proves unprofitable.
8. His speech was so (**cherubic**, **trite**) that one could almost anticipate the phrases he would use next.
9. The robber barons of an earlier era often acted more like (**adherents**, **marauders**) than ethical businessmen in their dealings with the public.
10. Unless we repair the (**rifts**, **semblances**) in our party and present a united front, we will go down in crushing defeat in the upcoming election.
11. The few words that she grudgingly muttered were the only (**semblance**, **altercation**) of an apology that she offered for her rude behavior.
12. Like all literary sneak thieves, he has a truly nasty habit of (**pilfering**, **fabricating**) other people's ideas and then claiming them as his own.
13. I am very much flattered that you have referred to me as "an (**abridged**, **eminent**) educator," but I prefer to think of myself as just a good teacher.
14. I feel like a (**usurper**, **pauper**) now that my part-time job has come to an end and I no longer have any spending money.
15. In a dictatorship, people who (**abridge**, **dissent**) from the official party line usually wind up in prison-or worse.
16. The fact that many citizens are (**trite**, **irate**) over the new taxes does not mean that these taxes are unjustifiable.

17. My cousin has so much imagination that he can (**dissent, fabricate**) an excuse that even an experienced principal would believe!
18. What began as a minor quarrel grew into a serious (**altercation, exorcism**) and then into an ugly brawl.
19. Their (**irate, cherubic**) faces and other-worldly voices almost made me believe that the music they were singing was coming from an ethereal place.
20. As a loyal (**adherent, pauper**), she was horrified by her political party's stance on the issue, feeling that it went against her principles.
21. In the new movie, the hero (**fabricates, surmounts**) the obstacles put in his path by his evil but clever brother, who has betrayed him.
22. There is nothing (**trite, irate**) about the saying "You can't go home again"; it is a wise expression that applies to many situations in life.
23. Apparently, our dog is a very successful (**marauder, adherent**) who finds toys and articles of clothing in neighbors' yards and brings them all home to us.
24. If you do not act quickly, they will (**pilfer, terminate**) the agreement, and you will have to start all over again with some other company.
25. You had no right to (**exorcise, usurp**) for yourself the role of gracious host at my party!

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 19

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 19.*

Elephant Culture and Conservation

Throughout history, humans have admired elephants for their strength, their intelligence, and their courageous, **intrepid** behavior. The largest land mammal, elephants are divided into two species, named for the continents on which each is found. The African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) stands twelve feet high and weighs up to eight tons. The Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is slightly less massive. For centuries, Asian elephants have been carefully trained to perform the most arduous of tasks, such as carrying heavy loads and patrolling protected forests over rough terrain. Asian elephants have proved more **pliant** than the African species. They can respond to more than thirty vocal commands from their handlers, called mahawats in India.

Elephants are highly social creatures, living in herds under the leadership of a matriarch. Without the coordination this senior female provides, **anarchy** might prevail in the herd. The animals show affection by wrapping their trunks around one another, and they are especially attentive to the young calves. Elephants sleep little because they are always on the move in search of far-flung sources of food and water. In Africa, drought is a herd's biggest threat. Recently, elephants have been shown to communicate using infrasound deep rumbles inaudible to the human ear to ensure **access** to water and to keep the herd together. Elephants are peaceful animals, with no natural predators except humans. An elephant's trunk is a remarkable limb that could serve as an ancient **prototype** for a modern precision tool. Two fingers at the end of the trunk are so delicate that an elephant can hold an egg without breaking it.

There is one appendage, however, that critically endangers elephants: their ivory tusks. The tusks have made elephants vulnerable to poaching in both Africa and Asia. Poachers employ a variety of brutal methods to kill a wild elephant. They then slash off the animals' tusks for the illegal ivory trade and **abscond** with their loot, a clear-cut case of **larceny**.

It has proved especially difficult to **disentangle** the complex issues surrounding poaching and the ivory trade, a practice that puts all elephants at risk. The threat to elephants is serious enough to have made them one of the chief concerns of wildlife conservationists, especially in Asia. Advocates of tough antipoaching laws argue that only severe penalties will **rectify** the situation and ease the threat to Asian elephants, now numbering only 30,000 to 50,000 spread over thirteen countries. India has the largest population by far. Fortunately, elephants have an **auspicious** reputation in India, and in 1992, it established Project Elephant as a national agency to protect *Elephas maximus*. In Africa, certain countries assert that they have too many elephants. These countries have, therefore, devised culling campaigns to reduce the herds. Such programs are **reviled** as cruel by many conservationists, who warn that elephants are teetering on a **precipice** that could lead to extinction. So though it is said that an elephant never forgets, it appears that people might forget the elephant. The many challenges posed by conservation efforts are **daunting**. Are these majestic animals **fated** to suffer extinction? Or can well- designed conservation programs afford them a **reprieve** from such a bleak future? In 1989, conservationist Richard Leakey convinced Kenya's president to kick off a vigorous antipoaching campaign by publicly **incinerating** a 12-ton pile of elephant tusks. The pile was 20 feet high and worth \$3 million. This celebrated bonfire drew worldwide attention.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Abscond

- (v.) to run off and hide

EX. The thieves who _____ with several of the museum's most valuable paintings have never been found.

II. Access

- (n.) approach or admittance to places, persons, things; an increase; (v.) to get at, obtain

EX. _____ to information on a seemingly unlimited number of topics is available over the Internet.

EX. You need a password in order to _____ your e-mail accounts.

III. Anarchy

- (n.) a lack of government and law; confusion

EX. In the final days of a war, civilians may find themselves living in _____.

IV. Arduous

- (adj.) hard to do, requiring much effort

EX. No matter how carefully you plan for it, moving to a new home is an _____ chore.

V. Auspicious

- (adj.) favorable; fortunate

EX. My parents describe the day that they first met as a most _____ occasion.

VI. Daunt

- (v.) to overcome with fear, intimidate; to dishearten, discourage

EX. Despite all its inherent dangers, space flight did not _____ the Mercury program astronauts.

VII. Disentangle

- (v.) to free from tangles or complications

EX. Rescuers worked for hours to _____ a whale from the fishing net wrapped around its jaws.

VIII. Fated

- (adj.) determined in advance by destiny or fortune

EX. The tragic outcome of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is _____ from the play's very first scene.

IX. Hoodwink

- (v.) to mislead by a trick, swindle

EX. Many sweepstakes offers _____ people into thinking they have already won big prizes.

- X. Inanimate
- (*adj.*) not having life; without energy or spirit
EX. Although fossils are _____ many clues to life on Earth millions of years ago.
- XI. Incinerate
- (*v.*) to burn to ashes
EX. Because of environmental concerns, many cities and towns no longer _____ their garbage.
- XII. Intrepid
- (*adj.*) very brave, fearless, unshakable
EX. _____ Polynesian sailors in outrigger canoes were the first humans to reach the Hawaiian Islands.
- XIII. Larceny
- (*n.*) theft
EX. Someone who steals property that is worth thousands of dollars commits grand _____.
- XIV. Pliant
- (*adj.*) bending readily; easily influenced
The _____ branches of the sapling sagged but did not break under the weight of the heavy snow.
- XV. Pompous
- (*adj.*) overly self-important in speech and manner; excessively stately or ceremonious
EX. Political cartoonists like nothing better than to mock _____ public officials.
- XVI. Precipice
- (*n.*) a very steep cliff; the brink or edge of disaster
EX. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world hovered on the _____ of nuclear war.
- XVII. Prototype
- (*n.*) an original model on which later versions are patterned
EX. The assembly line managers studied the _____ of the new car for weeks before production began.
- XVIII. Rectify
- (*v.*) to make right, correct
EX. The senators debated a series of measures designed to _____ the nation's trade imbalance.
- XIX. Reprieve
- (*n.*) a temporary relief or delay; (*v.*) to grant a postponement
EX. A vacation is a kind of _____ from the cares and responsibilities of everyday life.
EX. A judge may _____ a first-time offender from jail time until sentencing.

XX. Revile

- (v.) to attack with words, call bad names

EX. The enraged King Lear _____ the daughters who have cast him out into a fierce storm.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. The voters may seem unaware of the underlying issues, but in the long run they cannot be (**disentangled**, **hoodwinked**) by self-serving politicians.
2. The general feared that the latest attacks on the city would push the situation over the (**precipice**, **access**), leading directly to a full-blown war.
3. Despite the threats made against his life, the (**arduous**, **intrepid**) district attorney was able to obtain a conviction of the corrupt official.
4. His broad education gave him a(n) (**auspicious**, **fated**) view of cultures different from his own.
5. When her eyes suddenly blazed with such fury, I felt that the heat of her glance would all but (**disentangle**, **incinerate**) me.
6. A great playwright's characters always seem to come alive; those of a third-rate hack stubbornly remain (**pliant**, **inanimate**).
7. His speech and manners were so (**auspicious**, **pompous**) and stiff that he cut a somewhat ridiculous figure at our informal little get-together.
8. How can you accuse me of (**absconding**, **reviling**) with all your brilliant ideas when you have never had an original thought in your life?
9. Though the dangers and uncertainties of a westward passage to the Orient cowed many a brave sailor, they did not (**rectify**, **daunt**) Columbus.
10. Only by admitting your fault and trying to make up for it can you obtain a(n) (**reprieve**, **access**) from the pangs of conscience.
11. We should begin studying foreign languages at an early age because it is during those years that our minds are most (**pompous**, **pliant**) and receptive.
12. The team of accountants spent hours trying to locate and then to (**rectify**, **prototype**) the error I had so carelessly made.
13. Spring, with its ever-renewing promise of life, is for me the most (**arduous**, **auspicious**) of seasons.
14. For most retired athletes, the comeback trail is an (**arduous**, **inanimate**) one, and few ever get to the end of it.
15. Anyone who takes the writings of other people and presents them as his or her own is guilty of literary (**larceny**, **anarchy**).
16. Although the hero and the heroine were parted by circumstance, I knew that they were (**intrepid**, **fated**) to meet again before the last commercial.

17. There is a vast difference between democracy, under which everyone has duties and privileges, and (**larceny, anarchy**), under which no one has.
18. Like farmers separating the wheat from the chaff, the members of a jury must (**disentangle, daunt**) the truth from the evidence presented to them.
19. Far from being useless, mathematics will give you (**reprieve, access**) to many fields of scientific study.
20. Instead of recognizing that he caused his own troubles, he continues to (**revile, hoodwink**) all the people who were "unfair" to him.
21. Although she looks young and inexperienced, it is not easy to (**hoodwink, rectify**) her, since she is a private detective by profession.
22. At the design firm, the most well-received (**reprieves, prototypes**) for the new line of evening gowns were the ones made from a new silk blend.
23. To (**access, disentangle**) the large safe we will need the five-digit combination to the lock.
24. I was not completely surprised when my aunt decided to (**daunt, reprieve**) her decision to let me borrow her car next weekend.
25. My uncle can be so (**pompous, intrepid**) when he lectures me about politics.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 20

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. these words are among those you will be studying in unit 20.*

"A leopard cannot change its spots." So runs a well known proverb. But this statement is easily **rebutted**. It turns out that leopards are remarkably adaptable animals whose **latent** ability to adapt to new situations has made them one of the few big cats not facing extinction in the wild. Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Russia all have leopard populations. Half a million leopards roam in areas as different as the plains of South Africa to the snows of the Russian Far East. That's as many leopards as there are cheetahs, lions, and tigers combined. The leopard ranks first among cats in its ability to survive.

An **paramount** factor in the leopard's success is its diet this cat is a generalist. The leopard does not discriminate when it comes to food and the list of its many prey seems almost **arbitrary**: Baboons, lizards, insects, and antelope are all possible meals. Cats whose diets are limited to a few species are in danger when populations of their favored prey dwindle.

Their wide-ranging diet also means that leopards can live in different types of ecosystems. Species that can only survive in a specific **landscape** have one of two choices when their habitats shrink or become overpopulated: **exodus** or death. Polar bears, for example, can only exist in very cold climates, and they are in danger of losing that habitat. However, leopards can live in jungles, where they eat monkeys; islands, where they eat fish; and mountains, where they eat rodents. This wide-ranging habitat ensures that while one population may be struggling, another is surviving.

Leopards are excellent hunters. When hunting, leopards seldom rely on an **accomplice** from their own species to bring down their prey, since the animal is an **incorrigible** hermit that prefers a solitary existence. The leopard's jaw muscles are so powerful that it can catch and kill animals larger than itself. After a stealthy stalk, a leopard will charge at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour to catch its prey. Its remarkable strength **facilitates** its ability to carry quarry three times its size into trees. This practice protects the food from scavengers. Leopards prefer to stalk their prey when the **opaque** shadows of the night allow them to remain hidden hunters, but the animals also **brazenly** hunt during the day. This flexibility allows for a wider-ranging diet and increased hunting opportunities another example of the species' unique ability to survive.

Humans also have had a hand in the rise and fall of leopard populations though. Leopards faced a serious threat from the fashion industry in the mid-20th century. Jacqueline Kennedy's appearance in a leopard-skin coat in 1964 served as a **catalyst**, leading to the rising popularity of the fur. Demand for leopard skins almost **annihilated** wild populations. A **militant** and ultimately successful campaign in the 1960s and 1970s opposing the use of leopard skins as fashion items is another reason that this animal's populations are now thriving.

While some subspecies of leopards have **stagnant** population growth or are even close to extinction, such as the Amur Leopard of Russia, the species population worldwide is impressive. According to current estimates by international conservation groups, it is highly unlikely that wild leopards will **succumb** to extinction any time soon.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. **Accomplice**
- (n.) a person who takes part in a crime
EX. The driver of the getaway car was arrested and tried as an _____ in the daring bank robbery.
- II. **Annihilate**
- (v.) to destroy completely
EX. Throughout history, nations that are bitter enemies have sought to _____ each other.
- III. **Arbitrary**
- (adj.) unreasonable; based on one's wishes or whims without regard for reason or fairness
EX. A judge may be criticized for rulings that appear to be _____ and without legal precedent.
- IV. **Brazen**
- (adj.) shameless, impudent; made of brass
EX. Behavior considered _____ may be deemed perfectly acceptable in another.
- V. **Catalyst**
- (n.) a substance that causes or hastens a chemical reaction; any agent that causes change
EX. Enzymes are _____ that aid in the digestion of food.
- VI. **Exodus**
- (n.) a large-scale departure or flight
The _____ of African Americans to the industrialized northern states is known as the Great Migration.
- VII. **Facilitate**
- (v.) to make easier; to assist
EX. The Federal Reserve Board may lower interest rates in order to _____ economic growth.
- VIII. **Incorrigible**
- (adj.) not able to be corrected; beyond control
EX. Criminals deemed _____ can expect to receive maximum sentences for their offenses against society.
- IX. **Latent**
- (adj.) hidden, present but not realized
EX. Don't you think it's sad that many people use only a small fraction of their _____ abilities?

X. Militant

- (*adj.*) given to fighting; active and aggressive in support of a cause; (*n.*) an activist

EX. In the struggle for civil rights, Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated peaceful rather than _____ protest.

EX. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a _____ in the fight for woman suffrage.

XI. Morose

- (*adj.*) having a gloomy or sullen manner; not friendly or sociable

EX. Heathcliff is the _____ and vengeful protagonist in Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights*.

XII. Opaque

- (*adj.*) not letting light through; not clear or lucid; dense, stupid

I have read that book twice, but I still find the author's meaning completely _____.

XIII. Paramount

- (*adj.*) chief in importance, above all others

EX. Voters should insist that candidates for high office address the _____ issues facing our society.

XIV. Prattle

- (*v.*) to talk in an aimless, foolish, or simple way; to babble; (*n.*) baby talk; babble

EX. Some people can _____ away on the phone for hours on end.

EX. Over time, recognizable words become part of a toddler's cheerful _____.

XV. Rebut

- (*v.*) to offer arguments or evidence that contradict an assertion; to refute

EX. It is a defense lawyer's job to _____ the charges made by the prosecutor.

XVI. Reprimand

- (*v.*) to scold; find fault with; (*n.*) a rebuke

EX. A judge may need to _____ a lawyer for repeatedly harassing a witness.

EX. An employee who frequently violates a company's rules may receive a written _____.

XVII. Servitude

- (*n.*) slavery, forced labor

EX. In *Les Misérables*, Jean Valjean is sentenced to many years of _____ for stealing a loaf of bread.

XVIII. Slapdash

- (*adj.*) careless and hasty

EX. Landlords who routinely make _____ repairs should be considered negligent.

XIX. Stagnant

- (*adj.*) not running or flowing; foul from standing still; inactive
EX. It is dangerous for hikers to drink water from any source that appears to be _____.

XX. Succumb

- (*v.*) to give way to superior force, yield
EX. Most dieters occasionally _____ to the lure of a high-calorie dessert.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Most historians agree that military disasters during World War I were the (**exodus**, **catalyst**) that sparked the Russian Revolution of 1917.
2. During the summer, urban "sun worshippers" begin their weekly (**exodus**, **servitude**) from the city at around 3:00 P.m. on Friday.
3. Since they are firmly based on the logic of a sentence, the rules of punctuation should not be considered purely (**arbitrary**, **slapdash**).
4. (**Accomplices**, **Militants**), disgusted with the government's policies, took to the streets to register a vote of no confidence.
5. It is up to us to get rid of any (**latent**, **arbitrary**) prejudices that we may still unwittingly hold against members of other races and nationalities.
6. He has deceived me so many times that I am forced to conclude that he is simply a(n) (**incorrigible**, **morose**) liar.
7. The brook (**prattling**, **annihilating**) along its rocky course seemed to be conversing wordlessly with the wind murmuring in the trees.
8. For the world's starving millions, finding enough food to keep body and soul together has become the (**paramount**, **latent**) concern in life.
9. With their bigger, faster, more experienced players, South High simply (**succumbed**, **annihilated**) our team, 56 to 7.
10. The best way to (**facilitate**, **rebut**) the contention that something is not possible to do is to go out and do it.
11. I refuse to believe that our society will (**reprimand**, **succumb**) to the weaknesses which have destroyed other nations.
12. While his (**accomplices**, **militants**) acted as decoys, one of the youngsters attempted to filch a couple of apples from the unguarded bin.
13. Her excellent command of both French and Spanish should (**rebut**, **facilitate**) her efforts to get a position in the foreign service.
14. Even people who appear to be free may be in (**catalyst**, **servitude**) to their own passions and prejudices.
15. The leaden silence of the afternoon was shattered by the (**opaque**, **brazen**) voices of trumpets braying fanfares for the returning hero.
16. People who never give any assignment more than a "lick and a promise" may be said to belong to the (**stagnant**, **slapdash**) school of working.

17. On rare occasions, the U.S. Senate will (**reprimand, prattle**) one of its members who has violated the rules.
18. Unemployment will stay at a high level so long as a nation's economy remains (**stagnant, paramount**).
19. I don't think it is fair to call him a(n) (**incorrigible, morose**) person just because he was in a dejected mood when you met him.
20. You may think that his explanation is perfectly clear, but I find it confused and (**brazen, opaque**).
21. The boss's (**servitude, reprimand**) stung his employee especially hard, as it was delivered in front of the entire staff.
22. His (**stagnant, brazen**) demeanor might help him to be a successful salesperson, but it could also alienate potential customers.
23. The family's (**servitude, catalyst**) to the local lords had begun generations earlier, when an ancestor's misfortunes had resulted in a loss of wealth and status.
24. After the police secured the evidence, it became (**paramount, arbitrary**) to track down the witnesses before they left the scene.
25. I worried that the toddler's (**reprimand, prattle**) would continue throughout the film.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 21

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 21.*

Modernize the School Calendar

"Should the school day be longer?"

"Should administrators lengthen the school year?" Some people would answer both questions with "No." Insisting that students already work **incessantly** during the day, they argue that students need those after-school hours and summer days to earn money, help at home, or pursue key interests. Supporters of the current school year argue that keeping schools open later and longer will cost too much. Such advocates **hew** to the argument that school time need not be longer, just better spent. Those contentions are **lucid** and **credible** anyone can see that. But for the sake of the students' futures, the answer to both questions must be "Yes."

The current school year in the United States is a product of 19th-century thinking. School schedules were shaped by the harsh demands of city life or were in **bondage** to the unyielding hold of farm life. In rural areas, children had to be available for spring planting and fall harvesting. Thus, they customarily were in school only from December to March and from mid-May through August. But as the population of the urban United States ballooned, the educational experts of the day shifted their attention to city schools. Prominent educators, Horace Mann among them, believed that students needed a long break to avoid over-stimulation. Physicians worried that students would suffer nervous disorders from work pressures. Doctors predicted illnesses caused by the heat of the classrooms in summer. These concerns resulted in the two-month summer holiday, and even though there is nothing permanent about such a long break, belief in adherence to the 180-day school year retains its **tenacious** hold on the thinking of many educators. These apprehensions are **superfluous** today.

How can the United States stay competitive in the global economy when so many of its students' international peers are in classrooms for more days and longer days? In fact, Japanese students have a 243-day school year, and South Korean students are in school for 220 days a year. Despite the **diligence** of our hardworking teachers and the high quality of our educational institutions, our students are struggling to keep pace, **hampered** by a 20th-century school schedule that holds back the 21st-century student. The argument that the expense of keeping schools open longer would **impoverish** school districts is easily refuted. First of all, buildings kept open later can serve other vital community needs and be rented to civic groups. Secondly, the costs would be **defrayed** by the improved skills students would bring to medicine, science, and business. Horace Mann might **posthumously** agree that modern conveniences make schools comfortable year round.

Many today see the writing on the wall. They understand that having hardworking and caring educators as well as fresh, thoughtful curricula are not enough to **atone** for the short school year. In March 2009, President Obama spoke of the **intricacies** of the issue. He stated that in order to compete favorably with their international peers, students in the U.S. need to spend more time in school. To guarantee a brighter future for the country it is necessary to **supplant** the current school schedule with a modern one.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Atone
- (v.) to make up for
EX. At one time or another, everyone has done something for which he or she needs to _____.
- II. Bondage
- (n.) slavery; any state of being bound or held down
EX. Many people escaped the cruel _____ of slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad.
- III. Credible
- (adj.) believable
EX. Do you have a _____ explanation for not completing your assignment on time?
- IV. Defray
- (v.) to pay for
EX. Corporate sponsors helped to _____ the cost of the charity's annual telethon.
- V. Diligent
- (adj.) hardworking, industrious, not lazy
EX. _____ employees are likely to be well rewarded for their dedication and hard work.
- VI. Doleful
- (adj.) sad; dreary
EX. One look at the players' _____ me that the team had lost the championship game.
- VII. Ghastly
- (adj.) frightful, horrible; deathly pale
EX. Some people are almost afraid to go to sleep because they suffer from _____ recurring nightmares.
- VIII. Hamper
- (v.) to hold back
EX. Poor grades will _____ you in your effort to get a college education.
- IX. Hew
- (v.) to shape or cut down with an ax; to hold to
EX. Even in a crisis, we must _____ to this nation's principles of liberty, equality, and justice.

- X. Impoverished
- (*adj.*) poor, in a state of poverty; depleted
EX. After World War II, _____ European countries received U.S. aid under the Marshall Plan.
- XI. Incessant
- (*adj.*) never stopping, going on all the time
EX. The loud and _____ chatter of the people at the next table made it hard for us to hear each other.
- XII. Intricate
- (*adj.*) complicated; difficult to understand
EX. Our teacher took us through the _____ solution to the equation step by step.
- XIII. Lucid
- (*adj.*) easy to understand, clear; rational, sane
EX. The ability to speak in a _____ and persuasive fashion is a great asset to a politician.
- XIV. Posthumous
- (*adj.*) occurring or published after death
EX. Many artists and writers have been ignored during their lifetimes only to achieve _____ fame.
- XV. Prim
- (*adj.*) overly neat, proper, or formal; prudish
EX. How is it that such a _____ and tidy person and such a messy one can be such good friends?
- XVI. Sardonic
- (*adj.*) grimly or scornfully mocking, bitterly sarcastic
EX. Great satirists save their most _____ wit for the greedy, the corrupt, and the hypocritical.
- XVII. Superfluous
- (*adj.*) exceeding what is sufficient or required, excess
EX. Neat and well-organized people know how to eliminate all _____ clutter.
- XVIII. Supplant
- (*v.*) to take the place of, supersede
EX. Computers rapidly _____ typewriters in the workplace, just as photocopiers replaced carbon paper.
- XIX. Taunt
- (*v.*) to jeer at, mock; (*n.*) an insulting or mocking remark
EX. It is not at all unusual for brothers and sisters to tease and _____ one another good-naturedly.
EX. For umpires and referees, the _____ of angry fans are just part of the job.

XX. Tenacious

- (*adj.*) holding fast; holding together firmly; persistent
EX. Athletes must be _____ in the pursuit of excellence if they hope to become Olympic champions.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. If we were to lose the basic freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, we would be truly (**taunted, impoverished**).
2. When I looked through the microscope, I observed the (**incessant, intricate**) pattern of blood vessels in the specimen's body.
3. The penniless adventurer is a character so familiar to fiction readers that further description of the type is (**sardonic, superfluous**).
4. Loss of blood very quickly turned the victim's normally rosy face a (**prim, ghastly**) hue of white.
5. In a totalitarian state, people who do not (**hew, supplant**) firmly to the party line are likely to find themselves in hot water with the authorities.
6. That village is famous all over the world for its demure cottages, well-manicured lawns, and (**prim, diligent**) gardens.
7. "The witness has changed his story so often that no jury on earth is likely to find his testimony (**lucid, credible**)," the district attorney observed.
8. (**Hampered, Impoverished**) by the weight of my backpack, it took me longer than usual to reach the bus stop.
9. Frankly, I am tired of your endless (**credible, doleful**) complaints about all the people who have been unfair to you.
10. If we want government to provide services, we must pay taxes to (**defray, hamper**) the costs.
11. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me" is an old saying I try to keep in mind whenever someone (**hews, taunts**) me.
12. The author's writing style is as (**lucid, intricate**) as the sparkling waters of a mountain lake on a spring morning.
13. In some early societies, people who had committed certain crimes could (**atone, defray**) for them by paying sums of money to their victims.
14. The novel's grim humor and (**posthumous, sardonic**) portrayal of the futility of all human endeavor make it an intensely disturbing book.
15. What real use is financial independence if a person remains forever in (bondage, tenacity) to foolish fears and superstitions?
16. Royalties from a novel that is published (**superfluously, posthumously**) normally go to the author's estate.

17. She is very slow to form opinions; but once she does, she holds on to them (**tenaciously, dolefully**).
18. Even after the most systematic and (**ghastly, diligent**) search, we could not find the missing documents.
19. His feverish and (**lucid, incessant**) activity cannot hide the fact that he doesn't know what he's doing.
20. I know that love is fickle, but I never expected to be (**atoned, supplanted**) in her affections by a man like that.
21. The details of the peace accord among the four nations, worked out by a host of foreign affairs officials over a period of months, were (**tenacious, intricate**).
22. I refuse to (**taunt, atone**) for something that I still believe was the right thing to do, even if no one else agrees with me.
23. The gold medal was completely (**incessant, superfluous**), as the pleasure of winning was all that mattered to her.
24. Once he adopted the puppy, his enjoyment of the new pet began to (**supplant, defray**) the sadness he felt over the death of the dog he'd had since childhood.
25. She could never quite forget her sister's hurtful childhood (**bondage, taunts**).

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 22

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 22.*

City Critters

The **metropolis** is full of life. Millions of people live together in the city, coming and going, day and night. They stream from their homes each morning, off to work and school. The city's an exciting place, full of things to discover: restaurants and shops, playgrounds and parks, theaters and concert halls. But it's a crowded place, and if there's anything millions of people are good at doing when they get together, it's creating **exorbitant** amounts of trash. The trash bags pile up higher each day, while careless citizens litter in the streets, and all this mess attracts unwelcome guests.

Beneath the **obstreperous** traffic of the streets, rats scavenge for food among the waste we leave behind. The **vagrant** rats that wander through our cities can grow to be ten inches long and two pounds in weight. Some urban rats live underground, **meandering** through the sewers and subways, while others nest in alleyways and in proximity to parks or garbage cans. A few creep into our homes through water pipes and holes in walls. Do you think you might like to see a two-pound rat staring at you from the kitchen sink? Think again: A meeting with a **surly** rat can be a **perilous** situation.

Less nasty than the rat is the mighty cockroach. The largest roach you'll find in most American cities is only two inches long. But if you've ever seen one speeding across the floor, or seen a countertop **inundated** with **sprightly** roaches scrambling for cover, you won't forget the sight. No wonder the cockroach is so often **maligned**! Roaches sneak into homes, like rats, through cracks and pipes or through tiny spaces left by **shoddy** repairs. What do you suppose these creepy insects are doing in human dwellings? They're looking for food, just like rats.

The bedbug is even smaller than the cockroach only $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in length and difficult to spot. Bedbugs hide in mattresses, in carpeting and furniture, and in cracks and crevices in walls. They creep out while you're asleep, attracted by your body heat and breath. These little critters aren't looking for the food you've dropped; they aim to feed on you! In the **interim** between the time you go to bed and wake up in the morning, a bedbug will crawl onto your body and feed on your blood, like a mosquito does, for up to five minutes. The next day, you'll find a small, red, irritating bump, the telltale sign of the bedbug bite. Once bedbugs have infested your home, they're difficult to get rid of without the assistance of an exterminator. The best way to prevent infestation is to frequently vacuum dusty areas in your home, including mattresses.

The **advent** of pesticides has limited the spread of vermin, but with so many pests to keep at bay, keeping our homes and cities clean remains a **momentous** task. Don't make **bogus** excuses: Keep kitchens and bathrooms clean and dry, and put food away when you're finished eating. Don't let much time pass between housecleaning days, and refrain from littering in streets and public spaces. We may not ever say **adieu** to all the pests that dwell among us. But we can each do something to keep the places where we live clean and free of pests that thrive in the mess that humans leave behind.

Mr. Abdulhadi

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Adieu

- (*int.*) "Farewell!"; (*n.*) a farewell

EX. As my friends boarded the airplane, I waved to them and shouted, "_____! Have a safe trip."

EX. I made my _____ to the hosts and left.

II. Advent

- (*n.*) an arrival; a coming into place or view

EX. The _____ of spring is particularly welcome after a long, harsh winter.

III. Apex

- (*n.*) the highest point, tip

EX. If you want to reach the _____ of the Washington Monument, take the stairs or an elevator.

IV. Assimilate

- (*v.*) to absorb fully; to adopt as one's own; to adapt fully

EX. A well-read person _____ knowledge of a wide range of subjects.

V. Bogus

- (*adj.*) false, counterfeit

EX. Cashiers receive special training so that they will be able to identify _____ currency.

VI. Exorbitant

- (*adj.*) unreasonably high; excessive

EX. Management rejected the union's demands for higher wages and better benefits as _____.

VII. Interim

- (*n.*) the time between; (*adj.*) temporary, coming between two points in time

EX. In the _____ between landing and takeoff, the ground crew cleaned and refueled the plane.

EX. The team played well under an _____ coach for the final three months of the season.

VIII. Inundate

- (*v.*) to flood, overflow; to overwhelm by numbers or size

EX. Torrential rains and high tides _____ the streets of the picturesque seaside community.

- IX. Malign
- (v.) to speak evil of, slander; (adj.) evil
EX. In every office, there are gossips who are only too willing to _____ their coworkers.
EX. Iago reveals his _____ motives to the audience in a series of soliloquies.
- X. Meander
- (v.) to wander about, wind about; (n.) a sharp turn or twist
EX. When I travel, I like to _____ through unfamiliar towns and cities.
EX. Lombard Street in San Francisco is famous for its many _____.
- XI. Metropolis
- (n.) a large city; the chief city of an area
EX. Archaeologists have learned much about the Mayans from the ruins of the _____ Palenque.
- XII. Momentous
- (adj.) very important
EX. A _____ decision by the Supreme Court in 1954 declared public school segregation unconstitutional.
- XIII. Obstreperous
- (adj.) noisy; unruly, disorderly
EX. Our teacher will not tolerate _____ behavior in the classroom.
- XIV. Pensive
- (adj.) thoughtful; melancholy
EX. We admired the skill with which the artist captured the child's _____ expression.
- XV. Perilous
- (adj.) dangerous
Episodes of old-time movie serials usually ended with the hero or heroine in _____ circumstances.
- XVI. Shoddy
- (adj.) of poor quality; characterized by inferior workmanship
EX. That designer watch I bought from a street vendor turned out to be a _____ knockoff.
- XVII. Sprightly
- (adj.) lively, full of life; spicy, flavorful
EX. Though Grandmother is well into her eighties, she is still as _____ as a teenager.
- XVIII. Surly
- (adj.) angry and bad-tempered; rude
EX. Passengers stranded in an airport because their flight is canceled may become quite _____.

XIX. Tirade

- (*n.*) a long, angry speech, usually very critical

EX. The dictator's televised _____ opponents lasted for four hours.

XX. Vagrant

- (*n.*) an idle wanderer, tramp; (*adj.*) wandering aimlessly

EX. During the Great Depression, many people lost everything and were forced to live as _____.

EX. Advertisers continually vie with one another to capture the _____ attention of fickle consumers.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. I feel that a symphony orchestra is just as important to a (**vagrant**, **metropolis**) as a big department store or a major-league sports team.
2. The (**tirade**, **advent**) of texting has revolutionized the way in which people communicate with one another.
3. His talk (**maligned**, **meandered**) aimlessly through memories of his youth, descriptions of his children, and criticisms of the administration.
4. I have no respect for people who are unfailingly courteous to their superiors but (**sprightly**, **surly**) to the employees under them.
5. I don't know which is worse your failure to keep your promise to me or your (**shoddy**, **momentous**) excuse for lying about it.
6. The bylaws state that any member who speaks in a(n) (**obstreperous**, **perilous**) manner is to be quieted by the sergeant at arms.
7. I lay there quietly, looking at the clouds and allowing (**vagrant**, **surly**) thoughts to pass through my mind.
8. When we asked for suggestions on how to improve our school's athletic program, we were (**assimilated**, **inundated**) by "bright ideas" from all sides.
9. The governor appointed a member of the state assembly to serve as a(n) (**bogus**, **interim**) senator until a new election can be held.
10. Only after Lincoln's death did most people appreciate the great qualities of the man who had been so (**maligned**, **inundated**) in his own lifetime.
11. Churchill once said that if a nation tries to avoid everything that is hard and (**shoddy**, **perilous**), it will weaken its own security.
12. I suffered a substantial financial loss and an even greater loss of faith in human nature when I tried to cash his (**obstreperous**, **bogus**) check.
13. Most people agree that Elizabethan drama reached its (**apex**, **metropolis**) in the matchless plays of Shakespeare.
14. One of the glories of America has been its ability to (**assimilate**, **inundate**) immigrants from every part of the globe.
15. You have reached the stage of life where you must expect to say (**interim**, **adieu**) to childhood and take on the responsibilities of a young adult.
16. My mother's recipe for lemon meringue pie is a (**pensive**, **sprightly**) blend of tartness and sweetness.

17. Was any event in American history more (**momentous, exorbitant**) than the decision of the Continental Congress in 1776 to break away from Great Britain?
18. I know that you're eager to have that pretty dress for the junior prom, but don't you think the price is a little (**perilous, exorbitant**)?
19. When the new recruits refused to budge from their foxholes, the enraged sergeant let loose with an) (**apex, tirade**) of insults and abuse.
20. It was amazing to see how that quiet, (**pensive, exorbitant**) teenager changed into a tough, hard-driving leader.
21. The trail that winds through the park (**inundates, meanders**) through a variety of settings: the Japanese garden, the koi pond, the rose garden, and the pavilion area.
22. If we have to wait for her to arrive before starting the show, it would be a good idea for us to practice our act in the (**interim, advent**).
23. She admired her supervisor and could not believe that any of her coworkers could possibly have made a (**malign, shoddy**) comment against him.
24. My uncle, an accomplished musician who can play several instruments, is always (**assimilated, inundated**) with requests to play at weddings and parties.
25. "(**Adieu, Tirade**)," she said softly as the train pulled out of the station.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 23

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 23.*

A History of Sound Recording

Sound recording is the mechanical or electrical re-creation of sound waves, such as the spoken voice, singing, or instrumental music. Musical clocks and music boxes, some dating to the 1600s, were the first devices to re-create sound. Able to delight a family or **console** a child, these devices had obvious limitations. Most played only one melody, and they could not record a live performance. They also had to be cranked by hand, and the music quickly faded away as the spring mechanism wound down.

Early Sound Recording

Thomas Edison invented the first "talking machine" in 1877. This device recorded sounds on tinfoil wrapped around a cylinder. With every **assurance** of success, the inventor **instituted** the Edison Record Company. Flat disks, invented by Emil Berliner in 1887, improved the quality of the sound, and by 1900, the production of records was an international industry.

Early sound recordings relied on acoustical means to amplify the sound. Huge, **preposterous**-looking horns on early record players were needed to magnify the sound. The invention of vacuum tubes in the early 1920s eliminated this **liability**. Microphones replaced acoustic horns, and the modern electric phonograph was born. The 78 rpm record, made of shellac and later plastic, became the standard.

Sound Recording and Popular Culture

In the **realm** of popular culture, recorded sound had a major impact. In the home, piano-playing and other live music became less common as people listened to records instead. The number of jobs for bands **dwindled**, and many musicians lost their jobs. On the other hand, sound recording **remunerated** popular singers well, and many became rich. When movie makers began recording sound on film in the late 1920s, movies became even more popular.

Later Developments

As new inventions **rejuvenated** the industry, the **dross** of old equipment was replaced by new technology. In 1948, long-playing records (LPs) appeared, allowing 30 minutes of playing time per side. Ten years later, stereophonic recordings made their debut. With two channels of sound in each groove of the record, stereo produced sound of **sterling** quality.

Recording tape, a thin film coated with magnetic material, had been used to record sound in radio stations since the 1950s. By the mid-1960s, portable tape recorders were available for consumers. Unlike records, tapes did not scratch or **warp**, and people liked the convenience of small tape cassettes, which could be used in cars and portable players. As a result, tape cassettes wound up shouldering out traditional LPs, and the next two decades saw an increasingly **sparse** demand for records.

Digital Recording

Unlike earlier types of sound recording, digital recording converts sound into binary (base-2) numbers. These numbers are then recorded on tape as a series of pulses. Digital compact discs (CDs), read by a laser, came on the market in the early 1980s. Within a decade, CDs were by far the most common way to listen to music, although some music lovers **pugnaciously** defended the sound quality of vinyl records. The rise of the Internet in the 1990s led to a new **venture** in sound recording. Digital downloads of music to personal listening devices became popular, cutting into CD sales.

While it is often **flippant** to predict the future, the rapid pace of change in sound recording is likely to continue. New ways to listen to music are sure to come.

Related Articles

Acoustics
Digital Technology
Edison, Thomas
Microphone
Phonograph

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Assurance

- (n.) a pledge; freedom from doubt, self-confidence
EX. The airport was built with the _____ that all the people displaced by its construction would be fairly compensated.

II. Asylum

- (n.) an institution for the care of children, elderly people, etc.; a place of safety
EX. Some refugees are political fugitives who have fled their homeland to seek _____ in another country.

III. Console

- (v.) to comfort; (n.) the keyboard of an organ; a control panel for an electrical or mechanical device
EX. A neighbor tried to _____ the sobbing child whose cat had wandered away.
EX. The _____ of the large church organ had an assortment of keys, knobs, and pedals.

IV. Dilate

- (v.) to make or become larger or wider; to expand upon
EX. The ophthalmologist said she would _____ the pupil before examining the injured eye.

V. Dross

- (n.) refuse, waste products
EX. The _____ from the manufacturing process turned out to be highly toxic.

VI. Dwindle

- (v.) to lessen, diminish
EX. During the coldest weeks of winter, the pile of firewood slowly _____ until there were no logs left.

VII. Flippant

- (adj.) lacking in seriousness; disrespectful, saucy
EX. Parents and other adults are often upset by a teenager's _____ responses.

VIII. Immunity

- (n.) resistance to disease; freedom from some charge or obligation
EX. Most babies are vaccinated so that they develop an _____ to measles.

- IX. Institute
- (v.) to establish, set up; (n.) organization that promotes learning
EX. Congress has been reluctant to _____ new guidelines for campaign spending.
EX. After graduating from high school, I plan to attend an accredited _____ of technology.
- X. Liability
- (n.) a debt; something disadvantageous
EX. A limited attention span is his biggest _____ as a student.
- XI. Preposterous
- (adj.) ridiculous, senseless
EX. The theory that Stonehenge was constructed by alien life-forms is utterly _____.
- XII. Pugnacious
- (adj.) quarrelsome, fond of fighting
EX. The fox terrier is a particularly _____ breed of dog known for its aggressive behavior.
- XIII. Rabid
- (adj.) furious, violently intense, unreasonably extreme; mad; infected with rabies
EX. Police arrived in force to quell the riot set off by _____ soccer fans.
- XIV. Realm
- (n.) a kingdom; a region or field of study
EX. While astronomy falls within the _____ of science, astrology does not.
- XV. Rejuvenate
- (v.) to make young again; to make like new
EX. A few minutes of conversation with my best friend helped to _____ my flagging spirits.
- XVI. Remunerate
- (v.) to reward, pay, reimburse
EX. The couple promised to _____ the artist handsomely for a portrait of their child.
- XVII. Sparse
- (adj.) meager, scant; scattered
EX. Unlike its neighboring metropolis, the area has quite a _____ population.
- XVIII. Sterling
- (adj.) genuine, excellent; made of silver of standard fineness
EX. The reviewer noted the young actor's _____ performance in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

XIX. Venture

- (n.) a risky or daring undertaking; (v.) to expose to danger; to dare
EX. An overseas voyage was a daunting and dangerous _____ during the Age of Exploration.
EX. It takes courage to _____ out into unknown territory.

XX. Warp

- (v.) to twist out of shape; (n.) an abnormality
EX. The carpenter explained that humidity caused the kitchen door to _____.
EX. Criminal behavior often shows a striking lack of judgment or a _____ in thinking.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. When you write so imaginatively about "life on other planets," you are entering the (**realm**, **dross**) of science fiction.
2. Generally, (**pugnacious**, **sterling**) behavior on the football field is more effective in drawing penalties than in gaining ground.
3. Clear away the (**immunity**, **dross**) of false ideas from your mind and take a long, hard look at reality.
4. The college swim team went on an overseas (**asylum**, **venture**) to compete with teams from all parts of Southeast Asia.
5. Do you expect me to be (**instituted**, **consoled**) by the fact that I was not the only one to fail the exam?
6. A sound understanding of the principles of freedom contributions to American literature and self-government is the best way to gain (**immunity**, **liability**) from totalitarian propaganda.
7. Many Americans think that the United States should continue to provide (**assurance**, **asylum**) to people fleeing from tyranny in other lands.
8. The hired man agreed to testify against his boss in exchange for (**immunity**, **assurance**) against charges related to the crime.
9. Patriotism is a fine quality, but not when it is (**dwindled**, **warped**) into a hatred of other nations.
10. The outworn ideas of the past cannot be (**rejuvenated**, **dilated**) simply by expressing them in snappy, modern slang.
11. I agree with some of the speaker's ideas, but I find his (**rabid**, **sparse**) enthusiasm for crackpot causes hard to take.
12. An unwillingness to listen to suggestions from others is a grave (**liability**, **realm**) in a leader.
13. I support the team captain because of the (**sterling**, **preposterous**) leadership she has given us during the long, hard season.
14. In order to meet stricter industry standards, manufacturers will have to (**institute**, **remunerate**) new systems of quality control.
15. How quickly interest in the program (**dwindles**, **rejuvenates**) when students realize that it calls for so much work, with little chance for glory!
16. I would not agree to run for public office before receiving (**assurance**, **asylum**) of support from important groups in the community.

17. I like humor as well as anyone, but I don't believe in being (**flippant, rabid**) on so solemn an occasion.
18. No doubt the instructor knows a great deal about ecology, but is there any need for her to (**venture, dilate**) on threats to the environment at such great length?
19. Today scientists smile wryly at the (**preposterous, pugnacious**) notion that the earth is flat, but in earlier times it was an accepted fact.
20. When the thief stepped up to the computer (**realm, console**), I knew at once that he had the secret passwords.
21. I know better than to (**warp, venture**) into a canoe that a novice will paddle upstream against a crosswind.
22. The (**institute, console**) had a strict policy that new members could not be admitted without a thorough review and background check.
23. My dog's behavior in obedience class is usually (**pugnacious, sterling**), but yesterday he was more interested in playing with the other dogs than in paying attention to commands.
24. In spite of all his talk about his great wealth, I noticed that the penny-pincher did not offer to (**console, remunerate**) us for expenses.
25. As usual, there are plenty of talkers, but the supply of doers is (**flippant, sparse**).

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 24

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 24.*

Ringl and Pit: Witnesses to the Weimar

There is an old adage that says, "Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered." Two women who knew the meaning of that type of success generations ago were the pioneering photographers Ellen Rosenberg Auerbach and Grete Stern, better known as Ring + Pit.

Auerbach and Stern were born in Germany in the early 1900s to middle-class Jewish families. They met in Berlin at the studio of a photography professor at the Bauhaus, the world-famous art and design school, and became fast friends. These creative women discovered that they had a **flair** for photography. They were also ambitious: As so-called new women, they refused to settle for **auxiliary** roles in the workplace. They had no intention of **feigning** interest in the more traditional careers open to women at the time. They wanted the same freedom and choices their male colleagues took for granted. So when their friend from the Bauhaus decided to close his private studio, the young women took over the premises and renamed the business Foto Ringl + Pit. (Ring and Pit were the childhood nicknames, respectively, of Stern and Auerbach.)

It was a great time to set up shop because the advertising industry was booming, despite the fragile economic and political state of the Weimar Republic (the period of German history from 1919 to 1933, between the two world wars). Their career move proved to be **expedient**, and Foto Ring + Pit was a commercial and artistic success. The women discovered they could earn a living using their artistic talents in advertising, publicity, and fashion photography. Their striking photographs were praised for their unique, playful style.

While some of their shots were **candid**, most were staged and posed. They also turned their cameras on many celebrated writers, artists, and performers of the day.

But the **prognosis** for peace and longed-for prosperity in Germany was not promising. The country's Jews were already experiencing **grievous** hardships. The **repugnant** beliefs of Hitler and the Nazis soon replaced the tolerant views of the Weimar era. **Hordes** of Jews and other "undesirables" were rounded up and taken to concentration camps; most didn't survive the **drudgery**, illness, starvation, or gas chambers there.

Anti-Semitism **escalated** once Hitler came to power, forcing Ring + Pit to **scuttle** their plans and working partnership. They were impelled to leave Germany. As Ellen Auerbach said years later in a documentary about Ring + Pit, "In a country with concentration camps, you cannot live." The women eventually settled in Buenos Aires and in New York, places with more open, **heterogeneous** populations than Germany. They continued to work in photography and had impressive solo careers.

Ellen Rosenberg Auerbach and Grete Stern both lived long, extraordinary lives. Although the talented duo of Ringl + Pit never worked together again after the mid-1930s, they stayed lifelong friends. These days, you can see their groundbreaking photographs on display in galleries and museums around the world, and their original prints are highly sought-after (a photo **inscribed** with "Ringl + Pit" can be worth thousands).

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Auxiliary

- (*adj.*) giving assistance or support; (*n.*) a helper, aid

EX. If the main motor fails, the instructions say to turn on the _____ motor.

EX. Someone second in command is an _____ to the person in charge.

II. Candid

- (*adj.*) frank, sincere; impartial; unposed

EX. It is safe to be _____ about our faults with friends and loved ones.

III. Cubicle

- (*n.*) a small room or compartment

EX. The tiniest _____ is usually assigned to the newest employee.

IV. Drudgery

- (*n.*) work that is hard and tiresome

EX. Trade unions lobby to relieve the endless _____ of factory workers.

V. Envoy

- (*n.*) a representative or messenger (as of a government)

EX. On more than one occasion, a former President has been asked to act as a special _____ to the United Nations.

VI. Escalate

- (*v.*) to elevate; to increase in intensity

EX. A small dispute can _____ into a major conflict unless the opposing parties sit down and talk.

VII. Expedient

- (*n.*) a means to an end; (*adj.*) advantageous, useful

EX. As an _____, we chose to use a rock as a makeshift hammer.

EX. An opportunist is someone who is always ready to do whatever is most _____.

VIII. Feign

- (*v.*) to pretend

EX. Children sometimes _____ illness to avoid going to school.

IX. Flair

- (*n.*) a natural quality, talent, or skill; a distinctive style

EX. An opera singer needs a _____ for the dramatic as well as a good voice.

- X. Grievous
- (*adj.*) causing sorrow or pain; serious
EX. Reporters should take careful notes when interviewing to avoid making _____ errors in print.
- XI. Heterogenous
- (*adj.*) composed of different kinds, diverse
EX. Most college admissions officers actively seek a student body that is both talented and _____.
- XII. Horde
- (*n.*) a vast number (as of people); a throng
EX. When the doors opened, a _____ of shoppers headed toward the sales racks.
- XIII. Impel
- (*v.*) to force, drive forward
EX. Hunger often _____ people to leave their homes in search of food.
- XIV. Incredulous
- (*adj.*) disbelieving, skeptical
EX. When the testimony of a witness contradicts the evidence, you can expect _____ stares from the jury.
- XV. Inscribe
- (*v.*) to write or engrave; to enter a name on a list
EX. The young man asked the jeweler to _____ the locket with his fiancée's name.
- XVI. Monologue
- (*n.*) a speech by one actor; a long talk by one person
EX. By means of a _____ a playwright shares a character's private thoughts with the audience.
- XVII. Prognosis
- (*n.*) a forecast of the probable course and outcome of a disease or situation
EX. Doctors are particularly happy to deliver a _____ of a speedy recovery.
- XVIII. Rasping
- (*adj.*) with a harsh, grating sound; (*n.*) a harsh sound
EX. Chronic bronchitis can lead to _____ a cough that is difficult to cure.
EX. The _____ of metal scraping against metal sets my teeth on edge.
- XIX. Repugnant
- (*adj.*) offensive, disagreeable, distasteful
EX. Despite their _____ lack of cleanliness, pigs are endearing to many people.

XX. Scuttle

- (v.) to sink a ship by cutting holes in it; to get rid of something in a decisive way; to run hastily, scurry; (n.) a pail

EX. Pirates would not wish to _____ a captured galleon before looting its cargo.

EX. Years ago, it was possible to buy a _____ of coal at the corner grocery store.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Despite the doctor's gloomy (**prognosis, flair**) when I entered the hospital, I was up and about in a matter of days.
2. I must admit now that I was hurt when the coach took me out in the last minutes of the game, but I tried to (**scuttle, feign**) indifference.
3. How can you say that the TV interview was spontaneous and (**heterogeneous, candid**) when it was all carefully rehearsed?
4. I don't consider it (**drudgery, rasping**) to prepare meals every day because I love good food and good cooking.
5. The building is equipped with a(n) (**repugnant, auxiliary**) generator, ready to go into service whenever the main power source is cut off
6. "The noble Brutus has told you Caesar was ambitious; if it were so, it was a (**grievous, candid**) fault."
7. I work in an office compartment, travel in a midget car, and sleep in a tiny bedroom. My life seems to take place in a series of (**envoys, cubicles**)!
8. Instead of sending your little sister as a(n) (**envoy, horde**) to explain what went wrong, why don't you stand up and speak for yourself?
9. The poet Browning tells us that if we were to open his heart, we would find the word "Italy" (**inscribed, impelled**) inside it.
10. After examining the price tag, I gingerly replaced the coat on the rack, (**incredulous, grievous**) at the preposterous sum the store was asking for it.
11. People who boast of their high moral principles are often the ones who will (**scuttle, escalate**) them most quickly to serve their own interests.
12. The expression of satisfaction that comes over her face when she talks of the failures of other people is highly (**expedient, repugnant**) to me.
13. An army without strong leadership and firm discipline is no more than an armed (**horde, drudgery**).
14. I searched in vain through the (**auxiliary, heterogeneous**) pile of odds and ends for the spare part I had inadvertently thrown away.
15. It's one thing to be interested in writing; it's quite another to have a (**flair, monologue**) for it.
16. Political analysts, students of statecraft, and historians tried to determine what caused a minor border incident to (**escalate, feign**) into a full-scale war.

17. As soon as I heard (**incredulous, rasping**) noises coming from the workshop, I knew that someone was using a saw or a file.
18. Was it patriotism, a desire to show off, or just self-interest that (**inscribed, impelled**) the foreign minister to take those terrible risks?
19. Since the person I was trying to interview wouldn't let me get a word in edgewise, our conversation quickly turned into a (**prognosis, monologue**).
20. Cut off from all supplies, the soldiers had to use various (**expedients, cubicles**) to keep their equipment in working order.
21. It was wrong of me to be so curt with her, but it was the (**expedient, incredulous**) thing to do, since I was already running late to my appointment.
22. I practiced my theatrical (**feign, monologue**) for weeks, hoping that a flawless performance would land me the part I wanted.
23. When I jolted awake last night to the sound of a desperate (**prognosis, rasping**), I was cold with fear until I realized that it was my old dog, who sometimes has breathing problems.
24. He handed me a (**scuttle, cubicle**) of slop for the pigs, and suddenly I was glad that this was a job I did not have to do very often.
25. If I'm not available, ask my (**cubicle, auxiliary**) to sign the papers.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 25

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 25.

Remarkable Mixes

Hybrid Animals

A hybrid animal is born of parents of related but different species. About ten percent of all animal species naturally engage in interbreeding that produces offspring. Sometimes these hybrid offspring fill a biological niche that is not in competition with its parent species for survival. As a result, a distinct third species evolves.

Man-made Hybrids

It is **erroneous** to regard hybrid animals solely as the outcome of natural pairings. Some hybrids develop when people **aspire** to "build a better mousetrap." The following animals are examples of species interbred for human use:

- a) Beefalo are the offspring of domestic cattle and American bison¹. Beefalo meat is lower in fat, calories, and cholesterol than lean beef.
- b) The cama is a hybrid that blends the strength, size, and endurance of a camel² with the sure-footed and more **diminutive** llama.³
- c) The mule is a hardy cross between a horse and a donkey. The mule is **adept** in **rugged** terrain. It will navigate narrow passages and steep trails at a **languid** but sure-footed pace.

Interbreeding for Survival

Because climate change and overdevelopment threaten animals' natural habitats, prospects are **bleak** for the long-term survival of some species. However, evidence of interbreeding gives scientists hope. One example of such interbreeding is the grolar-part polar bear, part grizzly bear⁵. This blend occurs rarely but naturally, where polar bears have left the ice to roam the land with grizzlies. Grolars resemble both parents. The hairy feet of a polar bear are ideally suited for the landscape where it lives, **rendering** the stark, Arctic tundra habitable. The hairy soles of a grolar's feet, coupled with its grizzly like claws and humped back, made **skeptical** observers wonder whether to call this creature a polar bear or a grizzly bear. DNA testing gave **invincible** proof that the grolar had one parent of each bear. The grolar may signal a new kind of bear. Its mixed traits can help it adapt to changes in climate and habitat.

¹ a large bovine with short horns and large shoulders that occurs naturally in North America

² a large mammal native to Asian and African deserts, frequently used as a mount and pack animal

³ a relative of the camel, smaller and native to South America, used for its wool and as a pack animal

Health

When a hybrid is an improvement over its parents, it is said to have the advantage of hybrid vigor. An example of hybrid vigor is Hercules—a 900-pound, 12-foot-long liger. This cat was naturally born to a female tiger and a male lion in an American wildlife sanctuary. Hercules is strong, healthy, playful, and intelligent, though the long-term effects of this hybridization have not been studied. Not all hybrids, including other ligers, are as successful as Hercules, as interbreeding can **impair** health. Some hybrids are sickly, sterile, or short-lived.

Ethical Concerns

Critics regard the planned interbreeding of species as a **despicable** act of arrogance borne of **slipshod** ethics. They **chide** breeders for **exploiting** already vulnerable species. The critics' concern is that endangered species may disappear not by **extinction**, but by the misdirected experimentation of science.

Whether hybrids are natural or man-made, their attempts to survive have fascinated humans for centuries. As genetic testing becomes more widespread and sophisticated, it is likely that new hybrids will be discovered among animals previously thought to be a separate species.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Adept

- (*adj.*) thoroughly skilled; (*n.*) an expert

EX. Not only is the soloist an accomplished singer, but he is also _____ at playing the saxophone.

EX. An _____ at chess, she hopes to compete in tournaments against top-rated players.

II. Aspire

- (*v.*) to have ambitious hopes or plans, strive toward a higher goal, desire earnestly; to ascend

EX. An early fascination with ants led the young naturalist to _____ to a career as an entomologist.

III. Bleak

- (*adj.*) bare, dreary, dismal

EX. Urban renewal can turn a run-down city with _____ economic prospects into a flourishing metropolis.

IV. Chide

- (*v.*) to blame; scold

EX. The teacher _____ the student for truancy and tardiness.

V. Despicable

- (*adj.*) worthy of scorn, contemptible

EX. Whatever the provocation, there is no justification for such _____ behavior.

VI. Diminutive

- (*adj.*) small, smaller than most others of the same type

EX. The _____ lapdog was so small that it actually fit in its owner's purse.

VII. Emancipate

- (*v.*) to free from slavery; to release or liberate

EX. Scientific knowledge can _____ humanity from blind superstition.

VIII. Erroneous

- (*adj.*) incorrect, containing mistakes

EX. An _____ first impression is not easily corrected.

IX. Exploit

- (v.) to make use of, develop; to make improper use of for personal profit;
(n.) a feat, deed

EX. A good debater knows how to _____ weaknesses in an opponent's argument.

EX. The _____ of Robin Hood and his Merry Men are so well known that they have become a part of Western culture.

X. Extemporaneous

- (adj.) made or delivered on the spur of the moment

EX. The stand-up comedian's outrageous act included about twenty minutes of completely _____ banter

XI. Impair

- (v.) to make imperfect, damage, harm

EX. I am fortunate that the scratch on my eye will not permanently _____ my vision.

XII. Invincible

- (adj.) not able to be defeated, unbeatable

EX. Napoleon I, emperor of France, was _____ until he launched a disastrous invasion of Russia.

XIII. Languid

- (adj.) drooping; without energy, sluggish

EX. A big lunch makes me feel _____ for the rest of the day.

XIV. Mire

- (n.) mud; wet, swampy ground; a tough situation; (v.) to get stuck

EX. The once verdant expanse of the soccer field has become a rectangle of muck and _____.

Congress will never ratify that bill _____ in controversy.

XV. Obtrusive

- (adj.) forward; undesirably prominent; thrust out

EX. I don't blame you for being put off by his _____ attempt to dominate the conversation.

XVI. Preamble

- (n.) an introduction to a speech or piece of writing

EX. The _____ to the Constitution describes the purpose of our national government.

XVII. Render

- (v.) to cause to become; to perform; to deliver officially; to process, extract

EX. The freelance writer presented the managing editor with a bill for services

XVIII. Rugged

- (adj.) rough, irregular; severe, stern; strong; stormy

EX. Settlers had a rough time crossing the _____ Appalachian Mountains.

XIX. Skeptical

- (*adj.*) inclined to doubt; slow to accept something as true
EX. I am _____ of promises made by politicians when they are running for office.

XX. Slipshod

- (*adj.*) untidy in dress, personal habits, etc.; careless, sloppy
EX. The commission attributed the unfortunate collapse of the apartment building to its _____ construction.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. In Jonathan Swift's fictional country of Lilliput, everyone and everything is pint-sized, or (**diminutive**, erroneous).
2. The visitor's huge bulk, combined with his (**extemporaneous**, languid) manner, made me think of a tired whale.
3. A good scientist will always be (**skeptical**, despicable) about any theory that is not backed by convincing evidence.
4. Passengers could not exit the bus without tripping over the (**invincible**, obtrusive) package in the aisle.
5. The artist, who had trained as an architect, (**rendered**, impaired) a realistic drawing of the hotel lobby that was nearly as detailed as a photograph.
6. I could see that the merchant's long, sad story about bad luck was only the (**adept**, preamble) to a request for a loan.
7. After four years as the President's press secretary, I have become a noted (**adept**, exploit) in the art of fielding questions.
8. The goalie's reflexes were as sharp as ever, but the knee injury had plainly (**impaired**, aspired) his ability to maneuver.
9. After enslaved African-Americans were (**mired**, emancipated), many emigrated to northern states in order to start new lives.
10. I am not accusing anyone of deliberately lying, but I can prove beyond doubt that the charges are (**rugged**, erroneous).
11. Rita, who until a year ago had never prepared anything more complicated than scrambled eggs, is now quite an (**adept**, obtrusive) cook.
12. When I asked the student why he wasn't going to the senior prom, he answered with a(n) (**bleak**, obtrusive) smile.
13. It is worse than useless to (**render**, chide) children for misbehaving without giving them an opportunity to behave better.
14. That monologue about the young accountant on her very first day on the job (**rendered**, emancipated) me helpless with laughter.
15. The sculptor has done a superb job of representing the strong, rough planes of Lincoln's (**languid**, rugged) features.
16. When we tried to straighten out the mess, we found ourselves (**mired**, chided) in a mass of inaccurate, incomplete, and mixed-up records.

17. Sergeant Alvin York was awarded this nation's highest honor for his many daring (**preambles, exploits**) during World War I.
18. Just as in fairy tales, the way to Grandma's house was a long, winding, and (**slipshod, rugged**) path through dark woods.
19. I would never trust my funds to anyone who is so (**bleak, slipshod**) in managing his own affairs.
20. In the (**slipshod, extemporaneous**) give-and-take of a televised debate, it is easy for a nervous nominee to make a slip of the tongue.
21. When Emerson said, "Hitch your wagon to a star," he meant that we should (**aspire, mire**) to reach the very highest levels of which we are capable.
22. Our basketball team, with its well-planned attack, tight defense, and seven-foot center, proved all but (**invincible, skeptical**).
23. Far from admiring the way they got those letters of recommendation, I consider their deception utterly (**diminutive, despicable**).
24. It is up to all of us to (**impair, emancipate**) ourselves from prejudices and false ideas acquired early in life.
25. Sergei (**chided, exploited**) Natasha's love for him by asking for a favor.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 26

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 26.

Falling Infrastructure

Washington, D.C.—April 11

Yesterday, Concerned Citizens for Safe Infrastructure (CCSI), a national watchdog organization with headquarters in the nation's capital, released its annual report, "State of Our Infrastructure." The news was not encouraging. Petunia Hargraves, Executive Director of CCSI, did not mince words as she delivered a **concise** summary of the group's findings.

"Almost everywhere we look, public facilities have **deteriorated** badly," she said. "All levels of government must act urgently to **forestall** future damage and **depreciation** of these public assets. The costs will be substantial, but we must not **recoil** from our obligation to society."

Infrastructure, as every highway commuter inching past a construction site knows, is the basic cluster of facilities on which a city or state depends. Roads, airports, bridges, tunnels, railways, and ports: All are infrastructure.

CCSI was founded shortly after the collapse of a section of a major bridge along I-35 in Minneapolis in August 2007. That disaster claimed 13 lives and injured 145 people. Even before that incident, the Department of Transportation (DOT) **divulged** some unsettling facts about the maintenance of our nation's infrastructure.

Its numbers show that, due to neglect, millions of commuters' lives are put at risk every day. In 1971, Congress passed a **statute** requiring that all bridges be inspected every two years. Unfortunately, many states, using various loopholes in the law, have failed to **comport** with this federal regulation. Those with the worst rates of compliance are shown in the chart below.



Board diagnosed the probable cause of the Minneapolis bridge collapse with striking **brevity**: "inadequate load capacity."

Clearly, there are more cars on the road today than there were 40 years ago, but infrastructure has not kept pace.

"Obsolete public facilities need to be replaced," says CCSI's Hargraves. "With each incident like the I-35 bridge collapse, the public becomes more **enlightened** about the necessity for maintaining infrastructure. But people have short memories. What we have at present is a mere **rivulet** of corrective action. What we need is a torrent."

"The age of each asset is not the only risk factor," a DOT official pointed out to this reporter. "Quality, too, is important." The bridge that collapsed in Minneapolis was 40 years old, he notes, but at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, the roof of a brand-new terminal caved in. That disaster, which occurred in May 2004 and killed four people, followed the terminal's grand opening by barely a year.

CCSI's Hargraves put forward an analogy from the ancient world. "It's a bad bridge that's narrower than the stream. The Romans did not ignore vital infrastructure and they did not cut corners when building," she asserted. "Their roads, bridges, theaters, and aqueducts are still with us. We should follow their example. Any other approach **reeks** of complacency."

As the world urbanizes, infrastructure needs grow at a **relentless** pace. In China, for example, **proponents** of high-speed train service have convinced the government to double the country's rail coverage by the year 2020. This ambitious goal is estimated to cost \$300 billion. Some economists harbor doubts as to whether China's plan will work. The state, these critics claim, is **squandering** funds: It will not **recoup** its investment, because high-speed fares are too expensive for the average traveler.

To create an infrastructure that is truly modern, efficient, and safe, says the CCSI report, governments must not **quaver**: They should look to the values of the past while boldly building for the future.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Brevity
- (n.) shortness
EX. The speech was notable more for its _____ than for its clarity.
- II. Comport
- (v.) to conduct or bear oneself, behave; to be in agreement
EX. As the students started to leave, the principal reminded them to _____ themselves as school emissaries.
- III. Concise
- (adj.) expressing much in a few words
EX. As a rule of thumb, editors and readers appreciate writing that is _____ and forceful.
- IV. Demure
- (adj.) sober or serious in manner, modest
EX. Despite her _____ appearance, she is a competitive speed skater, always ready for a challenge on ice.
- V. Depreciation
- (n.) a lessening in value; a belittling
EX. The accountant calculated the _____ of the computer over a period of five years.
- VI. Deteriorate
- (v.) to lower in quality or value; to wear away
EX. It is painful for anyone, particularly a doctor, to watch someone's health _____.
- VII. Divulge
- (v.) to tell, reveal; to make public
EX. On some occasions, scrupulous reporters cannot _____ their sources of information.
- VIII. Enlightened
- (adj.) free from ignorance and false ideas; possessing sound understanding
EX. An _____ society is ruled by knowledge and reason rather than superstition and prejudice.
- IX. Forestall
- (v.) to prevent by acting first
EX. Sometimes it is possible to _____ by taking Vitamin C.

- X. Garble
- (v.) to distort in such a way as to make unintelligible.
EX. If you've played "telephone," you know how easy it is to inadvertently _____ a message.
- XI. Proponent
- (n.) one who puts forward a proposal; one who supports a cause or belief
EX. Lucretia Coffin Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were among the first _____ of women's suffrage in the United States.
- XII. Quaver
- (v.) to shake, tremble; to trill
EX. My voice _____ whenever I try to reach the high notes.
- XIII. Recoil
- (v.) to spring back, shrink; (n.) the act of springing back
EX. In "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," sleuth Sherlock Holmes points out that "violence does, in truth, _____ upon the violent."
EX. When the engineer accidentally released the giant spring, its powerful _____ sent him sprawling.
- XIV. Recoup
- (v.) to make up for, regain
EX. I plan to _____ my family's lost fortune by working hard, earning extra money, and investing wisely.
- XV. Reek
- (n.) an unpleasant smell; (v.) to give off unpleasant smells; to give a strong impression
EX. The unmistakable _____ of spoiled food greeted us as we entered the long-abandoned cabin.
EX. In *How the Other Half Lives* (1890), Jacob Ris describes tenements in urban neighborhoods that _____ of poverty.
- XVI. Relentless
- (adj.) unyielding, harsh, without pity
EX. The novel *Les Misérables* recounts ex-convict Jean Valjean's lifelong flight from a _____ police inspector.
- XVII. Rivulet
- (n.) a small stream
EX. While we could hear the running water, dense vegetation hid the _____ from view.
- XVIII. Squander
- (v.) to spend foolishly, waste
EX. I think that it is criminal to _____ our natural resources
- XIX. Staccato
- (adj.) detached or disconnected in sound or style
EX. We strained to listen, and we heard _____ hoofbeats striking the pavement.

XX. Statute

- (n.) a law

EX. The student body is governed by the _____ of the university.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. William Shakespeare expressed the tragic (**brevity**, **statute**) of life by comparing it to a candle that must soon go out.
2. In an attempt to mislead the enemy, the crafty prisoner of war deliberately (**divulged**, **garbled**) his account of how the attack had been planned.
3. The young woman's (**demure**, **staccato**) smile and flirtatious manner drew admiring glances.
4. (**Rivulets**, **Reeks**) of sweat ran down the faces of the men working in that terrible heat.
5. He was not surprised that the recession had affected the value of his comic book and action figure collections, resulting in their (**depreciation**, **deterioration**).
6. In spite of the vast number of details in the United States Constitution, the document is remarkably (**relentless**, **concise**).
7. I beseeched the employees at the florist's shop to (**divulge**, **enlighten**) the name of the person who had anonymously sent me flowers, but they refused.
8. She tried to appear calm, but her voice (**quavered**, **squandered**), revealing her agitation.
9. An old Chinese proverb suggests: "Make a candle to get light; read a book to get (**enlightened**, **concise**)."
10. After the huge fire burned down several houses in our area, the air was filled with ashes and the (**garble**, **reek**) of acrid smoke.
11. Once a political leader has lost the confidence of voters, it is almost impossible to (**comport**, **recoup**) it.
12. I wish there were a (**rivulet**, **statute**) that would prevent people from revealing the ending of a detective story!
13. In order to (**recoil**, **forestall**) criticism of my proposal, I prepared for the meeting by gathering relevant facts and figures beforehand.
14. (**Statutes**, **Proponents**) of the new youth soccer league met with the local parents to discuss by-laws, safety rules, uniforms, and other pressing issues.
15. I'm not saying that you shouldn't watch TV, but why (**recoup**, **squander**) so much of your time on those inane programs?
16. A person accused of a crime is not obliged to (**divulge**, **deteriorate**) anything that might be incriminating.
17. The charitable programs sponsored by this organization (**forestall**, **comport**) well with our conception of a just and compassionate society.

18. "Wear and tear" is the (**depreciation, proponent**) that results from ordinary use, not from misuse.

19. Early rifles had such a "kick" to them that inexperienced soldiers were often injured by the (**recoil, depreciation**) after pulling the trigger.

20. When I learned how the air and water were being polluted, I became a strong (**brevity, proponent**) of ecological reforms.

21. It's all very well to build new housing, but we should also rehabilitate neighborhoods that have (**deteriorated, garbled**) through neglect.

22. It's not surprising that the clothing of firefighters often (**quavers, reeks**) of smoke and sweat.

23. The speaker's (**enlightened, staccato**) delivery truly reminded us of a jackhammer breaking up concrete.

24. Seeing my childhood friend so gray and infirm, I became keenly aware of the (**relentless, demure**) passage of the years.

25. He (**recoiled, comported**) when he saw the rat scurry across the rug.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 27

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 27.*

Social Networks and Virtual Communication

Today's debate question is this one:

Does social networking lead to real friendships and true communication?

Monique: I don't think social networking leads to great friendships or communication, and frankly, I don't understand its appeal. Why should I spend an **appreciable** amount of time every day reading tiresome chit-chat? People bragging about themselves, putting others down, assuming everyone agrees with them on every issue their posts can be unbearable! Social networking is a **synthetic** substitute for true, person-to-person interaction. If you have real friends, you don't need to sit at home and post notes to your cyber buddies. I sometimes worry that social networking has become a **subversive** force, turning us into a nation of loners, glued to computers and unable to deal with others face-to-face.

Rafael: Such a grim picture of social networking is biased and shortsighted. Rather than **contend** that social networking is synthetic, why not see it instead as the latest step in humankind's **concerted** effort to communicate better? Written language, the postal service, telephones--are these artificial too? No, these historic developments in communication bettered people's lives and, in my more **temperate** view, the same is true of social networking. The ability to keep in touch daily with friends and relatives and to meet new people is a great gift. Regular online contact with people we care about won't isolate us; instead, it will make us more connected, more **humane**. Sharing our thoughts and feelings on social networks deepens our ties with others, both those we see all the time and even those we've never met. This is true at the international level, as well. In recent years, we have seen examples of **illustrious** people all around the world using social networks to organize. Digitally connected, strangers have come together in person to express their demands for a better society.

Monique: Isn't it ironic that we insist on the term social networking when so many online conversations seem antisocial in tone? Cyber-bullies, for example, use their computers to harass or **maltreat** their so-called friends, and their **venomous** posts can remain online indefinitely, doing lasting damage. I also **blanch** when I see some of the information that people choose to share on their own pages. What's so "social" about expressing private thoughts and experiences so publicly? I am also concerned that autocratic owners of some social networking Web sites might gather information about users of their sites. Such a development would be **intolerable**. Can we be sure that our privacy is safe?

Rafael: As I **ponder** such comments, I must advise that when judging social networks, don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Wading through the long list of risks attributed to social networking by its critics proves to be a **laborious** effort. Yet such critics should at least acknowledge some of its benefits. I believe that the social networking world is a mirror of the real world. In everyday life, we try to avoid bullies and decide who our true friends are, and we must do the same when networking. Just as people sometimes act objectionably in the real world, some users will post **irreverent** or even offensive comments online. Everyone feels the need to express him or herself, and social networking sites simply give people a ready audience-and instant feedback, pro or con. Social networking is still a relatively new phenomenon. As time passes, we're bound to become more savvy as users of this medium, maximizing its advantages and avoiding its pitfalls.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Appreciable
 - (adj.) sufficient to be noticed or measured
EX. The injured woman lost an _____ amount of blood before the paramedics arrived.
- II. Autocratic
 - (adj.) absolute in power or authority
EX. For many years, the island was under the _____ control of a dictator.
- III. Blanch
 - (v.) to remove the color from; to make or turn pale; to parboil
EX. Even the veteran rescue worker _____ upon seeing the crash site.
- IV. Blasphemy
 - (n.) an act, utterance, or writing showing contempt for something sacred
EX. Galileo was accused of _____ for asserting that the sun, and not the earth, is the center of the universe.
- V. Brawny
 - (adj.) strong, muscular
EX. In Arthurian legend, one _____ knight after another tries to pull the sword Excalibur from the stone, but none succeeds.
- VI. Concerted
 - (adj.) planned or performed in cooperation with others
EX. Teenagers and adults, northerners and southerners alike, participated in a _____ drive to register new voters.
- VII. Contend
 - (v.) to fight, struggle; to compete; to argue
EX. I enjoy watching the four major tennis tournaments in which brilliant players _____ for the "grand slam" titles.
- VIII. Humane
 - (adj.) kind, merciful
EX. The _____ legal code of Hammurabi, king of Babylonia, was ahead of its time in seeking justice for the weak and the oppressed.
- IX. Illustrious
 - (adj.) very famous, distinguished
EX. As a student of world politics, I would be thrilled to meet an _____ member of Parliament.

- X. Intolerable
- (*adj.*) unbearable
EX. To a perfectionist, mediocrity is more than unacceptable; it is simply _____
- XI. Irreverent
- (*adj.*) disrespectful
EX. The student's _____ comments show a lack of respect for people in authority.
- XII. Laborious
- (*adj.*) not easy, requiring hard work; hardworking
EX. After cleaning the gutters, we moved on to the _____ task of raking and bagging the leaves.
- XIII. Lithe
- (*adj.*) bending easily, limber
EX. The burly linebacker was as _____ and agile as a ballet dancer.
- XIV. Maltreat
- (*v.*) to abuse, use roughly or crudely
EX. The candidate pledged to shut down any factory or manufacturing plant found to _____ workers.
- XV. Ponder
- (*v.*) to consider carefully, reflect on
EX. I need time to _____ all of my options before deciding how to spend the summer.
- XVI. Subversive
- (*adj.*) intended to undermine or overthrow; (*n.*) one who advocates or attempts to undermine a political system
EX. The underground movement circulated _____ pamphlets that criticized the government.
EX. The Alien and Sedition Acts enacted in 1798 gave the U.S. president the power to deport any noncitizen deemed a _____
- XVII. Synthetic
- (*adj.*) made or put together by people; (*n.*) something artificial
EX. Sometimes only a jeweler can detect the difference between an expensive _____ gem and a natural stone.
EX. Nylon, rayon, and polyester are all _____ that have revolutionized the textile industry.
- XVIII. Temperate
- (*adj.*) mild, moderate
EX. It's impossible to have a _____ discussion with a hotheaded person.

XIX. Venomous

- (*adj.*) poisonous; spiteful, mean

EX. Only after we had rushed the child to the emergency room did we learn that he'd been bitten by a _____ spider.

XX. Wily

- (*adj.*) sly, shrewd, cunning

EX. The fur trappers of colonial North America were known to be _____ traders.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Is there any other creature in the entire world that is as graceful and (**subversive, lithe**) as the common house cat?
2. In days gone by, a dollar was a(n) (**concerted, appreciable**) sum, and was not to be spent lightly.
3. When the suspect (**pondered, blanched**) at the sudden accusation, her bloodless countenance as much as proclaimed her guilt.
4. All the nations of the world must join in a(n) (**concerted, irreverent**) attack on ignorance, poverty, and disease.
5. The librarian still (**ponders, contends**) that she was not the only person in the library at midnight, but no one seems to believe her.
6. In a country as rich as ours, it is simply (**illustrious, intolerable**) that so many people live below the poverty level.
7. He has the reputation of being a (**laborious, wily**) coach who can work with less experienced players and win.
8. Computer-generated synthesizers that produce (**humane, synthetic**) speech enable individuals who have lost their voices to disease to communicate.
9. Even those of us not philosophically inclined occasionally like to (**contend, ponder**) the meaning of life.
10. Many novels about football players or boxers are written in a style as (**brawny, venomous**) as the athletes they portray.
11. The (**laborious, venomous**) task the ditch-diggers undertook was not going to be finished before nightfall, in spite of their best efforts.
12. The official policy of the school is neither to pamper students nor to (**blanch, maltreat**) them.
13. Is it (**irreverent, appreciable**) of me to suggest that the "great man" may not be as great as he thinks he is?
14. To a skeptic, who doubts everything, the absolute belief in anything is (**blasphemy, synthetic**).
15. The (**venomous, intolerable**) snake's bite left her with a painful leg wound that took many weeks to completely heal.
16. We believe that a government can be strong, resourceful, and efficient without being (**wily, autocratic**).

17. After the potatoes have been (**temperate, blanched**) in hot water, they should be covered in the olive oil and herbs marinade.
18. Although the song had a cheerful tune, the authoritarian government decided that the lyrics were (**subversive, temperate**).
19. As a public official, I have learned to expect criticism of my ideas, but not (**venomous, temperate**) attacks on my character.
20. It's unusual to have an election in which two siblings (**maltreat, contend**) for the same office.
21. After completing the textbook, the writer faced the (**laborious, brawny**) job of compiling the index.
22. Isn't it amazing how the Adams family of Massachusetts produced so many (**illustrious, intolerable**) men and women throughout the years?
23. Advocates of American independence were regarded by Great Britain not as patriots, but as dangerous (**subversives, blasphemy**).
24. Some people criticized the judge as being "too lenient," but I thought she was simply being (**autocratic, humane**).
25. After months of counting calories, I learned to be (**temperate, lithe**) in eating.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 28

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 28.*

From Trash to Tabletop

Interviewer: Sherlynia Singh, as the owner of Frank's Fish Shop on Washington Avenue, what do you think is the most interesting development in your business today?

Singh: My father, who was a fisherman, used to say, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." I think it's ironic that overfishing, the depleting of our fish stocks, is now a great challenge to us all. The oceans cannot produce fish **ad infinitum**. I have become fascinated by the rising interest in trash fish, which might help us to solve this problem.

Interviewer: What are trash fish?

Singh: Trash fish are fish that consumers don't like they're not popular food sources, and they don't fetch high prices in the marketplace. Most commercial fishing operations target high-value fish, like tuna, salmon, or cod. Such operations use huge nets or long lines with hundreds of hooks to catch thousands of fish at a time. In the process, they pick up a lot of so-called trash fish. Once, these low-value fish were discarded, but now they are retained and processed for sale.

Interviewer: What changed people's minds about fish once considered trash?

Singh: Most experts would concede that the growth of fish-farming is a major factor. Since overfishing has caused wild populations of popular species to **wane**, more of the fish we eat comes from fish farms. Many fish farms raise high-value carnivorous species, like salmon and tuna, that require massive quantities of food. Increasingly, it's trash fish that are processed to make fish meal and fish oils used to feed farmed fish. Since fish-farming relies on wild-caught trash fish, overfishing our oceans is still a problem. But without trash fish, fish-farming would soon become **untenable**.

Interviewer: So, trash fish play an important role in fish-farming, but they aren't consumed by humans.

Singh: Actually, some trash fish does find its way to our dinner table. Small, family-run fishing enterprises are still common in developing countries, often operating in rather **sordid** conditions. Local fishermen **apportion** some of their catch--the low-value fish--for home consumption and sell the rest of their yield to others. In many countries, great quantities of fish we consider low-value are sold for human consumption. This is often a matter of local preferences. In much of East Asia, for example, a wide variety of low- and high-value fish are an important part of the traditional diet.

Interviewer: It sounds as if determining whether or not a fish species is a trash fish might be a matter of opinion.

Singh: To some extent, that's true, but our taste for fish has changed as supplies have changed. When popular species become less common due to overfishing, environmental changes, or **migration**, local fisheries find new species to satisfy demand. Tuna is a classic example. In the days before refrigeration and canning, tuna flesh would quickly become **rancid**, so tuna was unpopular and usually discarded. That changed early in the 20th century, when a sudden drop in sardine populations prompted fisheries to start catching tuna off the California coast. Before long, tuna had become one of the most popular and **versatile** fish consumed in America, and it's now one of the most highly valued fish in the world. A single bluefin tuna can fetch \$150,000 in a Tokyo market today! That's quite a lofty sum.

Interviewer: So, sellers and buyers alike are learning that yesterday's trash fish can become tomorrow's food fish.

Singh: It sounds **perverse**, but it's true. The fishing industry is rapidly changing due to environmental problems, over-fishing, and innovations in fish-farming. People forget that many fish that are popular around the world today were **perceived** as "trash" not long ago: hake, tilapia, Chilean sea bass, pangasius, monkfish, and shark all fall into this category. For years, I predicted we would expand our seafood diet to include more overlooked species, and now that people have done so, I feel **vindicated**. It seems that, for many species, status as a trash fish is only a **prelude** to **bona fide** popularity.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- I. Ad infinitum
- (*adv.*) endlessly
EX. Children who hear a favorite story read over and over _____ are learning about language.
- II. Apportion
- (*v.*) to divide and give out in shares
EX. The aging king decided to _____ the lands of his vast kingdom among his three daughters.
- III. Bona fide
- (*adj.*) genuine; sincere
EX. The appraiser studied the old book and declared it to be a _____ first edition of Moby-Dick.
- IV. Buoyant
- (*adj.*) able to float easily; able to hold things up; cheerful, hopeful
EX. We were weary and anxious to get home, but our friend's _____ spirits kept us going.
- V. Clique
- (*n.*) a small, exclusive group of people
EX. The queen was surrounded by a _____ of powerful nobles who actually ran the country.
- VI. Concede
- (*v.*) to admit as true; to yield, submit
EX. Even though the votes were all in and counted, the losing candidate refused to _____ the election.
- VII. Congenial
- (*adj.*) getting on well with others; agreeable, pleasant
EX. I was relieved when my bunkmate at summer camp turned out to be considerate and _____.
- VIII. Lofty
- (*adj.*) very high; noble
EX. My mentor maintains _____ standards and works hard to adhere to them.
- IX. Migration
- (*n.*) a movement from one country or region to another
EX. _____ from north to south has contributed to the political clout of the Sun Belt.

- X. Perceive
- (*v.*) to be aware of through the senses, observe; to grasp mentally
EX. I thought I _____ a flicker of guilt on my brother's face when I asked who ate my slice of pie.
- XI. Perverse
- (*adj.*) inclined to go against what is expected; stubborn; turned away from what is good and proper
EX. Some teenagers get _____ pleasure from blasting music that their parents do not like.
- XII. Prelude
- (*n.*) an introduction; that which comes before or leads off
EX. The orchestral _____ to the new opera seemed more interesting to me than the opera itself.
- XIII. Rancid
- (*adj.*) stale, spoiled
EX. When he opened the door, there poured forth the unmistakably _____ odor of some ancient leftovers.
- XIV. Rustic
- (*adj.*) country-like; simple, plain; awkward; (*n.*) one who lives in the country
EX. We rented a _____ cabin, with no electricity or running water, twenty miles from the town.
EX. On the trail we met an amiable old _____ carrying a fishing pole and a string of trout he'd caught.
- XV. Sever
- (*v.*) to separate, divide into parts
EX. It was extreme of her to _____ her former best friend, but that is what she did.
- XVI. Sordid
- (*adj.*) wretchedly poor; run-down; mean or selfish
EX. Nineteenth-century reformers made people aware of just how _____ conditions were in city slums.
- XVII. Untenable
- (*adj.*) not capable of being held or defended; impossible to maintain
EX. Minutes into the debate she had a sinking feeling that her position was completely _____.
- XVIII. Versatile
- (*adj.*) able to do many things well; capable of many uses
EX. By moving from comedy to drama to musicals, he has shown himself to be a truly _____ actor.

XIX. Vindicate

- (v.) to clear from hint or charge of wrongdoing; to defend successfully against opposition; to justify

EX. Though the accused was _____ in the end, his career was all but ruined by the allegations.

XX. (v.) to lose size, strength, or power

EX. As the moon _____, the nights grew darker; we could hardly see our way along the forest trails.

Mr. Abdulshafi

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Leonardo da Vinci was a (**versatile**, **buoyant**) genius who excelled in many different fields of art and science.
2. American society has been deeply affected by the steady (**migration**, **clique**) from the inner city to the suburbs.
3. Because our tank forces had been destroyed, the position of the ground troops proved (**congenial**, **untenable**).
4. One of the aims of education is to enable us to (**perceive**, **sever**) the difference between what is truly excellent and what is second-rate.
5. The fatty layer beneath their skin not only enables seals to be naturally (**buoyant**, **versatile**), but it also helps them to store energy and conserve their body heat.
6. They will not be allowed to vote in the election because they are not considered (**ad infinitum**, **bona fide**) residents of the community.
7. The psychologist said that troubled young people often have a (**perverse**, **rancid**) impulse to do exactly what will be most injurious to them.
8. The atmosphere in the tiny, airless cell soon grew as (**buoyant**, **rancid**) as the foul-smelling soup that the prisoner was fed every night.
9. The long range of (**buoyant**, **lofty**) mountains was dramatically silhouetted against the glowing purple, red, and pink sunset.
10. He talks a great game of tennis, but I (**wane**, **concede**) nothing to him until he has shown that he can beat me on the court.
11. When he came home from college for Thanksgiving break, he treated us "high school kids" with (**sordid**, **lofty**) scorn.
12. They claimed to be unselfish patriots, but we knew that, in reality, they were acting from the most (**untenable**, **sordid**) motives.
13. Our team was more than just (**sordid**, **congenial**); our friendships were meaningful and deep, and we were very involved in one another's lives.
14. This (**versatile**, **untenable**) new kitchen tool can chop, slice, and blend. I wish it could do the cooking, too!
15. I appreciate her interest in me, but I am annoyed by her tendency to offer criticism and advice (**bona fide**, **ad infinitum**).
16. I could tell from his animated expression and his sprightly step that he was in a (**buoyant**, **versatile**) mood.

17. You are at a stage of life when you should begin to (**wane, sever**) the apron strings that tie you to your mother.
18. Our problem now is not to (**sever, apportion**) blame for our failures, but to find a way to achieve success.
19. There are more than 100 members in the state legislature, but the real power is held by a small (**clique, prelude**) of insiders.
20. The general's army was in full retreat, and he was forced to (**vindicate, concede**) that his nation had lost the war.
21. The successful invasion of France in June 1944 was only a (**prelude, migration**) to the great Allied victories that ended the war in Europe.
22. Good citizens should not sit idly by while the vitality of their community (**wanes, concedes**).
23. A good politician must appear (**sordid, congenial**) even when he or she is feeling cross and unsociable.
24. Shakespeare's clowns are often simple (**cliques, rustics**) who are trying to behave like sophisticated men of the world.
25. My faith in that seemingly ordinary young girl was entirely (**vindicated, perceived**).

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 29

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 29.*

Seven Wonders

The conquests of Alexander the Great broadened the horizons of the ancient Greek world. Many territories **annexed** by Alexander were home to civilizations with longer **pedigrees** than the Greeks', such as Babylon and Egypt. Each of these civilizations had its own culture, its own style of architecture, art, music, and cuisine. Each had its own traditions and history. Commerce and curiosity **incited** interest in travel. A steady **influx** of travelers was drawn to major cities and famous landmarks. Moved by the **profuse** interest in travel, Greek authors compiled lists of spectacular sites. **Cleaving** to custom, these ancient travel writers normally included seven locations in their lists. In ancient times, the sites listed varied from one author to another. But today the landmarks mentioned in these ancient travel guides are remembered as the Seven Wonders of the World.

Statues of the Gods

The Statue of Zeus soared more than 40 feet high. Built in 432 scE, it sat in a temple in Olympia, on mainland Greece. Across the Aegean, on the island of Rhodes, a bronze statue of the sun god Helios guarded the harbor from atop a massive stone pillar, which served as its **cornerstone**. The giant statue of Helios was known as the Colossus of Rhodes.

Temple and Tomb

The Temple of Artemis was located in the town of Ephesus on the Anatolian coast, which is in modern-day Turkey. The temple was destroyed and rebuilt twice before the **debacle** of its final destruction at the hands of a rioting mob in 401 ce.

Also on the Anatolian coast was the Tomb of Mausolus, which stood nearly 150 feet high. A provincial governor of the Persian Empire, Mausolus had his capital in Halicarnassus. When he died in 353 BE, his wife could hardly **reconcile** herself to his death. As a tribute to her husband, she had the great tomb built.

The Lighthouse and the Pyramid

For centuries, the Lighthouse of Alexandria guided Mediterranean navigators into the busy Egyptian port. An engineering marvel that rose to a height of 400 feet above the water, it could be seen 29 miles away by approaching sailors.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest of the Seven Wonders and the only one that remains standing today. Its endurance is recalled in the old Arabic saying, "Man fears time, but time fears the Pyramids." The builders **improvised** the pyramid's bricks from the local limestone. Its **precipitous** stone walls extended nearly 500 feet in height and reflected the golden **pallor** of the desert sun. Contrary to many accounts, the laborers who built the pyramid were not slaves in shackles and threadbare clothing, but rather teams of villagers who took pride in their work.

A Garden for a Homesick Queen

The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar was extremely active during his long reign. He spent much of his time **embroiled** in wars and engaged in massive building projects. He is credited with constructing the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. According to legend, the king's wife, Amytis of Media, deeply missed her homeland. Media was a land rich in forests and greenery, and Amytis felt **devitalized** in the plains of Babylon. To enliven Amytis's mood, the king ordered the construction of the Hanging Gardens, a lush expanse of trees and plants.

Though nobody can be sure the king's **cordial** gesture had its desired effect, the gardens, like the other wonders, were a marvel of ancient ingenuity, and they attracted sightseers from across the known world.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Annex

- (v.) to add to, attach; to incorporate; (n.) an attachment or addition

EX. The two nations protested when their militant neighbor _____ the disputed territory.

EX. All back issues of magazines are kept next door on the second floor of the new library _____.

II. Cleave

- (v.) to cut or split open; to cling to

EX. It is possible to _____ a ripe coconut neatly in two with just one swing of a machete.

III. Cordial

- (adj.) in a friendly manner, hearty; cheery; (n.) a liqueur

EX. Our aunt's _____ welcome made us all feel right at home in her huge, drafty Victorian house.

EX. Grasshopper pie is made not with grasshoppers but with crème de menthe, a _____.

IV. Cornerstone

- (n.) the starting point of a building; a fundamental principle or element

EX. The _____ of the American judicial system is the presumption of innocence.

V. Debacle

- (n.) an overwhelming defeat, rout; a complete collapse or failure

EX. After the _____ of their crushing loss in the World Series, the team vowed to return next year.

VI. Devitalize

- (v.) to make weak or lifeless

EX. The long, dark winter, with its cold rain and gloomy skies, _____ her usually buoyant spirit.

VII. Embroil

- (v.) to involve in a conflict or difficulty; to throw into confusion

EX. The last thing I want is to _____ myself in a dispute between two of my best friends.

VIII. Exonerate

- (v.) to clear from a charge or accusation

EX. The prisoner was set free after ten years, thanks to new evidence that _____ him of all charges.

- IX. Glib
- (*adj.*) ready and fluent in speech; thoughtless, insincere
EX. The salesman had such _____ answers to every objection that I grew extremely skeptical of his claims.
- X. Haphazard
- (*adj.*) by chance, not planned; lacking order
EX. The _____ arrangement of facts in his presentation left his listeners completely confused.
- XI. Improvise
- (*v.*) to compose or perform without preparation; to construct from available materials
EX. After the earthquake, stunned villagers were forced to _____ shelters from the debris.
- XII. Incite
- (*v.*) to rouse, stir up, urge on
EX. Company agents were hired to _____ a riot at the steelworkers' protest demonstration.
- XIII. Influx
- (*n.*) a coming in, inflow
EX. An _____ of arctic air has brought unseasonably cold weather to half the country.
- XIV. Pallor
- (*n.*) an extreme or unnatural paleness
EX. "A ghost!" the girl gasped, her _____ making her look much like a ghost herself as she ran away.
- XV. Pedigree
- (*n.*) a list of ancestors, family tree; the history or origins of something
EX. Despite his impressive _____, the colt showed little enthusiasm for racing.
- XVI. Precipitous
- (*adj.*) very steep
EX. The novice hikers were very nervous as they carefully negotiated the _____ mountain trail.
- XVII. Profuse
- (*adj.*) very abundant; given or flowing freely
EX. How can I stay upset with him when he is so sincere and _____ with his apologies?
- XVIII. Reconcile
- (*v.*) to restore to friendship; to settle; to resign (oneself)
EX. After so many years of feuding, it will be difficult for the brothers to _____ and begin anew.

XIX. Shackle

- (v.) to put into chains; (n., usually pl.) a chain, fetter

EX. The guards attempted to _____ the prisoner before allowing him to board the waiting airplane.

EX. His wicked plot discovered, the prince was bound in _____ and taken to the dank dungeon.

XX. Threadbare

- (adj.) shabby, old and worn

EX. My brother has carefully collected a closetful of faded, _____ jeans, sweatshirts, and sneakers.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

1. Separation of powers is one of the (**cornerstones, shackles**) upon which the American form of government is built.
2. We learned from the film that Spartacus was a Roman gladiator who (**reconciled, incited**) his fellow slaves to armed rebellion.
3. The President said in his inaugural address that he firmly believes that we must not (**embroil, devitalize**) ourselves in the quarrels of other nations.
4. The couple thanked me so (**profusely, haphazardly**) for the small favor I had done them that I was almost embarrassed.
5. My campaign for the class presidency ended in an utter (**influx, debacle**) when I forgot my speech as I was about to address the assembly.
6. Some people think that, because she wears mismatched clothing, her approach to dressing herself is (**glib, haphazard**), but I think she plans her outfits very carefully.
7. Although I had never even met her, the emails she wrote to me were so (**cordial, threadbare**) that I felt we were old friends.
8. The (**pedigree, debacle**) of that dog cannot be in question; the breeder has extensive documentation to prove that he is from a line of award-winning collies.
9. After he was brought in by the police, he remained (**shackled, embroiled**) to a chair for about half an hour.
10. What we need is not talkers with (**glib, cordial**) solutions for all our problems, but doers who are prepared to pitch in and help.
11. How can he (**cleave, reconcile**) his claim that he is a "good citizen" with the fact that he doesn't even bother to vote?
12. The famous actor applied a layer of ashen makeup to simulate the ghastly (**pallor, pedigree**) of a ghost.
13. Let's (**improvise, reconcile**) a shelter from these fallen branches before it gets too dark to see in these woods.
14. We are tired of listening to those (**cordial, threadbare**) old excuses for your failure to keep your promises.
15. The story of his unhappy childhood aroused our sympathy but did not (**exonerate, improvise**) him from the charge of criminal assault.
16. The disaster was so great that the overcrowded hospital was forced to house some patients in a makeshift (**annex, debacle**).

17. With such a (**precipitous, haphazard**) way of keeping accounts, is it any wonder that your budget is a disaster?
18. True, he comes from an aristocratic family, but he won that promotion on the basis of merit, not because of his (**pedigree, cornerstone**).
19. Runaway inflation can cause a (**glib, precipitous**) decline in the value of a nation's currency.
20. Modern processing methods (**devitalize, annex**) many foodstuffs sold today, resulting in a loss of both taste and nutritional value.
21. In spite of all the progress made in recent years, we are still not entirely free from the (**shackles, debacles**) of prejudice and superstition.
22. To seaside resorts, the annual (**influx, pallor**) of tourists marks the true beginning of the summer season.
23. In a time of unrest and bewildering change, it is more important than ever to (**incite, cleave**) to the basic principles that give meaning to our lives.
24. He is the kind of speaker who is more effective when he (**improvises, exonerates**) his remarks than when he reads from a prepared script.
25. The glade was resplendent with (**profuse, glib**) flowers.

The Eloquent Ones

Unit 30

*Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in unit 30.*

Jesse Owens: 1913-1980

April 1, 1980

By Mindy K. Valentine

Olympic hero Jesse Owens died yesterday in Tucson, Arizona. The cause was cancer.

Jesse Owens's story and his **legion** of achievements is compelling. The African-American track-and-field luminary captured four gold medals and set three records at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, and his astounding achievements shattered the Nazi ideology of a so-called master race.

James Cleveland Owens was born in the segregated South, in Oakville, Alabama, in 1913. His grandparents had been enslaved, and his parents were sharecroppers who struggled to feed their children. Hoping to improve its prospects, the family resettled in Cleveland, Ohio, when J.C. was nine years old. At this time "J.C." became "Jesse"-a teacher misunderstood his strong Southern drawl when taking attendance, and the nickname stuck.

A coach in junior high recognized young Jesse's **dormant** talents and launched his track-and-field career. As a teenager, Jesse set or tied national high school records, and as a student at Ohio State University, the "Buckeye Bullet" was invincible, breaking and setting world records.

In 1936, Jesse Owens and his teammates journeyed to Berlin, Germany, to compete against the world in the Summer Olympics. Adolf Hitler was using the Games to showcase Nazi propaganda and advance his theories of racial superiority. His intentions were clear, but despite the official line, some Germans embraced Owens. One in particular, fellow Olympian Luz Long, demonstrated that not all Germans were **knaves** and villains. Owens had stepped over the start line, a fault, while trying to qualify for the finals in the long jump. This mistake **actuated** Long's helpful intervention. Following Long's advice, Owens placed a towel in front of the start line and jumped from there, keeping a safe distance from the line, and **averting** another fault and disqualification. Later, Long died a **combatant** in the German army during World War II.

Legend has it that Hitler openly **spurned** Owens at the medal ceremony, but according to some historians, this part of the story is **dubious**. Owens denied that Hitler's **boorish** behavior was directed solely at him, as other African American athletes were also present, and six of the 10 black athletes won individual gold. But news accounts said Owens bore the **brunt** of the snub, and the legend endured. Despite the achievements of Owens and his teammates, Hitler was **impenitent**; his belief in Aryan supremacy never wavered. Newsreels show him **haranguing** huge crowds about German superiority.

Owens returned home in triumph to great acclaim and a ticker-tape parade in his honor, but reality threatened to negate his achievements. In the United States, he was still a second-class citizen whom many wanted to bring down or **abase**.

Only after a **protracted** delay of several decades did he get his due. Despite setbacks, Owens was known for his grace and **liberality**, and also for his generosity to and support of young people. He started a successful national program to involve young people in track and field that enhanced his own stellar reputation.

Belatedly, Jesse Owens's own country officially recognized the significance of his achievements. He was named a Presidential Goodwill Ambassador, and he received the Medal of Freedom and Living Legend Award.

Owens is survived by his wife, Ruth, and his three daughters. His body will lie in state at the Capitol Rotunda tomorrow before his burial in Cleveland, Ohio. No further details are available.

Definitions

Note the spelling, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

I. Abase

- (v.) to lower in esteem, degrade; to humble

EX. My friend refused to _____ herself by admitting to something she had not done.

II. Actuate

- (v.) to move to action; to impel

EX. A third bad accident at the notorious intersection finally _____ an angry community protest.

III. Avert

- (v.) to turn aside, turn away; to prevent, avoid

EX. Rigorous training of the new lifeguards will quite probably _____ several tragedies each summer.

IV. Boorish

- (adj.) rude, unrefined; clumsy

EX. Her musical genius was rivaled only by her legendary _____ behavior in public.

V. Brunt

- (n.) the main impact, force, or burden

EX. Fortunately, a sparsely populated area bore the _____ of the hurricane.

VI. Combatant

- (n.) a fighter; (adj.) engaged in fighting

EX. Several times the referee had to step in and separate the two _____ after the bell rang.

EX. The _____ forces from France and England met on the fields near Agincourt.

VII. Dormant

- (adj.) inactive; in a state of suspension; sleeping

EX. The warm spring sun stirred the _____ daffodil bulbs we planted in the park last fall.

VIII. Dubious

- (adj.) causing uncertainty or suspicion; in a doubtful or uncertain state of mind, hesitant

EX. Experts have said that the manuscript first attributed to Mark Twain was of _____ authenticity.

- IX. Harangue
- (v.) to deliver a loud, ranting speech; (n.) a loud speech
EX. From the moment we walked in, our math teacher began to _____ us about our midterm exam scores.
EX. The speaker was supposed to discuss the criminal justice system, but delivered a _____ against lawyers.
- X. Harry
- (v.) to make a destructive raid on; to torment, harass
EX. My parents are forever _____ cleaning up my room and playing music too loudly.
- XI. Impenitent
- (adj.) not feeling remorse or sorrow for errors or offenses
EX. His _____ demeanor during the trial probably encouraged the judge to impose a harsh sentence.
- XII. Knave
- (n.) a tricky, unprincipled, or deceitful fellow
EX. Her friends always knew that _____ of a first husband was only after her inheritance.
- XIII. Legion
- (n.) a large military force; any large group or number; (adj.) many, numerous
EX. It would undoubtedly take a _____ of skilled mechanics to repair an old rattletrap like my car.
EX. Her reasons for not attending the Community Gourmet Club's "Cooking with Beets Night" were _____.
- XIV. liberality
- (n.) generosity, generous act; breadth of mind or outlook
EX. The dean's well-known _____ allowed an atmosphere of spirited debate to flourish at the college.
- XV. Plaintiff
- (n.) one who begins a lawsuit
EX. His lawyers objected that the _____ rather than the defendant was being put on trial.
- XVI. Probe
- (v.) to examine, investigate thoroughly; (n.) an investigation; a device used to explore or examine
EX. An auditor was brought in to _____ the company's financial irregularities.
EX. An unmanned _____ was sent to examine the geology of the Martian surface.
- XVII. Protract
- (v.) to draw out or lengthen in space or time
EX. Militants opposed to the peace treaty attempted to _____ the negotiations.

XVIII. Quarry

- (v.) to cut or take from (or as if from) a quarry; (n.) a place from which stone is taken; something that is hunted or pursued

EX. The Internet makes it easier to _____ information from the world's vast supply.

EX. Bargain hunters armed with sale ads raced through the store, urgently seeking their _____.

XIX. Spurn

- (v.) to refuse with scorn, disdain

EX. He _____ a full scholarship offered by a small college to go to a big state university instead.

XX. Subterfuge

- (n.) an excuse or trick for escaping or hiding something

EX. The accused embezzler's "heart attack" could be a clever _____ to avoid his upcoming trial.

Definitions

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1. During the Great Depression millions of Americans were out of work, as much of the nation's productive capacity lay (**dormant, impenitent**).
2. When the referee called back a touchdown by the home team, he had to bear the (**probe, brunt**) of the crowd's anger.
3. Whenever I even suspect that a gory scene is about to start in a movie, I (**avert, actuate**) my eyes or even cover them with my hands.
4. After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became locked in a(n) (**protracted, actuated**) struggle known as the Cold War.
5. Your (**liberality, subterfuge**) is to be admired, but it must be controlled so that it is not out of proportion to your means.
6. At a time when we need good will and cooperation, nothing will be gained by an emotional (**quarry, harangue**) about old abuses and mistakes.
7. People who think only of themselves, with no concern for the feelings of others, are bound to be (**brunt, boorish**).
8. The applicant's list of accomplishments, which went on for two pages, was (**dubious, impenitent**) at best.
9. I think that we can settle this dispute in a friendly way, without either of us becoming a defendant or a (**quarry, plaintiff**).
10. The dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Mrs. Roth's teaching career was attended by a (**legion, probe**) of her former students.
11. For many years after the Civil War, thousands of (**combatants, legions**) in the great battle of Gettysburg met in annual reunions.
12. We'll need to (**quarry, probe**) for the large stones necessary for securing the foundation.
13. He pretended to be speechless with anger, but we recognized this as a (**subterfuge, harangue**) to avoid answering the charges against him.
14. Although we were fairly certain that the ice would be thick enough to hold us, we used a long stick as a (**subterfuge, probe**) to see if any part of the ice was too thin.
15. A new popular singing idol will often (**actuate, abase**) changes in clothing fashions.
16. I was ashamed of my poor behavior at the debate and hope I did not (**dormant, abase**) myself in the eyes of the moderator.
17. In the school library, all activity seemed to have become (**dormant, spurned**) as students napped with their heads and arms draped across desks.

18. The detective story was so cleverly constructed that the character whom we took to be the pursuer turned out to be the (**quarry, brunt**).
19. We began with confidence in his success in the election, but as he made one mistake after another, we grew more and more (**dubious, abased**).
20. Let us not (**spurn, avert**) our attention from the sufferings of the people living in the slums of our community.
21. Since his absurd scheme was never really intended to harm us, we regard him as more of a fool than a (**quarry, knave**).
22. We demand that the committee be made up of legislators who will (**actuate, probe**) fearlessly into the causes of the energy crisis.
23. Since the prisoner remained defiantly (**impenitent, boorish**), the review panel saw no reason for granting him parole.
24. A pack of reporters (**averted, harried**) the senator with pointed and persistent questions even as he was being whisked into his limousine.
25. How can that heartless beauty (**combat, spurn**) my offers of devotion!

The Eloquent Ones

Epilogue

For more than one decade, Mr. Abdulshafi has been providing SAT lessons and practice tests to schools—nationally—and to students, privately. This SAT® Study Guide is a testament to the countless hours and hard work that I have invested over the years. I have constantly committed myself to making the best SAT material in order to help students get the most out of their studying experience.

I Guess That's The
End, Or Maybe Not

*Best Of Luck,
Mr. Abdulshafi*