

3. Mary complains that when they were young her husband was very _____ of her, but now he practically ignores her.
4. The _____ argued that the purported exhibition of occult powers was created by the use of conjurer's tricks.
5. We often use _____ in expressions like "as old as the hills" and "as sharp as a tack" without being consciously aware that they are similes.
6. The governor awarded his advisor with a _____ as a reward for 20 years of service to the party and the state.
7. The _____ road curves along the mountainside.
8. In Act III of *Hamlet*, Shakespeare has Hamlet speak a _____ on the question of "To be, or not to be."
9. Looking at the _____ field, the football coach realized he would have to adapt his game plan to wet conditions.
10. Before Charles Darwin proved the close biological relation between human beings and apes, many people saw human _____ characteristics as comical and inconsequential.

Sense or Nonsense

Indicate whether each sentence makes good sense or not.

Put S (SENSE) if it does, and put N (NONSENSE) if it does not.

1. The philosopher Bertrand Russell was skeptical of Idealist philosophies, believing they are based on false assumptions about knowledge. _____
2. The philosophy student compared following the treatise's long, subtle argument to following the path of a sinuous river for thousands of miles. _____
3. The poem's central simile is that the nation's leader is like a captain of a ship. _____
4. Italian mothers are famous for being so solicitous of their sons that they spend most of the day cooking for them. _____
5. The farmers are hoping for rain after the long period of hot and sodden weather. _____

UNIT 70

solvent *adj.* able to meet financial obligations

*During the financial crisis several large banks had difficulty remaining **solvent**.*

somatic *adj.* relating to or affecting the body; corporeal

*A psychosomatic disorder is a malady caused by a mental disturbance that adversely affects **somatic** functioning.*

***soporific** *adj.* sleep producing

*For some people the best **soporific** is reading a boring book.*

sordid *adj.* filthy; contemptible and corrupt

*The Monica Lewinsky scandal, which led to President Bill Clinton's impeachment in 1998, must certainly rank as one of the most **sordid** affairs in American history.*

***specious** *adj.* seeming to be logical and sound, but not really so

*The article systematically rebuts the **specious** argument advanced by the so-called expert in the field.*

spectrum *n.* band of colors produced when sunlight passes through a prism; a broad range of related ideas or objects

*The political science course deals with the whole **spectrum** of political ideologies.*

spendthrift *n.* person who spends money recklessly

*A Chinese proverb describes a paradox: Rich **spendthrifts** never save enough, but the poor always manage to save something.*

The adjective *spendthrift* means wasteful and extravagant.

*Tom's **spendthrift** habits resulted in his accumulating a huge amount of credit card debt.*

***sporadic** *adj.* irregular

*Despite the ceasefire, there have been **sporadic** outbreaks of violence between the warring factions.*

squalor *n.* filthy, wretched condition

*The family lives in **squalor** in the slums of Mexico City.*

staccato *adj.* marked by abrupt, clear-cut sounds

*We listened to the **staccato** steps of the woman in high heels running down the street.*

REVIEW 70

The correct answers are given on page 409.

Matching

Match each word with its definition.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. solvent | (A) filthy; corrupt |
| 2. somatic | (B) broad range |
| 3. soporific | (C) irregular |
| 4. sordid | (D) able to meet financial obligations |
| 5. specious | (E) person who spends recklessly |
| 6. spectrum | (F) seeming to be logical and sound, but not so |
| 7. spendthrift | (G) filthy, wretched condition |
| 8. sporadic | (H) affecting the body |
| 9. squalor | (I) marked by abrupt, clear-cut sounds |
| 10. staccato | (J) sleep producing |

Fill-ins

Choose the best word to fill in the blank in each sentence.

solvent	somatic	soporific	sordid	specious
spectrum	spendthrift	sporadic	squalor	staccato

- Newspapers sometimes publish stories with _____ claims to increase sales.
- A _____ most of his life, Alex has only recently begun to save for his retirement.
- Many towns have an area where people live in _____.
- The salesperson has a sort of machine-gun way of speaking, fast and _____.
- The various portions of the electromagnetic _____ are allocated to broadcasters, commercial operators, amateur hobbyists, and other users.
- _____ outbreaks of violence marred the ceasefire.
- Economists are concerned that some of the poorest countries will have difficulty remaining _____ as interest rates rise and the amount of their debt repayments increase.
- The long car ride was a _____ for the family's small children; soon they were fast asleep in the back of the car.
- In recent years, medicine has placed greater emphasis on how psychological factors contribute to _____ disorders such as heart disease and cancer.
- The governor issued a complete and public apology to put the _____ affair behind him.

Sense or Nonsense

Indicate whether each sentence makes good sense or not.

Put S (SENSE) if it does, and put N (NONSENSE) if it does not.

1. The novels of Mickey Spillane portray the sordid world of criminals. ____
2. In the logic class, students were asked to identify specious lines of reasoning in several arguments. ____
3. If you absolutely have to stay awake you should take a soporific. ____
4. The bank's president warned its directors that it could not remain solvent if it kept making bad loans. ____
5. What the tourist brochure described as "local color" was called "squalor" by a plain-speaking member of the tour group. ____

APPLYING YOUR KNOWLEDGE—61–70

1. In intellectual discourse, statements often must be (i) _____ so that they are true; for example, the statement "The cause of war is economic competition between countries" is almost certainly too sweeping and could be (ii) _____ by being restated as "One of the major causes of war is economic competition between countries."

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
refuted	rendered more credible
sanctioned	made more problematic
qualified	embellished

Explanation: The statement in quotes about the cause of war is described as "sweeping" (too inclusive), so the best choice for Blank (i) is *qualified* (limited).

The second statement in quotes is more believable than the first statement because it has been qualified. Thus, the best choice for Blank (ii) is *rendered more credible* (made more believable).

The correct answers are **qualified** and **rendered more credible**.

2. Albert Einstein expressed dismay about quantum mechanics because he felt it introduced a troubling (i) _____ into nature, which he felt should be able to be described by laws that, (ii) _____, are fully testable and verifiable.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
capriciousness	no matter how recondite
dilemma	however unscientific
aesthetic consideration	although empirically-based

Explanation: An important clue to the answers to this question is the phrase “laws that... are fully testable and verifiable,” which tells what kind of laws of nature Einstein preferred. *Capriciousness* (being subject to sudden change) is the best choice for Blank (i) because this quality would make laws of nature difficult to test and verify. Another clue to this answer is the word “troubling;” Einstein found this capriciousness of nature troubling.

The answer to Blank (ii) can be found by elimination of *however unscientific* and *although empirically-based*, which make no sense in context. *No matter how recondite* is a good choice because it makes sense that it would not matter if laws of nature were recondite (abstruse) as long as they could be tested and verified.

The correct answers are **capriciousness** and **no matter how recondite**.

UNIT 71

stanch *v.* to stop or check the flow of

*The country's government has put controls on currency movement to **stanch** the flow of money out of the country.*

stentorian *adj.* extremely loud

*The **stentorian** speaker prefers not to use a microphone so that the audience can appreciate what he calls “the full effect of my powerful oratory.”*

***stigma** *n.* mark of disgrace or inferiority

*A problem with giving formal psychological treatment to a child who is believed to be poorly adjusted to society is that he may acquire a **stigma** as a result of officially being labeled as deviant, and he may act to corroborate society's expectation.*

The verb is *stigmatize*.

*The civil rights movement helped to **stigmatize** racism, augmenting legal efforts to desegregate American society.*