

WORD SMART II

HOW TO BUILD A MORE EDUCATED VOCABULARY

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CONTENTS

Chapter One	Why Word Smart II?	3
Chapter Two	Warm-Up Tests	11
	The Words	
Chapter Four	Vocabulary for the SAT	
	(Continued from Word Smart I)	221
Chapter Five	Vocabulary for the GRE	. •
	(Continued from Word Smart I)	229
Chapter Six V	Vord Roots You Should Know	237
Chapter Seve	n Our Final Exam	259
Chapter Eight	The Answers	283



WHY WORD SMART II?

We wrote the first Word Smart thinking it would be our only vocabulary book. Most vocabulary books include too many words that people rarely use, and not enough of the words people actually encounter in school or in their daily life. For Word Smart, we wanted only the most important words in an educated vocabulary, the words intelligent people truly need to know to do well in school and in their careers.

Here's what we said on the back cover of the first Word Smart:

Improving your vocabulary is important, but where do you start? The English language has hundreds of thousands of words. To find out which words you absolutely need to know, The Princeton Review researched the vocabularies of educated adults. We analyzed newspapers from The New York Times to The Wall Street Journal, magazines from Time to Scientific American, and books from current bestsellers to the classics. We threw out the words that most people know and focused on the words that people misunderstand or misuse. From these, we selected the 823 words that appeared most frequently.

We wrote these words in 1988. Since then nearly a quarter-million people have purchased *Word Smart*. Many people, having learned the 823 words in the first volume, did not want to stop there. They asked us for other important words they should know.

So we set out to collect another batch of words. We went through the same research process we did when compiling our first volume. We still concentrated on the words that occurred most frequently, but there were some important differences in the way we made our final selection.

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

In the first place, the world has changed a lot since 1988. With the international and end-of-century upheavals of recent years, many political and religious words gained increasing usage. Increasing globalization made us more aware of foreign languages, and as a result many foreign words and phrases gained popularity.

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WE KNOW MORE AROUT PEOPLE'S VOCABULARIES

Another consideration affecting the words we selected was our growing experience with students and adults and their use and misuse of language. Many important words in *Word Smart II* failed to make the cut for the first volume because we thought that most educated people used these words correctly. We were wrong.

We discovered that many students and adults learn words from context. They figure out the definition of a difficult word from the general meaning of the sentence or paragraph containing it. Unfortunately, this often gives a vague understanding; at best, a word's context will provide only a general idea of its meaning. This volume contains many deceivingly simple words that educated people misuse or misunderstand or confuse with other words.

WE WANT OUR READERS TO USE THESE WORDS

The last major difference in writing Word Smart II is that we wanted to place greater emphasis on pronunciation. The speaking vocabularies of most people, the words they use in everyday speech, are much smaller than the number of words they actually know. Even highly educated people avoid saying many of the words they know simply because they aren't sure how to pronounce them.

In researching the correct pronunciation of the Word Smart II words, we were astonished—we had been confidently mispronouncing dozens of words for years! (Fortunately, nobody seemed to notice since just about all our educated friends and professors had been mispronouncing these words right along with us.) We've gone to great lengths to emphasize correct pronunciation so you won't embarrass yourself when you speak up in class or try to impress your friends with your growing linguistic virtuosity.

WORD SMART II VERSUS WORD SMART I

The words in this volume are just as important as the words in our first book. The words here are perhaps a bit more difficult, and appear somewhat less frequently, but they all belong in an educated vocabulary.

As we said earlier, this volume stresses correct pronunciation more than we did in the original (when we revise the original book, we'll emphasize pronunciation there, too). For variety, this book contains new drills to help you learn and remember the words.

We assume that you have already read the original Word Smart. In it we outlined various methods for learning and memorizing new words, as well as how to use the dictionary and thesaurus. In case you haven't read our first vocabulary book, here is a summary of the main points and techniques we discussed:

SUMMARY OF WORD SMART I

 The words you use say a lot about you. Your vocabulary is the foundation of your ability to think and your ability to share your thoughts with other people.

- . The number of words you know is less important than the care you have taken in learning the ones you already use. Speaking or writing well does not require an enormous vocabulary.
- . Learning new words should be fun, not drudgery.
- . Children learn words much faster than adults because they have a keen interest in the world around them, and in communicating with others. Become receptive to the words around you. It should be important to you that you understand what others say, and that they understand you.
- Big, important-sounding words are not necessarily better. A good vocabulary consists of words that educated people use and encounter in their daily life. Reading well-written newspapers, magazines, and books will improve your vocabulary—if you are aware of new words and make the effort to understand them from context. If you understood every word in a week's issues of *The New York Times*, or in a novel by Dickens, you would have a very powerful vocabulary.

Learning words from context, however, can be misleading. Use a dictionary to make sure of the meaning—and pronunciation—of a new word!

Attempting to read the dictionary from cover to cover is a highly inefficient way to learn words. Also, most dictionaries discuss only the meaning of a word, but not how a word should be used in context. Synonyms and definitions can sometimes be misleading.

Not all dictionaries contain the same features. To research Word Smart, we used The American Heritage Dictionary, Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, and The Random House College Dictionary. Your dictionary should include word etymologies (the history of the word's origin). Ideally, it should distinguish the proper usage of synonyms or related words.

If you are a student, consider purchasing a good portable paperback dictionary.

When you look up a word, don't stop with the first definition. Be sure to look at secondary meanings and the different parts of speech. Note the etymology to see if the word is related to other words you know. And practice the pronunciation! Don't close the dictionary until you have memorized that word!

Use a thesaurus to find the precise word to capture your meaning. Get a thesaurus in alphabetical order.

12. Synonyms are not interchangeable, however. Be sure to verify the

exact definition and usage.

WHY WORD SMART II?

- 13. The exact word you want to use will depend not only on the word's meaning and connotation but also on the overall rhythm, vocabulary level, variety, and effect you are trying to achieve.
- 14. To memorize a word, mnemonics and crazy mental images are often helpful.
- 15. The etymology, or root origins, of a word will help your understanding and memory by relating that word to others you already know. The meanings of the words <u>mne</u>monic, <u>amnesia</u>, and <u>amnesty</u>, for example, all have to do with the concept of memory.
- 16. Etymology can sometimes be misleading because the meaning and connotations of a word evolve over the centuries.
- 17. Use flash cards to review new words. Be creative writing the flash card. Colors and drawings will help you remember the word.
- 18. Keep a notebook of the words you learn. Strive to learn five to ten words a day.
- 19. If you don't use new words, you won't remember them.

How We Wrote the Word Smart Definitions and Entries

Each entry begins with the preferred pronunciation of the word. We say "preferred" because depending on the dictionary you use, a word can be pronounced several ways. When a dictionary lists more than one pronunciation, the first is the preferred pronunciation. The trouble is that excellent dictionaries often disagree about the preferred pronunciation. Consulting numerous sources, we chose the pronunciation preferred by the majority of experts. So stick with our pronunciation and you'll never embarrass yourself. Say each word aloud several times. This will help you remember the meaning of the word as well as its pronunciation.

Note the part of speech following the pronunciation. Many words can be used as nouns and verbs, or verbs and adjectives, and the pronunciation often varies depending on the usage.

After the part of speech we provide the definition and synonyms, often using Word Smart words. Sometimes we deliberately use a difficult word in our definition to help you relate the listing with other words you ought to know.

The trouble with dictionaries is that they rarely illustrate the correct usage of a word. We believe that you need to see a word used in a concrete context in order to understand it. So following the definition you will find at least one or two sentences illustrating the proper usage of a word.

WHY WORD SMART II?

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When it will help you remember or understand a word, we discuss its history or relate it to other important words.

Finally, we list different parts of speech. Whenever a different part of speech is pronounced markedly different from the main listing, we provide a separate pronunciation.

How You Should Use This Book

Although we admire the resolve, we don't think it's a good idea to plod through alphabetically. (If you want to attempt this, advance to a Quick Quiz, complete it, then return to the words you get wrong.) Some Princeton Review students start with the Final Exam Drills that appear at the end of the book. They take one of these quizzes and then look up any words they get wrong. Other students use the list of roots at the end of the book and learn groups of related words together. Students studying for the SAT or GRE can turn immediately to our Hit Parade sections. (Be sure to see the first batch of SAT and GRE words in Word Smart 1.)

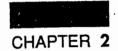
What we're basically saying is this: any way you want to use this book is fine—just use it!

OUR PRONUNCIATION KEY

We've never liked the pronunciation keys most dictionaries use. This may offend pedants and lexicographers, but we have decided to use a simplified pronunciation key. Our key is based on consistent phonetic sounds, so you don't have to memorize it. Still, it would be a good idea to take a few minutes now and familiarize yourself with it (especially the e and the i):

The letter(s)	is (are) pronounced like the letter(s)	in the word(s)
.a	æ	bat, can
ah	0	con, on
æw	aw	paw, straw
æy	a	skate, rake
e	:e	stem, hem, err
ee	.ea	steam, clean
i	i .	rim, chin, hint
ing	ing	sing, ring
oh	0	row, tow
00	00	room, boom
ow	ow	cow, brow
oy	oy	boy, toy
u, uh	u	run, bun
y (ye, eye) i	climb, time
ch	ch	chair, chin
f	f, ph	film, phony
g	_	go, goon
g j	g j	join, jungle
k	c ·	cool, cat
s	s	solid, wisp
sh	sh	shoe, wish
z	Z	zoo, razor
zh	S	measure

All other consonants are pronounced as you would expect. Capitalized letters are accented.



WARM-UP TESTS

For those readers who would like to take stock of their word power before digging into this book, we have provided a battery of tests. These tests are fun, and will help you learn a lot about these words. The answers appear

SO YOU REALLY THINK YOU KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE THESE WORDS, EH?

As we said earlier, we were surprised while researching this book just how many words we were mispronouncing, even though we knew the correct definitions. The following sampling of words from this book will see how you measure up. This is a tough test. If you get more than 10 correct, call us—you can help us write Word Smart III!

Warm-Up Test #1: PRONUNCIATIONS

in Chapter Eight.

Before looking at column a or column b, pronounce each of the following words. Then select the letter that comes closer to your pronunciation.

 accede 	a. ak SEED	b. a SEED
antipodes	a. an TIP uh deez	b. AN tee pohds
	a. AP uh zut	b. uh PAH zit
4. arsenal	a. AHRS nul	b. AHR suh nul
5. balk	a. bawk	b. bawlk
concomitant	a. kun KAHM uh tunt	
contretemps	a. KAHN truh tahn	b. KAHN tur temps
8. homage	a. AHM ij	b. HAHM ij
9. pastoral	a. PAS tur ul	b. pa STAWR ul
10. phantasm	a. FAN taz um	b. fan TAZ um
11. psyche	a. SYE kce	b. syke
12. remuneration	á. ri myo. nuh RAY shun	b. ree noom ur AY shun
13. schism	a. SIZ um	b. SKIZ um
14. sovereign	a. SAHV run	b. SAH vuh run
15. vagaries	a. vuh GAR eez	b. VAY guh reez

SO YOU REALLY THINK YOU KNOW WHAT THESE WORDS MEAN, EH?

It's very easy to look at a word and assume that you know what it means because it looks a lot like a word that you already know. The following simple-looking words were all taken from this book. Warning: none of these words is as simple as it looks; some have deceptive secondary meanings.

Warm-Up Test #2a: DEFINITIONS

For each of the following words, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

5
y
ıry

Warm-Up Test #2b: DEFINITIONS

For each of the following words, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. posture	 a. worthy of admiration
2. conversant	 b. act artificially
parallel	c. harmful action
4. estimable	d. similar
5. disservice	e. make uneasy
6. privation	f. alienate
7. captivate	g. pov erty
8. cleave	h. familiar
9. disquiet	i. cling
10. disaffect	j. fascinate

Warm-Up Test #2c: DEFINITIONS

For each of the following words, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1.	tuel	a.	give
2.	quizzical	Ь.	highly significant
	curb		teasing
	insuperable	d.	unable to be overcom
5.	afford		plead
6.	entreat	f.	stimulate
7.	conviction	g.	unbearable
8.	pregnant	ĥ.	strong belief
9.	intrigue	į.	restrain
10.	insufferable	į.	secret scheme

Warm-Up Test #2d: DEFINITIONS

For each of the following words, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1.	appraise	a. combined action
2.	resignation	b. estimate the value of
3.	engaging	c. sudden attack
4.	tortuous	d. impartial
	concert	e. means by which something is conveyed
6.	impregnable	f. preachy
7.	sally	g. charming
8.	dispassionate	h. winding
9.	medium	i. submission
10.	sententious	i. unconquerable

ARE YOU SEÉING DOUBLE?

Another cause of vocabulary difficulties is confusing a difficult word with a simple word that looks a lot like it. Try your hand at the following game.

Warm-Up Test #3: WORD SURGERY ON CONFUSABLES

For each of the following words on the left, follow the parenthetical directions to create the word defined on the right.

Take this word	and do this	to form a word meaning this
1. errant	(change one letter)	very bad
adverse	(delete one letter)	disliking
3. cachet	(delete one letter)	hiding place
4. cannon	(delete one letter)	rule or law
5. canvas	(add one letter)	seek votes or opinions
6. career	(change one letter)	to swerve
7. rational	(add one letter)	excuse
confident	(change one letter)	trusted person
9. corporal	(add one letter)	material, tangible
10. demure	(delete one letter)	object
11. disassemble	(delete one letter)	deceive
12. systematic	(delete two letters)	throughout a system
13. important	(change two letters)	urge annoyingly
14. climactic	(delete one letter)	having to do with the climate
15. epic	(delete one letter, add two)	era

ANAGRAMS

The prefix "ana" means to break up. The root "gram" means letter. An anagram is a word or phrase formed from the broken-up letters of another word or phrase. The new word must use all the letters of the word or phrase to be a true anagram. The words eat and bleat, for example, can be formed from the letters of the word table, but only bleat uses all the letters.

To improve your vocabulary, you need to become conscious of words and letters in your daily reading. The following words can be broken down and rearranged to form words found in this volume.

This last test is just for fun. Good luck!

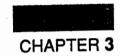
27. lakes

Warm-Up Test #4: ANAGRAMS

For each of the words or phrases on the left, rearrange the letters to form a word defined on the right.

2.	askew dome	trails method of doing something
	a paint	surface discoloration caused by age
	lever	enjoy thoroughly
	a note	make amends
	raid	very dry
	a view	give up or put aside
	touts	plump or stocky
	a main	crazed excitement
	a tint	contaminate
	a mark	good or bad emanations from a person
	tints	duty or job
13.	diva ,	eager
14.	ride	disastrous
	told	stupid person
16.	beat	support someone in wrongdoing
17.	atoll	assign
18.	a cadre	arched passageway
19.	lamb	something that heals
20.	corns ·	cont impt
21.	lotus	clods
22.	a hotel	despise
23.	tap	appropriate
24.	jaunt	small ruling group
	tapes	sudden outpouring .
26.		widespread
		•

quench or satisfy



THE WORDS

ABASE v (uh BAYS) to humiliate; to lower in esteem or dianity; to humble

1 3 For mit com black

After soaping all the windows in the old widow's mansion on Halloween, the eighth graders abased themselves and said that they were sorry (after the policeman told them he would arrest them if they

I abased myself before the principal, because I figured I had to in order to keep from being expelled.

See our listing for debase.

ABET v (uh BET) to support or encourage someone, especially someone who has done something wrong

Abetting a criminal by giving her a place to hide from the police is itself a criminal act.

In their efforts to steal millions from their clients, the dishonest bankers were abetted by the greed of the clients themselves.

ABEYANCE n (uh BAY uns) suspension; temporary cessation

Sally wanted to bite Mr. Anderson, but her father held her in abeyance by grabbing her suspenders and looping them over the

Joe's poverty kept his addiction to video games in abeyance.

ABJURE v (ab JOOR) to repudiate; to take back; to refrain from the sales

Under pressure from his teacher, Joe abjured his habit of napping in class and promised to keep his eyes open for the rest of the semester.

Jerry abjured alcohol for several days after driving his car into a tree. For her New Year's resolution, Ellen decided to abjure from abjuring from anything that she enjoyed.

ABOMINATION n (uh bahm uh NAY shun) something despised or abhorred; extreme loathing · · · Ciu

The lobby of the hotel was an abomination; there was garbage rotting in the elevator and there were rats running on the furniture.

Joe shuddered with abomination at the thought of eating Henry's fatty, salty, oily cooking.

To abominate something is to hate it, hate it, hate it. Judy abominated the sort of hotels that have garbage rotting in their elevators and rats running on their furniture.

ABORIGINAL adi (ab uh RIJ nul) native; dating back to the very beginning

The Aborigines of Australia are the earliest known human inhabitants of Australia. They are that country's aboriginal inhabitants.

While working on a new subway tunnel, the construction workers found some fragments of pottery that may have belonged to the city's aboriginal residents.

ABOUND v (uh BOWND) to be very numerous

Trout abound in this river: there are so many of them that you can catch them with your hands.

Susan's abounding love for Harry will never falter, unless she meets someone nicer or Harry moves away.

To abound is to be abundant. Abounding and abundant mean the same thing.

ABROGATE v (AB ruh gayt) to abolish or repeal formally; to set aside: to nullify

When you see this word, you will often see the word treaty nearby. To abrogate a treaty is to repeal it.

You can also abrogate a law, an agreement, or a ruling.

The commander of the ship had the power to abrogate certain laws in the event of an emergency.

ACCEDE v (ak SEED) to give in; to yield; to agree (126 that by hand share

Mary acceded to my demand that she give back my driver's license

and stop pretending to be me.

My mother wanted me to spend the holidays at home with my family instead of on the beach with my roommates, and a quick check of my bank balance convinced me that I had no choice but to accede to her desire.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

ACCENTUATE v (ak SEN choo wayt) to emphasize; to accent; to hiahliaht

Mr. Jones accentuated the positive by pointing out that his pants fit hetter after he lost his wallet.

Sally's pointed shoes accentuated the length and slenderness of her feet.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #1

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. abase

- a. support
- 2. abet
- b. native c. suspension
- 3. abeyance 4. abiure
- d. be very numerous
- 5. abomination
- e. abolish
- 6. aboriginal 7. abound
- f. give in a. something despised

8. abrogate

h. humiliate

9. accede

- i. repudiate j. emphasize
- 10. accentuate

ACCESS n (AK sess) the right or ability to approach, enter, or use

Cynthia was one of a very few people to have access to the president; she could get in to see him when she wanted to.

I wanted to read my boss's written evaluation of my performance but employees don't have access to those files.

When the Joker finally gained access to Batman's secret Batcave. he redecorated the entire hideaway in more festive pastel colors.

Access is sometimes used as a verb nowadays. To access a computer file is to open it so that you can work with it.

If you have access to someone or something, that person or thing is accessible to you. To say that a book is inaccessible is to say that it is hard to understand. In other words, it's hard to get into

ACCLAIM v (uh KLAYM) to praise publicly and enthusiastically

The author's new book was acclaimed by all the important reviewers, and it quickly became a bestseller.

Acclaim is also a noun. The author's new book was met with universal acclaim. That is, everyone loved it. The reviewers' response to the book was one of acclamation.

When the Congress or any other group of people approves a proposal by means of a voice vote, the proposal is said to have been approved by acclamation.

ACCORD v (uh KAWRD) to agree; to be in harmony; to grant or bestow which and who because the

Sprawling on the couch and watching TV all day accords with my theory that intense laziness is good for the heart.

The month we spent together in an isolated cabin accorded me the opportunity to get better acquainted with my abductor.

ACCOUTERMENTS n (uh KOO tur munts) personal clothing, accessories, or equipment: trappings

Alex is a very light traveler; he had crammed all his accouterments into a single shopping bag.

Louanne had so many silly accouterments in her expensive new kitchen that there wasn't really much room for Louanne.

ACCRUE v (uh KROO) to accumulate over time

My savings account pays interest, but the interest accrues at such a slow pace that I almost feel poorer than I did when I opened it.

Over the years, Emily's unpaid parking fines had accrued to the point where they exceeded the value of her car.

ACQUISITIVE adj (uh KWIZ uh tiv) seeking or tending to acquire; greedy

Children are naturally acquisitive; when they see something, they want it, and when they want something, they take it.

The auctioneer tried to make the grandfather clock sound interesting and valuable, but no one in the room was in an acquisitive mood, and the clock went unsold.

Johnny's natural acquisitiveness made it impossible for him to leave the junkyard empty-handed.

ACQUIT v (uh KWIT) to find not quilty; to behave or conduct oneself

The reputed racketeer had been acquitted of a wide variety of federal crimes.

An act of acquitting is called an acquittal. The prosecutors were surprised and saddened by the jury's verdict of acquittal.

Acquit can also have a somewhat different meaning. To acquit oneself in performing some duty is to do a decent job, usually under adverse conditions.

The apprentice carpenter had very little experience, but on his first job he worked hard; he acquitted himself like a pro.

The members of the lacrosse team had spent the previous week goofing around instead of practicing, but they acquitted themselves in the game, easily defeating their opponents.

ACRONYM n (AK ruh nim) a word made up of the initials of other words

Radar is an acronym. The letters that form it stand for Radio Detecting And Ranging.

Radar is also a palindrome, that is, a word or expression that reads the same way from right to left as it does from left to right. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the longest palindromic composition ever written-beginning "Al. sign it. 'Lover'..." and ending "...revolting, Isla"—is 100,000 words long.

ADAGE n (AD ii) a traditional saying: a proverb

There is at least a kernel of truth in the adage "Adages usually contain at least a kernel of truth."

The politician promised to make bold new proposals in his campaign speech, but all he did was spout stale adages.

The coach had decorated the locker room with inspirational adages, hoping that the sayings would instill a hunger for victory in his players.

ADDUCE v (uh DYOOS) to bring forward as an example or as proof;

Harry adduced so many reasons for doubting Tom's claims that soon even Tom began to doubt his claims.

In support of his client's weak case, the lawyer adduced a few weak precedents from English common law.

Q•U•I•C•K • Q•U•I•Z #2

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. access

2. acclaim

accord
 accounterments

5. accrue

6. acquisitive

7. acquit

8. acronym

9. adage 10. adduce a. accumulate

b. word made up of initials

c. praise publicly

d. agree

e. find not guilty f. trappings

a. cite

h. right to approach

i. proverb

ADJOURN v (uh JURN) to suspend until another time

In precise usage, adjourn implies that whatever is being adjourned will at some point be resumed. To adjourn a meeting is to bring it to an end for now, with the suggestion that another meeting will take place at a later time.

When Congress adjourns at the end of a year, it doesn't shut itself down permanently; it puts its business on hold until the next session.

Thus, the baseball season adjourns each fall, while a single baseball game merely ends—unless it is delayed by rain or darkness.

ADJUNCT n (AJ unkt) something added to or connected with something else; an assistant

Cooking is just an adjunct to Michael's real hobby, which is eating.

The enthusiastic publisher released a set of audiotapes as an adjunct to its popular series of vocabulary books.

An adjunct professor is one who lacks a permanent position on the faculty.

AD-LIB v (AD lib) to improvise; speak or act spontaneously

Teddy hadn't known that he would be asked to speak after dinner, so when he was called to the microphone, he had to ad-lib.

The director complained that the lazy star hadn't memorized his lines; instead of following the script, he ad-libbed in nearly every scene.

ADVENT n (AD vent) arrival; coming; beginning

For Christians, Advent is a season that begins four Sundays before Christmas. The word in that sense refers to the impending arrival of Jesus Christ. For some Christians, the word refers primarily to the second coming of Christ.

In secular speech, advent can be used to refer to the arrival or beginning of anything.

The advent of autumn was signaled by the roar of gasoline-powered leaf-blowing machines.

The rich industrialist responded to the *advent* of his state's first income tax by hiring a new team of accountants.

ADVENTITIOUS adj (ad vent TISH us) accidental; connected to but nonetheless unrelated; irrelevant

Arthur's skills as a businessman are adventitious to his position at the company; the boss hired him because he wanted a regular golf partner.

ADVOCATE n (AD vuh kut) a person who argues in favor of a position Lulu believes in eliminating tariffs and import restrictions; she is an advocate of free trade.

The proposed law was a good one, but it didn't pass because it had no advocate; no senator stepped forward to speak in its favor.

Advocate (AD vuh kayt) can also be a verb. The representative of the paint company advocated cleaning the deck before painting it, but we were in a hurry so we painted right over the dirt.

Advocacy (AD vuh kuh see) is support of or agreement with a position.

Note carefully the pronunciation of the various parts of speech.

AFFIDAVIT *n* (af uh DAY vit) a sworn written statement made before an official

Sally was too ill to appear at the trial, so the judge accepted her affidavit in place of oral testimony.

AFFILIATE v (uh FIL ee ayt) to become closely associated with

The testing company is not affiliated with the prestigious university, but by using a similar return address it implies a close connection.

In an attempt to establish herself as an independent voice, the candidate chose not to affiliate herself with any political party.

If you are affiliated with something, you are an affiliate (uh FIL ee ut) and you have an affiliation (uh fil ee AY shun).

The local television station is an *affiliate* of the major network; it carries the network's programs in addition to its own.

Jerry had a lifelong affiliation with the YMCA; he was a member all his life.

AFFLICTION *n* (uh FLIK shun) misery; illness; great suffering; a source of misery, illness, or great suffering

Athlete's foot is an affliction that brings great pain and itchiness to its sufferers.

Martha's children were an affliction to her; they tormented and afflicted her and never gave her a moment's peace.

Working in the ghetto brought the young doctor into contact with many afflictions, very few of which had medical cures.

25

AFFORD v (uh FAWRD) to give; to supply; to confer upon

The holiday season afforded much happiness to the children, who loved opening presents.

The poorly organized rummage sale afforded a great deal of attention but very little profit to the charitable organization.

Marilyn's busy schedule afforded little time for leisure.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #3

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- adjourn
- 2. adjunct
- 3. ad-lib
- adventitious
- 6. advocate
- 7. affidavit
- 8. affiliate
 9. affliction
- 10. afford

- a. person arguing for a position
- b. accidental
- c. become closely associated
- d. arrival
- e. misery
- f. suspend
- a. sworn written statement
- h. give
- i. improvise
- i. something added

AFFRONT in (uh FRUNT) insult; a deliberate act of disrespect

Jim's dreadful score on the back nine was an affront to the ancient game of golf.

Amanda felt that she was complimenting Lizzie when she said that Lizzie looked pretty good for a fat woman, but Lizzie took the comment as an affront.

Affront can also be a verb. Jeremy affronted me by continually flicking dandruff from my shoulders during our meeting with the president.

Rude and disrespectful behavior can be described as effrontery (i FRUN tuh ree).

AFTERMATH n (AF tur math) consequence; events following some occurrence or calamity

This word comes from Middle English words meaning after mowing; the *aftermath* was the new grass that grew in a field after the field had been mowed. In current usage, this precise original meaning is extended metaphorically.

Sickness and poverty are often the aftermath of war.

In the aftermath of their defeat at the state championship, the members of the football team fought endlessly with one another and ceased to function as a team.

AGGRANDIZE v (uh GRAN dyze) to exaggerate; to cause to appear greater; to increase (something) in power, reputation, wealth, etc.

Michele couldn't describe the achievements of her company without aggrandizing them. That was too bad, because the company's achievements were substantial enough to stand on their own, without exaggeration.

To be self-aggrandizing is to aggressively increase one's position, power, reputation, or wealth, always with a distinctly negative connotation

Harry doesn't really need thirty bathrooms; building that big house was merely an act of self-aggrandizement.

AGGRIEVE v (uh GREEV) to mistreat; to do grievous injury to; to distress

To be aggrieved is to have a grievance. The jury awarded ten million dollars to the aggrieved former employees of the convicted embezzler.

The ugly behavior of the juvenile delinquent aggrieved his poor parents, who couldn't imagine what they had done wrong.

AGHAST adi (uh GAST) terrified; shocked

Even the tough old veterans were aghast when they saw the extent of the carnage on the battlefield.

The children thought their parents would be thrilled to have breakfast in bed, but both parents were aghast when they woke up to find their blankets soaked with orange juice and coffee.

ALCHEMY n (AL kuh mee) a seemingly magical process of transformation

In the Middle Ages, alchemists were people who sought ways to turn base metals into gold, attempted to create elixirs that would cure diseases or keep people alive forever, and engaged in similarly futile pseudo-scientific quests. Alchemy today refers to any process of transformation that is metaphorically similar.

Through the alchemy of hairspray and makeup, Amelia transformed herself from a hag into a princess.

ALIENATE v (AY lee uh nayt) to estrange; to cause to feel unwelcome or unloved; to make hostile

An alien is a foreigner or stranger, whether from another planet or not. To alienate someone is to make that person feel like an alien.

The brusque teacher alienated his students by mocking them when they made mistakes.

To be alienated is to be in a state of alienatic n (ay lee uh NAY shun). Sharon found it nearly impossible to make friends; as a result, her freshman year in college was characterized primarily by feelings of alienation.

ALLEGIANCE n (uh LEE junts) loyalty

To pledge allegiance to the flag is to promise to be loyal to it.

27

Nolan's allegiance to his employer ended when a competing company offered him a job at twice his salary.

The allegiance of the value guard shifted to the rebel leader as soon as it became clear that the king had been overthrown.

ALLEGORY n (AL uh gawr ee) a story in which the characters are symbols with moral or spiritual meanings

Instead of lecturing the children directly about the importance of straightening up their rooms, Mrs. Smith told them an allegory in which a little boy named Good was given all the candy in the world after making his bed, while a messy little girl named Bad had nothing to eat but turnips and broccoli.

ALLOT v (uh LAHT) to apportion, allocate, or assign

The principal allotted students to classrooms by writing their names on pieces of paper and throwing the paper into the air.

The president allotted several ambassadorships to men and women who had contributed heavily to his campaign.

A group of things that have been allotted is referred to as an allotment. George didn't like his natural allotment of physical features, so he had them altered by a plastic surgeon.

QelleleCeK . QelleleZ #4

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.	affront	G.	consequence
2.	and man		mistreat
3.			estrange
4.	aggrieve		apportion
5.	aghast		terrified
	alchemy		seemingly magical transformation
7.			loyalty
8.	allegiance	h.	symbolic story
9.	allegory		exaggerate
	allot	ŀ	insult

ALTERCATION n (awl tur KAY shun) a heated fight, argument, or quar-

Newlyweds Mary and Bill were fighting about the proper way to gargle mouthwash, and the sound of their altercation woke up several other guests in the hotel.

Dr. Mason's lecture was so controversial and inflammatory that it led to an altercation among the members of the audience.

AMASS v (uh MAS) to pile up: to accumulate: to collect for one's own

By living frugally for fifty years, Jed amassed a large fortune.

Billy collected bottle caps so assiduously that before his parents realized what was happening he had amassed the largest collection in the world.

By the end of the week, the protest groups had amassed enough signatures on their petitions to be assured of victory at the convention.

AMID prep (uh MID) in the middle of

Amid the noise and bright lights of the Fourth of July celebration. tired old Harry slept like a log.

When the store detective found her, the lost little girl was sitting

amid a group of teddy bears in a window display.

The English say "amidst" instead of amid, but you shouldn't. Unless, that is, you are in England. You can, however, say "in the midst."

ANATHEMA n (uh NATH uh muh) something or someone logithed or detested

Algebra is anathema to Harry; every time he sees an equation, he becomes sick to his stomach

The parents became anathema to the greedy children as soon as the children realized they had been left out of the will.

The women in fur coats were anathema to the members of the animal-rights group.

ANCILLARY adi (AN suh ler ee) subordinate; providina assistance

Although George earned his living as a high-powered Wall Street investment banker, selling peanuts at weekend Little League games provided an ancillary source of income.

An ancillary employee is one who helps another. Servants are sometimes referred to as ancillaries.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ANGST n (ahnkst) anxiety; fear; dread

This is the German word for anxiety. A closely related word is anguish. In English, it is a voguish word that is usually meant to convey a deeper, more down-to-the-bone type of dread than can be described with mere English words.

The thought of his impending examinations, for which he had not yet begun to study, filled Herman with angst, making it impossible for him to study.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

ANNEX v (uh NEKS) to add or attach

Old McDonald increased the size of his farm by annexing an adjoining field.

When Iraq attacked Kuwait, its intention was to annex Kuwaiti territory.

29

A small connecting structure added to a building is often called an annex (AN eks).

Note carefully the pronunciation of both parts of speech.

ANNUITY n (uh NOO uh tee) an annual allowance or income; the annual interest payment on an investment; any regular allowance or income

The company's pension fund provides an annuity for its retired employees; each receives regular payments from the fund.

None of Herbert's books had been bestsellers, but all of them were still in print, and taken together their royalties amounted to a substantial annuity.

The widow would have been destitute if her husband had not bought an insurance policy that provided a modest annuity for the rest of her life.

ANTEDATE v (AN ti dayt) to be older than; to have come before

The root "ante" means before or in front of. To antedate is to be dated before something else.

The Jacksons' house antedates the Declaration of Independence; it was built in 1774.

Mrs. Simpson's birth antedates that of her daughter by twenty-four years. That is to say, Mrs. Simpson was twenty-four years old when her daughter was born.

ANTERIOR adj (an TIR ee ur) situated in front

The children enjoy sitting dumbly and staring at the anterior surface of the television set.

Your chest is situated on the anterior portion of your body. (The anterior end of a snake is its head.)

The opposite of anterior is posterior. You are sitting on the posterior end of your body.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #5

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- altercation
 amass
- a. something loathedb. add
- amid
 anathema
- c. in the middle of d. annual allowance
- 5. ancillary
- e. heated fight f subordinate

6. angst 7. annex

- g situated in front
- 8. annuity
 9. antedate
- h. pile up

10. anterior

i. anxiety j. be older **ANTHOLOGY** *n* (an THAHL uh jee) a collection, especially of literary works

To anthologize (an THAHL uh jyze) a group of literary works or other objects is to collect them into an anthology.

The Norton Anthology of English Literature is a collection of important works by English writers.

The chief executive officer of the big company thought so highly of himself that he privately published an anthology of his sayings.

Mr. Bailey, a terrible hypochondriac, was a walking anthology of symptoms.

ANTHROPOMORPHIC adj (an thruh puh MAWR fik) ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman animals or objects

This word is derived from the Greek word anthropos, which means man or human, and the Greek word morphos, which means shape or form. To be anthropomorphic is to see a human shape (either literally or metaphorically) in things that are not human. To speak of the hands of a clock, or to say that a car has a mind of its own, is to be anthropomorphic.

To be anthropomorphic is to engage in anthropomorphism.

ANTIPODAL adj (an TIP ud ul) situated on opposite sides of the earth; exactly opposite

The north and south poles are literally antipodal; that is, they are exactly opposite each other on the globe. There is a group of islands near New Zealand called the Antipodes (an TIP uh deez). The islands were named by European explorers who believed they had traveled just about as far away from their home as they possibly could.

Antipodal can also be used to describe opposites that have nothing to do with geography. John and Mary held antipodal positions on the subject of working. Mary was for it, and John was against it.

The noun is antipodes (an TIP uh deez),

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ANTIQUITY n (an TIK wuh tee) ancientness; ancient times

The slow speed at which Lawrence was driving was not surprising, considering the antiquity of his car.

When Mr. Jensen asked his doctor what was making his knees hurt, the doctor replied. "Your antiquity."

Lulu loved studying ancient history so much that she didn't really pay much attention to the present; when she wasn't reading old volumes in the library, she walked around in a daze, her head spinning with dreams of antiquity.

Overpriced chairs and other furniture from the olden days are called antiques. Objects or ideas that are too old-fashioned to be of use anymore are said to be antiquated (AN tuh kway tud). (Don't throw them out, though; sell them to an antiques dealer.) A person who studies ancient things is called an antiquary (AN tuh kwer ee) or, less correctly, an antiquarian (an tuh KWER yun).

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

31

APERTURE n (AP ur chur) an opening

The opening inside a camera's lens is called its aperture. A photographer controls the amount of light that strikes the film by adjusting the size of the aperture.

Harry's underpants were plainly visible through the aperture that suddenly appeared along the rear seam of his uniform.

APEX n (AY peks) highest point

A mountain's summit is also its apex.

Jerry's score of 162, though poor by most standards, was the apex of his achievement in golf; it was the best score he had shot for eighteen holes in thirty years.

Mary Anne was at the apex of her career; she was the president of her own company, and everyone in her industry looked up to her.

APOGEE n (AP uh jee) the most distant point in the orbit of the moon or of an artificial satellite

Apogee is derived from Greek words meaning away from the earth. The apogee of the moon's orbit is the point at which the moon is farthest from the earth.

The word can also be used figuratively, in which case it usually means pretty much the same thing as apex. Mary Anne was at the apogee of her career; she was the president of her own company, and everyone in her industry looked up to her.

The opposite of apogee is perigee (PER uh jee), which is derived from Greek words meaning near the earth. At perigee, the satellite was faintly visible on the earth to anyone with a good pair of binoculars.

In careful usage, moons and other objects orbiting planets other than the earth do not have apogees and perigees.

APOPLEXY n (AP uh plek see) stroke (that is, numbness and paralysis resulting from the sudden loss of blood flow to the brain)

This word turns up repeatedly in old novels. Nowadays, its use is mostly figurative. If I say that I gave my boss apoplexy when I told him that I was going to take the rest of the day off. I mean that he became so angry that he seemed to be in danger of exploding.

To suffer from apoplexy, whether literally or figuratively, is to be apoplectic (ap uh PLEK tik). The principal was apoplectic when he discovered that the tenth graders had torn up all the answer sheets for the previous day's SAT; he was so angry that his face turned red and little flecks of spit flew out of his mouth when he talked.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

APOSTASY n (uh PAHS tuh see) abandonment or rejection of faith or loyalty

The congregation was appalled by the apostasy of its former priest, who had left the church in order to found a new religion based on winning number combinations in the state lottery.

The president was hurt by the apostasy of his closest advisers, most of whom had decided to cooperate with the special prosecutor by testifying against him.

A person who commits anostasy is called an anostate (uh PAHS tayt). In the cathedral of English literature, Professor Hanratty was an apostate: he thought that Shakespeare was nothing more than an untalented old hack.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

APPALLING adi (uh PAWL ing) causing horror or consternation

Austin's table manners were appalling: he chewed with his mouth wide open, and while he ate he picked his nose with the tip of his knife.

The word annall comes from a French word meaning to make pale. To be appalled is to be so horrified that one loses the color in one's cheeks.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-7 #6

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. anthology a. causing horror

2. anthropomorphic b, opening

3. antipodal c. exactly opposite d. abandonment of faith 4. antiquity

e. ascribina human characteristics 5. aperture

6. apex f. highest point

7. googee a. stroke h. ancientness

8. apoplexy

i. literary collection 9. apostasy

i. most distant point of orbit 10. appalling

APPARITION n (ap uh RISH un) a ghost or ghostly object

Clara said that she had seen an apparition and that she was pretty sure that it had been the ghost of President Grant, but it turned out to be nothing more than a sheet flapping on the clothesline.

The bubbling oasis on the horizon was merely an apparition; there was nothing there but more burning sand.

APPELLATION n (ap uh LAY shun) a name

Percival had a highly singular appellation; that is, he had an unusual name.

APPENDAGE n (uh PEN dij) something added on to something else; a supplement

To append is to add something on to something else. Your appendix (uh PEN diks), if you still have one, is a small, apparently useless organ attached (or appended) to your intestine.

You have no more than one appendix, but you have several appendages, including your arms and legs. Your arms and legs are appended to the trunk of your body.

Beth's husband never seemed to be more than an arm's length away from her. He seemed less like a spouse than like an appendage.

APPORTION v (uh PAWR shun) to distribute proportionally; to divide into portions

There was nothing to eat except one hot dog, so Mr. Lucas carefully apportioned it among the eight famished campers.

Because the property had been apportioned equally among the numerous children, none had enough land on which to build a house.

The grant money was apportioned in such a way that the wealthy schools received a great deal while the poor ones received almost nothing.

APPOSITE adi (AP un zut) distinctly suitable: pertinent

The appearance of the mayor at the dedication ceremony was accidental but apposite; his great-grandfather had donated the land on which the statue had been erected.

At the end of the discussion, the moderator made an apposite remark that seemed to bring the entire disagreement to a happy conclusion

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

APPRAISE v (uh PRAYZ) to estimate the value or quality of; to judge

When we had the beautiful old ring appraised by a jeweler, we were surprised to learn that the large diamond in its center was actually made of glass.

The general coldly appraised the behavior of his officers and found it to be wanting.

An act of appraising is called an appraisal (uh PRAY zul). It is a good idea to seek an independent appraisal of an old painting before bidding many millions of dollars for it in an auction.

APPRISE v (uh PRYZE) to give notice to: to inform

Be careful not to confuse this word with appraise. They don't mean the same thing, even though there's only one letter's difference between them.

The policeman apprised the suspect of his right to remain silent, but the suspect was so intoxicated that he didn't seem to notice.

The president's advisers had fully apprised him of the worsening situation in the Middle East, and now he was ready to act.

APPURTENANCE n (uh PURT nuns) something extra; an appendage; an accessory

The salary wasn't much, but the appurtenances were terrific; as superintendent of the luxury apartment building, Joe got to live in a beautiful apartment and have free access to the tennis courts and swimming pool.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

APROPOS adj (ap ruh POH) appropriate; coming at the right time This word is very close in meaning to appropriate (uh PROH pree ut), to which it is closely related.

Susan's loving toast at the wedding dinner was apropos; the clown suit she wore while making it was not.

The professor's speech was about endangered species, and the luncheon menu was perversely apropos: Bengal-tiger burgers and ostrich-egg omelets.

The opposite of apropos is malapropos. See our listing for malapropism.

APT adi (apt) appropriate; havina a tendency to; likely

The headmaster's harsh remarks about the importance of honesty were apt; the entire senior class had just been caught cheating on an exam.

Charlie is so skinny that he is ant to begin shivering the moment he steps out of the swimming pool.

If Ellen insults me again, I'm apt to punch her in the nose.

Apt. apropos, and apposite have similar meanings. Note carefully each of their definitions and illustrative sentences.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #7

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book. Note that "something extra" is the answer for two questions.

1. apparition

a. something extra (2)

2. appellation

b. give notice to

3. appendage

c. ahost

4. apportion

d. likely

5. appraise

e. distribute proportionally

6. apprise

f. appropriate

7. appurtenance

q. name

8. apropos

h, estimate the value of

9. apposite

10. apt

i. distinctly suitable

ARCADE n (ahr KAYD) a passageway defined by a series of arches; a covered passageway with shops on either side; an area filled with coin-operated aames

In the most precise usage, an arcade is an area flanked by arches in the same way that a colonnade is an area flanked by columns. In fact, an arcade can be a colonnade, if the arches are supported by columns.

The new mall consisted of a number of small arcades radiating like the spokes of a wheel from a large plaza containing a fountain.

The penny arcade was misnamed, since none of the games there cost less than a quarter.

35

ARCHIPELAGO n (ahr kuh PEL uh goh) a large group of islands

Sumatra, Borneo, and the Philippines are among the numerous island nations that constitute the Malay Archipelago.

The disgruntled taxpayer declared himself king of an uninhabited archipelago in the South Pacific, but his new country disappeared twice each day, at high tide.

The children lay on their backs in the field and gazed up with wonder at the shimmering archipelago of the Milky Way.

ARCHIVES *n* (ahr KYVZE) a place where historical documents or materials are stored; the documents or materials themselves

In careful usage, this word is always plural.

The historical society's archives were a mess; boxes of valuable documents had simply been dumped on the floor, and none of the society's records were in chronological order.

The curator was so protective of the university's historical archives that he hovered behind the researcher and mounted every time he turned a page in one of the ancient volumes.

Archive can also be a verb. To archive computer data is to transfer them (in careful usage, data is plural) onto disks or tapes and store them in a safe spot.

A person who archives things in archives is called an archivist (AHR kuh vust). Things that have to do with archives are said to be archival (ahr KYE vul). This word has other uses as well. In the world of photocopying, for example, a copy that doesn't deteriorate over time is said to be archival. A Xerox copy is archival; a copy made on heat-sensitive paper by a facsimile machine is not.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ARID adj (AR id) very dry; lacking life, interest, or imagination

Arid Extra Dry is a good trade name for an antiperspirant. The purpose of an antiperspirant is to keep your armpits arid.

When the loggers had finished, what had once been a lush forest was now an arid wasteland.

The professor was not known for having a sense of humor. His philosophical writings were so *arid* that a reader could almost hear the pages crackle as he turned them.

ARMAMENT n (AHR muh munt) implements of war; the process of arming for war

This word is often used in the plural: armaments. The word arms can be used, to mean weapons. To arm a gun is to load it and ready it for fire.

In the sorry history of the relationship between the two nations, argument led inexorably to armament.

Sarah had dreams of being a distinguished professor of mathematics, but midway through graduate school she decided that she just didn't have the intellectual armament, and she became a chicken sexer instead.

The megalomaniacal leader spent so much on armaments that there was little left to spend on food, and his superbly equipped soldiers had to beg in order to eat:

ARMISTICE n (AHR muh stus) truce

Armistice Day (the original name of Veterans Day) commemorated the end of the First World War.

The warring commanders negotiated a brief armistice, so that dead and wounded soldiers could be removed from the battlefield.

ARRAIGN v (uh RAYN) to bring to court to answer an indictment; to accuse

The suspect was indicted on Monday, arraigned on Tuesday, tried on Wednesday, and hanged on Thursday.

The editorial in the student newspaper arraigned the administration for permitting the vandals to escape prosecution.

An act of arraigning is called an arraignment. At his arraignment in federal court, Harry entered a plea of not guilty to the charges that had been brought against him.

ARRANT adj (AR unt) utter; unmitigated; very bad

This word is very often followed by either nonsense or fool. Arrant nonsense is complete, total, no-doubt-about-it nonsense. An arrant fool is an absolute fool.

Arrant should not be confused with errant (ER unt), which means wandering or straying or in error. An errant fool is a fool who doesn't know where he's going.

ARREARS n (uh RIRZ) the state of being in debt; unpaid debts

Amanda was several months in arrears with the rent on her apartment, and her landlord was threatening to evict her.

After Jason settled his arrears at the club, the committee voted to restore his membership.

ARSENAL n (AHRS nul) a collection of armaments; a facility for storing or producing armament; a supply of anything useful

The nation's nuclear arsenal is large enough to destroy the world several times over.

For obvious reasons, smoking was not permitted inside the arsenal.

Jeremy had an arsenal of power tools that he used in staging remodeling assaults against his house.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word: two syllables.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #8

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. arcade
- a. where documents are stored b utter
- 2. archipelago 3. archives
- c. implements of war

4. arid

- d. unpaid debts
- 5. armament 6 armistice
- e. accuse f. aroup of islands

7. arraian 8. arrant

g. very dry h. truce

9. arrears

i. arched passageway

10. arsenal

i. supply of something useful

ARTICULATE v (ahr TIK yuh layt) to pronounce clearly: to express clearly

Sissy had a lisp and could not articulate the s sound; she called herself Thithy.

Jeremy had no trouble articulating his needs; he had typed up a long list of toys that he wanted for Christmas, and he handed it to Santa

Articulate (ahr TIK yuh lut) can also be an adjective. An articulate person is one who is good at articulating.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ARTISAN n (AHRT un zun) a person skilled in a craft

The little bowl-which the Andersons' dog knocked off the table and broke into a million pieces—had been meticulously handmade by a charming old artisan who had used a glazing technique passed down for generations.

ASCERTAIN v (as ur TAYN) to determine with certainty; to find out definitely

With a quick flick of his tongue, Herbert ascertained that the pie that had just landed on his face was indeed lemon meringue.

The police tried to trace the phone call, but they were unable to ascertain the exact location of the caller.

Larry believed his wife was seeing another man; the private detective ascertained that that was the case.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

ASCRIBE v (uh SKRYBE) to credit to or assign; to attribute

Mary was a bit of a nut; she ascribed powerful healing properties to the gravel in her driveway.

When the scholar ascribed the unsigned limerick to Shakespeare, his colleagues did not believe him.

ASKANCE adv (uh SKANS) with suspicion or disapproval

When Herman said that he had repaired the car by pouring apple cider into its gas tank, Jerry looked at him askance.

The substitute teacher looked askance at her students when they insisted that it was the school's policy to award an A to any student who asked for one.

ASPERSION n (uh SPUR zhun) a slanderous or damning remark

To cast aspersions is to utter highly critical or derogatory remarks. To call someone a cold-blooded murderer is to cast an aspersion on that person's character.

The local candidate had no legitimate criticisms to make of his opponent's record, so he resorted to aspersions. His opponent resented this asperity (a SPER uh tee).

ASSAIL v (uh SAYL) to attack vigorously

With a series of bitter editorials, the newspaper assailed the group's efforts to provide free cosmetic surgery for wealthy people with double chins.

We hid behind the big maple tree and assailed passing cars with salvos of snowballs.

An attacker is sometimes called an assailant (uh SAY lunt), especially by police officers on television shows.

ASSERT v (uh SURT) to claim strongly; to affirm

The defendant continued to assert that he was innocent, despite the fact that the police had found a clear videotape of the crime, recovered a revolver with his fingerprints on it, and found all the stolen money in the trunk of his car.

When Buzz asserted that the UFO was a hoax, the little green creature pulled out a ray-gun and incinerated him.

To assert yourself is to express yourself boldly. Mildred always lost arguments, because she was always too timid to assert herself.

ASSESS v (uh SES) to evaluate; to estimate; to appraise

When seven thugs carrying baseball bats began walking across the street toward her car, Dolores quickly assessed the situation and drove away at about a hundred miles an hour.

Assessing the damage caused by the storm was difficult, because the storm had washed away all the roads, making it nearly impossible to enter the area.

After assessing his chances in the election—only his parents would promise to vote for him-the candidate dropped out of the race.

To reassess is to rethink or reevaluate something.

ASTRINGENT adj (uh STRIN junt) harsh; severe; withering

Edmund's astringent review enumerated so many dreadful flaws in the new book that the book quickly disappeared from the bestseller list.

The coach's remarks to the team after the losing game were astringent but apparently effective: the team won the next three games in a row.

Astringent is related to stringent, which means strict. The noun is astringency.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #9

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.	articulate	rticulate
•		

a. person skilled in a craft

2. artisan 3. ascertain b. slanderous remark c. credit to

4. ascribe

d. claim strongly

5. askance

e. harsh

6. aspersion

f. pronounce clearly

7. assail

g. with suspicion

8. assert 9. assess h. evaluate i. attack viaorously

10. astringent

i. determine with certainty

ASYLUM in (uh SYE lum) a mental hospital or similar institution; refuge; a place of safety

After Dr. Jones incorrectly diagnosed her nail-biting as the symptom of a severe mental illness. Stella was confined in a lunatic asylum for thirty-seven years.

"The woods are my asylum," Marjorie said. "I go there to escape the insanity of the world."

The United States granted asylum to the political dissidents from a foreign country, thus permitting them to remain in the United States and not forcing them to return to their native country, where they certainly would have been imprisoned.

ATONE v (uh TOHN) to make amends

The verb atone is followed by the preposition for. To atone for your sins is to do something that makes up for the fact that you committed them in the first place.

The pianist atoned for his past failures by winning every award at the international competition.

In the view of the victim's family, nothing the murderer did could atone for the crime he had committed.

The noun is atonement.

ATROPHY v (A truh fee) to wither away; to decline from disuse

The weightlifter's right arm was much thinner and less bulgy than

his left; it had atrophied severely during the six weeks it had spent in a cast.

The students' interest in algebra had atrophied to the point where

they could scarcely keep their eyes open in class.

The opposite of atrophy is hypertrophy (hye PUR truh fee). Weightlifting makes a muscle grow, or experience hypertrophy. Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ATTEST v'(uh TEST) to give proof of; to declare to be true or correct; to give testimony

Helen's skillful guitar playing attested the endless hours she had

spent practicing.

To attest to something is to testify or bear witness. At the parole hearing, the police officer attested to Henry's eagerness to rob more banks, and the judge sent Henry back to prison for at least another

ATTRIBUTE w (uh TRIB yout) to credit to or assign; to ascribe

Sally attributed her success as a student to the fact that she always watched television while doing her homework. She said that watching Scooby-Doo made it easier to concentrate on her arithmetic. Sally's parents were not convinced by this attribution.

The scientist, who was always making excuses, attributed the failure of his experiment to the fact that it had been raining that day in

Phoenix. Arizona. Attribute (A truh byoot) can also be a noun, in which case it means a characteristic or a distinctive feature. Great big arms and legs are among the attributes of many professional football players.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

AUGUR v (AW gur) to serve as an omen or be a sign; to predict or foretell

The many mistakes made by the dancers during dress rehearsal did not augur well for their performance later that night.

The eleven touchdowns and four field goals scored in the first

quarter augured victory for the high school football team.

The act of auguring is called augury (AW guh ree). Elizabeth believed that most of the market consultants had no solid basis for their predictions, and that financial augury as practiced by them was mere hocus-pocus.

AUGUST adi (aw GUST) inspiring admiration or awe

The prince's funeral was dignified and august; the wagon with his coffin was drawn by a dozen black horses, and the road on which they walked was covered with rose petals.

The queen's august manner and regal bearing caused everyone in the room to fall silent the moment she entered.

AUSPICES n (AW spuh sez) protection; support; sponsorship

You will find auspice in the dictionary, but this word is almost always used in the plural, and it is usually preceded by the words

"imder the."

The fund-raising event was conducted under the auspices of the local volunteer organization, whose members sold tickets, parked cars, and cleaned up afterward.

The adjective auspicious (aw SPISH us) is closely related to auspices, but the most common meanings of the two words have little in common. Auspicious means promising, favorable, or fortunate. Weddings and political conventions are often referred to as auspicious occasions

Harry and Bob hoped to play golf that morning, but the dark clouds. gale-force winds, and six inches of snow were inauspicious.

AUXILIARY adi (awa ZIL yuh ree) secondary; additional; giving assistance or aid

When Sam's car broke down, he had to switch to an auxiliary power source; that is, he had to get out and push.

The spouses of the firefighters established an auxiliary organization whose purpose was to raise money for the fire department.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

AVAIL v (uh VAYL) to help; to be of use; to serve

My preparation did not avail me on the test; the examination covered a chapter other than the one that I had studied. (I could also say that my preparation availed me nothing, or that it was of no avail. In the second example, I would be using avail as a noun.)

To be availing is to be helpful or of use. To be unavailing is to be unhelpful or of no use. The rescue workers tried to revive the drowning victim, but their efforts were unavailing, and the doctor pronounced him dead.

AVANT-GARDE n (ah vahnt GAHRD) the vanauard; members of a group, especially of a literary or artistic one, who are at the cutting edge of their field

When his Off-off-off-Broadway play moved to Broadway, Harold was thrust against his will from the avant-garde to the establishment.

This word can also be an adjective. The avant-garde literary magazine was filled with empty pages, to convey the futility of literary expression.

AVERSION n (uh VUR zhun) a strong feeling of dislike

Many children have a powerful aversion to vegetables. In fact, many of them believe that broccoli is poisonous.

I knew that it would be in my best financial interest to make friends with the generous, gullible millionaire, but I could not overcome my initial aversion to his habit of swatting flies and popping them into his mouth.

To have an aversion to something is to be averse (uh VURS) to it. I am averse to the idea of letting children sit in front of the television like zombies from morning to night.

Many people confuse averse with adverse (AD vurs), but they are

not the same word. Adverse means unfavorable. A field-hockey game played on a muddy field in pouring rain would be a field-hockey game played under adverse conditions. The noun is adversity.

THE WORDS

AVERT v (uh VURT) to turn away; to prevent

Mary Anne modestly averted her eyes when Doug pulled down his pants to show off his new underwear.

The company temporarily averted disaster by stealing several million dollars from the employees' pension fund.

AVID adi (AV id) eager; enthusiastic

14. avid

Eloise is an avid bridge player; she would rather play bridge than eat. To be avid about playing bridge is to play bridge with avidity (uh VID uh tee). Darryl's avidity for pulling the wings off mosquitoes was a matter of concern to his parents.

Q-U-1-C-K - Q-U-1-Z #10

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. asylum 2. atone 3. atrophy 4. attest 5. attribute 6. augur 7. august 8. auspices 9. auxiliary 10. avail 11. avant-garde 12. aversion 13. avert	a. refuge b. strong feeling of dislike c. give proof of d. turn away e. make amends f. credit to g. help h. wither away i. inspiring awe j. vanguard k. secondary l. eager m. protection n. serve as an omen
14 - vid	11. 361 10 00 0

F

BACCHANAL n (BAK uh nuL) a party animal; a drunken reveler; a drunken revelry or oray

Bacchus (BAK us) was the Greek god of wine and fertility. To be a bacchanal is to act like Bacchus.

People often use bacchanal as a word for the sort of social gathering that Bacchus would have enjoyed. The fraternity was shut down by the university after a three-day bacchanal that left a dozen students in the infirmary. A good word for such a party would be bacchanalia (bak uh NAY lee uh).

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

BALEFUL adi (BAYL ful) menacing; threatening

Almost every time you see this word, it will be followed by the word glance. A baleful glance is a look that could kill.

Other things can be baleful, too. The students responded to the professor's feeble joke by sitting in baleful silence.

BALK v (bawk) to abruptly refuse (to do something); to stop short

Susan had said she would be happy to help out with the charity event, but she balked at the idea of sitting on a flagpole for a month.

Vernon balked when the instructor told him to do a belly-flop from the high diving board; he did not want to do it.

In baseball, a balk occurs when a pitcher begins to make his or her pitching motion, but then interrupts it to do something else, such as attempt to throw out a runner leading off from first base. In baseball, a balk is illegal.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word: the 1 is silent.

BALLYHOO n (BAL ee hoo) sensational advertising or promotion; uproar

This is an informal word of unknown though distinctly American origin.

Behind the *ballyhoo* created by the fifty-million-dollar promotional campaign, there was nothing but a crummy movie that no one really wanted to see.

The public-relations director could think of no legitimate case to make for her client, so she resorted to ballyhoo.

The candidate tried to give his speech, but his words could not be heard above the ballyhoo on the convention floor.

BALM n (bawm) something that heals or soothes

After Larry had suffered through the endless concert by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the sound of the Guns N' Roses album played at full volume on his Walkman was a balm to his ears.

Balmy (BAW mee) weather is mild, pleasant, wonderful weather. In slang usage, a balmy person is someone who is eccentric or foolish. Note carefully the pronunciation of these words: the 1 is silent.

BANDY v (BAN dee) to toss back and forth; to exchange

Isadora sat on the hillside all day, eating M & Ms and watching the wind bandy the leaves on the trees.

The enemies bandied insults for a few minutes, then jumped on

each other and began to fight.

BANTER n (BAN tur) an exchange of good-humored or mildly teasing remarks

The handsome young teacher fell into easy banter with his stu-

dents, who were not much younger than he.

Phoebe was interested in the news, but she hated the phony banter of the correspondents.

Banter can also be a verb. To banter with someone is to converse using banter.

BAROQUE adi (buh ROHK) extravagantly ornate; flamboyant in style
In the study of art, architecture, and music, baroque, or Baroque,
refers to a highly exuberant and ornate style that flourished in Europe
during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Except when
used in this historical sense, the word now is almost always pejorative.

Harry's writing style was a little baroque for my taste; he used so many fancy adjectives and adverbs that it was always hard to tell what he was trying to say.

BARRAGE n (buh RAHZH) a concentrated outpouring of artillery fire, or of anything else

To keep the enemy soldiers from advancing up the mountain, the commander directed a steady barrage against the slope just above them.

Lucy's new paintings—which consisted of bacon fat dribbled on the bottoms of old skillets—were met by a barrage of negative reviews.

Barrage can also be a verb. At the impromptu press conference, eager reporters barraged the Pentagon spokesman with questions.

BAUBLE n (BAW bul) a gaudy trinket; a small, inexpensive ornament. The children thought they had discovered buried treasure, but the old chest turned out to contain nothing but cheap costume jewelry and other baubles.

Sally tried to buy Harry's affection by showering him with baubles, but Harry held out for diamonds.

-d without their parents' henediction; in

45

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #11

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. bacchanal
- C
- baleful
- 3. baik
- 4. ballyhoo
 5. balm
- 6. bandy
- 7. banter
- 8. baroaue
- 9. barrage
- 10. bauble

- a. extravagantly ornate
- b. menacing
- c. toss back and forth
- d. sensational advertising
- e. outpouring of artillery fire
- f. exchange of teasing remarks
- g. party animal
- h. gaudy trinket
- i. abruptly refuse
- j. something that heals

BEDLAM *n* (BED lum) noisy uproar and chaos; a place characterized by noisy uproar and chaos

In medieval London, there was a lunatic asylum called St. Mary of Bethlehem, popularly known as *Bedlam*. If a teacher says that there is bedlam in her classroom, she means that her students are acting like lunatics.

A few seconds after IBM announced that it was going out of business, there was bedlam on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

BEGRUDGE v (bi GRUJ) to envy another's possession or enjoyment of something; to be reluctant to give, or to give grudgingly

The famous author begrudged his daughter her success as a writer; he couldn't stand the thought of her being a better writer than he.

BEHEST n (bi HEST) command; order

The president was impeached after the panel determined that the illegal acts had been committed at his behest.

At my behest, my son cleaned up his room.

BEMOAN v (bi MOHN) to mourn about; to lament

Jerry bemoaned the D he had received on his chemistry exam, but he didn't study any harder.

Rather than bemoaning the cruelty and injustice of their fate, the hostages quietly dug a tunnel under the prison wall and escaped.

BENEDICTION *n* (ben uh DIK shun) a blessing; an utterance of good wishes

In certain church services, a benediction is a particular kind of blessing. In secular usage, the word has a more general meaning.

Jack and Jill were married without their parents' benediction; in fact, their parents had no idea that Jack and Jill had married.

The opposite of benediction is malediction (mal uh DIK shun), which means curse or slander. Despite the near-universal malediction of the critics, the sequel to Gone with the Wind became a huge bestseller.

BENIGHTED adj (bi NYTE ud) ignorant; unenlightened

To be benighted is to be intellectually in the dark—to be lost in intellectual nighttime.

Not one of Mr. Emerson's benighted students could say with certainty in which century the Second World War had occurred.

BESTOW v (bi STOH) to present as a gift; to confer

This word is usually used with on or upon.

Mary Agnes had bestowed upon all her children a powerful hatred for vegetables of any kind.

Life had bestowed much good fortune on Lester; in his mind, however, that did not make up for the fact that he had never won more than a few dollars in the lottery.

BILIOUS adj (BIL yus) ill-tempered; cranky

Bilious is derived from bile, a greenish yellow liquid excreted by the liver. In the middle ages, bile was one of several "humors" that were thought to govern human emotion. In those days, anger and crankiness were held to be the result of an excess of bile. Bilious today can be used in a specific medical sense to refer to excretions of the liver or to particular medical conditions involving those same secretions, but it is usually used in a figurative sense that dates back to medieval beliefs about humors. To be bilious is to be in a grumpy, angry mood

The new dean's bilious remarks about members of the faculty quickly made her one of the least popular figures on campus.

The speaker was taken aback by the biliousness of the audience; every question from the floor had had a nasty tone, and none of his jokes had gotten any laughs.

Norbert's wardrobe was distinctly bilious; almost every garment he owned was either yellow or green.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word: two syllables.

BIVOUAC n (BIV wak) a temporary encampment, especially of soldiers.

The tents and campfires of the soldiers' bivouac could be seen from the top of a nearby mountain, and the enemy commander launched a devastating barrage.

Bivouac can also be a verb, and it can be used to refer to people other than soldiers. Prevented by darkness from returning to their base camp, the climbers were forced to bivouac halfway up the sheer rock wall.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

BLANCH v (blanch) to turn pale; to cause to turn pale

Margaret blanched when Jacob told her their vacation house was haunted.

The hot, dry summer had left the leaves on the trees looking blanched and dry.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #12

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1	bed	am
١.	Dea	uiii

2. begrudge

3. behest

4. bemoan

5. benediction

6. benighted

7. bestow 8. bilious

9. bivouac

10. blanch

a. blessing

b. command

c. noisy uproar

d. ignorant

e. present as a gift

f. envy

g. ill-tempered

h. turn pale
i. temporary encampment

i. mourn about

BLAND adi (bland) mild; tasteless; dull; unlively

George ate only bland foods, because he believed that anything with too much flavor in it would make him tense and excitable.

After the censors had finished with it, the formerly X-rated movie was so bland and unexciting that no one went to see it.

Harriet's new boyfriend was bland in the extreme, but that was probably a good thing, since her previous one had turned out to be an ax murderer.

BLANDISHMENT n (BLAND ish munt) flattery

This word is often plural. Angela was impervious to the blandishments of her employees; no matter how much they flattered her, she refused to give them raises.

BLISS n (blis) perfect contentment; extreme joy

After spending his vacation in a crowded hotel with throngs of noisy conventioneers, Peter found that returning to work was bliss.

Paul and Mary naively expected that every moment of their married life would be bliss, rapidly, however, they discovered that they were no different from anyone else.

Anything that promotes feelings of bliss can be said to be blissful. A blissful vacation would be one that made you feel serenely and supremely content.

BLUSTER v (BLUS tur) to roar; to be loud; to be tumultuous

The cold winter wind blustered all day long, rattling the windows and chilling everyone to the bone.

A day during which the wind blusters would be a blustery (BLUS tur ee) day. The golfers happily blamed all their bad shots on the blustery weather.

Bluster can also be a noun. Miriam was so used to her mother's angry shouting that she was able to tune out the bluster and get along with her work.

BOMBAST n (BAHM bast) pompous or pretentious speech or writing

If you stripped away the *bombast* from the candidate's campaign speeches, you would find little left except a handful of misconceptions and a few downright lies.

The editorial writer resorted to bombast whenever his deadline was looming; thoughtful opinions required time and reflection, but he could become pompous almost as rapidly as he could type.

The adjective is bombastic (bahm BAS tik).

BON VIVANT n (BON vee vant) a person who enjoys good food, good drink, and luxurious living

This is a French expression.

Harvey played the bon vivant when he was with his friends, but when he was alone he was a drudge and a workaholic.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this foreign expression.

BONA FIDE adj (BOH nuh fyde) sincere; done or made in good faith: authentic; genuine

The customer's million-dollar offer for the car turned out not to be bona fide; it had not been made in good faith.

The signature on the painting appeared to be bona fide; it really did seem to be Van Gogh's.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this foreign expression.

BOON n (boon) a blessing; a benefit

Construction of the nuclear-waste incinerator was a boon for the impoverished town; the fees the town earned enabled it to repair its schools and rebuild its roads.

The company car that came with Sam's new job turned out not to be the boon it had first appeared to be; Sam quickly realized that he was expected to spend almost all his time in it, driving from one appointment to another.

BOOR n (boor) a rude or churlish person

A boor is not necessarily a bore. Don't confuse these two words.

The boor at the next table kept climbing up on his chair and

shouting at the waitress.

To be a boor is to be boorish (BOOR ish). "Don't be boorish," Sue admonished Charles at the prom after he had insulted the chaperone and crushed empty beer cans on his head.

BOOTY n (BOO tee) goods taken from an enemy in war; plunder; stolen or confiscated goods

The gear of the returning soldiers was so loaded down with booty that the commanding officer had to issue weight restrictions.

Seven helicopters and a dozen private jets were part of the booty in the corporate takeover.

The principal's desk was filled with booty, including squirt guns, chewing gum, slingshots, and candy.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #13

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. bland

a. pompous speech

2. blandishment

b. luxurious liver

3. bliss

c. mild

4. bluster

d. plunder

5. bombast

e. flattery

6. bon vivant

f. rude person

7. bona fide

g. perfect contentment

boon
 boor

h. sincere

10. booty

i. roar i. blessina

BOTCH v (bahch) to bungle; to ruin through poor or clumsy effort
Melvin botched his science project by pouring Coca-Cola into his
ant farm.

The carpenter had botched his repair of our old porch, and the whole thing came crashing down when Aunt Sylvia stepped on it.

BRACING adj (BRAY sing) invigorating

Before breakfast every morning, Lulu enjoyed a bracing swim in the Arctic Ocean.

Andrew found the intellectual vigor of his students to be positively bracing.

A bracing wind was blowing across the bay, causing Sally's sailboat to move so swiftly that she had difficulty controlling it.

BRANDISH v (BRAN dish) to wave or display threateningly

Brandishing a knife, the robber told the frightened storekeeper to hand over all the money in the cash register.

Cheryl brandished her doctorate like a weapon, distinctly implying that no one in the room was worthy of being in the same room with her.

I returned to the garage brandishing a flyswatter, but the swarming insects were undeterred, and they continued to go about their business.

BFAVADO *n* (bruh VAH doh) a false show or ostentatious show of bravery or defiance

The commander's speech was the product not of bravery but of brayado; as soon as the soldiers left the room, he collapsed in tears.

With almost unbelievable bravado, the defendant stood before the judge and told him that he had no idea how his fingerprints had gotten on the murder weapon.

BRAWN n (brawn) big muscles; great strength

All the other boys in the class thought it extremely unfair that Norbert had both brains and brawn.

The old engine didn't have the brawn to propel the tractor up the

side of the steep hill.

To be brawny (BRAW nee) is to be very muscular. The members of the football team were so brawny that each one needed two seats on the airplane in order to sit comfortably.

BRAZEN adj (BRAY zun) impudent; bold

Brazen comes from a word meaning brass. To be brazen is to be as bold as brass. (Brazen can also be used to refer to things that really are made of brass, or that have characteristics similar to those of brass. For example, the sound of a trumpet might be said to be brazen.)

The students' brazen response to their teacher's request was to take

out their peashooters and pelt him with spit wads.

The infantry made a brazen charge into the very heart of the enemy position.

BREACH n (breech) a violation; a gap or break

Breach is closely related to break, a word with which it shares much meaning.

Most of the senators weren't particularly bothered by the fact that one of their colleagues had been taking bribes, but they viewed his getting caught as an indefensible breach of acceptable behavior.

At first, the water trickled slowly through the breach in the dam, but it gradually gathered force, and soon both the dam and the town below it had been washed away.

BRINK n (brink) edge

The mother became somewhat nervous when she saw her toddler dancing along the *brink* of the cliff.

The sputtering engine sent the airliner on a steep downward course that brought it to the very *brink* of disaster; then the pilot woke up, yawned, and pulled back on the throttle.

Brinkmanship (often also brinksmanship) is a political term describing an effort by one country or official to gain an advantage over another by appearing willing to push a dangerous situation to the brink, such as by resorting to nuclear weapons. To engage in brinkmanship is to appear willing to risk the destruction of the world rather than to lose a particular conflict.

BRISTLE v (BRIS ui) to stiffen with anger; to act in a way suggestive of an animal whose hair is standing on end; to appear in some way similar to hair standing on end

Bristles are short, stiff hairs. A bristle brush is a brush made out of short, stiff hairs from the backs of pigs or other animals. When a pig bristles, it makes the short, stiff hairs on its back stand up. When a person bristles, he or she acts in a way that is reminiscent of a bristling

Arnie is the sensitive type: he bristled when I told him he was stupid, ugly, and not particularly funny.

The lightning bolt was so close it made my hair bristle.

The captured vessel bristled with antennae, strongly suggesting that it was a spy ship, as the government contended, and not a fishing boat, as the Soviets continued to claim.

BROMIDE n (BROH myde) a dull, obvious, overfamiliar saying; a cliché Mr. Anderson seemed to speak exclusively in bromides. When you hand him his change, he says, "A penny sayed is a penny earned." When he asks for help, he says, "Many hands make light work."

Bromide also refers to certain compounds containing the element bromine (BROH meen). Potassium bromide is a substance that was once used as a sedative. A bromide is a statement that is so boring and obvious that it threatens to sedate the listener.

BROUHAHA n (BROO hah hah) uproar; hubbub

The brouhaha arising from the party downstairs kept the children awake for hours.

What's all this brouhaha?

BRUSQUE adj (brusk) abrupt in manner; blunt

The critic's review of the new play was short and brusque: he wrote, "It stinks."

Mother felt that the waiter had been brusque when he told her to put on shoes before entering the restaurant, so she called Father and had the waiter fired.

BUFFOON n (buh FOON) a joker, especially one who is coarse or acts like an ass

Mary Anne seems to go out only with buffoons; her last boyfriend entertained us at Thanksgiving by standing on the table and reciting dirty limericks.

Orville put on women's clothing and pretended to be Oprah Winfrey: he figured that someone at the wedding reception had to play the buffoon and that he might as well be the one.

BULWARK n (BUL wurk) a wall used as a defensive fortification; anything used as the main defense against anything else

The civilians used bulldozers to create an earthen bulwark around their town, but the attacking soldiers used larger bulldozers to destroy

As a bulwark against Billy, I left the phone off the hook all day, but

he foiled me by coming over to my house and talking to me in person. The Bill of Rights is the bulwark of American liberty.

The bulwarks of a ship are the parts of the ship's sides that extend above the main deck.

BYZANTINE adj (BIZ un teen) extremely intricate or complicated in structure: having to do with the Byzantine Empire.

The Byzantine Empire consisted of remnants of the Roman Empire bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, and it lasted from roughly the middle of the fifth century until the middle of the fifteenth. Its principal city was Constantinople, which is now Istanbul, Turkey, Byzantine architecture was (and is) characterized by domes, spires, minarets, round arches, and elaborate mosaics. When used in this precise historical sense, the word is always capitalized; when used in its figurative meaning, it often is not.

Angela couldn't follow the novel's byzantine plot, so she just read the dirty parts and used Word Smart to look up the words she didn't know.

The king's secret agents uncovered a byzantine scheme in which his minister of defense had planned to kill him by impregnating his deodorant with poison.

This word is pronounced and mispronounced in many ways. Our pronunciation is the preferred one.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #14

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

2.	botch bracing		ostentatious show of bravery stiffen with anger
3.	brandish	c.	invigorating
4.	bravado	d.	defensive fortification
5.	brawn	e.	extremely intricate in structure
6.	brazen	Ŧ.	bungle
7.	breach		dull saying
8.	brink	ĥ.	joker
9.	bristle	i.	display threateningly
10.	bromide		violation
11.	brouhaha	k.	abrupt in manner
		-	

12. brusque l. edge 13. buffoon m. impudent 14. bulwark n. uproar

15. byzantine o. bia muscles

CABAL n (kuh BAL) a group of conspirators: the acts of such a group: a clique

The nasty new dictator had been a part of the cabal that for years had plotted the overthrow of the kindly old king.

The high-level cabal against the company's president accelerated rapidly and resulted in her ouster.

Miriam wanted to be popular and go to parties on weekends, but she was never able to penetrate the cabal that controlled the limited supply of fun at her high school.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CACHE n (kash) a hiding place; the things hidden in a hiding place This word comes from a French word meaning to hide.

The taxi driver kept his cash in a cache behind his tape-player. Unfortunately, a robber who had merely intended to steal the tapeplayer discovered the cache and also stole the cash.

The bandits had a cache of weapons near their hideout in the mountains.

CALAMITY n (kuh LAM uh tee) a disaster

Trouble always seemed to follow Martha Jane Canary. That's why she was known as Calamity Jane.

During the first few months we lived in our house, we suffered one calamity after another: first the furnace exploded; then the washing machine stopped working; then the roof began to leak.

Misfortune quickly turned into calamity when the burning car set off the hydrogen bomb.

CALLOUS adj (KAL us) insensitive; emotionally hardened

The callous biology teacher gave a B to the whining student, even though he swore that such a low grade would keep him out of medical school.

Living in New York for ten years has made Sally so callous that to reach her mailbox she steps on the back of the homeless person who sleeps in the lobby of her apartment building.

A callus (KAL us) is a patch of thickened or roughened skin. A callous person is someone who has a metaphorical callus covering his or her emotions.

CALUMNY n (KAL um nee) slander; a maliciously false statement

The candidate resorted to calumny whenever he couldn't think of anything merely mean to say about his opponent.

When Mr. McCoy could no longer withstand the calumnies of his accusers, he pulled out a machine gun and mowed them all down.

To utter calumnies about someone is to calumniate (kuh LUM nee ayt) that person. The newspaper editorial writer had already calumniated everyone in town, so he started again from the top of the list. Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

CANON n (KAN un) a rule or law, especially a religious one; a body of rules or laws; an official set of holy books; an authoritative list; the set of works by an author that are accepted as authentic

Timothy tried to live in accordance with the canons of fairness. honesty, and responsibility that his parents laid down for their chil-

Brigadoon is not widely held to be part of Shakespeare's canon. Canon also has some very specific meanings and usages within the Roman Catholic church. If these are a part of your life, you probably know them already.

CANT n (kant) insincere or hypocritical speech

The political candidate resorted to cant whenever he was asked about any of the substantial issues of the campaign.

CANVASS v (KAN vus) to seek votes or opinions; to conduct a survey This is not the same word as canvas, the rough cotton cloth that circus tents, among other things, used to be made of.

In the last few days before the election, the campaign volunteers spread out to canvass in key districts.

The polling organization canvassed consumers to find out which brand of drain cleaner made them feel most optimistic about the global

Canvass can also be a noun. A canvass is an act of canvassing. After an exhaustive canvass of consumers, the polling organization discovered that Sludge-X made consumers feel most optimistic about the global economy.

Note carefully the spelling of this word.

CAPACIOUS adj (kuh PAY shus) spacious; roomy; commodious

Something that is capacious has a large capacity.

Holly had a capacious mouth into which she poured the contents of a family-sized box of Milk Duds.

The Stones' house was capacious but not particularly gracious; it felt and looked like the inside of a barn.

Arnold's memory for insults was capacious; he could remember every nasty thing that anyone had ever said about him.

CAPITAL n (KAP ut ul) the town or city that is the seat of government: money, equipment, and property owned by a business; wealth used in creating more wealth

Paris is the capital of France. New York City is the American capital of nightlife.

Ivan inherited his family's business, but then, through foolish management, exhausted its capital and drove it into bankruptcy.

Orson wanted to buy a professional football team, but he was unable to come up with the necessary capital; in fact, he was able to raise only \$400.

The Sterns didn't have much money, so they invested human capital; they built it themselves.

Don't confuse this word with eapitol, which is the building legislatures meet in

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #15

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. cabal
- 2. cache
- 3. calamity 4. callous
- 5. calumny
- 6. canon
- 7. cant
- 8. canvass
- 9. capacious
- 10. capital

- a. slander
- b. rule or law
- c. hidina place
- d. seek votes or opinions
- e. seat of agreement
- f. hypocritical speech
- a. roomy
- h. group of conspirators
- i. insensitive
- i. disaster

CAPTIVATE v (KAP tuh vayt) to fascinate; to enchant; to enrapture

The magician captivated the children by making their parents disappear in a big ball of blue smoke.

Frank wasn't very captivating when Melinda came to call on him; he was wearing Ninja Turtle pajamas, and he hadn't brushed his teeth.

CARCINOGENIC adi (kahr sin uh JEN ik) causing cancer

The tobacco industry has long denied that cigarette smoke is carcinogenic.

An agent that causes cancer is a carcinogen (kahr SIN uh jun). The water flowing out of the chemical factory's waste pipe was black and bubbling and undoubtedly loaded with carcinogens.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

CARDINAL adi (KAHRD nul) most important; chief

The cardinal rule at our school is simple: no shooting at the teachers. If you have to shoot a gun, shoot it at a student or an administrator.

The "cardinal virtues" are said to be fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word: two syllables.

CAREEN v (kuh REEN) to swerve; to move rapidly without control; to lean to one side

The airliner careened into several small planes as it taxied toward the terminal.

The drunk driver's automobile bounced off several lampposts as it careened along the waterfront, eventually running off the end of the pier and plunging into the harbor.

The ship careened heavily in the storm, causing all of the cargo in its hold to shift to one side.

Purists insist on use of the etymologically unrelated word career (kuh RIR) in place of careen in the first two instances above, reserving careen for the meaning illustrated in the third example. But most modern speakers happily use careen to mean to swerve or to move rapidly without control and seldom think about career at all. It's hard to get too worked up about this issue.

CARTOGRAPHY n (kahr TAHG ruh fee) the art of making maps and charts

The United States Department of State employs a large cartography department, because the boundaries of the world's countries are constantly changing and maps must constantly be updated and redrawn.

A person who makes maps or charts is called a cartographer (kahr TAHG ruh fur).

CASCADE n (kas KAYD) a waterfall; anything resembling a waterfall Water from the burst main created a cascade that flowed over the embankment and into our living room.

When the young star of the movie stubbed his toe while putting on his ostrich-skin cowboy boots, his fans responded with a cascade of get-well cards.

Cascade can also be a verb. Silver dollars cascaded from the slot machine when Christine said the magic word that she had learned in Word Smart.

CATACLYSM n (KAT uh kliz um) a violent upheaval; an earthquake; a horrible flood

The Soviet government's attempts at economic reform initiated a cataclysm that left the country's structure in ruins.

The earthquake's epicenter was in midtown Manhattan, but the effects of the cataclysm could be felt as far away as Chicago.

Suddenly, the sky opened, and the clouds unleashed a cataclysm that nearly washed away the town.

The adjective form of this word is cataclysmic (kat a KLIZ mik). Early on Tuesday morning, fans were still celebrating the team's cataclysmic 105-7 defeat of the Tigers.

CAUCUS n (KAW kus) a meeting of the members of a political porty or political faction; a political group whose members have common interests or aoals

In some states, delegates to political conventions are elected; in other states, they are selected in caucuses.

The women in the state legislature joined together in an informal women's caucus in order to increase their influence on issues of particular interest to women.

This word can also be a verb. To caucus is to hold a caucus. The members of the caucus caucused for several days in the hope of agreeing on a new method for selecting new members of the caucus. They couldn't agree, so they disbanded.

57

CAVALIER adj (kav uh LIR) arrogant; haughty; carefree; casual

The vain actor was so cavalier that he either didn't notice or didn't care that he had broken Loretta's heart.

Mrs. Perkins felt that her daughter and son-in-law were somewhat cavalier about their housework; she objected, for example, to the fact that they seldom did any laundry, preferring to root around in the laundry hamper for something clean enough to wear again.

CAVIL v (KAV ul) to auibble; to raise trivial objections

Writing the organization's new by-laws would have been much simpler if it hadn't been the chairman's habit to cavil about every point raised.

The lawyer clearly believed that he was raising important objections, but the judge felt that he was merely caviling and she finally told him to shut up.

Cavil can also be a noun. The critic raised a few cavils about the author's writing style, but on the whole the review was favorable.

Q-U-1-C-K - Q-U-1-7 #16

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

a. violent upheaval 1. captivate 2. carcinogenic b. swerve 3. cardinal c. political meeting 4. careen d. waterfall 5. cartography e. fascinate 6. cascade f. auibble 7. cataclysm a. most important 8. caucus h. art of making maps 9. cavalier i, arrogant

CHAFF n (chaf) worthless stuff

10. cavil

In agricultural usage, chaff is the husk left over after grain has been threshed. Outside of a wheat farm, chaff is any worthless stuff, especially any worthless stuff left over after valuable stuff has been separated out or removed.

i. causing cancer

Any car in which young children regularly ride gradually fills up with crumbs, Cheerios, gum wrappers, bits of paper, and other chaff.

The mountain of crumpled paper on which Harry lay snoring was the chaff he had produced in his effort to write a term paper.

CHAMELEON n (kuh MEEL yun) a highly changeable person

In the reptile world, a chameleon is a lizard that can change its color to match its surroundings. In the human world, a chameleon is

a person who changes his or her opinions or emotions to reflect those of the people around him or her.

Rita was a social chameleon; when she was with her swimmingteam friends, she made fun of the students on the yearbook staff, and when she was with her yearbook friends, she made fun of the students on the swimming team.

CHAMPION v (CHAM pee un) to defend; to support

During his campaign, the governor had *championed* a lot of causes that he promptly forgot about once he was elected.

CHANNEL v (CHAN ul) to direct; to cause to follow a certain path

When the dean asked Eddie to explain how he had managed to earn three Ds and a C-minus during the previous semester, Eddie said, "Well, you know what can happen when you channel all your efforts into one course."

Young people arrested for painting graffiti on subway cars were placed in a rehabilitation program that attempted to *channel* their artistic abilities into socially acceptable pursuits, such as painting the interiors of subway-station bathrooms.

CHASTE adj (chayst) pure and unadorned; abstaining from sex

The novel's author had a *chaste* but powerful writing style; he used few adjectives and even fewer big words, but he nonetheless succeeded in creating a vivid and stirring portrait of a fascinating world.

Felix enjoyed Cinderella, but he found the movie a bit *chaste* for his liking.

To be *chaste* is to be in a state of *chastity* (CHAS tun tee). Rick chose to live a life of *chastity* by becoming a monk.

CHERUB n (CHER ub) a supercute chubby-cheeked child; a kind of angel

The twelve-year-old bank robber had the face of a *cherub* and the arrest record of a hardened criminal.

To look or act like a cherub is to be cherubic (chuh ROO bik).

Religiously speaking, a cherub is an angel of the sort you see depicted on valentines and Christmas cards: a small child, with wings and no clothes. In careful usage, the correct plural is cherubim (CHER oo bim), but most people just say cherubs.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

CHORTLE v (CHAWR tul) to chuckle with glee

A chortle is a cross between a chuckle and a snort. The word was coined by Lewis Carroll in Through the Looking Glass.

The toddler *chortled* as he arranged his gleaming Christmas presents on the living-room couch.

The children were supposed to be asleep, but I could tell that they were reading their new joke book because I could hear them chortling through the door.

Chortle can also be a noun. Professor Smith meant his lecture to be serious, but the class responded only with chortles.

CHURL n (churl) a rude person; a boor

Too much wine made Rex act like a churl; he thumped his forefinger on the waiter's chest and demanded to speak to the manager.

To be a churl is to be churlish. Rex's churlish behavior toward the waiter made him unwelcome at the restaurant. Everyone was appalled by his churlishness.

CHUTZPAH n (HUT spuh) brazenness; audacity

This slang word comes from the Yiddish.

The bank manager had so much chutzpah that during a recent robbery, he asked the stick-up men to sign a receipt for the money they were taking, and they did!

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CIPHER n (SYE fer) zero; a nobody; a code; the solution to a code

The big red cipher at the top of his paper told Harold that he hadn't done a very good job on his algebra exam.

George was a cipher; after he had transferred to a new school, no one could remember what he looked like

Heather loved codes, and she quickly figured out the simple cipher that older girls had used to write one another secret messages about

To decipher (di SYE fer) a coded message is to decode it. To encipher (en SYE fer) a message is to put it into code. Larry's emotions were hard to decipher; the expression on his face never gave one a clue as to what he was feeling or thinking.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #17

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. chaff

a. worthless stuff

2. chameleon

b. highly changeable person

3. champion

c. chuckle with glee

4. channel

d. pure and unadorned

5. chaste

e. zero

6. cherub

f. supercute child

7. chortle

a. direct

8. churl 9. chutzpah h. brazenness i. defend

10. cipher

i. rude person

CIRCUMNAVIGATE v (sur kum NAV uh gayt) to sail or travel all the way around

Magellan's crew was the first to circumnavigate the globe. Circumnavigating their block took the little boys most of the morning, because they stopped in nearly every yard to play with their Ninia Turtles.

The word can also be used figuratively. Jefferson skillfully circumnavigated the subject of his retirement; in his hour-long speech, he talked about everything but it.

CITADEL n (SIT up dul) a fortress defending a city; a stronghold; a hulwark

From the citadel on top of the hill, the king's soldiers could fire down on the troops attacking the city.

The president viewed the university as a citadel of learning, as a fortress against the forces of ignorance.

CLANDESTINE adi (klan DES tin) concealed or secret, usually for an evil or subversive purpose

The clandestine meetings held by the terrorists were not as clandestine as the terrorists imagined; their meeting room had been bugged by the CIA.

Unable to persuade Congress to back the cause, the White House conducted a clandestine fund-raising campaign to raise money for the revolutionary faction.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CLASSIC adi (KLAS ik) top-notch; of the highest quality; serving as a standard or model

The baseball game was a classic contest; it was one of the finest games I have ever seen.

Little Rudolph is a classic example of what happens when parents give a child anything he wants; he is a whining, wheedling, annoying

This word can also be a noun. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is an American classic; many readers view it as the Great American Novel.

When people in an academic setting refer to "the classics." they are almost always referring to the literature and languages of ancient Greece and Rome. A classics major is a student who concentrates in that literature and those languages.

The adjective classical is closely related but usually distinct in meaning. Classical literature is the literature of ancient Greece and Rome. Ancient Greek and Latin are classical languages. Classical history is the history of ancient Greece and Rome. The neoclassical period in American architecture was a period in which American builders were heavily influenced by the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. (The Parthenon is a classic example of classical architecture.)

In music, classical refers to European music of the second half of the eighteenth century. Mozart is an example of a classical composer.

CLEAVE v (kleev) to cling; to split

This fascinating word can be its own opposite. When one thing cleaves to another, they stick together closely. But when you split them apart, you can also be said to be cleaving them (as with a cleaver).

61

When a child is frightened, it cleaves to its parent, and no one is able to cleave them.

The streamlined front of the automobile is designed to cleave the air, reducing wind resistance.

The explorers had powerful machetes, but the jungle was so dense that they were unable to *cleave* a path through it.

Something that has been split is cleft (kleft).

CLIMATIC adj (kly MAT ic) having to do with the climate

The buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere appears to be causing pronounced *climatic* changes all over the world.

Do not confuse this word with climactic (kly MAK tic), which means coming to or having to do with a climax.

CLOISTER n (KLOY stur) a covered walk, with columns on one side, that runs along the perimeter of a courtyard, especially in a convent or monastery; a convent or monastery; a tranquil, secluded place

In its first two meanings, this word is of interest primarily to people who are interested in convents and monasteries. More generally the word is used in connection with places that suggest the tranquil seclusion of a convent or monastery.

Virginia viewed her office as a *cloister* in which she could withdraw from the chaos of the production line.

The little clearing in the woods was Billy's cloister; he went there to meditate and recharge his mental batteries.

To cloister someone or something is to put him, her, or it in seclusion. After his hectic week, David cloistered himself on the golf course for the entire three-day weekend.

To be cloister-like is to be cloistral (KLOY strul).

CLONE *n* (klohn) an exact duplicate; an organism genetically identical to another

The new store was a *clone* of the old one; even the sales clerks looked the same.

Margaret's daughter Eloise looked so much like her that Eloise seemed less like her child than like her clone.

Identical twins are clones.

This word can also be a verb. To *clone* something is to make an exact duplicate of it. Isaac spent his life trying to find a way to *clone* himself, because he believed that the world would be a better, more interesting place if it were filled with Isaacs.

CLOUT n (klowt) a blow; influence

When the child refused to stop crying, his mother gave him a *clout* on the head that kept him crying for the next hour and a half.

Jim has a lot of *clout* at the bank, perhaps because his father is the president.

CLOY v (kloy) to cause to feel too full, especially when indulging in something overly sweet; to become wearisome through excess

After a few bites, the delicious dessert began to cloy, and Harold thought that he was going to be sick.

The new perfume was cloying; it smelled good at first, but soon the fragrance began to seem almost suffocating.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #18

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. circumnavigate
- b. blow
- 2. citadel

- c. clina
- 3. clandestine
- d. sail all the way around e. covered walk

5. cleave

f. secret

6. climatic

g. fortress defending a city

a, having to do with the climate

8. clone

h. exact duplicate

9. clout

i. top-notch

10. cloy

i. cause to feel too full

CODDLE v (KAHD ul) to baby

Old Mrs. Smythe had dozens of cats, and she coddled them all by

feeding them fresh cream, liver, and chocolate pudding.

Mr. Jones coddled his new employees because he didn't want them to quit as a group on the day before Christmas, as his previous employees had done.

COGITATE v (KAHJ uh tayt) to ponder; to meditate; to think carefully about

When the professor had a particularly difficult problem to solve, he would climb a tree with a bag of jelly beans and cogitate until he had

Jerry claimed that he was cogitating, but most people I know don't

snore when they cogitate.

An act of cogitating is called cogitation (kahj uh TAY shun). Cogitation was apparently painful to Rebecca; whenever she thought carefully about something, her eyes squinted, her hands shook, and she broke into a sweat.

COHORT n (KOH hawrt) a group

In ancient Rome, a cohort was a military division of several hundred soldiers. In careful modern usage, cohort often retains a shade of this original meaning.

The IRS office was surrounded by a cohort of disgruntled taxpay-

ers demanding the head of the head agent.

Cohort is increasingly used to mean companion or accomplice, but many careful speakers and writers would consider this to be careless usage. An example: The armed robber and his cohort were both sentenced to hundreds of years in prison.

COMMEMORATE v (kuh MEM uh rayt) to honor the memory of; to serve as a memorial to

The big statue in the village square commemorates the founding of the town 250 years ago.

The members of the senior class painted the school building purple to commemorate their graduation.

An act of commemorating is a commemoration. The commemoration ceremony for the new building lasted so long that the weary participants forgot what they were supposed to be commemorating.

COMMISERATE v (kuh MIZ uh rayt) to express sorrow or sympathy for; to sympathize with; to pity

To commiserate with someone is to "share the misery" of that person.

My grandmother commiserated with me when I told her about the terrible day I had had at school.

In the aftermath of the flood, the mayor was quick to commiserate but slow to offer any aid.

The other members of the tennis team *commiserated* with their captain after his humiliating loss in the finals of the tournament.

Commiseration (kuh miz uh RAY shun) is an act of commiserating. The new widow was weary of the commiseration of her friends and eager to get on with her life.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

COMMODIOUS adj (kuh MOH dee us) spacious; roomy; capacious

The rooms in the old hotel were so *commodious* that Sheila nearly got lost on her way to the bathroom.

The millionaire's house was commodious but not particularly attractive; the big rooms were filled with ugly furniture.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

COMPATIBLE adj (kum PAT uh bul) harmonious; capable of functioning, working, or living together in harmony; consistent

My college roommate and I were completely compatible; we both liked to leave the lights and television on when we slept, and we both smoked cigars.

Urban's new computer was not *compatible* with his old printer; when he hooked the two of them together, they both exploded.

The opposite of *compatible* is *incompatible*. Ken and Gina got divorced because they had decided, after thirty-five years of marriage and seven children, that they were simply *incompatible*.

The noun is compatibility.

COMPETENT adj (KAHM puh tunt) capable; qualified

The plumber Melody hired to fix her leaky pipes was not competent; when the plumber had finished, the pipes were leakier than they had been before.

Peter is a *competent* student but not an exceptional one; he earns average grades and he never makes observations that cause his teachers to gasp with wonder.

I didn't feel competent to rebuild my car's engine, so I let a trained

mechanic do the job.

Not to be competent is to be incompetent. An incompetent person is one who lacks competence (KAHM puh tuns).

COMPILE v (kum PYLE) to gather together; to gather together into a book

At the end of a long career, the company president compiled his
thoughts about business in a booklet that was distributed to all the
company's employees.

In a dozen years in the big leagues, the pitcher compiled a record of victories that placed him in contention for a spot in the Hall of Fame.

The result of an act of compiling is a compilation (KAHM puh lay shun). At the end of the semester, the second-grade teacher sent each child home with a compilation of his or her classroom work.

COMPLY v (kum PLY) to act or be in accordance (with)

The doctor complied with my wishes and told me that I had to stay in bed all day eating ice cream and watching TV.

The company's most successful salesman refused to comply with a rule requiring all men to wear neckties, so the company changed the rule.

To comply with something is to be in compliance (kum PLY uns) with it. The Internal Revenue Service doesn't have the resources to audit every tax return; for the most part, it depends on the voluntary compliance of taxpayers.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #19

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. coddle
- 2. cogitate
- 3. cohort
- 4. commemorate
 5. commiserate
- 6. commodious
- 7. compatible 8. competent
- 9. campile
- 10. comple

- a. spacious
- b. honor the memory of
- c. harmonious
- d. ponder
- e. capable f. baby
- g. gother together
- h. graup
- i. act in accordance
- express sorraw for

COMPOSED adi (kum POHZD) calm; tranquil

The defendant was early composed when the judge read the jury's guilty verdict; he almost seemed to welcome his conviction.

Billy's mother somehow managed to remain composed in the ticket line at Disneyland, despite the fact that Billy was clinging to her leg. tugging on her skirt, biting her wrist, and crying at the top of his lungs.

To be composed is to have composure (kum POH zhur). The judges were most impressed by the young dancer's composure; despite the pressure of the nationally televised recital, she remained calm and finished her routine without making a single error.

COMPROMISE n (KAHM pruh myze) a settlement of differences in which each side gives up something

Bill and Phil couldn't settle their argument about the composition of the moon, so they agreed to a compromise; on evenly numbered days they would believe that it was made of green cheese, and on oddly numbered days they would believe that it was made of Ivory soap.

This word can also be a verb. To compromise is to make a compromise. Even after a year of negotiations; the leaders of the two warring countries refused to compromise: each wished to be viewed as the victor in their dispute.

To compromise can also mean to abandon or give up. To compromise one's principles is to do something in violation of one's principles. Sally chose detention for violating her high school's dress code rather than compromise her belief in freedom of expression.

COMPUNCTION n (kum PUNK shun) remorse; a feeling of uneasiness at doing something wrong

Mrs. Riley had no compunction about lying if she thought that a lie would help her daughter's chances of making the cheerleading squad.

The bank robber was absolutely without compunction; he filled his satchel with cash as calmly as if he had been filling it with groceries.

CONCAVE adi (kahn KAYV) curved inward, like the inside of a circle or a sphere

If you cut a volleyball in half, the inside surface of each half would be concave. The outside surface of each half would be convex (kahn · VEKS). It's easy to keep these two words straight. A concave surface goes in, the way a cave does. A convex surface goes out, in a way that will vex you if you don't remember the part about the cave.

A big optical telescope is likely to have both a concave reflective surface and a number of convex lenses.

CONCEDE v (kun SEED) to acknowledge as true or right; to grant or vield

The candidate conceded the election shortly before midnight, after it had become abundantly clear that his opponent was going to win by a landslide.

Jerry refused to concede defeat, even though his football team was losing 63-14.

To concede is to make a concession (kun SESH un). Despite his concession that he didn't know what he was talking about. Harry continued to argue his point as strongly as before.

CONCENTRIC adi (kun SEN trik) having the same center The inner and outer edges of a doughnut are concentric circles. So

are the rings on an archery target.

CONCERT n (KAHN surt) combined action; agreement

By acting in concert, the three boys were able to tip over the car that none of them had been able to tip over while acting alone.

A concerted (kun SUR tud) effort is one made by individuals acting in concert.

CONCOCT v (kun KAHKT) to create by mixing ingredients; to devise Using only the entirely unexciting groceries she found in the refrigerator, the master chef concocted a fabulous seven-course meal that left her guests shaking their heads.

Sylvia didn't have any gasoline, so she tried to concoct a replacement by mixing together all the inflammable liquids in her parents'

A concoction (kun KAHK shun) is something that has been concocted. After proudly announcing that they had made dessert, the children brought in an unsettling concoction that appeared to contain nothing edible.

CONCOMITANT adi (kun KAHM uh tunt) following from; accompanying; going along with

Jack Nicklaus's success on the golf course, and the concomitant increase in the size of his bank account, had made him the envy of all professional golfers.

Along with his large cash donation, the philanthropist made a concomitant promise to support the new library with smaller gifts in the coming years.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CONFEDERATE n (kun FED ur ut) an ally; an accomplice

The rebels had few confederates in the countryside; as a result, they were never able to field much of an army.

It took the police several months to track down the embezzler's confederates, but they were eventually able to arrest most of them.

A group of confederates is a confederation (kun fed ur AY shun). The Confederacy (kun FED ur uh see), formally known as the Confederate States of America, was the confederation of eleven southern states that seceded from the United States of America in 1860 and 1861, precipitating the Civil War.

Confederate pronounced "kun FED uh rayt" is a verb.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #20

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. composed
- 2. compromise
- 3. compunction
- 4. concave
- 5. concentric
- 6. concert
- 7. concede
- 8. concoct
- 9. concomitant
- 10. confederate

- a. ally
- b. acknowledge as true
- c. having the same center
- d. settlement of differences
- e. following from
- f. combined action
- g. curved inward
- h. calm
- i. create by mixing ingredients
- i. remorse

CONFER v (kun FER) to exchange ideas; to consult with; to bestow

The referees conferred briefly before ruling that the pass had been incomplete and that no touchdown had been scored.

I told the salesman that I needed to *confer* with my wife by telephone before signing a formal agreement to buy the old ocean liner.

The administration decided to *confer* an honorary degree upon the old millionaire because it hoped doing so would cause him to leave a few million dollars to the university in his will.

A conference (KAHN fer uns) is a meeting at which people confer.

CONFIDANT n (KAHN fu dahnt) a person with whom secrets or private thoughts are shared

A confidant is a person in whom one can confide (kun FYDE).

Sally's brother was also her *confidant*; when she had a problem that she felt she could discuss with no one else, she called him.

A female confidant is a confidante.

CONFIGURATION n (kun fig yuh RAY shun) arrangement

The configuration of the seats was such that no one in the audience had a clear view of the stage.

My wife and I loved the exterior of the house, but we hated the configuration of the rooms.

By slightly altering the *configuration* of chips on the motherboard of his laptop computer, Zach was able to turn it into a combination death ray and time machine.

To configure is to arrange.

CONFLAGRATION n (kahn fluh GRAY shun) a large fire

The smoldering rags in the dumpster ignited the drums of explosive chemicals, and the small fire rapidly became a *conflagration* that enveloped the entire block.

CONFLUENCE n (KAHN floo uns) a flowing together

St. Louis is situated at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Pier's new book, Angling in the Kitchen, represented the confluence of his two main interests in life, fishing and cooking.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CONFOUND v (kun FOUND) to bewilder; to amaze; to throw into

The newborn baby's ability to speak fluent Italian confounded the experts, who were surprised to hear a newborn speaking anything but French.

The team's inability to score confounded the coach, who had expected an easy victory.

Allen's failure to understand his computer continues to confound his efforts to become computer-literate.

CONGEAL v (kun JEEL) to solidify; to jell

The bacon grease congealed into a smooth white mass when we put the skillet in the freezer.

It took several years for my ideas about invisibility to congeal to the point where I could begin manufacturing and marketing vanishing pills.

CONJUGAL adj (KAHN juh gul) having to do with marriage

After twenty-eight years of conjugal bliss, Ben and May got a divorce when Ben suddenly confessed that he never liked the way she flossed her teeth.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CONNIVE v (kuh NYVE) to conspire; to aid or encourage a wrong by feigning ignorance of it

An investigation revealed that virtually the entire police department had been conniving with the neighborhood drug dealers, giving them immunity in exchange for a cut of the profits.

The noun is connivance (kuh NYVE uns).

CONSERVATORY n (kun SER vuh tawr ee) a greenhouse, usually one attached to another structure; a music school or drama school

On sunny mornings, Mrs. Klein liked to have breakfast in the conservatory, surrounded by her orchids and miniature palm trees.

After college, Hugo spent six years studying the violin at a Viennese conservatory.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #21

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. confer
- 2. confidant
- 3. configuration 4. conflagration
- 5. confluence
- 6. confound
- 7. congeal
- 8. conjugal 9. connive
- 10. conservatory

- a. solidify
- b. having to do with marriage
- c. areenhouse
- d. arrangement
- e. large fire
- f. person with whom secrets are shared
- a. conspire
- h. exchange ideas
- i. bewilder
- i. flowing together
- CONSIGN v (kun SYNE) to hand over; to assign; to entrust; to banish Upon her retirement. Mary consigned to her co-workers the contents of her desk.

Two decades after Frank's death, most critics consigned his novels to the literary trash heap.

The bookstore owner was waiting anxiously for the publisher to send her a new consignment of books; with no books to sell, she had little to do at work all day.

CONSOLIDATE v (kun SAHL uh dayt) to combine or bring together; to solidify: to strengthen

The new chairman tried to consolidate the company's disparate operations into a single unit that would be easier to manage.

I consolidated my many bank accounts by withdrawing the money from all of them and putting it in a box that I kept under my bed.

The baseball team consolidated its hold on first place by winning all of its remaining games.

CONSPICUOUS adj (kun SPIK yoo us) easily seen; impossible to miss There was a conspicuous absence of good food at the terrible party, and many of the guests went out to a restaurant afterward.

The former president made a conspicuous display of his gleaming wristwatch; he had just signed a promotional contract with the watch's manufacturer.

Conspicuous consumption is a variety of showing off that consists of making a public display of buying and using a lot of expensive stuff. The opposite of conspicuous is inconspicuous.

CONSTERNATION n (kahn stur NAY shun) sudden confusion

The consternation of the children during the fire drill was evident in their faces; their eyes were wide with fear and uncertainty.

CONSTITUENCY n (kun STICH oo un see) the group of voters represented by a politician; a group of supporters for anything

The ninety-year-old candidate did most of his campaigning on college campuses, even though his natural constituency was the town's large population of senior citizens.

The company's president failed to build a constituency on the

board to support his plan to raise his salary by 300 percent.

A constituency is made up of constituents (kun STICH oo unts). The senator never forgot who had elected him: he spent most of his time in Washington doing favors for the wealthiest of his constituents.

CONTEMPT n (kun TEMPT) disdain; disarace

The lawyer's contempt for the judge was clear; when she said "Your honor" she had both thumbs in her ears and was twiddling her fingers at him.

I have nothing but contempt for people who say one thing and do

The dishonest storekeeper was held in contempt by the townspeople, virtually all of whom began shopping somewhere else.

CONTINUUM n (kun TIN yoo um) a continuous whole without clear division into parts

The spectrum of visible light is a continuum in which each color

blends into its neighbors.

Einstein's theory of relativity holds that space and time are not distinct dimensions but inseparable aspects of a continuum.

Note carefully the spelling of this word.

CONTRABAND n (KAHN truh band) smuaaled aoods

The military police looked for contraband in the luggage of the returning soldiers, and they found plenty of it, including captured enemy weapons and illegal drugs.

The head of the dormitory classified all candy as contraband, then went from room to room confiscating it, so that he could eat it himself.

CONTRETEMPS n (KAHN truh tanh) an embarrassing occurrence; a mishap

Newell lost his job over a little contretemps involving an office party, the Xerox machine, and his rear end.

CONTUMELY n (kun TOO muh lee) rudeness; insolence; arrogance In the opinion of the teacher, the student's sticking out his tongue during the Pledge of Allegiance was unforgivable contumely.

To be guilty of contumely is to be contumelious (kahn too MEE lee us). The contumelious prisoners stuck out their tongues at their jailers. Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

QelleleCeK . Qellele7 #22

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

١.	consign	a.	combine
2.	consolidate	b.	embarrassing occurrence
3.	conspicuous	c.	continuous whole
4.	consternation		hand over
5.	constituency	e.	group of voters
	contempt	f.	smuggled goods
7.	continuum		disdain
	contraband		sudden confusion
	contretemps		rudeness
10.	contumely	į.	easily seen

ONUNDRUM n (kuh NUN drum) a puzzle or problem without a sostion

What to do about the dirty dishes piling up in the sink was a conundrum that the four roommates could not even begin to solve.

English grammar was a conundrum to Marcia; she just couldn't figure out how to put two words together.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CONVENE v (kun VEEN) to gather together; to assemble; to meet

For their annual meeting, the members of the physicians' organization convened on the first tee of the seaside golf course.

Mr. Jenkins convened the workers in the cafeteria to tell them they had all been fired.

A convention is an event at which people convene for the purpose of exchanging information, learning new skills, eating rich food, going shopping, and getting drunk.

CONVERSANT adj (kun VUR sunt) familiar; experienced

After just two days on the job, Gloria was not yet conversant with the many rules laid down by her new employer.

Several months' worth of intense television watching had made Ivan conversant with the rules of football, even though he had never played the game himself.

CONVERSE n (KAHN vurs) the opposite

Freddy followed not the rule but its converse; that is, he did the opposite of what he was supposed to do.

Freddy faced a difficult choice: he could put the Kool-Aid in the water or, conversely, he could put the water in the Kool-Aid.

CONVEY v (kun VAY) to transport; to conduct; to communicate

The train conveyed us across the border in the middle of the night. The red pipes convey the hot water, and the blue ones convey the

cold.

The look on my mother's face is impossible for me to convey; her expression is indescribable.

A conveyance (kun VAY uns) is an act of transporting or a means of transporting, especially a vehicle. A bus is a public conveyance.

CONVICTION n (kun VIK shun) strong belief; a determination of guilt It is Harold's conviction that the earth is the center of the universe, but Harold's conviction is wrong.

Ever since his conviction for first-degree murder, Lester had been

spending quite a bit of time in jail.

CONVOLUTION n (kahn vuh LOO shun) a twist or turn; the act of twisting or turning

I couldn't follow all the convolutions in the plot of the murder mystery; every character seemed to have a dozen identities, and every occurrence turned out to be something other than what it had appeared to be at first.

Locked within the convolutions of a DNA molecule is the secret of life.

A convoluted plot is a plot that has lots of twists and turns. A convoluted argument is one that is so complex that it is difficult to follow, just as a twisted path would be hard to follow. If you have a simple story to tell, don't convolute (kahn vuh LOOT) it by making it more complicated than it needs to be.

COPIOUS adi (KOH pee us) abundant; plentiful

Minor head injuries sometimes produce copious amounts of blood because there are many blood vessels in the scalp.

The copious harvest ensured that the villagers would survive another winter: there would be plenty of food for all.

CORDIAL adj (KAWR jul) gracious; warm; sincere

We received a cordial welcome from our host, who was clearly delighted that my wife and I had come to spend several months with him.

The police officer was cordial; he smiled and shook my hand before he led me off to jail.

To be cordial is to do things cordially or with cordiality (kawr jee

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

COROLLARY n (KAWR uh ler ee) a proposition that follows easily and obviously from another; a natural consequence or conclusion

A corollary of Susannah's rule that her children would be responsible for the cleanliness of their rooms was that their rooms were always filthy.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #23

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. conundrum
- a. twist or turn
- 2. convene
- b. puzzle
- conversant
 conversa
- d. natural consequence

5. convey

- e. transport
- 6. conviction
- f. strong belief
- 7. convolution
- g. gracious

8. copious

h. opposite

9. cordial

i. gather together

10. corollary

i. abundant

CORPOREAL adj (kawr PAWR ee ul) material; tangible; having substance, like the body

Steve was mildly crazy; he believed that at night his thoughts became *corporeal* and wandered around his house eating potato chips and doing laundry.

This word is often confused with corporal (KAWR puh rul), which means having to do with the body. Beating a criminal is corporal punishment. Someone who has a lot of body is fat or corpulent (KAWR pyuh lunt). A body of people is called corps (kohr), like the army corps.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

CORRELATION in (kawr uh LAY shun) a mutual relation between two or more things

The correlation between cigarette smoking and lung cancer has been established to the satisfaction of everyone except the manufacturers of cigarettes.

There is a strong correlation between the quality of a football team and the number of games that it wins in a season. That is, the quality of a football team and its number of victories are strongly correlated.

CORROSIVE adj (kuh ROH siv) eating away; destructive

Mary Ellen's chutney contained some corrosive ingredient that burned a hole in Jeremy's plate.

Large quantities of money have a corrosive effect on the morals of many people.

A corrosive substance is one that corrodes something else.

CORRUGATED adj (KAWR uh gay tud) shaped with folds or waves

Corrugated sheet metal is sheet metal that has been shaped so that it has ridges and valleys, like a ridged potato chip. Corduroy pants

could be said to be corrugated. Much of the paperboard used in making cardboard cartons is corrugated.

COTERIE n (KOH tuh ree) a group of close associates; a circle (of friends or associates)

The visiting poet-in-residence quickly developed a large coterie of student admirers, all of whom hoped that the visitor would be able to help them find publishers for their poems.

If you worth't a part of Mary's coterie, then you weren't anybody at all, in the opinion of Mary.

COWER v (KOW ur) to shrink away or huddle up in fear

The sound of her boss's footsteps in the hallway made Lizzie cower behind her desk like a wounded animal.

When Arnie turned on the lights, he found the children cowering behind the couch; the scary movie on TV had scared the wits out of them.

In the morning, the children found their new puppy cowering in the corner of his box, afraid of his new environment.

CRASS adj (kras) extremely unrefined; gross; stupid

Sending a get-well card to the man who had just died was a pretty

crass gesture, in the opinion of his widow.

The seventh-grade mixer was spoiled by the *crassness* of the seventh-grade boys, who shouted rude remarks at the girls and then ran off to hide in the restroom.

CRAVEN adi (KRAY vun) cowardly

The craven soldier turned his back on his wounded comrade and ran for the safety of the trenches.

Permitting all the town's children to be sold into slavery was the craven act of a craven mayor; it was no surprise that the townspeople decided not to reelect him.

The second-grade bully was full of bluster when the kindergartners were on the playground, but he became quite *craven* when the third graders came out for their recess.

CRESCENDO n (kruh SHEN doh) a gradual increase in the volume of a sound; a gradual increase in the intensity of anything

The concert ended with a stirring crescendo that began with a single note from a single violin and built up to a thunderous roar from every instrument in the orchestra.

The fund-raising campaign built slowly to a crescendo of giving that pushed the total well beyond the original goal.

CRESTFALLEN adj (KREST fawl un) dejected; dispirited

Your crest (krest) is the highest point of your body—your head. When your crest falls—when your head is drooping—you are dejected or dispirited. You are crestfallen.

The big red F on her science paper left Zoe crestfallen, until she realized that the F stood for Fantastic.

75

I was crestfallen when I opened my Christmas presents; all I got was underwear and socks.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #24

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

i. corporeai	1.	corporeal
--------------	----	-----------

2. correlation

3. corrosive

b. cowardlyc. mutual relation

a. eating away

4. corrugated

d. aradual increase in volume

5. coterie

e. tangible f. deiected

7. crass

g. extremely unrefined

8. craven

h. group of close associates

9. crescendo

i. shaped with folds

10. crestfallen

j. huddle in fear

CREVICE n (KREV us) a narrow split, crack, or fissure

The million-dollar bill I had found on the sidewalk fell into a crevice between the two buildings, and I never saw it again.

Anne had spent so much time in the sun that her skin had turned deep brown and become covered with *crevices*.

A very large crevice in a glacier on the earth's surface is usually called a crevasse (kruh VAS). The tiny crack in a rock face from which a mountain climber hangs by his fingernails is a crevice; the deep crack in a glacier into which a mountain climber falls, never to be seen again, is a crevasse.

CRINGE v (krinj) to shrink back with fear; to cower; to be servile or suck up in a horrible way

Alison cringed when the doctor came striding toward her with an enormous hypodermic needle in his hand.

The cringing jester eventually began to annoy the king; he told the jester either to stop fawning or to have his head cut off.

CRITIQUE n (kruh TEEK) a critical review

The reviewer's brutal critique of my latest book made me reluctant ever to pick up a pen again.

Lloyd liked to help out around the kitchen by offering concise critiques of nearly every move his wife made.

Critique can also be used as a verb. The art teacher critiqued the students' projects in front of the entire class, making some of the students feel utterly miserable.

CRUX n (kruks) the central point; the essence

The crux of an argument is the crucial part of it. Crux and crucial are related words.

Very often when you see this word, it will be followed by of the matter. The crux of the matter is the heart of the matter.

Building a lot of atom bombs and dropping them on the capital was the crux of the renegade general's plan to topple the existing govern-

CUISINE n (kwi ZEEN) a style of cookina

ment

Cuisine is the French word for kitchen and cooking. A restaurant advertising French cuisine is a restaurant that serves food prepared in a French style. A restaurant advertising Italian cuisine is slightly absurd, since cuisine is French not Italian, but this usage is very common and everyone understands it.

CULL v (kul) to pick out from among many; to select; to collect

The farmer culled the very best raspberries from his new crop and sold them for twenty-five cents apiece.

The poet *culled* a few of his favorite poems from among his collected works and had them printed in a special edition.

On the first day of school, the veteran teacher culled the troublemakers from her classroom and had them assigned to other teachers.

CURB v (kurb) to restrain or control

The best way I've found to *curb* my appetite is to eat a couple of pints of coffee ice cream; once I've done that, I'm not hungry anymore.

The scout leader did his best to curb the young scouts' natural tendency to beat up one another.

A curb is something that curbs. The curb on a street is a barrier that curbs cars from driving onto the sidewalk.

CURMUDGEON n (kur MUJ un) a difficult, bad-tempered person

Old age had turned kindly old Mr. Green into a curmudgeon; he never seemed to see anything that didn't displease him, and he always had something nasty to say to the people who came to visit.

The words old and curmudgeon often appear together. Sometimes this word is used affectionately, as when we refer to an elderly person who is humorously grumpy from the aches and pains of life. A curmudgeon can be said to be curmudgeonly.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

CURSORY adj (KUR suh ree) quick and unthorough; hasty; superficial Stan had a photographic memory; after giving the book just a cursory glance, he knew the entire thing by heart.

The painter prepared the exterior of the house in such a cursory manner before painting it that all of the new paint peeled off almost immediately.

The doctor was so *cursory* in his examination that he failed to notice the large tumor at the base of the patient's spine.

77

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #25

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

_	
1.	crevice

a. restrain

2. cringe

b. pick out from among many c. critical review

3. critique 4. crux

d. style of cooking

5. cuisine

e. shrink back with fear

6. cull

- f. central point g. narrow solit
- 7. curb 8. curmudaeon
- h. quick and unthorough

9. cursory

i. difficult, bad-tempered person

DEBASE v (di BAYS) to lower in quality or value; to degrade

To deprive a single person of his or her constitutional rights debases the liberty of us all.

The bishop debased his reputation by leaving the church and marrying a fourteen-year-old girl that he had met on the subway on New Year's Eve.

Soviet monetary policies had debased the national currency to such an extent that rubles were worth almost nothing outside the Soviet Union. The noun is debasement. See our listing for abase.

DEBUNK v (di BUNK) to expose the nonsense of

The reporter's careful exposé debunked the company's claim that it had not been dumping radioactive waste into the Hudson River.

Paul's reputation as a philanthropist was a towering lie just waiting to be debunked.

Bunk, by the way, is nonsense or meaningless talk.

DECREE n (di KREE) an official order, usually having the force of law The crazy king's latest decree forbade the wearing of hats and the eating of asparagus.

This word can also be a verb. To decree something is to declare it formally and officially. In a last-ditch attempt to win favor among wealthy voters, the president decreed that thenceforth only poor people would have to pay taxes.

DECRY v (di KRY) to put down; to denounce

The newspaper editorial decried efforts by the police chief to root out corruption in the police department, saying that the chief was himself corrupt and could not be trusted.

The environmental organization quickly issued a report decrying the large mining company's plan to reduce the entire mountain to rubble in its search for uranium.

Note carefully the meaning of this word.

DEEM v (deem) to judge; to consider

Mother deemed it unwise to lure the bear into the house by smearing honev on the front steps.

My paper was deemed to be inadequate by my teacher, and I was

given a failing grade. After taking but a single bite, Angus deemed the meal to be delectable.

DEFICIT n (DEF uh sit) a shortage, especially of money

The national deficit is the amount by which the nation's revenues

fall short of its expenditures.

Frank had forgotten to eat lunch; he made up the deficit at dinner by eating seconds of everything.

Unexpectedly large legal fees left the company with a deficit in its operating budget.

Deficit is related to the words deficiency and defect.

DEFILE v (di FYLE) to make filthy or foul; to desecrate

The snowy field was so beautiful that I hated to defile it by driving across it.

In the night, vandals defiled the painting behind the altar by covering it with spray paint.

DEFT adi (deft) skillful

The store detective was so deft in his capture of the shoplifter that none of the customers was aware of what was going on.

In one deft move, the shortstop scooped the ball out of the dirt and flipped it to the second baseman.

The acrobat deftly-caught his wife with one hand while hanging from the trapeze with the other.

DEFUNCT adj (di FUNKT) no longer in effect; no longer in existence

Most of the businesses in the oldest section of downtown were now defunct; the new shopping mall on the other side of the river had put them out of business.

My already limited interest in cutting my grass was just about defunct by the time the grass was actually ready to cut, so I never got around to doing it.

The long spell of extremely hot weather left my entire garden defunct.

Defunct is related to the word function.

DEGRADE v (di GRAYD) to lower in dignity or status; to corrupt; to deteriorate

Being made to perform menial duties at the behest of overbearing male senior partners clearly degrades the law firm's female associates.

79

The former bank president felt degraded to work as a teller, but he was unable to find any other job. The former bank president felt that working as a teller was degrading.

The secret potion had degraded over the years to the point where it was no longer capable of turning a person into a frog.

Degradation (deg ruh DAY shun) is the act of degrading or the state of being degraded

Note carefully the meaning and pronunciation of these words.

Q+U+I+C+K + Q+U+I+Z #26

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.	debase
2.	debunk
3.	decree
4	does

- a. iudge b. shortage
- decry
- c. official order d. expose the nonsense of

5. deem 6. deficit e. skillful

7. defile

f. make filthy a. dearade

8. deft 9. defunct

h. no longer in effect i. lower in dianity

10. degrade

i. denounce

DEIGN v (dayn) to condescend; to think it in accordance with one's dianity (to do something)

When I asked the prince whether he would be willing to lend me five bucks for the rest of the day, he did not deign to make a reply.

DEITY n (DEE uh tee) a god or goddess

Members of the ancient tribe believed that the big spruce tree in the middle of the forest was an angry deity that punished them by ruining crops and bringing bad weather.

Many of Elvis's fans view him as a deity; a few even believe that listening to his records can cure cancer.

To treat someone or something as a deity is to deify (DEE uh fy) it. Gloria deified money; the "almighty dollar" was her god.

DEJECTED v (di JEK tid) depressed; disheartened

Barney was dejected when he heard that Fred had gone to the lodge without him, but he cheered up later when Betty made him some brownies.

The members of the losing field-hockey team looked dejected; their heads were bowed, and they were dragging their sticks.

To be dejected is to be in a state of dejection (di JEK shun). Rejection often causes dejection.

DELECTABLE adi (di LEK tuh bul) deliahtful: delicious

Vince's success as a writer was made all the more delectable to him hy the failure of his closest rival.

The Christmas turkey looked delectable from a distance, but it was so dry and leathery that it was nearly impossible to eat.

DELINQUENT adi (di LING kwent) neglecting a duty or law; late in payment

The delinquent father failed to show up for visits with his children from his first marriage.

The city's motor vehicle bureau decided to impound the cars of drivers who had been delinquent in paying their traffic tickets.

The telephone company charges a late fee for customers who are delinquent in paying their bills.

Delinquent can also be a noun. A person who fails to pay his or her taxes is a tax delinquent and is subject to prosecution. A juvenile delinquent is a young person who habitually breaks the law.

DELVE v (delv) to search or study intensively

Delve originally meant to dig, and you occasionally find the word still used in this way. A miner might be said to delve the earth for ore. for example. (You're also probably familiar with a line from a wellknown nursery rhyme: "Eleven, twelve, dig and delve.") In its modern meaning, delve means to dig metaphorically. To delve into a subject is to dig deeply into it—not with a shovel, but with your mind.

Janice was afraid to delve into her childhood memories, because she was afraid of what she might remember.

DEMEANOR n (di MEE nur) behavior; manner

You could tell by Harold's demeanor that he was a jerk; he picked his nose two nostrils at a time, and he snorted loudly whenever he heard or saw something that he didn't like.

The substitute teacher was thrilled by the demeanor of the children until she realized that they had glued her to her seat.

Don't confuse this word with the verb to demean, or the adjective demeaning. To demean something is to lower its dignity or stature.

DEMISE n (di MYZE) death

Aunt Isabel was grief-stricken about the demise of her favorite rosebush; that plant was the only friend she had ever had.

Ever since the legislature had passed an income tax, Senator Jones had been working to bring about its demise.

Oscar's arrest for possession of cocaine led quickly to the demise of his law practice.

DEMOGRAPHY n (di MAHG ruh fee) the statistical study of characteristics of populations

Democracy is rule by the people. A graph is a written record or picture describing something. Demography is the study of characteristics shared by groups of people. When a magazine announces that 75 percent of its readers drink Scotch and that 53 percent of them earn

more than \$100,000 per year, it is referring to the results of a demographic (dem uh GRAF ik) study. The characteristics measured in such a study are referred to as the demographics of the group being studied. Computers have made it possible for companies to learn quite a bit about the demographics of their customers, such as how old they are, how much money they make, how many children they have, and what other products they buy. A person who studies demographics is a demographer (di MAHG ruh fur).

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

DEMUR v (di MUR) to object: to take exception

Billy demurred when I suggested that he run out into the middle of the railroad bridge and jump into the chasm just as a freight train was about to run into him.

Don't confuse this word with demure below.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #27

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. deign 2. deity

a. deliahtful b. death

3. dejected 4 delectable c. god or goddess d. take exception

5. delinauent

e. study of population characteristics

6. delve

f. depressed

7. demeanor 8. demise

a. search intensively h. behavior

9. demography

i. condescend

10. demur

i. neglecting a duty

DEMURE adi (di MYOOR) shy; reserved; sedate

Don't confuse this word with demur.

Jenna was a demure child; she sat quietly next to her mother with her hands folded in her lap.

DENOMINATION n (di nahm uh NAY shun) a classification; a category

Religious denominations are religious groups consisting of a number of related congregations. Episcopalians and Methodists represent two distinct Christian denominations.

Denomination is often used in connection with currency. When a bank robber demands bills in small denominations, he or she is demanding bills with low face values: ones, fives, and tens.

DENOTE v (di NOHT) to signify: to indicate; to mark Blue stains in the sink denote acidic water in the pipes. The doll's name-Baby Wet 'n' Mess-denotes exactly what it does.

DENOUNCE v (di NOWNS) to condemn

The president publicly denounced, but privately celebrated, the illegal activities of the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In order to avoid being sent to jail, the political prisoner denounced

the cause in which he believed.

An act of denouncing is a denunciation (di nun see AY shun).

DEPICT v (di PIKT) to porrray, especially in a picture; to describe The enormous mural depicted various incidents from the Bible.

The candidate's brochures accurately depicted his opponent as a wife beater and a child molester, but his television commercials were

distorted. The author's depiction (di PIK shun) of New York was not believable to anyone who has ever been to the city; for one thing, she described the Empire State Building as being seven stories tall.

DEPLETE v (di PLEET) to decrease the supply of; to exhaust; to use up After three years of careless spending, the young heir had depleted his inheritance to the point where he was very nearly in danger of

having to work for a living. He regretted this depletion. Irresponsible harvesting has seriously depleted the nation's stock

of old-growth trees.

Illness has depleted Mary's strength; her muscles have wasted away.

Replete means very full. The noun is repletion. Harold's stomach was replete after consuming eleven pints of chocolate-chip ice cream.

DEPLORE v (di PLAWR) to regret; to condemn; to lament

I deplore the use of cattle prods to discipline unruly kindergartners, and I intend to work toward their elimination.

Deploring waste is one thing; actually learning to be less wasteful is another.

Maria claimed to deplore the commercialization of Christmas, but she did put a huge, illuminated plastic Santa Claus in her front yard, and she did spend several thousand dollars on Christmas presents for each of her children.

DEPLOY v (di PLOY) to station soldiers or armaments strategically; to arrange strategically

The Soviet soldiers were deployed along the border of Afghanistan,

ready to attack.

The United States has nuclear missiles deployed all over Western

At the banquet, the hostess deployed her army of waiters around the garden, hoping that none of the guests would have to wait more than a few seconds to receive a full glass of champagne.

DEPOSE v (di POHZ) to remove from office or position of power

The disgruntled generals deposed the king, then took him out to the courtyard and shot him.

DEPREDATE v (DEP ruh dayt) to prey upon; to plunder

A predator is someone who preys on others. To depredate is to take what belongs to others, by violence if necessary.

The greedy broker depredated his elderly clients, stealing many millions of dollars before he was finally caught and sent to jail.

An act or instance of depredating is a depredation (dep ruh DAY shun) or predation (pri DAY shun).

Despite the frequent depredations of the enemy soldiers, the villagers rebuilt their homes and went on with their lives.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #28

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.	demure
----	--------

- a. decrease the supply of
- 2. denomination
- b. condemn

3. denote

c. arrange strategically

- 4. denounce
- d. classification

depict

e. prey upon

6. deplete 7. deplore f. portray

8. deploy

g. signify
h. remove from office

9. depose

- i. shy
- 10. depredate
- j. lament

DERELICT adj (DER uh likt) neglectful; delinquent; deserted; abandoned

The crack-addicted mother was derelict in her duty to her children;
they were running around on the city streets in filthy clothes.

The broken shutters on the *derelict* house banged back and forth in the wind, confirming the children's suspicion that it was haunted.

Navigation was made difficult by the rotting hulls of the *derelict* ships that were scattered around the bay.

Derelict can also be a noun. The only car in sight was a rusty derelict that had been stripped to its chassis by vandals.

DESIST v (di ZIST) to stop doing (something)

Marty took a hammer and began hitting Suzanne over the head with it; Suzanne asked Marty to desist.

The judge issued a cease-and-desist order that forbade Mr. Jones to paint obscene words on the garage door of his neighbor's house.

For several hours, I desisted from eating any of the pumpkin pie, but then I weakened and ate three pieces.

DEVOUT adi (di VOWT) deeply religious; fervent

Mary was such a devout Catholic that she decided to become a nun and spend the rest of her life in a convent.

Bill is a devout procrastinator; he never does anything today that he can put off until tomorrow—or, better yet, the day after that.

Devout is related to devoted. Someone who is devoted to something is a devotee.

DIATRIBE n (DYE uh trybe) a bitter, abusive denunciation

Arnold's review of Norman Mailer's new book rapidly turned into a diatribe against Mailer's writing.

The essay was more of a diatribe than a critique; you could almost hear the sputtering of the author as you read it.

DICHOTOMY n (dye KAHT uh mee) division into two parts, especially contradictory ones

There has always been a dichotomy between what Harry says and what he does; he says one thing and does the other.

Linda could never resolve the dichotomy between her desire to help other people and her desire to make lots and lots of money, so she decided just to make lots and lots of money.

DIFFUSE v (di FYOOZ) to cause to spread out; to cause to disperse; to disseminate

The tear gas diffused across the campus; students as far away as the

library reported that their eyes were stinging.

If something is spread out, it is diffuse (di FYOOS). Resistance to the proposition was so diffuse that the opposition movement was never able to develop any momentum.

The noun is diffusion.

DILAPIDATED adj (di LAP uh day tid) broken-down; fallen into ruin

This word comes from a Latin word meaning to pelt with stones. A

dilapidated house is one that is in such a state of ruin that it appears
to have been attacked or pelted with stones.

Our car was so dilapidated that you could see the pavement whizzing past through the big holes in the rusty floor.

DILATE v (dye LAYT) to make larger; to become larger; to speak or write at length

Before examining my eyes, the doctor gave me some eyedrops that dilated my pupils.

The pores in the skin become dilated in hot weather, in order to cool

the skin.

The evening speaker dilated on his subject for so long that most of the people in the audience fell asleep.

The noun is dilation.

DILEMMA n (di LEM uh) a situation in which one must choose between two equally attractive choices; any problem or predicament

Dilemma comes from Greek words meaning double proposition. In

85

careful usage, the word retains this sense and is used only when the choice is between two things. In less formal usage, though, the word is used to mean any problem or predicament.

If you are stuck on the "horns of a dilemma," you are having trouble choosing between two equally attractive choices.

Freddy wanted both a new car and a new boat, but had only enough money to buy one of them; he solved his *dilemma* by buying the car and charging the boat.

The mayor's current dilemma was how to solve the city's worsening budget problems.

DIMINUTION n (di muh NOO shun) the act or process of diminishing; reduction

The process was so gradual that Larry didn't notice the diminution of his eyesight; it seemed to him that he had simply woken up blind one morning.

The diminution of the value of savings means that I am not as wealthy as I used to be.

Diminutive (di MIN yoo tiv) means very small. The giant's wife was surprisingly diminutive; when she stood beside her husband, she looked like his child.

Note carefully the spelling and pronunciation of this word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #29

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. derelict

a. division into two parts

desist
 devout

b. cause to spread out c. stop doing

3. devout
4. diatribe

d. reduction

5. dichotomy

e. predicament

6. diffuse

f. deeply religious

7. dilapidated
 8. dilate

g. make larger

9. dilemma

h. broken-dow i. neglectful

10. diminution

i. bitter denunciation

DIRE adj (dye ur) disastrous; desperate

The tornado struck the center of town, with *dire* results; nearly every building was flattened, and all the beer poured into the streets.

The family's situation was quite dire; they had no clothes, no food, and no shelter.

DIRGE n (duri) a funeral song

A dirge is a mournful song played at your funeral with the intention of making everyone who knew you feel terribly, terribly sad. A dirgelike song is a song so gloomy that it sounds as though it ought to be played at a funeral.

DISAFFECT v (dis uh FEKT) to cause to lose affection; to estrange; to alienate

With years of nitpicking, pestering, and faultfinding, Mary disaffected her children.

My student's nasty comments did not disaffect me; I gave them all F's anyway, to show them that I loved them.

Disaffection (dis uh FEC shun) is the loss of affection—easy to remember.

To be disaffected is to be no longer content or no longer loyal. The assassination attempt was made by a disaffected civil servant who felt that the government had ruined his life.

Note carefully the meaning of this word.

DISARRAY n (dis uh RAY) disorder; confusion

An array is an orderly arrangement of objects or people. Disarray is the breakdown of that order.

My children played in my office for several hours yesterday, and they left the place in disarray, with papers and supplies scattered

The entire company had been in *disarray* ever since federal officers had arrested most of the vice presidents.

Disarray can also be a verb. To disarray something is to throw it into disarray. The intermittent artillery bombardment disarrayed the soldiers, making it impossible for them to make an organized counterattack.

DISCLAIM v (dis KLAYM) to deny any claim to; to renounce

The mayor publicly disclaimed any personal interest in his brother's concrete company, even though the mayor was a major stockholder.

A disclaimer (dis KLAY mur) is an act or statement that disclaims. An advertisement that makes a bold claim in large type ("Cures cancer!") will often also make a meek disclaimer in tiny type ("Except in living things") in order to keep it from violating truth-in-advertising laws.

DISCOMFIT v (dis KUM fit) to frustrate; to confuse

I was discomfited by my secretary's apparent inability to type, write a grammatical sentence, answer the telephone, or recite the alphabet; in fact, I began to think that he might not be fully qualified for the job.

To discomfit is not the same as to discomfort (dis KUM furt), which means to make uncomfortable or to make uneasy, although the two words are used more or less interchangeably by many, many people.

DISCONCERT v (dis kun SERT) to upset; to ruffle; to perturb

The jet's engine was making a disconcerting sound that reminded me of the sound of an old boot bouncing around inside a clothes dryer; I was worried that we were going to crash.

Professor Jones used to disconcert his students by scrunching up his face and plugging his ears when one of them would begin to say something.

The boos of the audience did not disconcert Bob; he droned on with his endless, boring speech regardless.

DISCOURSE n (DIS kawrs) spoken or written expression in words; conversation

The level of *discourse* inside the dining hall was surprisingly high; the students were discussing not drugs or sex but philosophy.

The company's imposing president was not one for discourse; when he opened his mouth, it was to issue a command.

There is no discourse in American society anymore; there is only television.

See our listing for discursive.

DISCREPANCY n (dis KREP un see) difference; inconsistency

There was a slight discrepancy between the amount of money that was supposed to be in the account and the amount of money that actually was; gradually the accountant concluded that Harry had stolen seven million dollars.

I asked my children to ignore any discrepancy between what I say and what I do.

The adjective is discrepant (dis KREP unt).

DISCURSIVE adj (dis KUR siv) rambling from one topic to another, usually aimlessly

Betty is an extremely discursive writer; she can't write about one thing without being reminded of another, and she can't write about that without being reminded of something else altogether.

My mother's letter was long and discursive; if she had a point, she never got to it.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #30

Match each word in the first column with its Jefinition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. dire
- 2. dirae
- 3. disaffect
- 5. disclaim
 6. discomfit
- 7. disconcert
- 9. discourse
- 10. discursive

- a. renounce
- b. cause to lose affection
- c. perturb
- d. frustrate e. disorder
- f. difference
- a. funeral sona
- h. aimlessly rombling
- i. conversation
- i. disastrous

DISGRUNTLE v (dis GRUN tul) to make sulky and dissatisfied; to discontent

Eileen had such a nasty disposition that she tended to disgruntle anyone who worked for her.

The adjective disgruntled means discontented or dissatisfied.

The children were disgruntled by the lumps of coal in their Christmas stockings.

The rotten eggs on Alice's doorstep were placed there by a disgruntled former employee.

DISINFORMATION *n* (dis in fer MAY shun) false information purposely disseminated, usually by a government, for the purpose of creating a false impression

The CIA conducted a disinformation campaign in which it tried to persuade the people of Cuba that Fidel Castro was really a woman.

The government hoped to weaken the revolutionary movement by leaking disinformation about it to the local press.

DISMAL adj (DIZ mul) dreary; causing gloom; causing dread

The weather has been dismal ever since our vacation began; a cold wind has been blowing, and it has rained almost every day.

The new television show received dismal ratings and was canceled before its third episode had aired.

The view from the top of the hill was dismal; every house in the valley had been destroyed by the flood.

DISMAY v (dis MAY) to fill with dread; to discourage greatly; to perturb

The carnage in the field dismayed the soldiers, and they stood frozen in their steps.

Peter dismayed his children by criticizing nearly everything they did and never finding anything nice to say about their schoolwork.

89

The new police officer has a dismaying tendency to help himself to the money in the cash registers of the stores on his beat.

As a noun, dismay means dread, anxiety, or sudden disappointment,

DISPASSIONATE adi (dis PASH uh nut) unaffected by passion; impartial: calm

Impassioned (im PASH und) means passionate, emotional, all worked up. To be dispassionate is to be cool and objective, to not let judgment be affected by emotions.

The prosecutor's dispassionate enumeration of the defendant's terrible crimes had a far more devastating effect on the jury than a passionate, highly emotional speech would have had. The judge had no interest in either side of the dispute: she was a dispassionate

Larry's dispassionate manner often fooled people into thinking he did not care.

Impassive (im PAS iv) is a related word that means revealing no emotions, or expressionless.

Note carefully the spelling and pronunciation of these words.

DISPERSE v (dis PURS) to scatter; to spread widely; to disseminate

The crowd dispersed after the chief of police announced that he would order his officers to open fire if everyone didn't go home.

Engineers from the oil company tried to use chemical solvents to disperse the oil slick formed when the tanker ran aground on the reef and split in two.

When the seed pod of a milkweed plant dries and breaks apart, the wind disperses the seeds inside, and new milkweed plants sprout all over the countryside.

An act of dispersing is called dispersion (dis PUR zhun). The fluffy part of a milkweed seed facilitates its dispersion by the wind.

DISPIRIT v (dis PIR ut) to discourage; to dishearten; to lose spirit

The coach tried not to let the team's one thousandth consecutive defeat dispirit him, but somehow he couldn't help but feel discouraged.

The campers looked tired and dispirited; it had rained all night and their sleeping bags had all washed away.

DISPOSITION n (dis puh ZISH un) characteristic attitude; state of mind; inclination; arrangement

Mary Lou had always had a sweet disposition: even when she was a baby, she smiled almost constantly and never complained.

My natural disposition is to play golf all the time and not care about anything or anyone else. I am disposed (dis POHZD) to play golf all the time.

The seemingly random disposition of buildings on the campus suggested that no one had given much thought to how the campus ought to be laid out.

Predisposition is an attitude or state of mind beforehand. The heavy-metal music of the warm-up band the Snakeheads did not favorably predispose the audience to enjoy the Barry Manilow con-

DISPROPORTIONATE adi (dis pruh PAWR shuh nut) out of proportion; too much or too little

Linda's division of the candy was disproportionate; she gave herself more than she gave me.

My mother seemed to be devoting a disproportionate amount of her attention to my brother, so I sat down in the middle of the kitchen floor and began to scream my head off.

The opposite of disproportionate is proportionate.

DISQUIET v (dis KWYE ut) to make uneasy

Sam's pulling a gun and pointing it at my head disquieted me. to say the least.

The movie's graphic depiction of childbirth disquieted the children, who had been expecting a story about a stork.

The silence in the boss's office was disquieting; everyone was afraid that it was the calm before the storm.

Disquiet can also be used as a noun meaning unease or nervous-

Note carefully the meaning of this word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #31

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. disaruntle

2. disinformation 3. dismal

4. dismay

dispassionate

6. disperse

7. dispirit 8. disposition

9. disproportionate

10. disquiet

a. scatter

b. impartial

c. dreary

d. discourage

e. false information purposely disseminated

f. characteristic attitude

a. out of proportion

h. make sulky i. fill with dread

i. make uneasy

DISSEMBLE v (di SEM bul) to conceal the real nature of; to act or speak falsely in order to deceive

Anne successfully dissembled her hatred for Beth; in fact, Beth viewed Anne as her best friend.

When asked by young children about Santa Claus, parents are allowed to dissemble.

To dissemble is not the same thing as to disassemble, which means to take apart.

Note carefully the spelling, meaning, and pronunciation of this word.

DISSENT v (di SENT) to disagree; to withhold approval

The chief justice dissented from the opinion signed by the other justices; in fact, he thought their opinion was crazy.

Jim and Bob say I'm a jerk; I dissent.

A person who dissents is a dissenter. The meeting had lasted so long that when I moved that it be adjourned, there were no dissenters.

Dissent can also be a noun. The dissent of a single board member was enough to overturn any proposal; every board member had absolute veto power.

Dissent is related to the words consent and assent (which mean agreement).

DISSERVICE n (di SUR vus) a harmful action; an ill turn

Inez did a disservice to her parents by informing the police that they were growing marijuana in their garden.

The reviewer did a grave disservice to the author by inaccurately describing what his book was about.

Note carefully the meaning of this word.

DISSIDENT n (DIS uh dunt) a person who disagrees or dissents

The old Soviet regime usually responded to dissidents by imprisoning them.

The plan to build a nuclear power plant in town was put on hold by a group of *dissidents* who lay down in the road in front of the bulldozers.

Dissident can also be an adjective. A dissident writer is a writer who is a dissident

DISSUADE v (di SWAYD) to persuade not to

Dissuade is the opposite of persuade.

The 100 degree heat and the 100 percent relative humidity did not dissuade me from playing tennis all afternoon.

Mary and Alice tried to dissuade Andrew from jumping off the bridge, but they were unsuccessful and Andrew jumped.

Dissuasion (di SWAY zhun) is the opposite of persuasion. Gentle dissuasion is usually more effective than hitting over the head with a two-by-four.

DISTINCT adj (di STINKT) separate; different; clear and unmistakable

The professor was able to identify eleven distinct species of ant in
the corner of his backyard.

The twins were identical, but the personality of each was distinct from that of the other.

The bloody ax in Bert's hand gave me the distinct impression that he had been up to no good.

To make a distinction (di STINK shun) between two things is to notice what makes each of them distinct from the other.

A distinction can also be a distinguishing characteristic. Alan, Alex, and Albert had the distinction of being the only triplets in the entire school system.

The opposite of distinct is indistinct.

DIURNAL adj (dye UR nul) accurring every day; occurring during the daytime

The rising of the sun is a diurnal occurrence; it happens every day. Diurnal is the opposite of nocturnal. A nocturnal animal is one that is active primarily during the night; a diurnal animal is one that is active primarily during the day.

DIVINE v (di VYNE) to intuit; to prophesy

I used all of my best mind-reading skills, but I could not divine what Lester was thinking.

The law firm made a great deal of money helping its clients divine the meaning of obscure federal regulations.

The act of divining is called divination. Note carefully the usage of this word.

DIVULGE v (di VULJ) to reveal, especially to reveal something that has been a secret

The secret agent had to promise not to divulge the contents of the government files, but the information in the files was so fascinating that he told everyone he knew.

We begged and pleaded, but we couldn't persuade Lester to divulge the secret of his chocolate-chip cookies.

DOCUMENT v (DOK yuh ment) to support with evidence, especially written evidence

The first documented use of the invention occurred in 1978, according to the encyclopedia.

Arnold documented his record-breaking car trip around the world by taking a photograph of himself and his car every hundred miles.

The scientist made a lot of headlines by announcing that he had been taken aboard a flying saucer, but he was unable to document his claim, and his colleagues didn't believe him.

Note carefully the usage of this word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #32

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- dissemble
 dissent
 dissert
 disservice
 dissident
 dissuade
 dissident
 dissuade
 distinct
 distin
- 7. diurnal g. persuade not to
 8. divine h. occurring every day
 9. divulge i. harmful action
- 10. document j. separate

9

DOLDRUMS n (DOHL drumz) low spirits; a state of inactivity

This word is plural in form, but it takes a singular verb. In addition, it is almost always preceded by the.

To sailors, the *doldrums* is an ocean area near the equator where there is very little wind. A sailing ship in the *doldrums* is likely to be moving very slowly or not moving at all.

To the rest of us, the doldrums is a state of mind comparable to that frustratingly calm weather near the equator.

Meredith has been in the doldrums ever since her pet bees flew away; she mopes around the house and never wants to do anything.

DOLEFUL adj (DOHL ful) sorrowful; filled with grief

A long, doleful procession followed the horse-drawn hearse as it wound slowly through the village.

Aunt Gladys said she loved the pencil holder that her niece had made her for Christmas, but the *doleful* expression on her face told a different story.

An essentially interchangeable word is *dolorous* (DOHL ur us).

DOLT n (dohlt) a stupid person; a dunce

"Dolts and idiots," said Mrs. Anderson when her husband asked her to describe her new students.

The farmer's doltish (DOHL tish) son rode the cows and milked the horses.

DOTAGE n (DOH tii) senility; foolish affection

To dote (doht) on something is to be foolishly or excessively affectionate toward it. For some reason, very old people are thought to be especially prone to doing this. That's why dotage almost always applies to very old people.

My grandmother is in her dotage; she spends all day in bed watching soap operas and combing the hair on an old doll she had as a little girl.

A senile person is sometimes called a dotard (DOH turd).

DOUBLE ENTENDRE in (DUH but awn TAWN druh) a word or phrase having a double meaning, especially when the second meaning is risqué

The class president's speech was filled with double entendres that only the students understood; the teachers were left to scratch their heads as the students rolled on the floor.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this French expression.

DOUR adj (door) forbidding; severe; gloomy

The Latin teacher was a dour old man who never had a kind word for anyone, even in Latin.

The police officer dourly insisted on giving me a speeding ticket, even though I had been driving scarcely more than twice the posted limit.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

DOWNCAST adj (DOWN kast) directed downward; dejected; depressed

The children's downcast faces indicated that the children were sad
that Santa Claus had brought them nothing for Christmas.

The entire audience seemed downcast by the end of the depressing movie.

My six-week struggle with the flu had left me feeling downcast and

DOWNPLAY v (DOWN play) to minimize; to represent as being insignificant; to play down

The doctor had tried hard to downplay the risks involved in the operation, but Harry knew that having his head replaced was not minor surgery.

The parents tried to downplay Christmas a little bit because their daughter was very young and they didn't want her to become so excited that she wouldn't be able to sleep.

The hero downplayed his role in rescuing the children, but everyone knew what he had done.

DRACONIAN adj (dray KOH nee un) harsh; severe; cruel

This word is very often capitalized. It is derived from the name of Draco, an Athenian official who created a notoriously harsh code of laws. Because of this history, the word is most often used to describe laws, rules, punishments, and so forth.

Locking the children in a dungeon for eleven years was a slightly draconian punishment, considering that all they had done was take a few cookies from the cookie jar.

The judge was known for handing down draconian sentences; he had once sentenced a shoplifter to life in prison without parole.

Mrs. Jefferson is a draconian grader; her favorite grade is D, and she has never given an A in her entire life.

DROLL adj (drohl) humorous; amusing in an odd, often understated, way

This word is slightly stilted, and it is not a perfect substitute for
funny in every situation. The Three Stooges, for example, are not
droll.

The children entertained the dinner guests with a droll rendition of their parents' style of arguing.

The speaker's attempts to be *droll* were met with a chilly silence from the audience.

DROSS n (drahs) worthless stuff, especially worthless stuff arising trom the production of valuable stuff

In metal smelting, the *dross* is the crud floating on top of the metal once it is molten. Outside of this precise technical meaning, the word is used figuratively to describe any comparably worthless stuff.

Hilary's new novel contains three or four good paragraphs; the rest is dross.

The living room was filled with the *dross* of Christmas: mounds of wrapping paper and ribbon, empty boxes, toys that no one would ever play with.

DURESS n (dyoo RES) coercion; compulsion by force or threat This word is very often preceded by under.

95

Mrs. Maloney was under duress when she bought her son a candy bar; the nasty little boy was screaming and crying and threatening to pull down his pants if she didn't.

The court determined that the old man had been under duress when he signed his new will, in which he left all his money to his lawyer; in fact, the court determined that the lawyer had held a gun to the old man's head while he signed it.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-7 #33

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

 doldrums 	1.	doldrums
------------------------------	----	----------

- a. forbidding
- 2 doleful

b. humorous

3. dolt

- c. senility
- dotage
 double entendre
- d. double meaning

5. double

e. stupid person

6. dour

e. siupia pi f. harsh

- 7. downcast
- g. worthless stuff
- 8. downplay
- h. coercion
- 9. draconian
- i. minimize

10. droll

i. sorrowful

11. dross 12. duress

k. low spirits
l. dejected

E

EBB v (eb) to diminish; ta recede

Ebb comes from an old word meaning low tide, and it is still used in this way. When a tide ebbs, it pulls back or goes down.

Other things can ebb, too. My interest ebbed quickly when my date began to describe the joys of stamp collecting.

The team's enthusiasm for the game ebbed as the other team ran up the score.

The opposite of *ebb* is flood or flow. On a typical trading day, the Dow Jones Industrial Average *ebbs* and flows in a seemingly haphazard way.

ECCLESIASTICAL adj (i klee zee AS ti kul) having to do with the church
The priest had few ecclesiastical duties, because he had neither a
church nor a congregation.

At the New Year's Eve party, the visiting bishop engaged in some highly unecclesiastical behavior, including dancing on the piano.

The large steeple rising from the roof gave the new house an oddly ecclesiastical feel.

ECLIPSE v (i KLIPS) to block the light of; to overshadow; to reduce the significance of: to surpass

In an eclipse of the moon, the sun, earth, and moon are arranged in such a way that the earth prevents the light of the sun from falling on the moon. In an eclipse of the sun, the moon passes directly between the earth and the sun, preventing the light of the sun from falling on the earth. In the first instance, the earth is said to eclipse the moon; in the second instance, the moon is said to eclipse the sun.

This word can also be used figuratively. Lois's fame eclipsed that of her brother. Louis, who made fewer movies and was a worse actor.

The spelling team's glorious victory in the state spelling championship was eclipsed by the arrest of the team's captain on charges of possessing cocaine.

ECOSYSTEM *n* (EK oh sis tum) a community of organisms and the physical environment in which they live

The big muddy swamp is a complex ecosystem in which the fate of each species is inextricably linked with the fate of many others.

Ecology is the science of the relationships between organisms and their environment. The adjective is ecological (EK uh lahj i kul).

Note carefully the various pronunciations of these words (the first syllable can also be pronounced as "ee" instead of "ek").

EDICT n (EE dikt) an official decree

The new king celebrated his rise to power by issuing hundreds of edicts governing everything from curbside parking to the wearing of hats.

By presidential edict, all government offices were closed for the holiday.

EDIFICE n (ED uh fis) a big, imposing building

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens had originally intended to build a comfortable little cottage in which to spend their golden years, but one thing led to another and they ended up building a sprawling edifice that dwarfed all other structures in the area.

An architect who designs massive or grandiose buildings is sometimes said to have an "edifice complex." Get it?

EFFECTUAL adj (i FEK choo ul) effective; adequate

Polly is an *effectual* teacher, but she is not a masterful one; her students come away from her class with a solid understanding of the subject but with little else.

Even with all her years of experience, Mrs. Jones had not yet hit on an *effectual* method of getting her children to go to bed.

Something that is not effectual is ineffectual (IN i fek choo ul). The plumber tried several techniques for stopping a leak, all of them ineffectual.

97

EFFICACY n (EF i kuh see) effectiveness

Federal law requires manufacturers to demonstrate both the safety and the efficacy of new drugs. The manufacturers must prove that the new drugs are efficacious (ef i KAY shus).

EFFIGY n (EF uh jee) a likeness of someone, especially one used in expressing hatred for the person of whom it is a likeness

The company's founder had been dead for many years, but the employees still passed under his gaze, because his effigy had been carved in the side of the building.

The members of the senior class hanged the principal in effigy; they made a dummy out of some old burlap bags and strung it up in the tree beside the parking lot.

ELATION n (i LAY shun) a feeling of great joy

A tide of *elation* swept over the crowd as the clock ticked down to zero and it became clear that the college's team really had made it to the quarterfinals of the countywide tiddlywinks competition.

Harry's brother's elation at having defeated him in the golf match was almost more than Harry could bear.

•To feel elation is to be *elated*. To cause to feel *elated* is to *elate*. After rowing across the Pacific Ocean in a bathtub, I felt positively *elated*.

Q•U•I•C•K • Q•U•I•Z #34

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. ebb
- 2. ecclesiastical
- 3. eclipse
- 4. ecosystem
- 5. edict
- 6. edifice.
- 7. effectual
- 8. efficacy
- 9. effigy
- 10. elation

- a. official decree
- b. feeling of great joy
- c. having to do with the church
- d. bia. imposina buildina
- a. big, imposing build
- e. likeness of someone
- f. surpass
- a. effective
- h. effectiveness
- i. diminish
- j. organisms and their environment

ELECTORATE *n* (i LEK tuh rut) the body of people entitled to vote in an election: the voters

In order to be elected, a candidate usually has to make a lot of wild, irresponsible promises to the *electorate*.

The losing candidate attributed her loss not to any fault in herself but to the fickleness of the *electorate*.

The adjective is electoral (i LEK tuh rul).

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ELEGY n (EL uh jee) a mournful poem or other piece of writing; a mournful piece of music

Most critics agreed that Stan's best poem was an elegy he wrote following the death of his pet pigeon.

My new book is an *elegy* to the good old days—the days before everything became so terrible.

An elegy is elegiac (el i JYE uk). The little article in the newspaper about Frank's retirement had an elegiac tone that Frank found disconcerting.

ELITE n (i LEET) the best or most select group

Alison is a member of bowling's elite; she bowls like a champion with both her right hand and her left.

As captain of the football team, Bobby was part of the high school's elite, and he never let you forget it.

This word can also be an adjective. The presidential palace was defended by an *elite* corps of soldiers known to be loyal to the president.

To be an *elitist* (i LEET ust) is to be a snob; to be *elitist* is to be snobby.

ELOCUTION n (el uh KYOO shun) the art of public speaking

The mayor was long on *elocution* but short on execution; he was better at making promises than at carrying them out.

Professor Jefferson might have become president of the university if he had had even rudimentary skills of elocution.

In elocution class, Father Ficks learned not to yell "SHADDDUPPP" when he heard whispering in the congregation.

A locution (loh KYOO shun) is a particular word or phrase. Someone who speaks well is eloquent (EL uh kwent).

EMACIATE v (i MAY shee ayt) to make extremely thin through starvation or illness

A dozen years in a foreign prison had *emaciated* poor old George, who had once weighed more than three hundred pounds but now weighed less than ninety.

Sylvia thought she looked slender and beautiful, but she really looked *emaciated*; you could see her ribs poking right through her T-shirt.

The act of *emaciating* is called *emaciation* (i may shee AY shun). The saddest thing to see in the refugee camp was the *emaciation* of the children, some of whom had not had a real meal in many weeks.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

EMANATE v (EM uh navt) to come forth; to issue

Contradictory orders emanated from many offices in the government building, leaving the distinct impression that no one was in charge.

The dreadful sound *emanating* from the house up the street turned out to be not that of a cat being strangled but that of a violin being played by someone who didn't know how to play it.

Something that emanates is an emanation (em uh NAY shun). The mystic claimed to be receiving mental emanations from the ghost of Alexander's long-dead aunt.

EMANCIPATE v (i MAN suh payt) to liberate; to free from bondage or restraint

Refrigerators, microwave ovens, and automatic dishwashers have emancipated modern homemakers from much of the drudgery of meal preparation and cleanup.

My personal computer has *emancipated* me from my office; I am now able to work out of my home.

The noun is emancipation (i man suh PAY shun).

President Lincoln announced that he had emancipated the slaves in his Emancipation Proclamation.

EMBARGO n (em BAHR goh) a government order suspending foreign trade; a government order suspending the movement of freight-carrying ships in and out of the country's ports

For several months before the Gulf War, the United Nations tried to persuade Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait by imposing an embargo on all exports to Iraq.

For many years, there has been an embargo in the United States on cigars produced in Cuba; to buy Cuban cigars, one could travel to a country where the importation of Cuban cigars is not illegal.

Jerry imposed a household embargo on rented movies; for the next six months, he said, no rented movies would be allowed in the house.

EMBELLISH v (im BEL ish) to adorn; to beautify by adding ornaments; to add fanciful or fictitious details to

A belle is a beautiful young woman. To embellish is to make beautiful or to adorn. Note that the word can have negative connotations, as when a person adds false facts to a story.

Cynthia embellished her plain white wedding gown by gluing colorful bits of paper to it.

Hugh could never leave well enough alone; when he told a story, he liked to *embellish* it with facts that he had made up.

Edward was guilty of *embellishing* his résumé by adding a college degree that he had not earned and a great deal of job experience that he had not had.

EMBODY v (em BAH dee) to personify; to give physical form to

Kindly old Mr. Benson perfectly embodied the loving philosophy that he taught.

The members of the club were a bunch of scoundrels who came nowhere near *embodying* the principles upon which their club had been founded.

The noun is embodiment.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #35

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. electorate
- 2. elegy
- 3. elite
 4. elocution
- 5. emaciate
- 6. emanate
 7. emancipate
- 7. Emancipate
 8. embargo
- 9. embellish
- . 10. embody

- a. art of public speaking
- b. body of voters
- c. government order suspending trade
- d. adorn
- e. personify
- f. mournful poem
- g. liberate
- h. most select group
- i. make extremely thin
- i. come forth

EMBROIL v (im BROYL) to involve in conflict; to throw into disorder For the last twenty years, Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been *embroiled*

in a legal battle with the city over the camels in their backyard.

Fighting and shouting embroiled the classroom, leading the teacher

to jump out the window.

An imbroglio (im BROHL yoh) is a confused, difficult, or embarrassing situation.

EMBRYONIC adj (em bree AHN ik) undeveloped; rudimentary

An embryo (EM bree oh) is any unborn animal or unformed plant that is in the very earliest stages of development. Embryonic can be used to describe such an undeveloped organism, but it also has a broader meaning.

The plans for the new building are pretty embryonic at this point; in fact, they consist of a single sketch on the back of a cocktail napkin.

Our fund-raising campaign has passed the *embryonic* stage, but it still hasn't officially gotten under way.

EMISSARY n (EM uh ser ee) a messenger or representative sent to represent another

To emit is to send out. An emission is something sent out. An emissary is a person sent out as a messenger or representative.

The king was unable to attend the wedding, but he sent an emissary: his brother.

The surrender of the defeated country was negotiated by emissaries from the two warring sides.

The company's president couldn't stand to fire an employee two days before his pension would have taken effect, so he sent an emissary to do it instead.

101

EMPATHY in (EM pub thee) identification with the feelings or thoughts of another

Shannon felt a great deal of empathy for Bill's suffering; she knew just how he felt.

To feel empathy is to empathize (EM puh thyze). It is also to be empathic (em PATH ik). Harry's tendency to empathize with creeps may arise from the fact that Harry himself is a creep.

This word is sometimes confused with sympathy, which is compassion or shared feeling, and anathy (AP uh thee), which means indifference or lack of feeling.

EMPOWER v (im POW ur) to give power or authority to: to enable

The city council empowered the dog catcher to do whatever he wanted to with the dogs he caught.

In several states, legislatures have empowered notaries to perform marriages.

The sheriff formed a posse and empowered it to arrest the fugitive.

ENDEAR v (in DIR) to make dear; to make beloved

Mery endeared himself to Oprah by sending her a nice big box of chocolates on her birthday.

I did not endear myself to my teacher when I put thumbtacks on the seat of her chair.

Edgar has the endearing (in DIR ing) habit of giving hundreddollar bills to people he meets.

An endearment (in DIR munt) is an expression of affection.

"My little pumpkin" is the endearment Arnold Schwarzenegger's mother uses for her little boy.

ENGAGING adi (in GAY jing) charming; pleasing; attractive

Susan was an engaging dinner companion; she was lively and funny and utterly charming.

The book I was reading wasn't terribly engaging; in fact, it was one of those books that is hard to pick up.

ENMITY n (EN muh tee) deep hatred; animosity; ill will

Enmity is what enemies feel toward each other.

The enmity between George and Ed was so strong that the two of them could not be in a room together.

There was long-standing enmity between students at the college and residents of the town.

ENNUL n (AHN wee) boredom; listless lack of interest

Ennui is the French word for boredom. Studying French vocabulary words fills some people with ennui.

The children were excited to open their Christmas presents, but within a few hours an air of ennui had settled on the house, and the children were sprawled on the living-room floor, wishing vaguely that they had something interesting to do.

The playwright's only real talent was for engendering ennui in the audiences of his plays.

Note confully the pronunciation of this word

ENSUE v (in SOO) to follow immediately afterward; to result Janet called Debbie a liar, and a screaming fight ensued. I tried to talk my professor into changing my D into an A, but nothing ensued from our conversation.

THE WORDS

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #36

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. embroil
- 2. embryonic
- 3 emissary 4. empathy
- 5. empower
- 6 endear 7. engaging
- 8. enmity
- 9. ennui 10. ensue

- a. charmina
- b. messenger or representative
- c. make dear
- d. involve in conflict
- e. identification with feelings
- f. boredom
- a. undeveloped
- h. give authority
- i. follow immediately afterward
- i. deep hatred

ENTAIL v (in TAYL) to have as a necessary consequence; to involve Painting turned out to entail a lot more work than I had originally

thought; I discovered that you can't simply take a gallon of paint and heave it against the side of your house.

Peter was glad to have the prize money, but winning it had entailed so much work that he wasn't sure the whole thing had been worth it.

Mr. Eanes hired me so quickly that I hadn't really had a chance to find out what the job would entail.

ENTITY n (EN tuh tee) something that exists; a distinct thing

The air force officer found an entity in the cockpit of the crashed spacecraft, but he had no idea what it was.

The identity card had been issued by a bureaucratic entity called the Office of Identity Cards.

Mark set up his new company as a separate entity; it had no connection with his old company.

The opposite of an entity is a nonentity.

ENTREAT v (in TREET) to ask earnestly; to beg; to plead

The frog entreated the wizard to turn him back into a prince, but the wizard said that he would have to remain a frog a little bit longer.

My nephew entreated me for money for most of a year, and in the end I gave him a few hundred dollars.

An instance of entreating is called an entreaty (in TREE tee).

The police officer was deaf to my entreaties; he gave me a ticket even though I repeatedly begged him not to.

ENTREPRENEUR *n* (ahn truh pruh NOOR) an independent business person; one who starts, runs, and assumes the risk of operating an independent business enterprise

Owen left his job at IBM to become an entrepreneur; he started his own computer company to make specialized computers for bookies.

A majority of beginning business school students say they would like to become *entrepreneurs*, but most of them end up taking high-paying jobs with consulting firms or investment banks.

An entrepreneur is entrepreneurial (ahn truh pruh NOOR ee ul). Hector started his own jewelry business, but he had so little entrepreneurial ability that he soon was bankrupt.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ENUMERATE v (i NOO muh rayt) to name one by one; to list

When I asked Beverly what she didn't like about me, she enumerated so many flaws that I eventually had to ask her to stop.

After the doctor from the public health department had enumerated all the dreadful-sounding diseases that were rampant in that area, I decided I didn't want to visit it after all.

Things too numerous to be listed one by one are innumerable (i NYOO muh ruh bul).

ENVISION v (in VIZH un) to imagine; to foresee

When Bert asked Irene for a date, he did not envision that one day she would try to kill him.

Perry's teachers envisioned great things for him, so they were a little surprised when he decided to become a professional gambler.

This word is different from, but means pretty much exactly the same thing, as envisage (en VIZ ij). The two can be used interchangeably, although envisage is perhaps a bit more stilted.

EPICURE n (EP i kyoor) a person with refined taste in wine and food
Epicurus was a Greek philosopher of the fourth century B.C. who
believed that pleasure (rather than, say, truth or beauty) was the
highest good. The philosophical system he devised is known as
Epicureanism. A teeny shadow of Epicurus is retained in our word
epicure, since an epicure is someone who takes an almost philosophical sort of pleasure from fine food and drink.

Ann dreaded the thought of cooking for William, who was a well-known epicure and would undoubtedly be hard to please.

The adjective is epicurean.

EPflogue n (EP uh log) an afterword; a short concluding chapter of a book; a short speech at the end of a play

In the theater, an *epilogue* is a short speech, sometimes in verse, that is spoken directly to the audience at the end of a play. In classical drama, the character who makes this concluding speech is called *Epilogue*. Likewise, a *prologue* (PROH log) is a short speech, sometimes in verse, that is spoken directly to the audience at the beginning of a play. A *prologue* sets up the play, an *epilogue* sums it up. *Epilogue* is also (and more commonly) used outside the theater.

In a brief *epilogue*, the author described what had happened to all the book's main characters in the months since the story had taken place.

EPOCH n (EP'uk) an era; a distinctive period of time

Don't confuse epoch with epic, which is a long poem or story.

The coach's retirement ended a glorious *epoch* in the history of the university's football team.

The adjective is *epochal* (EP uh kul). An *epochal* event is an extremely important one—the sort of significant event that might define an *epochal*. The British Open ended with an *epochal* confrontation between Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson, the two best golfers in the world at that time.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

EQUESTRIAN adj (i KWES tree un) having to do with horseback riding Equus, a famous Broadway play by Peter Shaffer, portrays a troubled stable boy and his relationship to horses. Equine (EE kwyne) means horselike or relating to horses.

I've never enjoyed the *equestrian* events in the Olympics, because I think people look silly sitting on the backs of horses.

Billy was very small but he had no equestrian skills, so he didn't make much of a jockey.

Equestrian can also be used as a noun meaning one who rides on horseback. An equestrienne (i kwes tree EN) is a female equestrian.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #37

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- entail
 having to do with horseback riding
 entity
 era
- 3. entreat c. independent businessperson
- 4. entrepreneur d. imagine
- 5. enumerate e. something that exists
- 6. envision f. person with refined taste
 7. epicure g. plead
- 8. epilogue h. afterword
- 9. epoch i. have as a necessary consequence
- 10. equestrian j. name one by one

ESTIMABLE adj (ES tuh muh bul) worthy of admiration; capable of being estimated

The prosecutor was an estimable opponent, but Perry Mason always won his case.

105

He swallowed a hundred goldfish, ate a hundred hot dogs in an hour, and drank a dozen beers, among other estimable achievements.

The distance to the green was not estimable from where the golfers stood, because they could not see the flag.

Something that cannot be estimated is *inestimable* (in ES tuh muh bul). The precise age of the dead man was *inestimable*, because the corpse had thoroughly decomposed.

Note carefully the pronunciation and meaning of these words.

ESTRANGE v (i STRAYNJ) to make unfriendly or hostile; to cause to feel removed from

Mary Ellen's estranged husband had been making unkind comments about her ever since the couple had separated.

Isaac had expected to enjoy his twenty-fifth reunion, but once there he found that he felt oddly estranged from his old university; he just didn't feel that he was a part of it anymore.

ETHICS adj (ETH iks) moral standards governing behavior

Irene didn't think much of the ethics of most politicians; she figured they were all on the take.

The dentist's habit of stealing the gold dentalwork of his patients was widely considered to be a gross violation of dental ethics.

To have good ethics is to be ethical (ETH i kul). Stealing gold dentalwork is not ethical behavior. It is unethical (un ETH i kul) behavior.

EULOGY n (YOO luh jee) a spoken or written tribute to a person, especially a person who has just died

The eulogy Michael delivered at his father's funeral was so moving that it brought tears to the eyes of everyone present.

Mildred was made distinctly uncomfortable by Merle's eulogy; she hated for other people to make a fuss about her.

To give a eulogy about someone is to eulogize (YOO luh jyze) that person.

EVINCE v (i VINS) to demonstrate convincingly; to prove

Oscar's acceptance speech at the awards ceremony evinced an almost unbearable degree of smugness and self-regard.

The soldiers evinced great courage, but their mission was hopeless, and they were rapidly defeated.

EVOKE v (i VOHK) to summon forth; to draw forth; to awaken; to produce or suggest

The car trip with our children evoked many memories of similar car trips I had taken with my own parents when I was a child.

Professor Herman tried repeatedly but was unable to evoke any but the most meager response from his students.

Paula's Christmas photographs evoked both the magic and the crassness of the holiday.

The act of evoking is called evocation (e voh KAY shun). A visit to the house in which one grew up often leads to the evocation of old

memories.

Something that evokes something else is said to be evocative (i VAHK uh tiv). The old novel was highly evocative of its era; when you read it, you felt as though you had been transported a hundred years into the past.

Don't confuse this word with invoke, which is listed separately.

EXCISE v (ek SYZE) to remove by cutting, or as if by cutting

Ralph's editor at the publishing house excised all of the obscene parts from his novel, leaving it just eleven pages long.

The surgeon used a little pair of snippers to excise Alice's extra fingers.

The excision (ek SIJH un) of Harold's lungs left him extremely short of breath.

EXEMPT adj (ig ZEMPT) excused; not subject to

Certain kinds of nonprofit organizations are exempt from taxation. David was exempt from jury duty, because he was self-employed. Exempt can also be a verb. To exempt something or someone is to make it exempt. Doug's flat feet and legal blindness exempted him from military service.

Exemption (ig ZEMP shun) is the state of being exempt. An exemption is an act of exempting.

EXHUME v (ig ZOOM) to unbury; to dig out of the ground

Grave robbers once exhumed freshly buried bodies in order to sell them to physicians and medical students.

Researchers exhumed the body of President Garfield to determine whether he had been poisoned to death.

While working in his garden, Wallace exhumed an old chest filled with gold coins and other treasure.

See our listing for posthumous, a related word.

EXODUS # (CK sun aus) a mass departure or journey away

Exodus is the second book of the Bible. It contains an account of the Exodus, the flight of Moses and the Israelites from Egypt. When the word refers to either the book of the Bible or the flight of Moses, it is capitalized. When the word refers to any other mass departure, it is not.

Theodore's boring slide show provoked an immediate exodus from the auditorium.

City planners were at a loss to explain the recent exodus of small businesses from the heart of the city.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-7 #38

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

estimable
 estrange
 ethics
 eulogy
 evince
 evoke
 excise
 a. summon forth
 b. remove by cutting
 excused
 d. spoken or written tribute
 e. unbury
 f. mass departure
 a. demonstrate convincingly

8. exempt h. moral standards
9. exhume i. make hostile

10. exodus j. worthy of admiration

EXORBITANT adj (ig ZAWR buh tunt) excessively costly; excessive

This word literally means out of orbit. Prices are exorbitant when they get sky-high.

Meals at the new restaurant were exorbitant; a single stuffed mushroom cost seventy-five dollars.

The better business bureau cited the discount electronic store for putting an *exorbitant* mark-up on portable tape recorders.

The author was exorbitant in his use of big words; nearly every page in the book sent me to the dictionary at least a dozen times.

EXPIATE v (EK spee ayt) to make amends for; to atone for

The convicted murderer attempted to expiate his crime by making pot holders for the family of his victim.

The act of expiating is expiation (ek spee AY shun). Wendell performed many hours of community service in expiation of what he believed to be his sins as a corporate lawyer.

EXPLICATE v (EK spli kayt) to make a detailed explanation of the meaning of

The professor's attempt to explicate the ancient text left his students more confused than they had been before the class began.

The act of explicating is explication (ek spli KAY shun). Explication of difficult poems was one of the principal activities in the English class.

Something that cannot be explained is inexplicable.

EXPOSITION n (ek spuh ZISH un) explanation; a large public exhibition
The master plumber's exposition of modern plumbing technique
was so riveting that many of the young apprentice plumbers in the
audience forgot to take notes.

Charlie was overwhelmed by the new fishing equipment he saw displayed and demonstrated at the international fishing exposition.

To expound is to give an exposition. The adjective is expository (ek SPAHZ i tawr ee).

EXPOSTULATE v (ik SPAHS chu layt) to reason with someone in order to warn or dissuade

When I told my mother that I was going to live in a barrel on the bottom of the sea, she expostulated at great length, hoping she could persuade me to stay at home.

EXPUNGE v (ik SPUNJ) to erase; to eliminate any trace of

Vernon's conviction for shoplifting was expunged from his criminal record when lightning struck the police computer.

The blow to Harry's head expunged his memory of who he was and where he had come from.

It took Zelda seven years and fifteen lawsuits to expunge the unfavorable rating from her credit report.

EXQUISITE adj (EKS kwi zit) extraordinarily fine or beautiful; intense
While we had cocktails on the porch, we watched an exquisite
sunset that filled the entire sky with vivid oranges and reds.

The weather was exquisite; the sun was shining and the breeze was cool.

Pouring the urn of hot coffee down the front of his shirt left Chester in exquisite agony.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

EXTANT adj (EK stunt) still in existence

Paul rounded up all extant copies of his embarrassing first novel and had them destroyed.

So many copies of the lithograph were extant that none of them had much value.

EXTORT v (ik STAWRT) to obtain through force, threat, or illicit means The root "tort" means to twist. To *extort* is to twist someone's arm to get something.

The maid extorted money from her employer by threatening to reveal publicly that he collected pornographic videotapes.

The act of extorting is extortion (ik STAWR shun). Joe's conviction for extortion was viewed as an impressive qualification by the mobsters for whom he now worked.

See our listing for tortuous.

EXTREMITY n (ik STREM uh tee) the outermost point or edge; the greatest degree; grave danger; a limb or appendage of the body

The explorers traveled to the extremity of the glacier, then fell off. Even in the extremity of his despair, he never lost his love for tennis.

Ruth was at her best in extremity; great danger awakened all her best instincts.

FACET n (FAS it) any of the flat, polished surfaces of a cut gem; aspect Karen loved to admire the tiny reflections of her face in the facets of the diamonds in her engagement ring.

109

The two most important facets of Dan's personality were niceness and meanness.

Anything that has many facets can be said to be multifaceted (mul tee FAS it ud). Lonnie is a multifaceted performer; she can tell jokes. sing songs, juggle bowling balls, and dance.

FALLACY n (FAL uh see) a false notion or belief: a misconception

Peter clung to the fallacy that he was a brilliant writer, despite the fact that everything he had ever written had been rejected by every publisher to whom he had sent it.

That electricity is a liquid was but one of the many fallacies spread by the incompetent science teacher.

The adjective is fallacious (fuh LAY shus).

FATHOM v (FATH um) to understand; to penetrate the meaning of

At sea, a fathom is a measure of depth, and it is equal to six feet. Fathoming, at sea, is measuring the depth of the water, usually by dropping a weighted line over the side of a boat. On land, to fathom is to do the rough figurative equivalent of measuring the depth of water.

I sat through the entire physics lecture, but I couldn't even begin to fathom what the professor was talking about.

Arthur hid his emotions behind a blank expression that was impossible to fathom.

FAUX adi (foh) false

Faux marble is wood painted to look like marble. A faux pas (foh pah) literally means false step, but is used to mean an embarrassing

Note carefully the pronunciation of this French word.

FAWN v (fawn) to exhibit affection; to seek favor through flattery; to suck up to someone

The old women fawned over the new baby, pinching its cheeks and making little gurgling sounds.

The king could not see through the fawning of his court; he thought all the princes and princesses really liked him.

received a false representation of: to pretend

Ike feigned illness at work in order to spend the day at the circus. The children feigned sleep in the hope of catching a glimbes of Santa Claus.

Agony of the sort that Frances exhibited cannot be feigned; she had obviously been genuinely hurt.

A feigning motion, gesture, or action is a feint (faynt), which can also be used as a verb. The boxer feinted with his right hand and then knocked out his distracted opponent with his left.

During extremely cold weather, blood leaves the extremities to retain heat in the vital organs.

EXUBERANT adi (ia ZOO buh runt) highly joyous or enthusiastic: overflowing: lavish

The children's exuberant welcome brought tears of joy to the eyes of the grumpy visitor.

Ouentin was nearly a hundred years old, but he was still in exuberant health; he walked twelve miles every morning and worked out with weights every evening.

The flowers in Mary's garden were exuberantly (ig ZOO buh runt lee) colorful; her yard contained more bright colors than a box of cravons.

Exuberance (ig ZOO buh runs) is the state of being exuberant. The exuberance of her young students was like a tonic to the jaded old teacher.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #39

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. exorbitant

2. expiate

3. explicate

4. exposition

5. expostulate

6. expunge 7. exquisite

8. extant

9. extort

10. extremity 11. exuberant a. excessively costly

b. highly joyous

c. make amends for

d. outermost point

e. make a detailed explanation of

f. obtain through force

a. explanation

h. still in existence

i. reason in order to dissuade

extraordinarily fine

k. erase

FACADE n (fuh SAHD) the front of a building; the false front of a building; the false front or misleading appearance of anything

The building's facade was covered with so many intricate carvings that visitors often had trouble finding the front door.

What appeared to be a bank at the end of the street was really a plywood facade that had been erected as a set for the motion picture.

Gretchen's kindness is just a facade; she is really a hostile, scheming creep.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word, which is sometimes

FESTER v (FES tur) to generate pus; to decay

Mr. Baker had allowed the wound on his arm to fester for so long that it now required surgery.

For many years, resentment had festered beneath the surface of the apparently happy organization.

FETISH n (FET ish) an object of obsessive reverence, attention, or interest

Jeff had made a fetish of cleaning his garage; he even waxed the concrete floor.

Clown shoes were Harriet's fetish; whenever she saw a pair, she became sexually aroused.

FIASCO n (fee AS koh) a complete failure or disaster; an incredible screwup

The tag sale was a fiasco; it poured down rain all morning, and nobody showed up.

The birthday party turned into a fiasco when the candles on the cake exploded.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word. The plural is fias-

FIAT n (FYE ut) an arbitrary decree or order

The value of the country's currency was set not by the market but by executive flat.

The president of the company ruled by fiat; there was no such thing as a discussion of policy, and disagreements were not allowed.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

FICKLE adj (FIK ul) likely to change for no good reason

Students are fickle; one day they love you, the next day they attach a pipe bomb to the chassis of your car.

The weather had been fickle all day; one moment the sun was shining, the next it was pouring down rain.

The Taylors were so *fickle* that their architect finally told them he would quit the job if they made any more changes in the plans for their new house.

I wish my dog loved me, but she's so fickle that she'd go off with anyone who offered her a dog biscuit.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #40

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.	facade	a.	object of obsessive reverence
2.	facet		exhibit affection
3.	fallacy		complete failure
4.	fathom		make a false representation of
5.	faux		front of a building
			decay
7.	feign		arbitrary decree
	fester		misconception
	fetish	i.	penetrate the meaning of
10.	fiasco	į.	likely to change for no good reason
	fiat		aspect
12.	fickle	١.	false

FIGMENT n (FIG munt) something made up or invented; a fabrication

The three-year-old told his mother there were skeletons under his bed, but they turned out to be just a figment of his overactive imagination.

These French-speaking hummingbirds inside my head—are they real, or are they a figment?

FISCAL adj (FIS kul) pertaining to financial matters; monetary

Having no sense of fiscal responsibility, he was happy to waste his salary on a life-size plastic flamingo with diamond eyes.

A fiscal year is any twelve-month period established for accounting purposes.

Scrooge Enterprises begins its fiscal year on December 25, to make sure that no one takes Christmas Day off.

FLEDGLING adi (FLE) ling) inexperienced or immature

A fledgling bird is one still too young to fly; once its wing feathers have grown in, it is said to be fledged.

Lucy was still a *fledgling* caterer when her deviled eggs gave the whole party food poisoning.

Full-fledged means complete, full-grown. Now that Lucy is a full-fledged gourmet chef, her deviled eggs poison only a couple of people annually.

FLIPPANT adj (FLIP unt) frivolously disrespectful; saucy; pert; flip

I like to make *flippant* remarks in church to see how many old ladies will turn around and glare at me.

The act or state of being flippant is flippancy (FLIP un see). The flippancy of the second graders was almost more than the substitute teacher could stand.

113

FLORID adi (FLAWR id) ruddy: flushed: red-faced

Ike's florid complexion is the result of drinking a keg of beer and eating ten pounds of lard every day.

Florid is related to floral and florist, so it also means excessively flowery, overdramatic, or ornate.

My brother is still making fun of that florid love poem Ted sent me.

FODDER n (FAHD ur) coarse food for livestock: raw material

The cattle for some reason don't like their new fodder, which is made of ground-up fish bones and Hershey's Kisses.

Estelle was less embarrassed than usual when her father acted stupid in public, because his behavior was fodder for her new standup comedy routine.

Fodder and food are derived from the same root.

FOLLY n (FAHL ee) foolishness: insanity; imprudence

You don't seem to understand what folly it would be to design a

paper raincoat.

The policeman tried to convince Buddy of the folly of running away from home; he explained to him that his bed at home was more comfortable than a sidewalk, and that his mother's cooking was better than no cooking at all.

The Territory of Alaska was once called Seward's Folly. after William Henry Seward, the secretary of state who had pushed through its purchase by the United States. It was popularly thought at the time that the big piece of frozen real estate was worthless.

Folly and fool are derived from the same root.

FORAY n (FAWR ay) a quick raid or attack; an initial venture

The minute Shelly left for the party, her younger sisters made a foray on her makeup; they ended up smearing her lipstick all over their faces.

My foray into the world of advertising convinced me that my soul is much too sensitive for such a sleazy business.

The young soldier's ill-fated foray into the woods ended with his capture by an enemy patrol.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

FOREBODE v (fawr BOHD) to be an omen of; to predict; to foretell The baby's purple face, quivering chin, and clenched fists forebode

a temper tantrum.

Sometimes to forebode means to predict or prophesy (PRAHF uh sye). Lulu forebodes tragedy every time she gazes into her crystal ball. unless the person paying for her fortune-telling wants only the good

A foreboding is the feeling that something awful is about to

happen.

When Harry saw the killer shark leap toward him with a gun under one fin and a knife under the other, he had a foreboding that something not particularly pleasant was about to happen to him.

To bode and forebode are synonyms.

FORECLOSE v (fawr KLOHZ) to deprive a mortgagor of his or her right to redeem a property; to shut out or exclude

If you don't make the mortgage payments on your house, the bank may foreclose on the loan, take possession of the house, and sell it in order to raise the money you owe.

Even though he never made a single payment on his house, Tom still can't understand why the bank foreclosed on the mortgage.

When he lost both hands in an automobile accident, the pianist was foreclosed from the only activity he really enjoyed; eating corn on the

An act of foreclosing is a foreclosure (fawr KLOH zhur).

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #41

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. figment

a. foolishness

2. fiscal

b. inexperienced

3. fledalina

c. something made up

4. flippant

d. raw material

5. florid

e. quick raid f. monetary

6. fodder 7. folly

g. ruddy

8. foray

h. be an omen of

9. forebode

i. frivolously disrespectful

10. foreclose

i. shut out

FORENSIC adj (fuh REN sik) related to or used in courts of law

Before seeking an indictment, the prosecutor needed a report from the forensic laboratory, which he felt certain would show that the dead man had been strangled with his belt.

One of the things a forensic anthropologist might do is identify different parts of a skeleton for a jury, in order to help the jury decide whether the guilty-looking defendant really ought to go to jail.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

FORESTALL v (fawr STAWL) to thwart, prevent, or hinder something from happening; to head off

To forestall embarrassing questions about her haircut, Ann decided to wear a bag over her head for the rest of her life.

Let's forestall a depressing January by not spending any money on Christmas presents this year.

FORSWEAR v (fawr SWER) to retract, renounce, or recant; to take back The thief had previously testified that he had been in Florida during the theft, but a stern glance from the judge quickly made him forswear that testimony.

For my New Year's resolution, I decided to forswear both tobacco and alcohol; then I lit a cigar and opened a bottle of champagne to celebrate the new me.

Forswear your gluttonous ways! Go on a diet!

FORTE n (fawrt) a person's strong point, special talent, or specialty
Lulu doesn't really have a forte; she doesn't really do anything
particularly well.

Uncle Joe likes to knit, but his real forte is needlepoint.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word. It is often confused with *forte* (for TAY), which is a musical word meaning loudly or forcefully.

When Bob pronounces "forte" as "for TAY," he demonstrates his own forte for using affected, show-offy mispronunciations.

FORTHRIGHT adj (FAWRTH ryte) frank; outspoken; going straight to the point

When the minister asked Lucy if she would take Clayton as her lawfully wedded husband, she answered with a forthright "No!"

I know I asked for your candid opinion on my dress, but I didn't expect you to be that forthright.

FOSTER v (FAWS tur) to encourage; to promote the development of Growing up next door to a circus fostered my love of elephants.

By refusing to be pressured into burning its "controversial" books, the library will foster new ideas instead of smothering them.

The wolves who raised me lovingly fostered my ability to run on my hands and knees.

FRAGMENTARY adj (FRAG mun tar ee) incomplete; disconnected; made up of fragments

Since the coup leaders refuse to allow the press into the country, our information is still fragmentary at this point.

She has only a fragmentary knowledge of our national anthem; she can sing the first, fifth, and eleventh lines, and that's all.

To fragment (frag MENT) is to break into pieces. Note carefully the pronunciation of this verb. Fragmented means split up or divided. Fragmentary and fragmented are not quite synonyms.

FRUITFUL adj (FROOT ful) productive; producing good or abundant results; successful

The collaboration between the songwriter and the lyricist proved so fruitful that last year they won a Tony for Best Musical.

Our brainstorming session was very fruitful; we figured out how to achieve world peace and came up with a way to convert old socks into clean energy.

Fruitless (FROOT lus) means unproductive, pointless, or unrewarding. A cherry tree without any cherries is fruitless in both the literal and the figurative sense of the word. A fruitless search turns up nothing.

To reach fruition (froo ISH un) is to accomplish or fulfill what has

been sought or striven for. The fruition of all Diana's dreams arrived when Charles asked her to be his wife.

Note carefully the pronunciation of fruition.

FUEL v (fyool) to stimulate; to ignite; to kindle, as if providing with fuel
Her older sister's sarcasm only fueled Wendy's desire to live
several thousand miles away.

Harry fueled Harriet's suspicions by telling her out of the blue that he was not planning a surprise party for her.

The taunts of the opposing quarterback backfired, by fueling our team's quest for victory.

FULMINATE v (FUL muh nayt) to denounce vigorously; to protest vehemently against something

In every sermon, the bishop fulminates against the evils of miniskirts, saying that they are the sort of skirt that the devil would wear, if the devil wore skirts.

The old man never actually went after any of his numerous enemies; he just sat in his room fulminating.

The principal's fulminations (ful muh NAY shuns) had no effect on the naughty sophomores; they went right on smoking cigarettes and blowing their smoke in his face.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #42

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. forensic a. used i
- 2. forestall b. ou 3. forswear c. sp
- 4. forte d. the 5. forthright e. sti
- 6. foster.
- 7. fragmentary
 8. fruitful
- 9. fuel
- 10. fulminate

- a. used in courts of law
- b. outspoken
- c. special talent
- d. thwart e. stimulate
- f. encourage
- g. retract h. productive
- i. denounce vigorously
- i. incomplete

G

GAFFE n (gaf) a social blunder; an embarrassing mistake; a faux pas In some cultures, burping after you eat is considered a sign that you liked the meal. In our culture, it's considered a gaffe.

You commit a gaffe when you ask a man if he's wearing a toupee. Michael Kinsley defines a politician's gaffe as "when one inadvertently tells the truth."

117

GALVANIZE v (GAL vuh nyze) to startle into sudden activity; to revitalize

The student council president hoped his speech would galvanize
the student body into rebelling against standardized tests. But his
speech was not as galvanic (gal VAHN ik) as he would have liked, and
his listeners continued to doze in their seats.

Dullsville was a sleepy little town until its residents were galvanized by the discovery that they all knew how to whistle really well.

GAMBIT n (GAM but) a scheme to gain an advantage; a ploy

Bobby's opening gambit at the chess tournament allowed him to take control of the game from the very beginning

Meg's gambit to get a new car consisted of telling her father that everyone else in her class had a new car.

My young son said he wanted a drink of water, but I knew that his request was merely a gambit to stay up later.

GAMUT n (GAM ut) the full range (of something)

The baby's emotions run the gamut from all-out shricking to contented cooing.

My professor said that my essay covers the gamut of literary mistakes, from bad spelling to outright plagiarism.

GARNER v (GAHR nur) to gather; to acquire; to earn

Steve continues to garner varsity letters, a fact that will no doubt garner him a reputation as a great athlete.

Mary's articles about toxic waste garnered her a Pulitzer Prize.

GASTRONOMY n (gas TRAHN uh mee) the art of eating well

The restaurant's new French chef is so well versed in gastronomy that she can make a pile of hay taste good. In fact, I believe that hay is what she served us for dinner last night.

I have never eaten a better meal. It is a gastronomic (gas truh NAHM ik) miracle.

GENERIC adj (je NER ik) general; common; not protected by trademark The machinery Pedro used to make his great discovery was entirely generic; anyone with access to a hardware store could have done what he did.

The year after he graduated from college, Paul moved to New York and wrote a *generic* first novel in which a young man graduates from college, moves to New York, and writes his first novel.

Instead of buying expensive name-brand cigarettes, Rachel buys a generic brand and thus ruins her health at far less expense.

GENESIS n (JEN uh sis) origin; creation; beginning

Genesis is the name of the first book of the Bible. It concerns the genesis of the world, and in it Adam and Eve realize that it is never wise to listen to the advice of serpents.

It's hard to believe that the Concorde has its genesis in the flimsy contraption built by the Wright brothers.

It's been so long since we began building our backyard hydrogen bomb that I can't even remember the genesis of the project.

GENOCIDE n (JEN uh syde) the extermination of a national, racial, or religious group

Hitler's policy of genocide has made him one of the most hated men

in history.

When a word ends with the suffix "cide," it generally has to do with some form of murder. Homicide (HAHM uh syde) means murder; matricide (MA truh syde) means mother-murder; patricide (PA truh syde) means father-murder; suicide (SOO uh syde) means self-murder. An insecticide (in SEK tuh syde) is a substance that "murders" insects.

GERMANE adj (jur MAYN) applicable; pertinent; relevant

"Whether or not your mother and I give you too small an allowance," said Cleo's father sternly, "is not germane to my suggestion that you should clean up your room more often."

One of the many germane points he raised during his speech was that someone is going to have to pay for all these improvements.

Claiming that Arnold's comments were not germane to the discussion at hand, the president of the company told him to sit down and shut up.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #43

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

a. full range 1. gaffe b. gather 2. galvanize c. startle into sudden activity 3. gambit d. art of eating well 4. aamut e. social blunder 5. garner f. extermination of a national, 6. aastronomy racial, or religious group 7. generic g. oriain 8. genesis

8. genesis g. ori 9. genocide h. sch

10. germane

h. scheme to gain an advantage

i. applicable

GHASTLY adj (GAST lee) shockingly horrible; frightful; ghostlike

The most ghastly crime ever recorded in these parts was committed by One-Eye Sam, and it was too ghastly to describe. (Oh, well, all right. He rounded up several dozen townspeople and chopped them into tiny bits.)

You have a rather ghastly color all of a sudden. Have you just spotted One-Eye Sam?

GRATIS adj (GRAY tus) free of charge

Since Gary drove his car through the Whitneys' plate-glass livingroom window, he provided them with a new one, gratis.

I tried to pay for the little mint on my pillow, but the chambermaid explained that it was gratis.

When the waiter told Herbert that the drink was gratis, Herbert started to shout. He said, "I didn't order any damned gratis. I want some brandy, and I want it now!"

Gratis can also be pronounced "GRAT us," but "GRAH tis" is a mispronunciation.

GRIEVOUS adj (GREE vus) tragic; agonizing; severe

The losses on both sides were grievous; the battlefield was covered with bodies, and the stream ran red with blood.

The memory of all the times I've yelled at my children is grievous to me.

GRIMACE v (GRIM is) to make an ugly, disapproving facial expression
Don't grimace, dear, or your face will freeze that way!

Tom couldn't help grimacing when he heard that the Pettibones were coming over for supper; he had hated the Pettibones ever since they had borrowed his riding lawn mower and ridden it into the lake.

This word can also be used as a noun. The expression on the face of a person who is *grimacing* is called a *grimace*. The *grimace* on the face of the judge when Lila played her violin did not bode well for her chances in the competition.

GUISE n (gyze) appearance; semblance

Every night the emperor enters the princess's room in the guise of a nightingale, and every night the princess opens her window and shoos him out.

A guise can also mean a false appearance or a pretense. How could I help trusting Hortense? She had the guise of an angel!

Q-U-1-C-K - Q-U-1-Z #44

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. ghastly

a. free of charge

2. gratis

b. shockingly horrible

3. grievous

c. make an ugly face

- 4. grimace
- d. tragic

5. guise

e. appearance

H

HABITUATE v (huh BICH co wayt) to train; to accustom to a situation Putting a clock in a puppy's bed is supposed to help habituate it to its new home, but most puppies become homesick anyway.

The best way to habituate yourself to daily exercise is to work out

first thing in the morning.

If you are a frequent visitor to a place, you may be said to be a habitué (huh BICH oo way) of that place. Alice is a habitué of both the bar at the end of her street and the gutter in front of it.

Note the accent on habitué.

HALCYON adi (HAL see un) peaceful; carefree; serene

Why does everyone talk about the halcyon days of youth? Most of the kids I know don't exactly live serene, carefree lives.

These halcyon skies are a good harbinger of a pleasant vacation. Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

HARASS v (HAR us) to attack repeatedly; to torment or pester

The unruly students so harassed their uncoordinated physicaleducation teacher that she finally went crazy and quit.

Warren is a terrible boss; he harasses his female employees all day long by making lewd remarks to them and asking them to give him back rubs.

Warren's female employees are victims of sexual harassment (HAR us munt). If people outside his company ever find out about Warren's record of sexual harassment, he'll never be able to get another job. Good!

Note carefully the preferred pronunciation of this word, although "huh RAS" is increasingly heard.

HARBINGER n (HAR bin jur) a precursor; an indication; an omen

When a toilet overflows, it is usually a harbinger of plumbing problems to come.

Priscilla found a silver dollar on the floor, and she viewed it as a harbinger of the good luck she was certain to have on the slot machines that night.

The vultures circling overhead were viewed as a harbinger of doom by the starving, thirst-stricken settlers trying to claw their way across the sweltering desert floor several hundred feet below.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

HARP v (harp) to repeat tediously; to go on and on about something "Will you quit harping on my hair?" Tim shouted at his mother. "I don't have to get it cut if I don't want to!"

Don't confuse harp with carp (carp). Carping is complaining excessively or finding unreasonable fault with something. If you were to complain that someone had been harping on something when they actually hadn't been, you would be carping.

HARRY v (HAR ee) to barass: to annov

The soldiers vowed to harry their opponents until they finally surrendered the town.

The adjective is harried.

No wonder that mother has a harried look. She's been taking care of six children all day.

HEINOUS adi (HAY nus) shockingly evil; abominable; atrocious

Bruno is a heinous villain; his crimes are so horrible that people burst into tears at the mere sound of his name.

Gertrude's treatment of her cat was heinous: she fed him dry food for nearly every meal, and she never gave him any chicken livers. Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

HERALD n (HER uld) a royal proclaimer; a harbinger

The queen sent a herald to proclaim victory.

A robin is sometimes viewed as a herald of spring; its song announces that winter has finally ended.

Herald can also be a verb. To herald something is to be a herald of it, to proclaim news of it, to announce it, to proclaim it.

The members of the football team heralded their victory through the town by honking their car horns continuously while driving slowly up and down every street for several hours.

HOARY adi (HOHR ee) gray or white with age; ancient; stale

The dog's hoary muzzle and clouded eyes betrayed her advanced age.

The college's philosophy department was a bit on the hoary side: the average age of those professors must have been at least seventy-five.

Don't you think that joke's getting a little hoary? You must have told it twenty times at this party alone.

HOMAGE n (AHM ii) reverence; respect

Every year, thousands of tourists travel to Graceland to pay homage to Elvis Presley; thousands more stay home and pay homage to him in their local supermarkets and pizza parlors, where they catch glimpses of him ducking into the men's room or peering through the windows.

Orville erected the new office building in homage to himself; he had a statue of himself installed in the lobby, and he commissioned a big sign proclaiming the building's name: the Orville Building.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word: the h is silent.

HUBRIS n (HYOO bris) arrogance; excessive pride

If you're ever assigned to write an essay about why the hero of a play comes to a tragic end, it's a safe bet to say that it was hubris that brought about his downfall.

Steven has a serious case of hubris; he's always claiming to be the handsomest man on the beach when he's really a ninety-seven-pound weakling.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

HYPOCRISY n (hi PAHK ruh see) insincerity; two-facedness

The candidate's most obvious qualification for office was his hypocrisy: he gave speeches in praise of "family values," even though his own family was in a shambles.

Mary despises hypocrisy so much that she sometimes goes too far in the other direction. When Julia asked if Mary liked her new dress. Mary replied, "No. I think it's ugly,"

A person who practices hypocrisy is a hypocrite (HIP uh krit). A hypocrite is a person who says one thing and does another. A hypocrite is hypocritical (hip uh KRIT i kul). It's hypocritical to praise someone for her honesty and then call her a liar behind her back.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #45

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book. Note that "attack repeatedly" is the answer for two questions.

1.	habituate		a.	arrogance
2.	halcyon			peaceful

3 harass c. royal proclaimer

4. harbinger d. insincerity

e. gray or white with age 5. harp 6. harry

f. attack repeatedly (2)

g. reverence

8. herald h. repeat tediously

9. hoarv i. accustom to a situation 10. homage

shockingly evil

k. precursor

7. heinous

11. hubris

12. hypocrisy

IDIOM n (ID ee um) an expression whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of the words; a language or dialect used by a group of people

It's sometimes hard for foreigners to grasp all the idioms we use in English. They have special trouble with expressions like "letting the cat out of the bag." To let the cat out of the bag is to give away a secret, not to let a cat out of a bag. The expression is an idiom, not a literal statement of fact. Other languages have idioms, too. In French, "my little cabbage" is a term of endearment.

This word can also be used to refer to a language or dialect spoken by a group of people. Jerry didn't get along very well with the people in the computer department, because he didn't understand their idiom.

123

A phrase like "letting the cat out of the bag" is idiomatic (id ee uh MAT ik).

IMBUE v (im BYOO) to inspire; to permeate or tinge

Was it the young poet's brilliant writing or his dashing appearance that *imbued* the girls with such a love of poetry?

Henrietta soaked her white dress in a bathtub of tea to imbue it with a subtle tan color.

IMPASSE n (IM pas) a deadlock; a situation from which there is no escape

After arguing all day, the jury was forced to admit they had reached an *impasse*; they had examined and reexamined the evidence, but they still could not reach a unanimous verdict.

We seem to have reached an *impasse*. You want to spend the money on a pair of hockey skates for yourself, while I want to donate it to charity.

IMPEACH v (im PEECH) to accuse or indict; to challenge; call into question

Congress is still trying to decide whether to *impeach* the president for spilling fingerpaint in the Oval Office.

To impeach a political figure is not to throw him or her out of office; it is to accuse him or her of an offense for which he or she will be thrown out of office if found guilty. Had President Nixon been impeached, he would have been tried by the Senate. If found guilty, he would have been given the boot. Instead, realizing the jig was up, he resigned.

Impeach also has a meaning that has nothing to do with removing political figures from office. It's not fair to impeach my morals just because I use swear words every once in a while.

To be unimpeachable is to be above suspicion or impossible to discredit. If the president proves to be a man of unimpeachable honor, he will not be impeached.

IMPECUNIOUS adi (im pi KYOO nee us) without money; penniless

Can you lend me five million dollars? I find myself momentarily impecunious.

When his dream of making a fortune selling talking T-shirts evaporated, Arthur was left *impecunious*, his sole possession a warehouse of talking T-shirts.

The word pecuniary (pi KYOO nee er ee) means relating to money. To peculate (PEK yuh layt) is to embezzle or steal money.

IMPEDE v (im PEED) to obstruct or interfere with; to delay

The faster I try to pick up the house, the more the cat *impedes* me; he sees me scurrying around, and, thinking I want to play, he runs up and winds himself around my ankles.

The fact that the little boy is missing all his front teeth impedes his speaking clearly.

Something that impedes is an impediment (im PED uh munt). Irene's inability to learn foreign languages was a definite impediment in her study of French.

IMPENDING adj (im PEND ing) approaching; imminent; looming

Jim's impending fiftieth birthday filled him with gloom; he was starting to feel old.

The scowl on her husband's face alerted Claire to an impending

The reporter didn't seem to notice his rapidly impending deadline; he poked around in his office as if he had all the time in the world.

The verb is impend.

IMPENETRABLE adj (im PEN uh truh bul) incapable of being penetrated; impervious; incomprehensible

The fortress on the top of the hill was impenetrable to the poorly armed soldiers; although they tried for days, they were unable to break through its thick stone walls.

For obvious reasons, knights in the Middle Ages hoped that their armor would be impenetrable.

This essay is utterly impenetrable. There isn't one word in it that makes sense to me.

I was unable to guess what Bob was thinking; as usual, his expression was impenetrable.

IMPERATIVE adj (im PER uh tiv) completely necessary; vitally important
It is imperative that you put out the fire in your hair; if you don't
do it immediately, your scalp will be severely burned.

The children couldn't quite accept the idea that cleaning up the playroom was *imperative*; they said they didn't mind wading through the toys strewn on the floor, even if they did occasionally fall down and hurt themselves.

This word can also be used as a noun, in which case it means a command, order, or requirement. A doctor has a moral *imperative* to help sick people instead of playing golf—unless, of course, it's his day off, or the people aren't very sick.

IMPETUOUS adj (im PECH oo wus) rash; overimpulsive; headlong

Jeremy is so *impetuous* that he ran out and bought an engagement ring for a girl who smiled at him in the subway.

Olive's decision to drive her car into the lake to see if it would float was an *impetuous* one that she regretted as soon as water began to seep into the passenger compartment.

"Let's set fire to the Town Hall," Allie suggested impetuously.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #46

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column, Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. idiom

a.taccuse

2. imbue

- b. approaching
- impasse
 impeach
- d. obstruct
- 5. impecunious
- e. without money

6. impede

- f. inspire a. rash
- 7. impending
 8. impenetrable
- h. completely necessary
- 9. imperative
- i. deadlock
- 10, imperative
- i. impervious

IMPLICATION n (im pluh KAY shun) something implied or suggested; ramification

When you said I looked healthy, was that really meant as an implication that I've put on weight?

A 100 percent cut in our school budget would have troubling implications; I simply don't think the children would receive a very good education if they didn't have teachers, books, or a school.

To imply something is to suggest it. When Peter's girlfriend said, "My, you certainly know how to drive a car fast, don't you?" in a trembling voice, she was implying that Peter was really going too fast. To imply something is not at all the same thing as to infer (in FUR) it, even though many people use these two words interchangeably. To infer is to figure out what is being implied. Peter was so proud of his driving that he did not infer the meaning of his girlfriend's implication.

The act of inferring is inference (IN fur ens).

IMPORTUNE v (im pawr TOON) to urge with annoying persistence; to trouble

"I hate to importune you once again," said the woman next door, "but may I please borrow some sugar, eggs, milk, flour, butter, jam, and soup?"

The ceaseless *importuning* of her children finally drove Mary Elizabeth over the brink; she stuffed the entire brood in a canvas bag and pitched it over the railing of the bridge.

To importune or be characterized by importuning is to be importunate (im PAWR chuh nit). Leslie's importunate boyfriend calls her day and night to ask her if she still loves him; after the hundredth such phone call, she understandably decided that she did not.

Note carefully the spelling and pronunciation of these words.

IMPOVERISH v (im PAH vrish) to reduce to poverty; to make destitute
Mr. DeZinno spent every penny he had on lottery tickets, none of
which was a winner; he impoverished himself in his effort to become
rich.

The ravages of the tornado impoverished many families in our town and placed a heavy strain on our local government's already limited resources.

Impoverishment (im PAHV rish munt) is poverty or the act of reducing to poverty. The Great Depression led to the impoverishment of many formerly well-off families in America.

IMPREGNABLE adj (im PREG nuh bul) unconquerable; able to withstand attack

Again and again, the army unsuccessfully attacked the fortress, only to conclude that it was impregnable.

There's no point in trying to change Mr. Roberts's attitude about hairstyles; you will find that his belief in a link between long hair and communism is utterly impregnable.

Thanks to repeated applications of Turtle Wax, my car's finish is impregnable; the rain and snow bounce right off it.

IMPRESARIO n (im pruh SAHR ee oh) a person who manages public entertainments (especially operas, but other events as well)

Monsieur Clovis, the *impresario* of the Little Rock Operetta House, is as temperamental as some of his singers; if he doesn't get his way, he holds his breath until he turns blue.

Arnie calls himself an *impresario*, but he is really just a lazy guy who likes to hang around rock concerts making a nuisance of himself.

IMPROMPTU adj (im PRAHMP too) done without preparation; on the spur of the moment

When Peter's mother-in-law dropped in without warning, he prepared her an *impromptu* meal of the foods he had on hand—coffee and tomato sauce.

The actress did her best to pretend her award-acceptance speech was impromptu, but everyone could see the notes tucked into her dress.

IMPROVISE v (IM pruh vyze) to perform without preparation; to make do with whatever materials are available

Forced to land on a deserted island, the shipwrecked sailors improvised a shelter out of driftwood and sand.

When the choir soloist forgot the last verse of the hymn, she hastily improvised a version of her own.

Improvisation (im prahv uh ZAY shun) is the act or an instance of improvising. That driftwood shelter was an improvisation. The forgetful choir soloist fortunately had a knack for improvisation.

IMPUNITY n (im PYOO nuh tee) freedom from punishment or harm
Babies can mash food into their hair with impunity; no one gets
angry at them, because babies aren't expected to be polite.

In the children's book Impunity Jane, a doll named Jane undergoes all kinds of rough handling without breaking.

INADVERTENT adj (in ad VUR tunt) unintentional; heedless; not planned Paula's snub of Lauren was entirely inadvertent; she hadn't meant to turn up her nose and treat Lauren as though she were a piece of furniture.

Isabelle's inadvertent laughter during the sad part of the movie was a great embarrassment to her date.

While ironing a shirt, Steven inadvertently scorched one sleeve; it was really the collar that he had meant to scorch.

INALIENABLE adj (in AY lee un uh bul) sacred; incapable of being transferred, lost, or taken away

In my household, we believe that people are born with an inalien-

able right to have dessert after meals.

According to the religion Jack founded, all left-handed people have an inalienable right to spend eternity in paradise: needless to sav. Jack

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #47

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. implication
- 2. importune

is left-handed.

- 3. impoverish
- 4. impreanable
- 5. impregnation
- 6. impromptu
- 7. improvise
- 8. impunity
- 9. inadvertent
- 10. inalienable

- a. unintentional
- b. urge with annoying persistence
- c. person who manages public entertainments
- d. something suggested
- e. freedom from punishment
- f. unconquerable
- g. done on the spur of the moment
- h. unassailable
- i. reduce to poverty
- i. perform without preparation

INCARNATION n (in kahr NAY shun) embodiment

Nina is the *incarnation* of virtue; she has never done anything wrong since the second she was born.

Nina's brother Ian, however, is so evil that some people consider him the devil *incarnate* (in KAHR nit). That is, they consider him to be the very embodiment of the devil, or the devil in human form.

If you believe in reincarnation (ree in kahr NAY shun), you believe that after your body dies, your soul will return to earth in another body, perhaps that of a housefly. In such a case, you would be said to have been reincarnated (ree in KAHR nay tud), regrettably, as a housefly.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

INCENDIARY adj (in SEN dee er ee) used for setting property on fire; tending to grouse passion or anger; inflammotory

Although the inspector from the arson squad found a scorched incendiary device in the gutted basement of the burned-down house, the neighbors insist that the fire was accidental.

The lyrics of the heavy-metal star's songs are so incendiary that his fans routinely trash the auditorium during his performances.

On July 3, the newspaper published an *incendiary* editorial urging readers to celebrate the nation's birthday by setting flags on fire.

To incense (in SENS) is to anger.

INCLINATION n (in kluh NAY shun) tendency; preference; liking

My natural inclination at the end of a tiring morning is to take a long nap rather than a brisk walk, even though I know that the walk would be more likely than the nap to make me feel better. It could also be said that I have a disinclination (dis in kluh NAY shun) to take walks.

Nudists have an *inclination* to ridicule people who wear clothes, while people who wear clothes have the same *inclination* toward nudists.

To have an *inclination* to do something is to be *inclined* (in KLYND) to do it. I am *inclined* to postpone my study of vocabulary in order to take a nap right now.

INCULCATE v (in KUL kayt) to instill or implant by repeated suggestions or admonitions

It took ten years, but at last we've managed to inculcate in our daughter the habit of shaking hands.

The preacher who believes that stern sermons will inculcate morals in his congregation frequently finds that people stop coming to church at all

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

INCUMBENT adj (in KUM bunt) currently holding an office; obligatory

The incumbent dog warden would love to surrender his job to
someone else, but no one else is running for the job.

An incumbent senator usually has a distinct advantage over any opponent, because being in office makes it easier for him or her to raise the millions of dollars needed to finance a modern political campaign.

Incumbent can also be a noun. In a political race, the incumbent is the candidate who already holds the office.

When incumbent means "obligatory," it is usually followed by upon. It is incumbent upon me, as Lord High Suzerain of the Universe, to look out for the welfare of all life forms.

INCURSION n (in KUR zhun) a hostile invasion; a raid

After repeated *incursions* into the town, the enemy soldiers finally realized that the townspeople would never surrender.

Todd's midnight *incursions* on the refrigerator usually meant that at breakfast time no one else in the family had anything to eat.

129

INDICT v (in DYTE) to charge with a crime; to accuse of wrongdoing

After a five-day water fight, the entire freshman dorm was indicted
on a charge of damaging property.

The mob boss had been *indicted* many times, but he had never been convicted because his high-priced lawyers had always been able to talk circles around the district attorney.

An act of indicting is an indictment. The broken fishbowl and missing fish were a clear indictment of the cat.

Note carefully the spelling and pronunciation of this word.

INDUCE v (in DOOS) to persuade; to influence; to cause

"Could I induce you to read one more chapter?" the little boy asked his father at bedtime; the father was so astonished that his little boy understood such a big, important-sounding word that he quickly complied with the request.

Something that persuades is an *inducement*. The dusty, neglected-looking mannequins in the store window were hardly an *inducement* to shop there.

INELUCTABLE adj (in uh LUK tuh bul) inescapable; incapable of being resisted or avoided

The overmatched opposing football team could not halt our *ineluctable* progress down the field, and we easily scored a touchdown.

If you keep waving that sword around in this crowded room, I'm afraid a tragedy will be ineluctable.

With slow but ineluctable progress, a wave of molasses crept across the room, silently engulfing the guests at the cocktail party.

INERADICABLE adj (in uh RAD uh kuh bul) incapable of being removed or destroyed or eradicated

The subway officials did their best to scrub the graffiti off the trains, but the paint the vandals had used proved to be *ineradicable*; not even cleaning fluid would remove it.

Tim wore saddle shoes and yellow socks on the first day of high hool, garnering himself an *ineradicable* reputation as a dweeb.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #48

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book

- incarnation
 incendiary
 inclination
 used for setting property on fire
- 4. inculcate d. currently holding office 5. incumbent e. charge with a crime
- incumbent e. charge with a c
 incursion f. tendency
- 7. indict g. embodiment 8. induce h. persuade
- 9. ineluctable i. incapable of being removed 10. ineradicable i. inescapable

INFLAMMATORY adj (in FLAM uh tawr ee) fiery; tending to arouse passion or anger; incendiary

Maxine's inflammatory speech about animal rights made her listeners so angry that they ran out of the building and began ripping the fur coats off passersby.

Inflammatory should not be confused with inflammable (in FLAM uh bul) or flammable, both of which mean capable of literally bursting into flames. An angry speech is inflammatory, but fortunately it is not inflammable. (In careful usage, inflammable is preferred; flammable was coined to prevent people from thinking that things labeled inflammable were incapable of catching on fire.)

The verb is inflame.

INFLUX n (IN fluks) inflow; arrival of large numbers of people or things; inundation

The influx of ugly clothes in the stores this fall can only mean that fashion designers have lost their minds once again.

Heavy spring rains brought an influx of mud to people's basements.

INFRACTION n (in FRAK shun) violation; infringement; the breaking of a law

To fracture is to break. An infraction is breaking a rule or law.

"I'm warning you, Prudence," said the headmistress. "Even the slightest infraction of school rules will get you expelled."

Driving seventy miles an hour in a thirty-mile-an-hour zone is what Fred would call a minor *infraction* of the traffic laws, but the policeman did not agree, and Fred's license was suspended for a year.

INFRASTRUCTURE n (IN fruh struk chur) the basic framework of a system; foundation

The country's political infrastructure was so corrupt that most of the citizens welcomed the coup.

When people talk about "the nation's crumbling infrastructure," they are usually referring to deteriorating highways, crumbling bridges, poorly maintained public buildings, and other neglected public resources.

INFRINGE v (in FRINJ) to violate; to encroach or trespass

The court ruled that the ugly color of Zeke's neighbor's house did not infringe any of Zeke's legal rights as a property owner.

Whenever Patrick comes into her room, Liz always shouts, "Mom!

He's infringing on my personal space!"

An act of infringing is an infringement. It is a clear infringement of copyright to photocopy the entire text of a book and sell copies to other people.

INFUSE v (in FYOOZ) to introduce into; to instill

Everyone in the wedding party was nervous until the subtle harmonies of the string quartet *infused* them with a sense of tranquillity; of course, they had also drunk quite a bit of champagne.

The couple's redecoration job somehow managed to infuse the whole house with garishness; before, only the kitchen had been garish.

An act of *infusing* or something that *infuses* is an *infusion*. Whenever I have a cough, my grandmother steeps an *infusion* of herbs that cures me right away.

All the critics agree that the novel needed an *infusion* of humor; the book was so deathly serious that almost no one could bear to read it all the way through.

INGRATIATE v (in GRAY shee ayt) to work to make yourself liked

Putting tacks on people's chairs isn't exactly the best way to

ingratiate yourself with them.

Licking the hands of the people he met did not ingratiate Harold with most of the guests at the cocktail party, although he did make quite a favorable impression on the poodle.

The act of ingratiating is ingratiation (in gray shee AY shun). Eileen's attempts at ingratiation were unsuccessful; her teacher could tell she was being insincere when she told him how nice he looked.

"That's the loveliest, most flattering dress I've ever seen you wear, Miss Ford," the class goody-goody told the teacher ingratiatingly.

INIMICAL adj (i NIM i ku!) unfavorable; harmful; detrimental; hostile All that makeup you wear is inimical to a clear complexion; it

smothers your pores and prevents your skin from breathing.

The reviews of his exhibition were so *inimical* that Charles never

painted another picture again.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word, which, with spelling changes, is related to the word enemy.

INIMITABLE adj (i NIM i tuh bul) impossible to imitate; incomparable; matchless; the best

Dressed in a lampshade and a few pieces of tinsel, Frances managed to carry off the evening in her usual inimitable style.

Fred's dancing style is so *inimitable* that anyone who follows his act looks like a drunk elephant by comparison.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

INNUENDO n (in you EN doh) an insinuation; a sly hint

I resent your innuendo that I'm not capable of finishing what I start.

Oscar tried to hint that he wanted a new fishing pole for his birthday, but Maxine didn't pick up on the innuendo, and she gave him a bowling ball and some cross-country skis instead.

The plural is *innuendos*. Although his opponent never actually said Senator Hill cheated on his wife, the public *innuendos* were enough to ruin Hill's chances for re-election.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #49

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. inflammatory
- 2. influx
- 3. infraction
- 4. infrastructure
- 5. infringe
- 6. infuse
- 7. ingratiate
- 8. inimical
- 9. inimitable
- 10. innuendo

- a. basic framework of a system
- b. violate
- c. tending to grouse passion or anger
- d. violation
- e. insinuation
- f. harmful
- a. inflow
- h. work to make yourself liked
- i. introduce into
- j. impossible to imitate

INQUISITION n (in kwi ZISH un) ruthless questioning; an official investigation characterized by cruelty

I keep telling you that the reason I got home late is because I missed the bus! What is this, some kind of *inquisition*?

During the Spanish *Inquisition*, people were substantially better off if they were not found to be heretics. The Spanish *inquisitors* weren't too fond of heresy.

An inquisitive (in KWI zuh tiv) person is a person who has a lot of questions. This word does not connote cruelty or ruthlessness. When a five-year-old asks where babies come from, he is being inquisitive; he is not behaving like an inquisitor.

INSOUCIANT adj (in SOO see unt) nonchalant; lighthearted; carefree Rex delighted in observing the insouciant play of children, but he didn't want any children of his own.

She is so charmingly insouciant, with her constant tap-dancing and her little snatches of song, that no one can stand to be in the same room with her. Her insouciance (in SOO see uns) drives people crazy.

133

"I don't care whether you marry me or not," Mike said insouciantly. "I've decided to join the circus anyway." Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

INSUFFERABLE adi (in SUF ur uh bul) unbegrable; intolerable

The smell of cigar smoke in this room is absolutely insufferable: I'm afraid I'll suffocate if I remain here for another minute.

Gretchen's husband is an insufferable boor; he spits in peoples' faces and wipes his nose on the tablecloth.

Note carefully the meaning of this word.

INSUPERABLE adi (in SOO pur uh bul) unable to be overcome; insurmountable: overwhelming

There are a number of insuperable obstacles in my way, beginning with that mile-high boulder directly in my path.

Against seemingly insuperable odds, the neighborhood touchfootball team made it all the way to the Super Bowl.

Henry believes that no task is insuperable; the key to success, he says, is to break the task into manageable steps.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

INSURRECTION in (in sur EK shun) an act of open rebellion against authority: a revolt

When their mother denied them TV privileges for a week, the Eisenman twins organized an insurrection in which they stormed the den, dragged the TV into their bedroom, and barred the door,

INTEGRAL adi (IN tuh arul) essential; indispensable

Knitting needles are an integral part of knitting a sweater. So is

After opening the case, Harry discovered why his new computer didn't work: several integral parts, including the microprocessor, were missing.

Integral sometimes also means whole, fulfilled, or perfect. For me, no day is integral unless I can eat chocolate at some point during it.

Integral is related to integrate, which means to make whole, and integer, which is a whole number.

INTERIM n (IN tur im) meantime; an intervening time; a temporary arrangement

Miss Streisand will not be able to give singing lessons until her laryngitis is better. In the interim, Miss Midler will give lessons instead.

This word can also be an adjective. The interim professor had an easier time with the unruly students than his predecessor, because he carried a large club to class with him every day.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

INTERLOPER n (in tur LOH pur) intruder; trespasser; unwanted person I love deer in the wild, but when they get into my backyard I can't help thinking of them as interlopers.

The year-round residents of the resort town viewed summertime visitors as interlopers who contributed nothing to the town except traffic jams and trash.

INTERLUDE n (IN tur lood) an intervening episode; an intermission; a

Wasn't that a pleasant interlude? I just love getting away from my office and shooting the rapids for an hour or two.

"Clara's Interlude" is a musical piece written by-who else?-Clara.

Miss Prince's School for Young Ladies is so genteel that during games they call halftime "the interlude."

See our listing for prelude.

INTERMINABLE adi (in TUR muh nuh bul) seemingly unending; tediously long

To terminate is to end, as in the movie Terminator, Interminable means unending.

The meeting was supposed to be short, but Ted's interminable lists of statistics dragged it out for three hours.

Winter must seem interminable in Moscow; the weather usually starts getting cold in September and doesn't warm up until April.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #50

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. inquisition 2. insouciant a. nonchalant

3. insufferable

b. unbegrable c. unable to be overcome

4. insuperable

d. act of open rebellion

5. insurrection

e. intruder f. seeminaly unending

6. integral

a. meantime

7. interim 8. interloper

h. ruthless questioning

9. interlude

i. essential

10. interminable

i. intervening episode

INTERMITTENT adj (in tur MIT unt) occasional; repeatedly starting and stopping; recurrent

The intermittent hooting of an owl outside my window made it hard to sleep last night; every time I would begin to drop off, the owl would start up again.

Intermittent rain showers throughout the day kept the lawn too wet for croquet.

Alan's three-year-old is only intermittently polite to grown-ups; sometimes he answers the questions they ask him, and sometimes he throws blocks at them.

INTERSPERSE v (in tur SPURS) to place at intervals; to scatter among When I plant a row of tomatoes, I always intersperse a few marigold plants, because even a scattering of marigolds helps to keep pests away.

The wildly unpredictable company had had periods of enormous profitability interspersed with periods of near-bankruptcy.

The place mats are made of straw interspersed with ribbon.

INTERVENE v (in tur VEEN) to come between opposing groups; to mediate: to take place: to occur between times

Barry and his sister might have argued all day if their mother hadn't intervened; she stepped between them and told them she would knock their heads together if they didn't stop bickering.

Don't hesitate to *intervene* if you see a cat slowly creeping toward a bird; the cat is up to no good, and the bird will thank you for butting in.

Al and Mike were having a pretty good time in their sailboat until the hurricane intervened.

So much had happened to Debbie in the *intervening* years that she felt a little nervous on her way to her twenty-fifth high school reunion.

INTIMATE v (IN tuh mayt) to hint or imply

Rosie said she was fine, but her slumped, defeated-looking posture intimated otherwise.

Are you intimating that I'm not strong enough to lift these measly little barbells?

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word; the adjective is pronounced "IN tuh mit."

INTRICATE adj (IN truh kit) complicated; sophisticated; having many parts or facets

It's always a mistake to put off assembling intricate toys until Christmas Eve.

The details of the agreement were so *intricate* that it took four lawyers an entire year to work them out.

The intricately carved prism cast a beautiful rainbow across the ceiling.

The noun is intricacy (IN truh kuh see).

INTRIGUE n (IN treeg) a secret scheme; a crafty plot

When the king learned of the duke's intrigue against him, he had the duke thrown into the dungeon.

Monica loves intrigue; she's never happier than when she's reading a long, complicated spy story.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this part of speech; the verb is pronounced "in TREEG."

INVIDIOUS adj (in VID ee us) causing envy or resentment; offensively harmful

Under the guise of paying them a compliment, Stephanie made an *invidious* comparison between the two girls, causing them to feel jealous of each other instead of flattered.

The racist candidate brought the crowd's simmering hatred to a boil with an *invidious* speech in which he referred to whites as "the master race."

INVIOLATE adi (in VYE uh lit) free from injury; pure

The tiny church remained *inviolate* throughout the entire war; although bombs dropped all around it, not a stone in its facade was harmed.

Her morals are *inviolate* even after four years in college; in fact, she was a senior before she even saw a keg of beer.

A related word is *inviolable* (in VYE uh luh bul), which means unassailable or incapable of being violated.

There's no such thing as an *inviolable* chain letter; sooner or later, someone always breaks the chain.

Note carefully the meaning and pronunciation of these words.

INVOKE v (in VOHK) to entreat or pray for; to call on as in prayer; to declare to be in effect

Oops! I just spilled cake mix all over my mother's new kitchen carpet. I'd better go *invoke* her forgiveness.

This drought has lasted for so long that I'm just about ready to invoke the Rain God.

The legislature passed a law restricting the size of the state's deficit, but it then neglected to *invoke* it when the deficit soared above the limit.

The noun is invocation (in vuh KAY shun).

IRIDESCENT adj (ir i DES unt) displaying glowing, changing colors
This word is related to iris, the colored part of your eye.

It's strange to think that plain old gasoline can create such a lovely iridescent sheen on the water's surface.

An appraiser judges the quality of an opal by its color and iridescence (ir i DES uns) more than by its size.

137

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #51

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. intermittent

2. intersperse

3. intervene

4. intimate 5. intricate

6. intrigue

7. invidious

8. inviolate
9. invoke

10. iridescent

a. secret scheme

b. displaying glowing, changing colors

c. pray for

d. complicated

e. hint

f. come between opposing groups

g. occasional

h. causing resentment

i. place at intervals

i. free from injury

J

JARGON n (JAHR gun) the specialized language or vocabulary of a particular job or trade; meaningless or pretentious language; a local dialect or idiom or vernacular

This contract is full of legal jargon; there are so many heretofores and whereinafters that I can't figure out where I'm supposed to sign it.

Ever since she went into therapy, Liz has been talking about "healingness" and "connectedness" and spouting so much other self-help jargon that it's sometimes hard to listen to her.

If you pad a term paper with big words and convoluted phrases,

your professor may say you've been writing jargon.

When he visited a tiny island off the coast of France, Phil commented, "I've studied French for twenty years, but I'll be damned if I can make out a word of the jargon on this island."

JAUNT n (jawnt) a short pleasure trip

My uncle never stays home for long; he's always taking off on jaunts to hot new vacation spots.

Jaunt can also be used as a verb. If my uncle keeps jaunting off to all these hot new vacation spots, he'll spend all the money I'm hoping to inherit from him.

Jaunty (JAWN tee) means lighthearted, sprightly, or dapper. The happy young girl walked down the street with a jaunty step.

JINGOISM n (JING goh iz um) belligerent, chauvinistic patriotism; warmongering

The president's aggressive foreign policy betrays the jingoism that hides below his genial surface.

The skinheads marched down the street chanting "Foreigners Go Home!" and other jingoistic (jing goh IS tik) slogans.

JOCULAR adj (JAHK yuh lur) humorous; jolly; fond of joking

Even her husband's jocular mood doesn't cheer up Mrs. Claus on Christmas Eve.

Annabelle's jocular nature was evident in the grin that was almost always on her face.

The meaning of jocund (JAHK und) is similar to that of jocular, but it is not exactly the same. Jocund means cheerful, merry, or pleasant rather than overtly funny.

Jocose (joh KOHS) is another word with a similar meaning; it is slightly stronger than jocular. (The root of jocose derives from the Latin for "joke," while the root of jocular derives from the Latin for "little joke.") A jocose man might be considered funnier than a jocular man, but both would give a party a jocund atmosphere.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

JUBILATION n (JOO buh LAY shun) exultant joy

In an excess of jubilation at the good news, Rebecca flung her arms around a total stranger.

The jubilation of the crowd was palpable when the mayor announced that the rich old lady had given the town seven million dollars toward the construction of a new zoo.

To be filled with jubilation is to be jubilant (JOO buh lunt). New Year's Eve parties are supposed to be jubilant, but they're usually kind of depressing.

A jubilant celebration, especially one connected with an important anniversary, is a jubilee (joo buh LEE).

JUNCTION n (JUNGK shun) convergence; linkup; the act or state of being joined together

I was supposed to turn left after the junction of Elm Street and Apple Avenue, but I never found the spot where they intersected.

As a child, Tommy spent most of his time at the railroad junction hoping he'd spot a passing boxcar he could jump into.

Juncture (JUNGK chur) can mean the same thing as junction, but more often it refers to an important point in time or crucial state of affairs. "At this juncture, we can't predict when she'll come out of the coma," the doctor said soberly.

Conjunction (kun JUNGK shun) means concurrence, combination, or union. The Ham Radio Club and the Chess Club are working in conjunction to prepare the second annual Nerds' Jamboree.

JUNTA n (HOON tuh) a small group ruling a country after a coup d'état
After the rebels had executed the king, they installed a junta of
former generals to lead the country until elections could be held.

The first thing the junta did after seizing power was to mandate ice cream at breakfast.

The president's principal advisers were so secretive and so protec-

tive of their access to the president that reporters began referring to them as the junta.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

K

KARMA n (KAHR muh) good or bad emanations from someone or something

In Hindu or Buddhist belief, karma has to do with the idea that a person's actions in life determine his or her fate in a future existence. "If you keep on messing up your rooms," the baby-sitter warned the children, "it will be your karma to come back to earth as a pig."

In popular usage, karma is roughly the same thing as vibes. "This house has an evil karma," the same baby-sitter told her charges. "Children who don't go to bed on time end up with a mysterious curse on their heads."

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #52

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. jargon

a. humorous

2. jaunt

b. specialized language

jingoism
 jocular

c. good or bad emanations

5. jubilation

d. belligerent patriotism

6. junction

e. small ruling group f. exultant joy

7. junta 8. karma g. short pleasure trip

h. convergence

L

LARCENY n (LAHR suh nee) theft; robbery

Bill's ten previous convictions for larceny made the judge unwilling to suspend his latest jail sentence.

Helping yourself to a few cookies is not exactly *larceny*, but just try explaining that to Aunt Edna, who believes that if people want to eat in her house they should bring their own food.

The strict legal definition of larceny is theft without breaking in, or without the use of force. Grand larceny is major theft. To be larcenous (LAHR suh nus) is to be the sort of person who commits larceny. Amy and Tim felt almost irresistibly larcenous as they walked through their rich aunt's house admiring paintings and antiques that they hoped to inherit someday; it was all they could do to keep from backing their car up to the front door and making off with a few pieces of furniture.

LASCIVIOUS adi (luh SIV ee us) lustful; obscene; lewd

Chaperones at a fifth-grade dance are probably unnecessary; it's not as if the average fifth grader is about to engage in *lascivious* conduct right there in the gym.

Clarence's lascivious comments made his female associates extremely uncomfortable.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

LAVISH v (LAV ish) to spend freely or bestow generously; to squander My father lavishes so many birthday presents on his relatives that they panic when it's time for them to give him something in return.

City Hall has lavished money on the street-cleaning program, but

our streets are dirtier than ever.

Lavish is also an adjective. Don't you thin Miss Hall is a little too lavish with her praise? She slathers so much positive reinforcement on her students that they can't take her seriously at all.

LAX adj (laks) negligent; lazy; irresponsible

Mike is a rather *lax* housekeeper; he washes dishes by rinsing them in cold water for a couple of seconds and then waving them gently in the air.

I hate to say it, but Carol's standards are too lax; anyone who would hire a slob like Mike as a housekeeper can't be serious about wanting a clean house.

The noun is laxity (LAK si tee).

LAYMAN n (LAY mun) a nonprofessional; a person who is not a member of the cleray

The surgeon tried to describe the procedure in terms a layman could understand, but he used so much medical jargon that I had no idea what he was talking about.

Miriam considered herself an excellent painter, but she was distinctly a layman; she couldn't make much headway on any canvas that didn't have numbers printed on it.

Laymen are known collectively as the laity (LAY i tee). The new minister tried hard to involve the laity in his services; unfortunately, the last time a layman preached a sermon, he spent most of the time talking about his new boat. Perhaps that's just the risk you run when you use a lay preacher.

LIAISON *n* (LEE uh zahn) connection; association; alliance; secret love affair

In her new job as *liaison* between the supervisor and the staff, Anna has to field complaints from both sides.

The condor breeders worked in *liaison* with zoo officials to set up a breeding program in the wild.

You mean you didn't know that the conductor and the first violinist have been having an affair? Believe me, that *liaison* has been going on for years.

Note carefully the spelling and pronunciation of this word.

141

LICENTIOUS adj (lye SEN shus) lascivious; lewd; promiscuous; amoral Barney's reputation as a *licentious* rake makes the mothers of teenage girls lock their doors when he walks down the street.

Ashley said the hot new novel was deliciously licentious, but I found the sex scenes to be dull and predictable.

The act or state of being *licentious* is *licentiousness*. The Puritans saw *licentiousness* almost everywhere.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

LIMPID adj (LIM pid) transparent; clear; lucid

The river flowing past the chemical plant isn't exactly *limpid*; in fact, it's as opaque as paint, which is apparently one of its principal ingredients.

Elizabeth's poetry has a *limpid* quality that makes other writers' efforts sound stiff and overformal.

In bad writing, eyes are often described as being "limpid pools."

LISTLESS adi (LIST lis) sluggish; without energy or enthusiasm

You've been acting awfully *listless* today. Are you sure you're feeling well?

The children had been dragged to so many museums that by the time they reached the dinosaur exhibit, their response was disappointingly listless.

Harry's listless prose style constantly threatens to put his readers very soundly to sleep.

The lettuce looked so *listless* by the time I got around to making a salad that I threw it out and served tomatoes instead.

The noun is listlessness.

LITANY n (LIT un ee) recital or list; tedious recounting

Ruth's litany of complaints about her marriage to Tom is longer than most children's letters to Santa.

She's so defensive that if she suspects even a hint of criticism, she launches into a *litany* of her accomplishments as a topless ventriloquist.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #53

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book. Note that "lewd" is the answer for two questions.

- 1. larceny a. negligent 2. lascivious. b. theft 3. lavish c. connection 4. lax . d. nonprofessional 5. lay..... e. to spend freely f. lewd (2) 6. liaison g. tedious recounting 7. licentious 8. limpid h. transparent 9. listless i. sluggish
- 10. litany

LIVID adj (LIV id) discolored; black and blue; enraged

Her livid countenance was testimony to the horrors she'd suffered in the haunted mansion.

Proof of George's clumsiness could be seen in his *livid* shins; he bumped into so many things as he walked that his lower legs were deeply bruised.

When Christopher heard that his dog had chewed up his priceless stamp collection, he became *livid*, and he very nearly threw the poor dog through the window.

People often use *livid* to mean pale, which is almost the opposite of what the word really means. When you see a ghost, your face does not become *livid*; it becomes pallid.

LOATH adj (lohth) extremely unwilling; reluctont

Edward was *loath* to stir out of his house on the freezing-cold morning, even though he had signed up to take part in the Polar Bear Club's annual swim.

I am loath to pull my finger out of the dike, because I am afraid that the countryside will flood if I do.

Loath is an adjective that describes a person's mood. Loathsome is an adjective to describe someone or something thoroughly disgusting or repellant. Cold water is so loathsome to Edward that no one knows why he even joined the Polar Bear Club.

Don't confuse *loath* with *loathe*, which is a verb meaning to despise or hate. I *loathe* eggplant in every form. It is so *loathsome* to me that I won't even look at it.

LOBBY v (LAHB ee) to urge legislative action; to exert influence

The Raisin Growers' Union has been lobbying Congress to make raisins the national fruit.

Could I possibly *lobby* you for a moment about the possibility of turning your yard into a parking lot?

A person who lobbies is a lobbyist (LAHB ee ist). The lobbyist held his thumb up as the senator walked passed him to indicate how the senator was supposed to vote on the bill that was then before the Senate. A lobbyist works for a special interest group, or lobby.

LOUT In (lowt) boor: oaf: clod

The visiting professor had been expecting to teach a graduate seminar, but instead he found himself stuck with a class of freshman louts who scarcely knew how to write their own names.

That stupid *lout* has no idea how to dance. I think he broke my foot when he stepped on it.

To be a *lout* or act like a *lout* is to be *loutish*. Jake's *loutish* table manners disgust everyone except his seven-year-old nephew, who also prefers to chew with his mouth open.

LUDICROUS adi (LOO di krus) ridiculous; absurd

It was *ludicrous* for us to expect that our teenaged children would look after the house while we were gone; we should have known that they would throw a big party and spill beer all over the furniture.

Wear glass slippers to a ball? Why, the very idea is *ludicrous*! One false dance step and they would shatter.

LYRICAL adj (LIR i kul) melodious; songlike; poetic

Lyrics are the words to a song, but lyrical can be used to apply to other things.

Even the sound of traffic is lyrical to the true city lover.

Albert is almost *lyrical* on the subject of baked turnips, which he prefers to all other foods.

The Jeffersons' lyrical description of the two-week vacation in Scotland made the Washingtons want to pack their bags and take off on a Scottish vacation of their own.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #54

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. livid

a. extremely unwilling

2. loath

b. ridiculous

lobby
 lout

- c. black and blue d. oaf
- 5. ludicrous
- e. melodious

6. lyrical

f. urge legislative action

M

MALAPROPISM n (MAL uh prahp iz um) humorous misuse of a word that sounds similar to the word intended but has a ludicrously different meaning

In Richard Sheridan's 1775 play, The Rivals, a character named Mrs. Malaprop calls someone "the pineapple of politeness" instead of "the pinnacle of politeness." In Mrs. Malaprop's honor, similar booboos are known as malapropisms. Another master of the malapropism was Emily Litella, a character played by Gilda Radner on the television show Saturday Night Live who thought it was ridiculous for people to complain that there was "too much violins" on television. Incidentally, Sheridan derived Mrs. Malaprop's name from malapropos, a French import that means not apropos or not appropriate. See our listing for apropos.

MANIA n (MAY nee uh) crazed, excessive excitement; insanity; delusion

At Christmas time, a temporary mania descended on our house as Mother spent hour after hour stirring pots on the stove, Father raced around town delivering presents, and we children worked ourselves into a fever of excitement about what we hoped to receive from Santa Claus.

Molly's mania for cleanliness makes the house uncomfortable—especially since she replaced the bedsheets with plastic dropcloths.

The mania of the Roman emperor Caligula displayed itself in ways that are too unpleasant to talk about.

A person with a mania is said to be a maniac (MAY nee ak). Molly, the woman with the mania for cleanliness, could also be said to be a maniac for cleanliness, or to be a cleanliness maniac.

A maniac is often said to be maniacal (muh NYE uh kul). A naniacal football coach might order his players to sleep with footballs under their pillows, so that they would dream only of football.

A person with a mania can also be said to be manic (MAN ik). A manic-depressive is a person who alternates between periods of excessive excitement and deep depression. A manic tennis player is one who rushes frantically around the court as though her shoes were on fire. Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

wole carejuity the pronunctation of these words.

MARGINAL adj (MAHR juh nul) related to or located at the margin or border; at the lower limit of quality; insignificant

The marginal notes in Sue's high school Shakespeare books are really embarrassing to her now, especially the spot in Romeo and Juliet where she wrote "How profound!"

Mrs. Hoadly manages to eke out a marginal existence selling the eggs her three chickens lay.

Sam satisfied the marginal requirements for the job, but he certainly didn't bring anything more in the way of talent or initiative.

145

The difference in quality between these two hand towels is only marginal.

A person who just manages to qualify for something may be said to qualify for it only marginally. Arnie was marginally better off after he received a ten-dollar-a-week raise.

MATERIALISTIC adj (muh tir ee ul IS tik) preoccupied with material things; greedy for possessions

All very young children are innocently materialistic; when they see something that looks interesting, they don't see why they shouldn't have it.

The materialistic bride-to-be registered for wedding presents at every store in town, including the discount pharmacy.

People are always going on and on about today's materialistic society, but the craving to own more stuff has probably been with us since prehistoric times.

The materialistic eighties are over, and now, in the nineties, we're finally beginning to think about spiritual values and what really matters in life. After 1999, though, it'll be back to materialism.

MAWKISH adi (MAW kish) overly sentimental; maudlin

It's hard to believe that Trudy's mawkish greeting-card verses have made her so much money; I guess people really do like their greeting cards to be filled with mushy sentiments.

I would have liked that movie a lot better if the dog's death scene, in which a long line of candle-bearing mourners winds past the shrouded anghouse, hadn't been so mawkish

MEANDER v (mee AN dur) to travel along a winding or indirect route; to ramble or stray from the topic

Since I hadn't wanted to go to the party in the first place, I just meandered through the neighborhood, walking up one street and down another, until I was pretty sure everyone had gone home.

The river meanders across the landscape in a series of gentle curves.

Professor Jones delivered a meandering lecture that touched on several hundred distinct topics, including Shelley's hairstyle, the disappearance of the dinosaurs, Latin grammar, and quantum mechanics

MEDIUM n (MEE dee um) the means by which something is conveyed or accomplished; a substance through which something is transferred or conveyed; the materials used by an artist

We are trying to decide whether print or television will be a better medium for this advertisement.

Coaxial cable is the *medium* by which cable television programming is distributed to viewers.

Phil is an unusual artist; his preferred medium is sand mixed with corn syrup.

The plural of medium is media. When people talk about the media, they're usually talking about the communications media: television,

newspapers, radio, and magazines. The media instantly seized on the trial's lurid details.

In careful usage, media takes a plural verb, even when the word is being used in a collective sense as the rough equivalent of press. The media have a responsibility to report the facts fairly and without favor.

MELANCHOLY adj (MEL un kahl ee) gloomy; depressed and weary
Thomas always walks around with as melancholy an expression as
he can manage, because he thinks that a gloomy appearance will make
him seem mysterious and interesting to girls

The melancholy music in the restaurant basically killed what was left of my appetite; the songs made me feel so sad I didn't want to eat.

Melancholy is also a noun. The spider webs and dead leaves festooning the wedding cake brought a touch of melancholy to the celebration. The alternative adjective melancholic (MEL un kahl ik) and noun melancholia (mel un KOH lee uh) are occasionally heard.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

MELEE n (MAY lay) a brawl; a confused fight or struggle; a violent freefor-all; tumultuous confusion

A melee broke out on the football field as our defeated players vented their frustrations by throwing dirt clods at the other team's cheerleaders.

In all the melee of shoppers trying to get through the front door of the department store, I got separated from my friend. Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

MENAGERIE n (muh NAJ uh ree) a collection of animals

In olden times, kings kept royal menageries of exotic animals.

These were the first zoos.

The Petersons have quite a menagerie at their house now that both the cat and the dog have had babies.

Doug referred to his office as "the menagerie" because his coworkers acted like animals.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #55

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

 malapropism 	 a. travel along a winding route
2. mania	b. humorous misuse of a word
marginal	c. the means by which some-
4. materialistic	thing is conveyed
mawkish	d. preoccupied with material things
6. meander	e. crazed excitement
7. medium	f. gloomy
melancholy	g. insignificant
9. melee	h. overly sentimental
10. menagerie	i. collection of animals

METICULOUS adj (muh TIK yuh lus) precise and careful about details; fussy

Patrick is *meticulous* about keeping his desk clean; he comes in early every morning to polish his paper clips.

i. brawl

The doctor paid *meticulous* attention to his patients; he made careful notes of even tiny changes in their illnesses.

Putting together a dollhouse is too meticulous a job for a threeyear-old child; there are too many small parts and too many details that have to be attended to.

MILLENNIUM *n* (mi LEN! se um) a period of 1,000 years; a thousandth anniversary

You'd better line up a baby-sitter for New Year's Eve, 1999. It's always hard to get sitters at the end of a millennium.

In the first millennium after the birth of Christ, humankind made great progress—but pre-sweetened cereals didn't appear until close to the end of the second millennium.

In fundamentalist Christian belief, "the millennium" refers to a period of one thousand years during which Christ will return to reign on earth.

The adjective is millennial (mi LEN ee ul).

MIRE n (myre) marshy, mucky ground

Walking through the *mire* in spike heels is not a good idea; your shoes are liable to become stuck in the muck.

So many cars had driven in and out of the field that the grass had turned to mire.

Mire can also be used as a verb whose sense can be either literal or figurative.

The horses were so mired in the pasture that they couldn't go

another step. I'd love to join you tonight, but I'm afraid I'm mired in a sewing project and can't get away.

A quagmire is a swamp or marsh or, figuratively, a complicated predicament. They say that twenty people sank into the quagmire behind Abel's Woods and their bodies were never found. Because she was afraid that everyone would hate her if she told the truth, Louise entangled herself in a quagmire of lies and half-truths, and everybody hated her.

MODE n (mohd) method of doing; type; manner; fashion

Lannie's mode of economizing is to spend lots of money on topquality items that she thinks will last longer than cheap ones.

When a big tree fell across the highway, Rex shifted his Jeep into four-wheel mode and took off across country.

I'm not interested in dressing in the latest mode; a barrel and a pair of flipflops are fashionable enough for me.

MODULATE v (MAHJ uh layt) to reduce or regulate; to lessen the intensity of

Please modulate your voice, dear! A well-bred young lady doesn't scream obscenities at the top of her lungs.

Milhouse modulated his sales pitch when he realized that the hard sell wasn't getting him anywhere.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

MOMENTUM n (muh MEN tum) force of movement; speed; impetus

The locomotive's momentum carried it through the tunnel and into the railroad terminal.

She starts out small, with just a little whimpering. Then her bad mood picks up *momentum*, and in no time at all she's lying on the floor kicking and screaming.

Even when they're both being driven at the same speed, a big car is harder to stop than a small one, because it has more momentum.

Harry's birdie on the seventeenth hole provided the momentum that carried him to victory.

MORATORIUM n (mawr uh TAWR ee um) a suspension of activity; a period of delay

The president of the beleaguered company declared a moratorium on the purchase of office supplies, hoping that the money saved by not buying paper clips might help to keep the company in business a little bit longer.

The two countries agreed to a moratorium on the production of new nuclear weapons while their leaders struggled to work out the terms of a permanent ban.

MORES n (MAWR ayz) customary moral standards

According to the *mores* of that country, women who wear revealing clothing are lewd and licentious.

This noun is always plural; note carefully its pronunciation.

149

MOTIF n (moh TEEF) a recurring theme or idea

The central motif in Barry's first novel seems to be that guys named Barry are too sensitive for other people to appreciate fully.

Andrea's new apartment's okay-looking, but it would be more impressive if owls weren't the main decorative motif.

MOTLEY adj (MAHT lee) extremely varied or diverse; heterogeneous; multicolored

Louise's friends are a motley group consisting of artists, bankers, and sanitation engineers.

One glance at her date's *motley* tuxedo convinced Cathy that she didn't want to go to the prom after all; the jacket looked more like a quilt than like a piece of formal clothing.

MUNICIPAL adj (myoo NIS uh pul) pertaining to a city (or town) and its government

All the *municipal* swimming pools close after Labor Day because the city doesn't have the staff to keep them open any longer.

The town plans to build a municipal birdhouse to keep its pigeons off the streets.

A municipality (myoo nis uh PAL uh tee) is a distinct city or town, and usually one that has its own government. The government of such a city or town is often referred to as a municipal government.

MUSE v (myooz) to ponder; to meditate

"I wonder if I'll win the flower-arranging prize," Melanie mused, staring reflectively at her vaseful of roses and licorice sticks.

Fred meant to get some work done, but instead he sat at his desk musing all afternoon, and then it was time to go home.

Muse can also be a noun. In Greek mythology, the nine Muses were patron goddesses of the arts. In modern usage, a muse is anyone who inspires an artist's creativity.

"Beatrice, you are my muse. You inspire all my best poetry," John said to his pet guinea pig.

To be *bemused* is to be preoccupied or engrossed. Charlie was too *bemused* to notice that wine from a spilled goblet was dripping into his lap.

MUSTER v (MUS tur) to assemble for battle or inspection; to summon up

The camp counselor mustered the girls in her cabin for bunk inspection. She really had to muster up all her courage to do it, because the girls were so rowdy they never did what she told them. Luckily, the cabin passed muster; the camp director never noticed the dust under the beds. ("To pass muster" is an idiomatic expression that means to be found to be acceptable.)

MYSTIC adj (MIS tik) otherworldly; mysterious; enigmatic

The swirling fog and the looming stalactites gave the cave a mystic aura, and we felt as though we'd stumbled into Arthurian times.

A word essentially identical in meaning is mystical (MYS ti kul). The faint, far-off trilling of the recorder gave the music a mystical quality.

Mystic can also be a noun. A mystic is a person who has, or seems to have, contact with other worlds. Michaela the Mystic stared into her clouded crystal ball and remarked, "Time to get out the Windex."

Mysticism (MIS tuh ciz um) is the practice or spiritual discipline of trying to reach or understand God through deep meditation.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #56

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

	method of doing
	reduce or regulate
c.	extremely varied
	force of movement
e.	period of one thousand years
f.	recurring theme
a.	precise and careful about details
	otherworldly
	customary moral standards
i.	marshy, mucky ground
k.	assemble for battle
	ponder
	b. c.d. e.f. g.h. i. i.k.

N

13. muster

14. mystic

NEBULOUS adj (NEB yuh lus) vague or indistinct; unclear; hazy

Jake's ideas about a career are a little nebulous at this point. He says he wants to have a job that will entitle him to have a telephone on his desk, but that's all he's figured out so far.

m. suspension of activity

n. pertaining to a city or town

The stage lighting was so poor that you could see only a few nebulous outlines of the set.

A nebula (NEB yuh luh) is a cloud of interstellar gas and dust, and, from our vantage point here on earth, it is just about as nebulous as you can get. The plural of nebula is nebulae (NEB yuh lye).

Note carefully this last pronunciation.

NEMESIS n (NEM uh sis) unconquerable opponent or rival; one who seeks just compensation or revenge to right a wrong

In Greek mythology, Nemesis was the goddess of divine retribution. If you were due for a punishment, she made sure you got it.

Nacho-flavored Doritos are the dieter's nemesis; one bite, and you don't stop eating till the bag is gone.

Betsy finally met her nemesis, in the form of a teacher who wouldn't accept any excuses.

NEOPHYTE n (NEE uh fyte) beginner; novice

The student librarian was such a neophyte that she reshelved all the books upside down.

I'm not being fussy. I just don't like the idea of having my cranium

sawn open by a neonhyte surgeon!

The prefix "neo" means new, recent, or revived. A neologism (nee AH luh jiz um), for example, is a new word or an old word used in a new way. A neonate (NEE oh navt) is a newborn, Neoprene (NEE uh preen) is a new kind of synthetic rubber—or at least it was new when it was invented. (It's the stuff that wet suits are made of.)

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

NIRVANA n (nur VAH nuh) a blissful, painless, worry-free state

According to Buddhist theology, you reach nirvana once you have purged your soul of hatred, passion, and self-delusion. Once you have reached nirvana, you will no longer have to undergo the cycle of reincarnation.

In common English usage, the word's meaning is looser, and nirvana often refers to a mental state rather than a physical one. A person might claim that she'd achieved nirvana as a result of listening to some particularly tedious New Age music, for example. She might also say that, for her, a hot-fudge sundae is nirvana.

NOISOME adi (NOY sum) offensive or disgusting: stinking: noxious

When I opened the refrigerator after returning from vacation, such a noisome odor leaped out at me that I bolted from the apartment.

The noisome brown liquid seeping out of the floor of my bathroom certainly isn't water. At any rate, it doesn't taste like water.

Note carefully the meaning of this word, it has nothing to do with "noise."

NOMADIC adi (noh MAD ik) wandering from place to place; without a permanent home

A nomad (NOH mad) is one of a group of wandering people who move from place to place in search of food and water for themselves and for their animals. The Bedouins, members of various Arab tribes that wander the deserts of North Africa and elsewhere, are nomads. To be nomadic is to be like a nomad.

Lila spent her senior year living in a tent with a nomadic tribe of sheep herders.

Ever since he graduated from college, my brother has been living a nomadic life; his only home is his car, and he moves it every day.

NOMENCLATURE n (NOH mun klay chur) a set or system of names; a designation; a terminology

I'd become a botanist in a minute, except that I'd never be able to memorize all that botanic nomenclature.

In the Bible, Adam invented nomenclature when he gave all the animals names. You could call him the world's first nomenclator (NOH mun klay tur). A nomenclator is a giver of names.

NONCHALANT adi (non shuh LAHNT) indifferent: coolly unconcerned:

Omar was acting awfully nonchalant for someone who had just been invited to dinner at the White House; he was yawning and using a corner of the invitation to clean his nails.

"I don't care that my car was stolen." Lucy said in a nonchalant voice. "Daddy will buy me a new one."

Unconcerned with all the worry his disappearance had caused, the cat sat down and nonchalantly began to wash his face.

The noun is nonchalance.

NULLIFY v (NUL up fve) to repeal: to cancel: to void

Null means empty or ineffective. In math a null set is a set without numbers. To nullify means to make empty or ineffective.

A moment after the ceremony, the bride asked a lawyer to nullify the prenuptial contract she had signed the day before: she no longer felt that \$50,000 a month in alimony would be enough.

It's hard to believe that Saudi Arabia still hasn't nullified the law that prohibits women to drive.

To annul is to cancel or make void a marriage or a law.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-!J-I-Z #57

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. nebulous

2. nemesis

3. neophyte

4. nirvana noisome

6. nomadic 7. nomenclature

8. nonchalant 9. nullify

a. wandering from place to place

c. blissful, worry-free state

d. system of names

e. downfall f. repeal

g. indifferent h. beginner

i. offensive or disgusting

OBEISANCE n (oh BAY suns) a bow or curtsy; deep reverence

When the substitute teacher walked into the room, the entire class rose to its feet in mocking obeisance to her.

"You'll have to show me obeisance once I'm elected queen of the prom," Diana proclaimed to her servile roommates, who promised that they would.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word, which is related to the words obedience and obey.

153

OBJECTIVE adj (ahb JEK tiv) unbiased; unprejudiced

It's hard for me to be *objective* about her musical talent, because she's my own daughter.

Although the judges at the automobile show were supposed to make objective decisions, they displayed a definite bias against cars with tacky hood ornaments.

Someone who is objective is said to have objectivity (ahb jek TIV uh tee). It was hard to have much faith in the magazine's film reviewer, since he was trying to sell a script he had written to the studios whose movies he was reviewing.

Objective can also be a noun, in which case it means goal, destination, or aim. My life's one objective is to see that my father never embarrasses me in public again.

The opposite of objective is subjective.

OBTRUSIVE adj (ub TROO siv) interfering; meddlesome; having a tendency to butt in

I like to walk up and down the halls of my dorm checking up on my friends' grades after midterms. People call me *obtrusive*, but I think of myself as caring and interested.

The taste of anchovies would be obtrusive in a birthday cake; it would get in the way of the flavor of the cake.

The verb is obtrude, which is related to the verb intrude.

OBVIATE v (AHB vee ayt) to make unnecessary; to avert

Their move to Florida obviated the need for heavy winter clothes. My worries about what to do after graduation were obviated by my failing three of my final exams.

Robert obviated his arrest for tax evasion by handing a blank check to the IRS examiner and telling him to fill in any amount he liked.

OCCULT adj (uh KULT) supernatural; magic; mystical

I don't mind having a roommate who's interested in occult rituals, but I draw the line at her burning chicken feathers under my bed.

There's a store on Maple Street called Witch-O-Rama; it sells crystal balls, love potions, and other occult supplies.

Occult can also be a noun. Marie has been interested in the occult ever since her stepmother turned her into a gerbil.

Occult can also be pronounced "AH kult."

ODIOUS adj (OH dee us) hateful; evil; vile

That three-eyed giant has the odious habit of grinding the bones of Englishmen to make his bread.

Don won the election by stooping to some of the most odious tricks in the history of politics.

Odium (OH dee um) is hatred, deep contempt, or disgrace. At Camp Winnipesaukee, hairdryers, electric toothbrushes, and electric blankets are held in utter odium.

ODYSSEY n (AHD uh see) a long, difficult journey, usually marked by many changes of fortune

In Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey*, Odysseus spends ten years struggling to return to his home in Ithaca, and when he finally arrives, only his dog recognizes him. In modern usage, an *odyssey* is any long and difficult journey.

Any adolescent making the *odyssey* into adulthood should have a room of his own, preferably one that's not part of his parents' house.

My quick trip up to the corner hardware store to buy a new shower head turned into a day-long odyssey that took me to every plumbing-supply store in the metropolitan area.

OLFACTORY adj (ahl FAK tur ee) pertaining to the sense of smell

That stew's appeal is primarily olfactory; it smells great, but it
doesn't have much taste.

I have a very sensitive olfactory nerve. I can't be around cigarettes, onions, or people with bad breath.

OLIGARCHY n (AHL uh gahr kee) government by only a very few people.

They've set up a virtual oligarchy in that country; three men are making all the decisions for twenty million people.

Whenever Rick's parents tell him that they're in charge of the family, he tells them that he can't survive under an oligarchy.

An oligarch (AHL uh gahrk) is one of the few ruling leaders.

OMINOUS adj (AHM uh nus) threatening; menacing; portending doom Mark's big brother has an ominous, I'm-going-to-pound-you-into-the-ground look.

The sky looks ominous this afternoon; there are black clouds in the west, and I think it is going to rain.

Mrs. Lewis's voice sounded ominous when she told the class that it was time for a little test.

This word is related to omen.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #58

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. obeisance a. make unnecessary 2. objective b. unbiased 3. obtrusive c. pertaining to the sense of smell 4. obviate d. threatening 5. occult e. deep reverence 6. odious f. government by only a very few people 7. odyssev a. interferina 8. olfactory h. long, difficult journey 9. oligarchy i. hateful 10. ominous j. supernatural

OMNISCIENT adj (ahm NISH unt) all-knowing; having infinite wisdom
A small child sees his parents as omniscient. A teenager, by
contrast, thinks they don't know anything at all.

In a novel with an omniscient point of view, the narrator knows

what every character in the book is thinking.

Omni is a prefix meaning all. To be omnipotent (ahm NIP uh tunt) is to be all-powerful. An omnivorous (ahm NIV ur us) animal eats all kinds of food, including meat and plants. Something omnipresent (AHM ni prez unt) seems to be everywhere. In March, mud is omnipresent.

"Sci" is a word root meaning knowledge or knowing. *Prescient* (PRESH unt) means knowing beforehand; *nescient* (NESH unt) means not knowing, or ignorant.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

OPPROBRIOUS adj (uh PROH bree us) damning; extremely critical; disaraceful

The principal gave an opprobrious lecture about apathy, saying that the students' uncaring attitude was ruining the school.

John's opprobrious conduct in church included making disgusting noises during the sermon and leering at women in the congregation whenever the Bible passages were even mildly suggestive.

Opprobrium (uh PROH bree um) is reproach, scorn, or disgrace. Penny brought opprobrium on herself by robbing the First National Bank and spray-painting naughty words on its marble walls.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

ORDINANCE n (AWR duh nuns) law; regulation; decree

I'm sorry, but you'll have to put your bathing suit back on; the town passed an ordinance against nude swimming at this beach.

According to a hundred-year-old local ordinance, two or more people standing on a street corner constitutes a riot.

Don't confuse ordinance with ordnance (AURD nuns). Ordnance is military weapons or artillery.

OSCILLATE v (AHS uh layt) to swing back and forth; to pulsate; to waver or vacillate between beliefs or ideas

We watched the hypnotist's pendulum oscillate before our eyes, and soon we became very, very sleepy.

Mrs. Johnson can't make up her mind how to raise her children; she oscillates between strictness and laxity depending on what kind of mood she's in.

OSMOSIS n (ahs MOH sis) gradual or subtle absorption

In science, osmosis is the diffusion of a fluid through a membrane. It is osmosis that controls the flow of liquids in and out of cells. In general usage, osmosis is a figurative instance of absorption.

I learned my job by osmosis; I absorbed the knowledge I needed from the people working around me.

OSTRACIZE v (AHS truh syze) to shun; to shut out or exclude a person from a aroup

After she'd tattled to the counselor about her bed being shortsheeted, Tracee was ostracized by the other girls in the cabin; they wouldn't speak to her, and they wouldn't let her join in any of their games.

That poor old man has been ostracized by our town for long enough: I'm going to visit him this very day.

The act of ostracizing is called ostracism (AHS truh siz um). Carl's letter to the editor advocating a cut in the school budget led to his ostracism by the educational committee.

OUST v (owst) to eject; to expel; to banish

Robbie was ousted from the Cub Scouts for setting fire to his Cub Scout manual.

If the patrons at O'Reilly's get rowdy, the bartender ousts them with a simple foot-to-behind maneuver.

An instance of ousting is called an ouster (OW stur). After the president's ouster by an angry mob, the vice president moved into his office and lit one of his cigars.

OVERRIDE v (OH vur ryde) to overrule; to prevail over

The governor threatened to override the legislature's veto of his bill creating the state's first income tax.

My mother overrode my decision to move into my girlfriend's house.

Greed overrode common sense yesterday as thousands of frenzied people drove through a major blizzard to catch the post-holiday sales.

OVERTURE n (OH vur chur) opening move; preliminary offer

In music, an overture is a composition that introduces a larger work, often by weaving together bits and pieces of what is to come. (Most people think it's okay to talk through the overture, even though it's not.) Outside of music, the word has a related but distinct meaning.

The zoo bought a new male gorilla named Izzy to mate with Sukey, its female gorilla, but Sukey flatly rejected Izzy's romantic overtures, and no new gorillas were born.

At contract time, management's overture to the union was instantly rejected, since the workers had decided to hold out for significantly higher wages.

OXYMORON n (ahk see MAWR ahn) a figure of speech in which two contradictory words or phrases are used together

"My girlfriend's sweet cruelty" is an example of an oxymoron.

Other examples of oxymorons are "jumbo shrimp," "fresh-squeezed juice from concentrate," "super-ette," and "White House experts."

157

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #59

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. omniscient
- 2. opprobrious
- 3. ordinance
- 4. oscillate
- 5. osmosis
- 6. ostracize
- 7. oust
- 8. override
- 9. overture
- 10. oxymoron

- a. exclude from a group
- b. swing back and forth
- c. eject
- d. damning
- e. gradual or subtle absorption
- f. law
- g. figure of speech linking two contradictory words or phrases
- h. all-knowing
- i. opening move
- i. prevail over

P

PALATABLE adj (PAL uh tuh bul) pleasant to the taste; agreeable to the feelings

You can certainly drink hot chocolate with lobster soufflé if you want to, but champagne might be a more palatable alternative.

Rather than telling Frank that his essay was worthless, Hilary told him that his essay was not quite worthy of his talents; by diluting her criticism she made it more *palatable* to Frank.

The word palate (PAL ut) refers both to the roof of the mouth and, more commonly, to the sense of taste. A gourmet is said to have a finely developed palate; someone who finds even the most exotic foods boring is said to have a jaundiced palate.

PALLOR n (PAL ur) paleness; whiteness

Regina's ghostly pallor can only mean one thing: she just caught sight of her blind date for the evening.

The pediatrician was concerned by the child's pallor but could find no other symptoms of illness.

In the nineteenth century, a pallid (PAL ud) look was fashionable among European and American women. To maintain an attractive pallor, women kept out of the sun and sometimes took drugs to lighten their complexions.

PANDEMIC adj (pan DEM ik) prevalent throughout a large area

The Black Plague was virtually pandemic throughout Europe during the fourteenth century.

Cheating was pandemic on the campus of the military academy; cadets were carrying more crib sheets than books.

This word can also be a noun. A pandemic is an epidemic (ep i DEM ik) on a larger scale. The shortage of vaccine turned the winter flu epidemic into a pandemic.

Like the Latin "omni," the Greek prefix "pan" means all. A panacea (pan uh SEE uh) is a cure for all ills. A panoramic (pah uh RAM ik) view is one that seems to surround you. The Pan-American Games are open to contestants from throughout the Western Hemisphere.

A closely related word is *endemic* (en DEM ik), which means peculiar to a particular place or people.

PANEGYRIC n (pan i JIR ik) elaborate praise; eulogy

As the Soviet official's brief introductory speech turned into a three-hour panegyric on the accomplishments of Lenin, the members of the audience began to snooze in their seats.

Dan has been in advertising for too long; he can't say he likes something without escalating into panegyric.

"All these panegyrics are embarrassing me," lied the actress at the dinner in her honor.

PARABLE n (PAR uh bul) religious allegory; fable; morality tale

The story of the tortoise and the hare is a parable about the importance of persistent effort.

Early religious lessons were often given in the form of parables because the stories made the lessons easier to understand.

PARAGON n (PAR uh gahn) a model or pattern of excellence

Irene is a such a paragon of virtue that none of her classmates can stand her; they call her a goody-goody.

The new manual is unusual in the computer world in that it is a paragon of clear writing; after reading it, you understand exactly how the software works.

Mario named his fledgling restaurant Paragon Pizza, hoping that the name would make people think his pizzas were better than they actually were.

PARALLEL adj (PAR uh lel) similar; comparable

Before they learn to cooperate, young children often engage in what psychologists call parallel play; rather than playing one game together, they play separate games side by side.

Bill and Martha have parallel interests in the yard; Bill's favorite activity is mowing, and Martha's is pruning.

Parallel can also be a noun, in which case it refers to something identical or similar in essential respects. Pessimistic economists sometimes say that there are many disturbing parallels between today's grim economy and the Great Depression of the thirties.

Parallel can also be a verb. To say that two murder cases parallel each other is to say that they are similar in many ways.

PARANOIA n (par uh NOY uh) a mental illness in which the sufferer believes people are out to get him; unreasonable anxiety

Margaret's paranoia has increased to the point where she won't even set foot out of the house because she is afraid that the people walking by are foreign agents on a mission to assassinate her.

Worrying that one is going to die someday is not paranoia; it's just

worrying, since one really is going to die someday.

A person with paranoia is said to be paranoid (PAR uh noyd). The word has a precise clinical meaning, but it is often used loosely or figuratively. When Harry told Sally that she was paranoid to believe her dinner guests hated her cooking, he didn't mean she was mentally ill: he meant that she was worrying needlessly.

PARANORMAL adj (par uh NOR mul) having to do with an event or events that can't be explained scientifically; supernatural

Numerous paranormal events have occurred in that house since the Austins bought it; last night, an umbrella opened itself and began flying around the room, and just this morning the dining-room table turned into a little man with a long gray beard.

Extrasensory perception, clairvoyance, and the ability to bend spoons with one's thoughts are said to be examples of paranormal phenomena.

Paranormal is often a polite synonym for phony.

PAROXYSM n (PAR uk siz um) a sudden, violent outburst; a severe attack

When his mother accidentally threw away Sheldon's slide rule, he flew into a paroxysm of rage, hurling a chair through the living-room window and setting the kitchen on fire.

I've been having paroxysms of guilt ever since I led the Cub Scouts

over the precipice.

Forty years of cigarette-smoking had made John prone to agonizing paroxysms of coughing.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

Q•U•I•C•K • Q•U•I•Z #60

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. palatable

2. pallor 3. pandemic

4. panegyric
5. parable

6. paragon
7. parallel

8. paranoia 9. paranormal 10. paroxysm a. model of excellence

b. pleasant to the taste

d. prevalent throughout a large area

e. morality tale

f. sudden, violent outburst

g. paleness

h. unreasonable anxiety

i. similar

j. elaborate praise

PARTITION n (pahr TISH un) division; dividing wall

The teacher's partition of the class into "smarties" and "dumbies" may not have been educationally sound.

In the temporary office there were plywood partitions rather than real walls between the work areas.

Partition can also be a verb. To partition something is to divide it by creating partitions. After the Second World War, Germany was partitioned into two distinct countries, East Germany and West Germany.

Ann and David used a wall of bookcases to partition off a study from one corner of their living room.

PASTORAL adj (PAS tur ul) rural; rustic; peaceful and calm, like the country

When I'm in the city, I long for the pastoral life, but the second I get into the country, I almost die of boredom.

Lyme disease has made people a little less intrigued with living in pastoral splendor than they used to be.

Bruce is writing the pastoral movement of his symphony now. The harps will symbolize the gentle patter of rain pattering down on the fields and spoiling everyone's vacation.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

PATHOS n (PAY thans) that which makes people feel pity or sorrow

Laura's dog gets such a look of pathos whenever he wants to go for

a walk that it's hard for Laura to turn him down.

There was an unwitting pathos in the way the elderly shopkeeper had tried to spruce up his window display with crude decorations cut from construction paper.

Don't confuse pathos with bathos (BAY thans). Bathos is trite,

161

insincere, sentimental pathos. Terry said the new novel was deeply moving, but I found it to be filled with bathos, and I didn't shed a tear. Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

PATINA n (PAT uh nuh) surface discoloration caused by age and oxidation

Antiques dealers don't refer to the tarnish on old silver as tarnish: they call it patina, and say that it adds value to the silver.

Long use and exposure to sunlight give old furniture a patina that is impossible to reproduce in modern imitations; the color of a new piece never looks quite as rich and dark as the color of an old one.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

PATRIMONY n (PAT ruh moh nee) an inheritance, especially from a father: a legacy

This thorny patch of ground isn't much, but it's my patrimony: it's

all that my father left to me in his will.

If Bob keeps spending at this rate, he will have exhausted his entire patrimony by the end of the year.

PECULIAR adi (puh KYOOL yur) unusual: bizarre: individual: belonging to a particular region

There's a peculiar smell in this room. Are you wearing perfume made from floor wax and old socks?

The peculiar look in his eye just before he opened the door was what tipped me off to the surprise party awaiting me inside.

That method of cooking shrimp is peculiar to this region; it isn't done anywhere else.

Marlene's way of pronouncing "orange" is peculiar to a tiny region in Upstate New York.

PEREGRINATION n (per uh gruh NAY shun) wandering: traveling: expedition

The baby made a wavering peregrination around the room in search of all the raisins she had dropped during her previous wavering peregrination.

Matthew's peregrinations across Europe have given him a vaguely continental accent and a walletful of unusable currency.

PERPETRATOR n (PUR pi tray tur) the one who committed the act

Police officers sometimes refer to the perpetrator of a crime simply as the "perp."

When Miss Walsh found glue on her chair, she speedily apprehended the perpetrator and sent him to the principal.

The restaurant critic so disliked his meal at Pierre's restaurant that he referred to Pierre not as the meal's chef but as its perpetrator.

PERPETUATE v (pur PECH oo ayt) to make something perpetual; to keep from perishing

By calling his secretary Fluffy, Quentin helped perpetuate the stereotype of office personnel as unskilled employees.

The new forestry bill contained conservation measures intended to help perpetuate the nation's timber resources.

PERVERSE adi (pur VURS) contrary: stubborn

It is perverse of Tim to insist on having the window seat, since looking down from great heights makes him afrsick.

Ralph takes a perverse pleasure in making his garden the ugliest on the block; it pleases him to know that he deeply annoys his neighbors.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-LI-I-Z #61

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. partition

a. keep from perishing

2. pastoral

b. division

3. pathos 4. pating

c. rural

d. the one who committed the act

5. patrimony 6. peculiar

e. stubborn f. surface discoloration

7. peregrination

a. wandering

8. perpetrator

h. that which makes people feel pity or sorrow

9. perpetuate 10. perverse

i. unusual i. inheritance

PHANTASM n (FAN taz um) apparition; ghost; phantom

The fountain that seemed to be gurgling on the horizon turned out to be a phantasm; after hours and hours of driving, Meredith was still surrounded by nothing but sand.

Though Aaron seems confident, fear and insecurity hover in his background like phantasms ready to haunt him again at any moment. Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

PHLEGMATIC adj (fleg MAT ik) calm or indifferent; not easily roused to excitement

Phlegmatic derives from phlegm (flem). According to medieval lore, phlegm was one of the four "bodily humors" and caused sluggishness. Nowadays, phlegm means mucus, but a phlegmatic person is not someone with a runny nose.

It must be true that opposites attract; Debbie becomes upset at the slightest provocation, while Webbie is so phlegmatic that nothing seems to bother him at all.

Vinnie tried to be phlegmatic about his eleven last-place finishes on field day, but as soon as he got home, he broke down and cried like a baby.

103

PILGRIMAGE n (PIL grum ij) religious or spiritual journey; excursion;

peregrination

A pilgrim is someone who takes a long journey from home for a religious or spiritual reason. A pilgrim makes a pilgrimage. Every year, thousands of tone-deaf people make a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Piano, hoping that musical ability will be restored to them.

Someday I'm going to make a pilgrimage back to the most important spots of my childhood, beginning with the McDonald's across the

street from my old house.

PLACEBO n (pluh SEE boh) a fake medication; a fake medication used as a control in tests of the effectiveness of drugs

Half the subjects in the experiment received the real drug; half were given placebos. Of the subjects given placebos, 50 percent reported a definite improvement, 30 percent reported a complete cure, and 20 percent said, "Oh, I bet you just gave us a placebo."

Mrs. Walters is a total hypochondriac; her doctor prescribes several placebos a week just to keep her from calling him so often.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

PLATONIC adi (pluh TAHN ik) nonsexual; purely spiritual

Platonic love is love that never gets physical. It is supposed to be free from desire and possessiveness, which is why you hardly ever see it in real life. The word is derived from the name of the Greek philosopher Plato, who believed, among other things, that physical objects are just the impermanent representations of unchanging ideas.

"Let's keep our relationship platonic for a while," Ken told his would-be girlfriend. "After all, we only met five minutes ago, and it

won't be dark for several hours."

Ken and Gina's marriage is entirely platonic; they live in separate cities, and they seldom even speak to each other.

PLAUSIBLE adj (PLAW zuh bul) believable; convincing

"You're going to have to come up with a more plausible alibi,"
Doris told her drunken husband sternly after he told her he had been
working late and then fell face-forward into the living room.

Irene's excuse is hardly plausible; how could a parakeet chew up

someone's homework?

To be not plausible is to be implausible. The theory that tiny little men maye the pictures around inside the television is interesting but implausible; for one thing, you never see anyone putting food in a TV.

To be plausible is to have plausibility. To be implausible is to have implausibility.

PLIABLE adj (PLY uh bul) flexible; easy to bend; easy to convince, persuade, or mold

If you work the modeling clay until it is pliable, you will find that it is easier to mold into shapes.

The tennis coach preferred working with very young children, because he found them to be more *pliable* than older players, who had often become set in their ways.

Sharon was so pliable that she would instantly change her mind whenever anyone disagreed with her.

To be pliable is to have pliability (ply uh BIL i tee). William's heavy vinyl gloves lost their pliability in the cold weather, and he found it difficult to move his fingers.

See our listing for comply.

PLIGHT n (plyte) a dangerous, distressing, or unpleasant situation

Whenever the heroine finds herself in a seemingly hopeless plight in an old-fashioned movie—whether it's being tied to railroad tracks or hanging on to a cliff edge—it's pretty certain she'll be rescued soon.

"What a plight you're in," Claudia observed as she watched her sister cowering in a corner surrounded by rabid dogs.

Moved by the *plight* of the hostages, the rich man assembled an army of mercenaries to rescue them.

PLUNDER v (PLUN dur) to loot; to ransack

Mrs. Ort told her son to stop plundering the refrigerator before he ate up all the food that she had prepared for her guests.

The victorious soldiers *plundered* the town until there was nothing

left to steal.

Plunder can 'also be a noun. The pirates' ship was loaded with plunder, all of which had been stolen from merchant vessels.

PLURALISM n (PLOOR uh liz um) a condition of society in which distinct groups exist and function together yet retain their own identities

Pluralism is the only hope for American society; our country is made up of too many different kinds of people for a single culture to prevail.

Anne's reading habits reflected a healthy pluralism; she read all the classics, but she also enjoyed murder mysteries and historical novels.

To be characterized by pluralism is to be pluralistic (ploor uh LIS tik). The members of a pluralistic society must accommodate themselves to a broad range of cultural peculiarities.

165

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #62

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. phantasm 2. phleamatic

3. pilarimage

4. placebo

5. platonic 6. plausible

7. pliable 8. plight

9. plunder 10 pluralism a. fake medication

b. nonsexual

c. coexistence of distinct groups

d. religious journey

e. calm or indifferent

f. flexible

a. believable h. danaerous situation

i. apparition

i. ransack

PONTIFICATE v (pahn TIF uh kayt) to speak pompously or dogmatically

Whenever my next-door neighbor begins pontificating about zoning laws. I quietly tiptoe back inside: I am tired of being lectured by that pompous ass.

Mr. Burgess doesn't so much speak as pontificate; he makes even "hello" sound like a proclamation from on high.

The act of pontificating is pontification (pahn tif uh KAY shun).

POROUS adi (PAWR us) filled with many tiny holes; permeable; absorbent

You just can't build a porous boat and expect it to float.

If my socks were not made of a porous material, my feet would be soaking wet with perspiration.

They're advertising a paper towel so porous that one sheet can soak up a whole sinkful of water.

To be porous is to have porousness or porosity (paw RAHS uh tee). Porosity is not a desirable quality in an umbrella.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

POSTERITY n (pahs TER uh tee) future generations; descendants; heirs Richard necessarily paints for posterity; nobody alive has any interest in his pictures.

There's no point in protecting the world's oil reserves for posterity if we don't also leave posterity any air to breathe.

Samantha is saving her diaries for posterity; she hopes that her daughters and granddaughters will enjoy them.

POSTHUMOUS adj (PAHS chuh mus) occurring after one's death; published after the death of the author

Chailes's reputation as a humanitarian suffered a posthumous blow when his widow revealed that he had beaten her every day of their marriage.

The publication of posthumous Hemingway novels has become a minor literary industry, even though Hemingway clearly had good reasons for keeping the novels unpublished.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

POSTURE v (PAHS chur) to act or speak artificially or affectedly

Jessica is always posturing about the plight of farm workers, even though she has never set foot on a farm in her life.

The creative-writing workshop quickly disintegrated into an orgy of posturing by the self-important student poets, all of whom were trying to prove that they were tortured geniuses.

Note carefully the meaning of this part of speech.

PRATTLE v (PRAT ul) to chatter on and on; to babble childishly

Billie Jean prattles ceaselessly about the only things that interest her: makeup, shopping, and her weight,

This word can also be a noun. A baby's prattle is utterly adorable unless you have to listen to it all day long.

PRECARIOUS adj (pri KAR ee us) dangerously insecure or unsteady

The boulder was balanced in a precarious position over the lip of the cliff, and it threatened to fall at any moment onto the heads of the heedless skiers below.

Juliet is earning a precarious living as a strolling knife-sharpener; her position would be considerably less precarious if more people were interested in having their knives sharpened by someone strolling down the street.

PRECOCIOUS adi (pri KOH shus) unusually mature; uncommonly gifted The precocious child could tie her shoes five minutes after she was born and tap-dance before she was a month old.

Beethoven's father was so proud of his son's precocious musical genius that he used to wake the boy up in the middle of the night and make him play the piano for guests.

To be precocious is to exhibit precociousness or precocity (pri KAHS uh tee). Mr. and Mrs. Sherman were alarmed by the precocity of their son; at age fourteen, he was dating a thirty-year-old divorced woman, and at age fifteen, he was engaged to be married.

PREDECESSOR in (PRED uh ses ur) someone or something that precedes in time

"My predecessor left this office rather messy," Mr. Griggs apologized as he led his associates past a pile of dusty boxes.

His predecessor had been so beloved by the nation that the new president resigned himself to being viewed as inferior.

The new model of the rainivan is a woaderful vehicle, but its predecessor was riddled with engineering flaws.

Just as a predecessor comes before, a successor (suk SES ur) comes after. People who hadn't liked the old minivan were pleased by its successor because the manufacturer had eliminated most of the engineering flaws that had plag ted the earlier vehicle.

167

PREDICAMENT n (pri DIK uh munt) a dangerous or unpleasant situation: a dilemma

Lisa's kitten is always having to be rescued from one predicament or another; yesterday, she got stuck inside a hollow log, and the day before. Lisa closed her in the automatic garage door.

"Now, let's see. How will I escape from this predicament?" asked Monty as he stared at the tiger charging toward him.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #63

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. pontificate
- 2. porous
- 3. posterity
- 4. posthumous
- 5. posture
- 6. prattle
- 7. precarious
- precocious
 predecessor
- 10. predicament

- a. occurring after one's death
- b. future generations
- c. unusually mature
- d. filled with many tiny holes
- e. dangerously insecure
- f. chatter on and on
- g. speak pompously
- h. dangerous situation
- i. speak artificially
- i. something that precedes in time

PREDISPOSE v (pree di SPOHZ) to make susceptible; to put in a frame of mind for: to incline toward

The fact that Selma grew up in the desert probably predisposed her to like working with cactuses.

Since the little boy was used to moving, he arrived in the new neighborhood already predisposed to make new friends.

To be predisposed is to have a predisposition (pree dis puh ZI shun). Mr. Bigelow had a strong predisposition against eating lunch, but when he saw the sumptuous banquet laid out in the conference room, he pushed his way to the head of the line and made a pig of himself.

PREDOMINANT adj (pri DAHM uh nunt) most important; dominant; having power over others

The predominant quality of Luther's painting is its boring grayness; he calls it "Fog at Dusk."

Miranda's speech ranged over many topics, but its predominant subject was the need for more vending machines in the student lounge.

The admiral's audience was composed *predominantly* of penguins; there were a few polar bears here and there, but for the most part it was penguins, penguins, penguins.

To be predominant is to predominate (pri DAHM uh nayt). Deep

discounts predominated the week before Christmas as retailers tried frantically to boost sales at the end of a disappointing holiday season.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

PREGNANT adj (PREG nunt) highly significant; overflowing

Biologically speaking, to be *pregnant* is to carry a developing fetus in one's uterus; outside of this precise usage, the word has a more general, figurative meaning.

There was a *pregnant* pause in the room as the elves considered the alarming implications of Santa's announcement that from now on all

toys would be bought from Toys "R" Us.

India's message to her boyfriend contained only three words, yet those three words were pregnant with meaning ("I am pregnant").

Note carefully this particular meaning of the word.

PRELUDE n (PREL yood) introduction; something that precedes something else

As a prelude to her recital, Mrs. Oliver lectured for about an hour on some of the finer points of the composition she was about to sing.

Stretching exercises should be a *prelude* to any long bout of exercise; stretching muscles before exerting them helps protect them from injury.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

PREMEDITATED adj (pri MED i tayt ud) planned beforehand; prearranged; plotted

To meditate is to think long and hard about something. To premedi-

tate is to think or plan something carefully before doing it.

Premeditated murder is considered worse than just killing someone on the spur of the moment, because deliberate violence is viewed as being more heinous than spontaneous fury.

Jerry's seemingly fortuitous rise to the presidency had actually been carefully premeditated; for twenty years, he had been quietly sucking up to anyone in the company whom he felt could advance his career.

PREPONDERANCE n (pri PAHN dur uns) superiority in weight, number, size, extent, influence, etc.; majority; predominance

Looking around the well-dressed crowd at the ball, Richard was surprised to notice a preponderance of women wearing baseball caps.

The preponderance of onions in the stew made us suspect that our host had been trying to save money when he made it, because onions were its least expensive ingredient.

PRESAGE v (PRES ij) to portend; to foreshadow; to forecast or predict Patty's sullen looks presage yet another family battle.

They say a bad dress rehearsal presages a good performance, but I have found that often a bad dress rehearsal is followed by an equally bad show.

The meteorologist's record at presaging the weather was not very impressive; he was correct only about half the time.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

169

PRESENTIMENT n (pri ZEN tuh munt) the feeling that something (especially something bad) is about to happen

My presentiment that I was about to be fired turned out to be incorrect; my boss had asked to see me only because he wanted to tell me that he had given me a raise.

"I knew the boat would sink," Aunt Louise said triumphantly. "I just had a presentiment about it when I saw that leaky bottom."

PRESUMABLY adv (pri ZOO muh blee) probably; the assumption is that: doubtless

Presumably Elsie would have worn her glasses if she had known that her driver's test was today.

The gardener said he would come a little early next week presumably to rake up all the dead leaves before mowing.

PRESUPPOSE v (pree suh POHZ) to assume beforehand; to take for granted in advance; to require os a prior condition

We mustn't presuppose that the new headmaster hates girls just because he's always been in charge of boys' schools before; after all that time spent living with boys, it may actually be boys whom he hates.

A high score does not presuppose good play by either team; sometimes sloppy teams run up a big score through carelessness.

Because his father is a famous actor, Phil often encounters the presupposition that he can act, too.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #64

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. predispose

2. predominant

pregnant
 prelude

5. premeditated

6. preponderonce

7. presage

8. presentiment

9. presumably

10. presuppose

a. majority

b. portend

c. most important

d. feeling that something is about to happen

e. introduction

f. make susceptible

g. planned beforehand

h. highly significant

i. assume beforehand

j. probably

PRIMAL adj (PRYE mul) first; original; of the greatest importance

All of us can trace our ancestry back to one-celled creatures swimming about in a sort of *primal* soup of water, amino acids, gunk, and who knows what else.

The throbbing music engendered a sort of *primal* excitement in the crowd, causing people to bang their chests and jump up and down on their seats. *Primal* among a puppy's needs is access to expensive shoes that it can chew.

PRISTINE adj (PRIS teen) perfectly clean and untouched; uncontaminated

We had thought the forest was pristine until we spotted the tin cans buried under the moss.

My mother likes her kitchen so pristine that she'd really prefer that no one use it at all.

The pristine page in his typewriter seemed to taunt the struggling author, who couldn't think of anything whatsoever to write.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

PRIVATION a large VAY shun) lack of comforts or necessities; poverty
Oh, come on, Debbie! Not having an indoor swimming pool isn't
exactly a privation, you know!

In wartime, most people readily accustom themselves to a level of privation that they would never accept under ordinary circumstances.

For Owen, the fact that he never had to make his bed more than made up for the numerous privations of life in a pup tent.

Deprivation (DEP ruh vay shun) is the state of being deprived of things, especially things important to one's well-being.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

PROCLAIM v (proh KLAYM) to announce; declare; make known

"I hereby proclaim that today is Hot Dog Day," announced the befuddled governor on the first day of Hot Dog Week.

The blossoms on the cherry trees proclaimed spring from every branch.

Ordinary people don't usually proclaim things, unless they're trying to throw their weight around.

The king proclaimed that taxes would be raised throughout the realm. Mr. Bendel reported the king's proclamation (prahk luh MAY shun) to his family.

PROCURE v (pruh KYOOR) to obtain or acquire by special means

It took a lot of effort and know-how to procure Oreos at the health spa, but Stuart bribed the chief chef.

Our efforts to procure a thousand cases of champagne in time for the party ended in failure; we were able to find only nine hundred.

The bookstore manager said that the bestseller was sold out, and that additional copies were not procurable (pruh KYOOR uh bul).

A procurement is something that has been procured. The practical joker seemed listless and depressed while he waited for the novelty company to ship his next procurement of exploding cigars.

PROGENY n (PRAHJ uh nee) offspring; descendants

Mr. March is rich in nothing but progeny; he says he'd rather have a million children than a million dollars.

The first release of the word-processing software was balky and unreliable, but its progeny have been quite impressive.

A single rabbit may be the *progenitor* (proh GEN uh tur) of hundreds of offspring in his lifetime.

PROPAGATE v (PRAHP uh gayt) to reproduce; to multiply; to spread or disseminate

It shocked the nation when Tom gave up his career in professional basketball and devoted his life to propagating tree fungi.

The Cold Sun Society is dedicated to propagating the theory that the sun is a huge iceball, and its members wear winter coats all year long to protect them from icy blasts of sunlight.

The act of propagating is propagation (prahp uh GAY shun). Because there are so many endangered plants nowadays, many gardeners have become interested in the propagation of rare seeds, in order to keep old strains from disappearing.

PROPOUND v (pruh POWND) to set forth or propose; to offer for consideration

Propound, propose, and proposition have the same root: a Latin word meaning to set forth.

"This evening," began the scientist, "I plan to propound my hypothesis that trees grow because invisible giants pull them out of the ground."

In a flimsy effort to get Thomas off the hook, the defense lawyer propounded a preposterous scenario in which a gun thrown by someone on the street flew through the window, landed in Thomas's hand, and accidentally fired six times at Hannah as she scrambled frantically around the room while Thomas inadvertently shouted, "I'm really going to kill you now, you insufferable old curmudgeon."

PROTÉGÉ n (PROH tuh zhay) a person under the care of someone interested in his welfare or career

"I would like you to meet my protégé, Dirk Simpson," said Miss Charlton. "I am training him to manage my estate and will leave the bulk of my fortune to him when I pass away."

What an apple polisher Walter is. He's always approaching important men in the company and asking them to be his mentor. But nowadays most executives don't have time for protégés; they're too busy looking after their own jobs.

In careful usage, a female protégé is a protégée. Under the watchful eye of her guardian, the little protégée flourished, was introduced into society, and made a very advantageous marriage.

Note carefully the pronunciation and spelling of this French word.

PROTOCOL n (PROH tuh kawl) diplomatic etiquette and customs

When she was made ambassador to France, she spent months studying French protocol before she felt comfortable with her new role.

It isn't exactly *protocol*, but diplomats' children can generally behave as badly as they want and not get punished for it.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

G-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #65

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

 primal pristine privation proclaim procure progeny propagate propound protégé protocol 	a. reproduce b. set forth c. original d. person under the care of someone e. lack of comforts f. announce g. diplomatic etiquette h. perfectly clean and untouched i. offspring j. obtain by special means
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PROVOCATION *n* (prahv uh KAY shun) the act of provoking; incitement; cause

That stupid dog starts barking at any provocation, including the sound of a window washer clearing his throat.

The police arrested the young man without provocation; he had been doing nothing illegal.

Despite the bully's provocations, Peter refused to be drawn into a fight.

To provoke (pruh VOHK) is to excite someone to anger.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

PROWESS n (PROW is) exceptional skill or strength; uncommon bravery

Annie is famous all across the country for her prowess on horseback; in fact, some people say she's one of the most talented trick
riders in the world.

Although he boasts of having great prowess in the kitchen, Harold knows how to make nothing but toast.

PRURIENT adj (PROOR ee unt) having lustful thoughts or desires; causing lust

Since Miss Goggins was afraid that art books with naked statues in them would appeal to teenagers' prurient interests, she had all the art books removed from the library shelves.

The principal didn't care what the students did at home or in the backseat of their car, but he was offended by openly prurient behavior in the halls, and he issued a rule requiring students to keep their clothes on during school hours.

To be prurient is to exhibit prurience (PROOR ee uns). Gael's love of exotic foods almost amounted to prurience; she eats them with an eagerness that can only be described as lust.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

173

PSEUDONYM n (SOO duh nim) a false name; an alias

Dr. Seuss was the pseudonym of Theodor Seuss Geisel.

The philandering couple used *pseudonyms* when they checked into the hotel for the afternoon, because they didn't want anyone to know what they were up to.

"I'm going to use a pseudonym so as not to attract people's attention when I go out in public," announced the famous actor. "I'll call myself Rumblebumble Wart."

The prefix "pseudo" (SOO doh) means false. A pseudointellectual is someone who pretends to be interested in intellectual things. In slang usage, pretentious people are sometimes referred to as pseuds.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

PSYCHE n (SYE kee) the human soul; the mind; the spirit

While in medical school, Nancy noticed that she was far more interested in her patients' psyches than in their bodies, so she decided to become a psychiatrist.

Mel has a very fragile psyche; when anyone criticizes him, he pouts for days and refuses to eat.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word: two syllables.

PUMMEL v (PUM ul) to pound or punch with the fists

Unable to think of a clever rejoinder to her brother's taunts, Tracy decided to pummel him.

You often have to pummel bread dough in order to knead it correctly.

The unprepared football team suffered an embarrassing pummeling in the opening round of the state tournament; they lost by a score of 58-0.

PUNCTILIOUS adj (pungk TIL ee us) meticulously attentive to detail; scrupulously (and sametimes annoyingly) exact

Mr. Richards's secretary drives him crazy with her punctilious habit of going through his correspondence and correcting grammatical errors in the letters people send to him.

The prosecutor's punctilious recitation of the case against the defendant left the jury no choice but to convict.

The new architect was hardly punctilious, when he drew the plans for the new skyscraper, he forgot to put in any floors.

Mr. Tholen's punctiliousness about table manners made his children tremble as they approached the dining room.

PUNDIT n (PUN dit) an expert; an authority; a learned person

I can never decide what the most important issues of the day are, so I let the *pundits* who write the columns on the editorial page tell me.

Mrs. Meetz is quite a *pundit* on the history of needlepoint, if she can get anyone to listen to her.

PUNGENT adj (PUN junt) sharp-tasting or sharp-smelling; acrid; caustic or incisive

Peter's parents are such bland eaters that every time they come to dinner he purposely serves them some incredibly pungent dish. Olives

marinated in lemon juice, chili pepper, and garlic was his latest attempt to wake up their palates.

The simmering soup gave off a pungent aroma that stung the nostrils of the cook.

Rachel's wit is a little too pungent for me; there is a tinge of cruelty in the jokes she tells about her friends.

PUNITIVE adj (PYOO nuh tiv) inflicting a punishment

Zoe's father was incredibly punitive; once, he grounded her for breathing too loudly.

Claude designs clothes so tight that wearing them is almost puni-

Todd was ordered to pay a one-thousand-dollar fine plus three thousand dollars in *punitive* damages for having written insulting graffiti on the Purvises! garage door.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

PURBLIND adj (PUR blynde) dim-sighted; practically blind; lacking understanding or imagination

Surgery is not a job for the purblind; last week, the myopic Dr. Jones sewed his watch inside someone's abdomen.

"I can no longer live with such a purblind woman," moaned the famous tenor. "She actually finds it embarrassing when I break into song in the middle of the street."

PURITANICAL adj (pyoor uh TAN i kul) very severe and strict about morals

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the *Puritans* were a group of Protestants who viewed pleasure and luxury as sinful and adhered strictly to simple and very severe religious beliefs. With a capital *P*, *Puritanical* means having to do with the Puritans; with a lower-case *p*, *puritanical* has a broader meaning, and it is almost never a compliment.

Ursula's parents are quite punitanical; they won't let her talk to boys, and won't let her stay out past seven-thirty without a chaperon.

Molly was so anxious not to be thought puritanical that she told the Hell's Angels she would love to spend the week with them in Las Vegas.

深重ない 一次が必要を放ける

Q+U+I+C+K + Q+U+I+Z #66

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. provocation
- 2. prowess -
- prurient
 seudonym
- 5. psyche
 6. pummel
- 7. punctilious
- 8. pundit
- 9. pungent
- 10. punitive
- 11. purblind
- 12. puritanical

- a. false name
- b. having lustful thoughts or desires
- c. dim-sighted
- d. incitement
- e. very severe about morals
- f. inflicting a punishment
- g. exceptional skill or strength
- h. pound with fists
- i. learned person
- j. meticulously attentive to detail
- k. human soul or mind
- i. sharp-tasting

0

QUAINT adj (kwaynt) pleasantly old-fashioned; picturesque

Janet had always longed to live in a quaint old cottage, so when she bought her split-level ranch house she glued moss and hollyhocks all over the outside.

In this town people have the quaint custom of throwing their plates at the hostess when they've finished eating.

QUANDARY n (KWAHN dree) state of perplexity; predicament

Joe is in a quandary; tomorrow he's scheduled to marry three different women in three different towns, and he can't decide whether to try to pull it off or move to another country.

"You place me in a quandary," observed the professor to his pleading student. "If I don't give you an A, you'll be expelled—even though your work deserves no higher than a D-plus." Then the professor remembered that Candy almost never came to class, and decided he wasn't in much of a quandary after all.

QUASI adv or adj (KWAY zye) almost; near; resembling

This word is always used in combination with other words.

She managed to come up with a quasi-plausible excuse for being out all night, so the headmistress decided to give her one more chance.

Claire makes all her own clothes; as a result, she always looks quasi-fashionable instead of truly stylish.

Our invention was a quasi success; it didn't do what we wanted it to do, but it also didn't blow up.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

QUAY n (kee) a landing on the edge of the water; wharf; pier

The party is being held on the quay; that means that at least five people will get pushed into the water at some point during the evening.

The hurricane washed away every boat moored along the quay, but the boats that had been pulled onto dry land before the storm were undamaged.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

QUELL v (kwel) to put an end to; to squelch; to suppress

Only his girlfriend could quell Whit's wrath at not having been chosen for the varsity team.

A mutiny arose when the cafeteria ran out of ice cream, but the food-service manager quelled it quickly by offering beer instead.

QUERY n (KWIR ee) a question; an inquiry

Please save any queries for the end of the lecture, or the professor will lose his train of thought and start singing the national anthem.

The manuscript was so covered with queries from her editor that Nancy could see immediately that she had a major revision ahead of her. Query is a verb as well. "Do you really think the earth is round?" Doug queried scornfully.

QUEUE n (kyoo) a line or file

The British are famous for waiting patiently in long queues, while the Germans are notorious for pushing to the head of the line.

This word can also be a verb. People were so eager for tickets that they started to queue up the night before the box office opened.

QUIESCENT adj (kwye ES unt) motionless; at rest; still

Clear your brain of all irrelevant thoughts; let your mind become quiescent. Then, and only then, will you truly be ready to learn why I should take over the world.

Theodore was bubbling over with energy as a young man, but in old age he settled into a peaceful quiescence (kwye ES uns).

QUINTESSENTIAL adj (kwin tuh SEN chul) being the most perfect example of

Lacey is the quintessential volunteer; she works twenty-three hours a day on different charitable causes.

The noun is quintessence. When you have reduced something to its most pure and concentrated form, you have captured its quintessence.

QUIZZICAL adj (KWIS i kul) teasing; mocking; questioning; inquisitive In archaic English, to quiz someone was to make fun of him or her. Our word quizzical often retains vestiges of this meaning.

Josh gave Jennifer's waistline a quizzical glance as she reached for her third piece of pie.

Increasingly in modern usage, quizzical also means questioning or inquisitive.

The policeman's quizzical expression hinted that perhaps I hadn't explained very well why I had to speed on the highway.

Note carefully the meaning of this word.

QUOTIDIAN adj (kwoh TID ee un) daily; everyday; ordinary
Having an airplane crash in your backyard isn't exactly a quotidian

event; in fact, for most people it isn't even a weekly one.

Marvin's diary was dull to read; it was filled almost entirely with thoroughly quotidian observations about meals and the weather.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #67

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. quaint
- quandary
 quasi
- 4. quay
- 5. quell 6. query
- 6. query 7. queue
- 8. quiescent
- 9. quintessential
- 11. quotidian

- a. pleasantly old-fashioned
- b. question
- c. motionless
- d. being the most perfect example of
- e. put an end to
- f. a landing on the edge of the water
- g. teasing
- h. state of perplexity
- i. daily
- j. almost
- k. line

R

RAMPANT adj (RAM punt) widespread; uncontrollable; prevalent;

A rumor the princess is expecting triplets is running rampant through the village; by noon, everyone in the county will have heard it.

Crime was rampant in the high school building; every locker had been broken into, and even the seventh graders carried guns.

A rampant horde of squealing fans tore the clothes off the rock star.

RAPTURE n (RAP chur) ecstasy; bliss; unequaled joy

Nothing could equal the Americans' rapture on spotting a Burger King in Calcutta; they had been terrified that they were going to have to eat unfamiliar food.

Winning an Oscar sent Dustin into a state of rapture. "I can't believe this is happening to me!" he exclaimed.

To be full of rapture is to be rapturous (RAP chur us). Rex doesn't go in for rapturous expressions of affection; a firm handshake and a quick punch on the shoulder is enough for him.

Rapt (rapt) is an adjective meaning entranced or ecstatic. The children listened with rapt attention to the storyteller; they didn't notice the pony standing in the hallway behind them. The dog stared raptly at the meat on the counter.

To be enraptured (en RAP churd) is to be enthralled or in a state of rapture. Enraptured by Danielle Steele's thrilling prose style, Frank continued reading until the library was ready to close.

RAREFIED adj (RAR uh fyde) esoteric; interesting to a select group only; exalted

Wendell's musical compositions are so rarefied that only a few people can really appreciate them.

Your book is too rarefied to reach a mass audience; why don't you take out the Old French epics and throw in a few car chases or something?

The verb is rarefy (RAR uh fye). To rarefy also means to make thin or to refine. So, rarefied can also mean thin. The atmosphere rarefied so much as Kelly scaled Mount Everest that she had to catch her breath.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

RATIFY v (RAT uh fye) to confirm; to approve something formally

If the latest version of the disarmament treaty isn't ratified soon, we must prepare for the possibility of war.

The powerless legislature had no choice but to ratify the edicts of the dictator.

According to the rules of P.S. 49, the student council president cannot take office until the entire student body has ratified his election. That is why P.S. 49 has never had a student council president. The noun is ratification.

RATIOCINATION n (rash ee oh suh NAY shun) logical reasoning

Winning the love of Wilma was clearly not a problem that could be solved by ratiocination alone; Wendell decided to turn off his computer and ask her out.

The verb is ratiocinate (rash ee OHS uh nayt).

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

RATIONALE n (rash uh NAL) underlying reason; basis; reasoning

"My rationale is simple," the doctor explained as he rummaged around in his drawer for a larger spoon. "If one dose of medicine is good, fifty doses must be better."

A powerful need to make phone calls from her car was Alice's rationale for buying a car phone.

To rationalize (RASH uh nuh lyze) is to give a reason, but more in the sense of offering an excuse.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

RAUCOUS adj (RAW kus) stridently loud; harsh; rowdy

Crows are my least favorite bird in the early morning; their raucous cawing wakes me, and I can't get back to sleep.

"If you don't stop that raucous behavior, I'll—I'll put you in the corner!" said the new teacher in a quavering voice as the students prepared to push Jeremy out the window.

Jed laughed raucously when his sister toppled off her chair.

REACTIONARY *adj* (ree AK shuh ner ee) ultraconservative; right-wing; backward-thinking

Grandpa Gus is so reactionary that he doesn't think women should be allowed to vote.

There's no point in proposing a welfare bill as long as this reactionary administration remains in power.

This word can also be a noun. I am a reactionary on the subject of candy; I believe that the old, established kinds are the best.

REBUFF v (ri BUF) to snub; to reject

Ashley has been trying to tame the squirrels in her yard, but so far they've rebuffed her efforts; she hasn't even been able to get them to eat the food she leaves for them on her porch.

Don't be surprised if Willie rebuffs your advances; if you want him to kiss you, you're just going to have to invest in some false teeth.

This word can also be a noun. I invited my parents to the Metallica concert, but I met with a horrified rebuff; in fact, my parents said they would rather die than go.

RECIDIVISM n (ri SID uh viz um) the act of repeating an offense

There's not much evidence that imprisoning people reforms them; the rate of *recidivism* among released convicts is very, very high.

A person who repeats an offense is a recidivist (ri SID uh vist). "My son is quite a recidivist," Mrs. Korman told her friends ruefully. "Every time I turn my back, he sneaks up to watch more TV."

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

Q+U+I+C+K + Q+U+I+Z #68

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. rampant

a. confirm

2. rapture

b. logical reasoning

3. rarefied

c. ecstasy

4. ratify

d. ultraconservative

ratiocination
 rationale

e. widespread f. stridently loud

7. raucous

g. esoteric

8. reactionary

n. underlying reason

9. rebuff

i. snub

recidivism

i. act of repeating an offense

RECLAIM v (ri KLAYM) to make uncultivated areas of land fit for cultivation; to recover usable substances from refuse; to claim again; to demand the restoration of

A century ago, turning a swamp into cropland was called reclaiming it; now it is called destroying wetlands.

At the recycling facility, massive electromagnets are used to reclaim steel and iron from scrap metal.

Anthony was able to reclaim his briefcase from the lost and found

after accurately describing its contents to the clerk.

This word can also be pronounced "ree KLAYM." The noun is reclamation (rek luh MAY shun).

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

REDEEM v (ri DEEM) to buy back; to fulfill; to make up for; to rescue from sin

When I heard that my husband had pawned my mink coat in order to buy me a birthday present, I went straight to the pawnshop and redeemed it with some money I had been going to spend on a birthday present for him.

The troubled company redeemed its employees' shares for fifty

cents on the dollar.

I won't marry you until you redeem your promise to build a roof over our heads.

Barbara will never redeem herself in her boss's eyes until she

returns every single paper clip she "borrowed."

Reverend Coe is obsessed with redeeming the souls of the people who play cards. His favorite tactic is crashing a bridge party and asking, "Who will bid for the redemption (ri DEMP shun) of your souls?" Someone who is so evil that they cannot be rescued from sin or wrongdoing is irredeemable (ir uh DEEM uh bul).

REDRESS v (ri DRES) to remedy; to make amends for

The head of the environmental group explained that by suing the chemical factory for violating clean-air laws, he was using the courts to redress a civil wrong.

Redress, pronounced "REE dres," is a noun meaning reparation,

compensation, or making amends for a wrong.

"Of course, there is no redress for what you've suffered," the lawyer told his client, who was wearing a neck brace and pretending to limp. "Still, I think we should ask for seven and a half million and see what happens."

Note carefully the pronunciation of both parts of speech.

REFERENDUM n (ref uh REN dum) a public vote on a measure proposed or passed by a legislature

At the very last minute, the state legislators snuck a large pay raise for themselves into the appropriations bill, but voters got wind of the scheme and demanded a referendum.

Referendum and refer are closely related. In a referendum, a bill from the legislature is referred to the electorate for approval.

REFRACTORY adj (ri FRAK tuh ree) disobedient and hard to manage; resisting treatment

Bobby is such a refractory little boy when it comes to haircuts that he has to be tied up and hoisted into the barber's chair.

181

The old man viewed all children as drooling, complaining, refractory little monsters.

The doctors prescribed ten antibiotics before finding one that worked on Helen's refractory infection.

REGIME n (ri ZHEEM) a governing power; a system of government; a period during which a government is in power

According to rules issued by the new regime, anyone caught wearing red shoes will be arrested and thrown into the penitentiary.

"I'm changing the regime around here," Mrs. Helm announced to her family one morning at breakfast, "From now on, I will be the one to decide which toys are thrown out and which are saved."

The older reporters spent much of their time reminiscing bitterly about how much better things had been during the previous regime. when the newspaper had been owned by a private family instead of a corporate conglomerate.

REGIMEN n (REJ uh mun) a regulated course

Mrs. Stewart is having trouble following the new regimen her doctor gave her; she can handle the dieting and exercise, but sleeping on a bed of nails is hard for her.

It takes most new students a long time to get used to the regimen at boarding school; that is why this headmaster doesn't allow children to write letters home until the beginning of the second semester.

REMISSION n (ri MISH un) the temporary or permanent disappearance of a disease; pardon

Isabel's cancer has been in remission for several years now-long enough for most people to have trouble remembering the dark period when she was gravely ill.

The appeals court granted Ronnie a partial remission of his crimes; it threw out two of his convictions, but it upheld the third.

One of the meanings of remit is to send back or pay; a remission, then, can also mean payment.

When companies ask for prompt remissions of their bills, I just laugh and put the bills away in a drawer.

REMUNERATION *n* (ri myoo nuh RAY shun) payment; recompense

"You mean you expect remuneration for working here?" the magazine editor asked incredulously when the young college graduate inquired as to what sort of salary she might expect to earn as an editorial assistant.

There is a strong positive correlation between people's satisfaction with their jobs and their level of remuneration; the more they're paid, the better they like their work.

The firefighter viewed the child's hug as more than adequate remuneration for crawling through the burning building to save her. Note carefully the spelling and pronunciation of this word.

REND v (rend) to tear; to rip

A heart-rending story is one that is so very terribly sad that it tears a reader's heart in two.

THE WORDS

I realize you're upset about not being invited to the dance, but rending your clothing and tearing out your hair is getting a little too emotional, don't you think?

Something ripped or torn can be described as rent (rent).

Either lightning or an incredibly huge ax rent this tree down the middle.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-7 #69

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. reclaim a. remedy 2. redeem b. disobedient 3 redress c. public vote

4. referendum d. make fit for cultivation 5. refractory e. disappearance of a disease

f. regulated course 6. regime

g. payment 7. regimen h. buy back 8. remission i. rip

9. remuneration

10. rend i. governing power

RENDER v (REN dur) to make; to cause to be; to provide; to depict

Steve's funny faces rendered his sister incoherent with laughter.

"We can render some form of financial assistance, if that is what you desire," the official suggested delicately.

Sitting all night on the bottom of the pond had rendered the car useless for almost anything except continuing to sit on the bottom of

Benson decided to render his mother in oil after determining that watercolor wasn't a substantial enough medium for the portrait of such a fatso. Benson's mother was not pleased with his rendering.

REPARTEE n (rep ur TEE) a quick, witty reply; witty, spirited conversation full of quick, witty replies

"Toilethead" is four-year-old Max's preferred repartee to almost any question.

When Annette first came to college, she despaired of ever being able to keep up with the repartee of the clever upperclassmen, but eventually she, too, got the hang of being insufferable.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

REPLICATE v (REP li kayt) to reproduce exactly; to duplicate; to repeat
When you replicate something, you produce a perfect replica
(REP li kuh) of it.

Other scientists were unable to replicate Harold's startling experimental results, and in short order Harold was exposed as a fraud.

At his weekend house in the country, Arthur tried to replicate the cozy English cottage in which he had been raised; his first step was to replace the asphalt shingles with thatch.

Some simple organisms replicate by splitting themselves in two.

REPOSE n (ri POHZ) rest; tranquillity; relaxation

As Carol struggled to pack the enormous crates, her husband lolled back on the sofa in an attitude of repose; as a matter of fact, he was sound asleep.

"Something attempted, something done, has earned a night's repose" is a favorite saying of Ruby's grandmother; it means she's tired and wants to go to bed.

REPRESS v (ri PRES) to hold back; to conceal from oneself; to suppress
Stella could not repress her feeling of horror at the sight of her neighbor's wallpaper.

The government's crude attempt to repress the rebellion in the countryside only made it easier for the rebels to attract new recruits.

Repressing painful memories is often psychologically harmful; the painful memories tend to pop up again when one is least prepared to deal with them.

The act of repressing is repression.

REPRIMAND n (REP ruh mand) stern reproof; official rebuke

David was relieved to see that the officer intended to give him a verbal reprimand instead of a speeding ticket.

Otto received his father's reprimand in stony silence because he did not want to give that mean old man the satisfaction of seeing his son cry.

This word can also be a verb. Ned's governess threatened to reprimand him and his friends if they continued to throw water balloons at the electrical workers dangling from the utility pole across the street.

REPRISAL n (ri PRYZE ul) retaliation; revenge; counterattack

We knocked over their snowman, and in reprisal they burned down our clubnouse.

The rebels issued a statement announcing that yesterday's kidnapping had been a *reprisal* for last month's bombing of a rebel stronghold.

The verb is reprise.

REPROBATE n (REP ruh bayt) a deprayed, wicked person; a degenerate
My Uncle Bob was a well-known old reprobate; he spent most of
his time lying drunk in the gutter and shouting obscenities at women
and children passing by.

Everyone deplored the *reprobate's* behavior while he was alive, but now that he's dead everyone wants to read his memoirs.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

REPUGNANT adj (ri PUG nunt) repulsive; offensive; disgusting

The thought of striking out on his own is absolutely repugnant to Allan; he would much prefer to continue living in his old room, driving his parents' car, and eating meals prepared by his mother.

Even the tiniest lapse in etiquette was repugnant to Mrs. Mason; when little Angela picked her nose and wiped it on the tablecloth, Mrs. Mason nearly burst her girdle.

Ashley's roommate, a classical-music major, found Ashley's love of hip-hop totally repugnant.

RESIGNATION n (rez ig NAY shun) passive submission; acquiescence
No one had expected that Warren would take being kicked off the
team with so much resignation; he simply hung up his uniform and
walked sadly out of the locker room.

There was resignation in Alex's voice when he announced at long last that there was nothing more that he could do.

To exhibit resignation is to be resigned (ri ZYNDE). After collecting several hundred rejection slips, Heather finally resigned herself to the fact that her novel would never be published.

Note carefully this particular meaning of the word.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #70

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

١.	render	a.	stern reproof
2.	repartee		reproduce exactly
3.	replicate		quick, witty reply
4.	repose	d.	depraved, wicked person
5.	repress	e.	retaliation
6.	reprimand	f.	cause to be
7.	reprisal		repulsive
8.	reprobate		hold back
9.	repugnant	i.	passive submission
0.	resignation	i.	tranguillity

RESPLENDENT adj (ri SPLEN dunt) brilliantly shining; radiant; dazzling
In the morning sunlight, every drop of dew was resplendent with
color; unfortunately, no one was awake to see it.

Betsy's gown looked resplendent in the candlelight; the gown was made of nylon, and it was so shiny you could practically see your reflection in it.

RESURRECTION n (rez uh REK shun) return to life; revival

In Christian belief, the *Resurrection* is Jesus' return to life on the third day after his crucifixion. In general usage, the word refers to any revival.

Polly's tablecloth has undergone quite a resurrection; the last time I saw it, she was using it as a dress.

The new chairman brought about the resurrection of the company by firing a few dozen vice presidents and putting a lock on the office supplies.

RETORT v (ri TAWRT) to make a sharp reply

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star—what you say is what you are," Leslie retorted hotly when her playmate called her a doo-doo brain.

When Laurie accused Peggy of being drunk, Peggy retorted, "Whoervooshavingsdrunk?" and fell over on the sidewalk.

This word can also be a noun. Jeff can never think of a good retort when he needs one; the perfect line usually comes to him only later, usually in the middle of the night.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

RETROSPECT n (RE truh spekt) looking backward; a review

In retrospect, I was probably out of line when I yelled at my mother for telling me she liked what I was wearing and saying that she hoped I would have a nice day.

The assigned book was so boring that most of the students only read the retrospect that opened each chapter with a description of what had taken place in the previous one.

A retrospective (re truh SPEK tiv) is an exhibition of an artist's work from over a period of years. Seeing an advertisement for a retrospective of his films made the director feel old.

Prospect (PRAH spekt) is the opposite of retrospect. A prospect is a view—either literal or figurative—that lies before you, or in the future.

George's heart sings at the *prospect* of being a game-show contestant; he believes that answering questions on television is the true path to enlightenment.

The Emersons named their new house *Prospect* Point, because it offered magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

REVAMP v (ree VAMP) to revise; to renovate

The struggling college's revamped curriculum offers such easy electives as Shakespeare's Furniture and Spelling for Spokesmodels.

Susan is revamping her résumé to make it seem more impressive; she's getting rid of the part that describes her work experience, and she's adding a part that is entirely made up.

REVEL v (REV ul) to enjoy thoroughly; to take delight in; to carouse

Ken is reveling in luxury now that he has finally come into his patrimony.

Tammy reveled in every bite of the forbidden dessert; it had been so long since she had eaten chocolate cake that she wanted it to last as

To revel is to engage in revelry (REV ul ree). The sounds of revelry arising from the party below kept the children awake until all of their parents' guests had gone. (To revel is not to engage in revelation; revelation is the noun form of reveal.)

A person who revels is a reveler (REV uh lur). Amanda thought that all her guests had gone home, but then she found one last drunken reveler snoring in her bedroom closet.

REVILE v (ri VYLE) to scold abusively; to berate; to denounce

In Dickens's Oliver Twist, poor Oliver is reviled for daring to ask or more gruel.

The president of the sorority reviled the newest member for not wearing enough makeup.

REVULSION n (ruh VUL shun) loathing; repugnance; disgust

The princess pulled back in revulsion when she realized that her kiss hadn't turned the frog into a prince after all.

"Please don't talk about dead lizards while I'm eating," said Sally with revulsion.

There is no such word as revulse (so you don't need to know how to pronounce it).

RHAPSODIZE v (RAP suh dyze) to speak extremely enthusiastically; to gush

Danielle rhapsodized about the little dog, saying that she had never seen a more beautiful, friendly, fabulous little dog in her entire life.

Hugh never has a kind word to say about anything, so when he rhapsodized about the new restaurant we figured that we probably ought to try it.

One who rhapsodizes can be said to be rhapsodic (rap SAHD ik). The review of the play was far from rhapsodic. In fact, it was so harshly negative that the play closed the next day.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

RIBALD adj (RIB uld) indecent or vulgar; off-color

Most of the songs on that new album have *ribald* lyrics that will give heart attacks to mothers all over the nation.

Ribald language or horsing around is called ribaldry (RIB uld ree). The freshman dormitory was characterized primarily by ribaldry and beer.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

RIFE adj (ryfe) occurring frequently; widespread; common; swarming Fistfights were rife in that part of town, largely because there was an all-night bar in nearly every storefront.

The committee's planning sessions were rife with backstabbing and petty quarrels.

Below decks, this ship is rife with rats and other pests.

RIVET v (RIV it) to engross; to hold firmly

On a construction site, a rivet is a metal pin that is used to fasten

manner. Outside of a construction site, rivet means much the same thing, except figuratively.

After reading the first paragraph, I was riveted to the murder mystery until I had finished the final one.

Dr. Larson riveted the attention of his audience with a description of his method of turning straw into gold.

If something rivets in this way, it is said to be riveting. Cynthia has the most riveting green eyes I've ever seen—or perhaps those are contact lenses.

ROUT v (rowt) to put to flight; to scatter; to cause a huge defeat

Brighton High School's debate team routed the team from Pittsford, leaving the Pittsford captain sobbing among his notecards.

Routing the forces of pestilence and famine turned out to be a bigger job than Mark had anticipated, so he said the hell with it and went to law school.

This word can also be a noun. Last week's football game was a rout, not a contest; our team lost by a margin of more than fifty points.

RUE v (roo) to mourn; to regret

I rue the day I walked into this place; nothing even remotely good has happened to me since then.

The middle-aged man rued his misspent youth—all that time wasted studying, when he could have been meeting girls.

It's hard for Howie not to feel *rueful* when he remembers the way he fumbled the ball in the last two seconds of the game, ending his team's thirty-year winning streak.

Whenever Nina's mother gets a rueful look in her eye, Nina knows she's about to make some kind of remark about how fast time passes.

"If only I had remembered to change out of my bathing suit before the dance." Eileen said ruefully.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #71

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.	resplendent	a.	enjoy thoroughly
2.	resurrection	Ь.	scold abusively
3.	retort	c.	brilliantly shining
4.	retrospect	d.	occurring frequently
5.	revamp	e.	revise
6.	revel	f.	looking backward
7.	revile	g.	engross
8.	revulsion	ĥ.	mourn
9.	rhapsodize	i.	make a sharp reply
10.	ribald		put to flight
11.	rife	k.	return to life
12.	rivet	١.	indecent
13.	rout	m.	speak extremely enthusiastically
14.	rue	n.	loathing



SALLY n (SAL ee) a sudden rushing attack; an excursion; an expedition; a repartee; a clever rejoinder

Our cat made a lightning-fast sally into the TV room, then dashed out of the house with the parakeet squawking in his mouth.

Let's take a little sally down Newbury Street; there are some very nice, expensive shops there I've been meaning to peek into.

Tony didn't know the answer to the professor's question, but his quick-witted sally made the whole class laugh, including the professor.

This word can be used as a verb as well. The first sentence of the mystery is, "One fine morning, Randall Quarry sallied forth from his Yorkshire mansion and was never seen again."

SALUTATION *n* (sal yoo TAY shun) greeting; welcome; opening words of greeting

"Hello, you stinking, stupid swine" is not the sort of warm, supportive salutation James had been expecting from his girlfriend.

Unable to recognize the man coming toward her, Lila waved her hand in salutation and hoped the gesture would fool him into thinking she knew who he was.

A salutatory (suh LOO tuh tawr ee) is a welcoming address given to an audience. At a high school commencement, it is the speech given by the salutatorian (suh loo tuh TAWR ee un), the student with the

189

second-highest grade point average in the graduating class. (The student with the highest average is the valedictorian.) Paul's salutatory started with a few words of welcome, then disintegrated into a diatribe against what he called the envy-crazed teachers who had conspired to prevent him from becoming valedictorian.

SANCTION n (SANGK shun) official permission or approval; endorsement; penalty; punitive measure

Without the sanction of the historical commission, Cynthia was unable to paint her house purple and put a flashing neon sign over the front door.

The baby-sitter wasn't sure whether it was okay for Alex to knock over Andy's block tower, so she called the boys' parents and received their sanction first.

Strangely, sanction also has a meaning that is very nearly opposite to approval or permission. (Cleave is another word that is very nearly its own antonym.) "Unless your puny little nation stops selling poisoned fruit to other nations," the secretary of state threatened, "we'll impose so many sanctions on you that you won't know which way is up."

For many years international sanctions on South Africa included the banning of its athletes from competing in the Olympics.

This word can be a verb as well. The manager of the apartment complex won't sanction your flooding the weight room to make a swimming pool.

SARCASM *n* (SAHR kaz um) irony; jokingly or bitingly saying the opposite of what is meant

Hank believes that sarcasm is the key to breaking the ice with girls. "Is that your real hair, or did you just join the circus?" he asked Jeanette, shortly before she punched him in the nose.

To use sarcasm is to be sarcastic (sahr KAS tik). The mayor was enraged by the sarcastic tone of the newspaper's editorial about his arrest for possession of cocaine.

"Nice outfit," Martin said sarcastically as he eyed his sister's faded bathrobe, fluffy slippers, and knee-high nylons.

SAVANT *n* (suh VAHNT) a scholar; a very knowledgeable and learned person

Bertrand is a real savant about architecture. You can't go on a walk without him stopping to point out every architectural point of interest he sees. That's why no one will go on walks with him anymore.

The abbot of the monastery is a great savant in the fields of church history and religious art.

Perhaps because savant is a French word (it derives from the French savoir, to know), it tends to be used in association with more sophisticated feats of knowledge. You'd be unlikely to hear someone described as a baseball savant, for example.

An idiot savant is a person who, though severely retarded in most areas, has an astonishing mastery of one particular subject. Ed is an

idiot savant; he can't speak, read, or dress himself, but he is capable of playing intricate piano pieces after hearing them just once.

Savoir-faire (sav wahr FER) is a French phrase that has been adopted into English. It is social grace, or the knowledge of what to do and how to behave in any situation. Priscilla was very nervous at the diplomat's party, but her instinctive savoir-faire kept her from making major blunders.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

SCANT adj (skant) limited; meager; barely sufficient

Soap and water are in scant supply around here. You'll be able to take a shower only once a month.

Finding the recipe too bland, she added a scant tablespoonful of lemon juice to the mixture.

Mrs. Doudy has rather scant knowledge of home economics. She's been teaching her students to hem things with tape and safety pins.

Scant can be a verb as well. Don't scant me on mashed potatoes—
you know they're my favorite.

Scant and scanty (SKAN tee) have similar but not quite identical meanings. Scant means barely sufficient in amount, while scanty means barely sufficient in number, extent, or quantity. The beggar has scant food and scanty clothes.

SCHISM n (SIZ um) division; separation; discord or disharmony

There's been a schism in the ranks of the Flat Earth Society; one faction believes that the earth is flat because it was created that way, while the other faction believes the earth used to be round but was rolled flat by beings from outer space.

Schism was bound to break apart the Puritans at some point; strict religious doctrine held them together when they first arrived in the New World, but as their opportunities expanded, it was inevitable that their viewpoints would also begin to diverge.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

SCORN v (skawrn) to disdain; to find someone or something contemptible

"I scorn your sweaty, mindless athletics," said the president of the literary club to the captain of the football team. "I prefer spending a quiet afternoon by myself reading the works of the great poets."

Morris scorns every kind of cat food except, amazingly, the most expensive brand.

This word can be a noun as well as a verb. "Your clothes are totally pathetic, Dad," said Sally, her voice dripping with scorn. Her father gave her a scornful look and said, "Do you really believe I care what a five-year-old thinks of the way I dress?"

SEAMLESS adj (SEEM lus) without a seam; without anything to indicate where two things were joined together; smooth

After lots of revision, Jennifer succeeded in reworking the two halves of her novel into a seamless whole.

The most interesting thing Mary Reth said all evening was that her

191

new, seamless underpants were considerably less bulky than the kind she had formerly worn.

His excuse is seamless, I have to admit; I know he's lying, but I can't find a hole in his story.

SECEDE v (si SEED) to withdraw from an alliance

When the southern states seceded from the Union, they probably never expected to create quite as much of a ruckus as they did.

If taxes keep rising, our state is going to secede from the nation and become a tax-free society financed by revenues from bingo and horse-racing.

When Edward's mother made him clean his room, he seceded from his family and moved into the basement, where he could keep things as messy as he wanted.

An act of seceding is secession (suh SESH un). Edward's mother refused to recognize his secession. She made him clean up the basement, too.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #72

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. sally

a. biting irony

2. salutation

b. scholar

3. sanction

c. sudden rushing attack

sarcasm
 savant

e. smooth

6. scant

f. disdain

7. schism 8. scorn g. official permission or approvalh. greeting

9. seamless

i. division

10. secede

j. limited

SECLUSION n (si KLOO zhun) aloneness; withdrawal from other people

The poet spent her final years in seclusion, remaining alone in a darkened room and listening to "Stairway to Heaven" over and over again.

Some people can study better with other people around, but I need total seclusion and an endless supply of Milk Duds.

The prisoner was causing so much trouble that his guards agreed it would be best to put him in seclusion for the time being.

Roberta lives in a secluded house at the end of a dead-end street; the lots on either side of hers are empty.

The verb is seclude (si KLOOD).

SECT *n* (sekt) a small religious subgroup or religion; any group with

Jack dropped out of college and joined a religious sect whose members were required to live with animals and surrender all their

material possessions to the leaders of the sect.

After the schism of 1949, the religious denomination split up into about fifty different sects, all of them with near-identical beliefs and none of them speaking to the others.

Matters pertaining to sects are sectarian (sek TER ee un). The company was divided by sectarian fighting between the research and marketing departments, each of which had its own idea about what the new computer should be able to do.

To be sectarian is also to be single-mindedly devoted to a sect. Nonsectarian means not pertaining to any particular sect or group. Milly has grown so sectarian since becoming a Moonie that she can't really talk to you anymore without trying to convert you.

SEDENTARY adj (SED un ter ee) largely confined to sitting down; not physically active

Writing is a sedentary life; just about the only exercise you get is walking to the mailbox to see if anyone's sent you a check, and you don't even need to do that very often.

When people get older, they tend to become more sedentary; my octogenarian aunt even uses her car to visit her next-door neighbor.

If you want to stay in shape with that sedentary job, you'll have to make sure to get lots of exercise in your spare time.

SELF-MADE adj (self MAYD) having succeeded in life without help from others

John is a self-made man; everything he's accomplished, he's accomplished without benefit of education or support from powerful friends. Like most self-made men, John can't stop talking about how much he's managed to accomplish despite his humble origins.

Being a wildly successful self-made politician, Maggie had little sympathy with the idea of helping others who hadn't gotten as far as she. "I pulled myself up by my own bootstraps; why can't they?" she would say, staring out her limousine window at the wretched souls living in cardboard boxes on the streets.

Self-esteem (self i STEEM) is the opinion one has of oneself. Patty's self-esteem is so low that she can't even bring herself to say hello to people in passing, because she can't imagine why they would want to talk to her.

Something is *self-evident* (self EV i dunt) if it is obvious without needing to be pointed out. Most Americans believe that certain rights, such as the right to speak freely, are *self-evident*.

A self-possessed (self puh ZEST) person is one who has good control of his or her feelings. The only time Valerie's self-possession (self puh ZESH un) ever breaks down is when someone in the audience yawns.

193

A self-righteous (self RYE chus) person is sanctimonious, smug. and intolerant of others, believing that everything he or she does is right, "It's a good thing some of us have proper respect for others' possessions," said Tiffany self-righteously after discovering that her roommate had wiped her nose with Kleenex that Tiffany had bought.

A self-satisfied (self SAT is fyed) person is, obviously, satisfied oversatisfied—with himself or herself. My self-satisfied sister announced to my mother that she had done a much better job of making her bed than I had.

A self-starter (self STAR tur) takes initiative and doesn't need the help of others to get going. Sandra is a great self-starter. The second the professor gives a paper assignment, she rushes out to the library and checks out all the books she'll need. I'm not a good self-starter at all. I prefer to sit around watching TV until the day of the deadline. then ask the professor for an extension.

SENTENTIOUS adi (sen TEN shus) preachy; pompous; excessively moralizina: self-righteous

The new headmistress made a sententious speech in which she urged the student body to follow her illustrious example.

I can stand a boring lecture, but not a sententious one, especially when I know that the professor giving it has absolutely nothing to brag about.

SERENE adj (suh REEN) calm; peaceful; tranquil; untroubled

In the lake's serene blue depths lie the keys my father hurled off the deck in a fit of temper a couple of days ago after learning that I had totaled his car.

"Try to look serene, dear," said the pageant director to the girl playing the Virgin Mary. "Mary should not look as though she wants to punch Joseph out."

The state of being serene is serenity (suh REN uh tee). Kelly was a nervous wreck for an hour before the guests arrived, but as soon as the doorbell rang she turned into serenity itself.

SERPENTINE adi (SUR pun teen) snakelike in either shape or movement; winding, as a snake travels

A serpent (SUR punt) is a snake. To be serpentine is to be like a

Dan despises interstate highways, preferring to travel on serpentine state roads that wind through the hills and valleys.

SHACKLE n (SHAK ul) a manacle; a restraint

As soon as the bad guys left the room, the clever detective slipped. out his shackles by using his teeth to fashion a small key from a ballpoint pen.

"Throw off the shackles of your restrictive upbringing and come skinny-dipping with me!" shouted Andy as he stripped off his clothes and jumped into the pool, but everyone else just stood quietly and stared at him.

This word can also be used as a verb. The circus trainer used heavy iron chains to shackle his performing bears when they weren't performing.

SHIBBOLETH n (SHIB uh luth) a distinctive word, pronunciation, or behavior that typifies a particular group; a slogan or catchword

That large government programs are inherently bad is a shibboleth of the Republican party.

A shibboleth can also be a common saying that is essentially meaningless. The old housewife's shibboleth that being cold makes a person more likely to catch a cold has been discredited by modern medical experts.

SHREWD adi (shrood) wily; cunning; sly

Foxes actually are every bit as shrewd as they're portrayed to be in folklore: hunters say foxes under pursuit are often able to trick even trained foxhounds into following a false trail.

There was a shrewd look in the old shopkeeper's eye as he watched the city slickers venture into his country store and calculated the percentage by which he would be able to overcharge them for junk that none of the locals would have given a second glance.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #73

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

١.	seclusion	a. wily
	sect	b. snakelike
3.	sedentary	c. preachy
4	collomado	المراكب

5. sententious 6. serene

e. largely confined to sitting down f. having succeeded without 7. serpentine

8. shackle 9. shibboleth 10. shrewd

help from others g. small religious subaroup h. manacle

i. aloneness i. catchword

SINGULAR adi (SING ayuh lur) exceptional; unique; unusual

Nell has a singular talent for getting into trouble; the other morning, she managed to break her leg, insult a woman at the post office. drop some eggs at the grocery store, paint her bedroom green, and cut down the big maple tree in the next-door neighbor's front yard.

Theodore's singular facility with numbers makes life difficult for his teacher, who finds it embarrassing to be corrected by a first grader.

A singular expression crossed Rebecca's face; she looked as if she were trying simultaneously to suppress a sneeze and swallow a pillow. Singular does not mean single. To be singular is to be exceptional; it is not to be alone.

SKIRMISH n (SKUR mish) a fight between small numbers of troops; a brief conflict

I was expecting a couple of skirmishes during the Scout campout—arguments about who got to shower first, and things like that but not this out-and-out war between the girls in the different patrols.

Soldiers on both sides felt insulted when the CNN reporter referred to their recent battle as a "skirmish."

A skirmish broke out at the hockey game when a drunken fan threw a beer bottle at the opposing team's goalie.

This word can also be a verb. The principal skirmished with the students over the issue of hair length.

SKITTISH adj (SKIT ish) nervous; easily startled; jumpy

The farm animals all seemed skittish, and no wonder—a wolf was walking back and forth outside their pen, reading a cookbook and sharpening his knife.

"Why are you so skittish tonight?" the baby-sitter asked the young children. "Is it my pointed teeth, or is it the chainsaw in my knap-sack?"

SLAKE v (slayk) to quench; to satisfy; to assuage

Soda doesn't slake your thirst as well as plain old water.

Irene's thirst for companionship was slaked by her next-door neighbor, who spent most of every day drinking coffee with her in her kitchen.

My hairdresser's admiration slaked my fear that shaving my head hadn't been the best move.

SOLACE n (SAHL is) consolation; comfort

The broken-hearted country-and-western singer found solace in a bottle of bourbon; then he wrote a song about finding solace in a bottle of bourbon.

The Red Sox just lost the pennant, and there is no solace for baseball fans in the city of Boston tonight.

This word can also be a verb. I've heard a lot of come-ons in my day, but "May I solace you?" has to be a first.

SOLIDARITY n (sahl uh DAR uh tee) sense of unity; a sense of sharing a common goal or attitude

Working on New Year's Eve wasn't as depressing as Russell had been fearing; there was a sense of *solidarity* in the newsroom that was at least as enjoyable as any New Year's Eve party he had ever been to.

To promote a sense of *solidarity* among our campers, we make them wear ugly uniforms and wake them up early; they don't have a very good time, but they learn to stick together because they hate our rules so much. Solidarity was an appropriate name for the first Polish labor union, since it represented a decision by workers to stand up together against their government.

SOPHOMORIC adj (sahf uh MAWR ik) juvenile; childishly goofy

The dean of students suspended the fraternity's privileges because its members had streaked through the library wearing togas, soaped the windows of the administration building, and engaged in other sophomoric antics during Parents' Weekend.

"I expect the best man to be *sophomoric*—but not the groom. Now, give me that slingshot, and leave your poor fiancée alone!" the minister scolded Andy at his wedding rehearsal.

The misbehaving tenth graders didn't mind being called sophomoric; after all, they were sophomores (SAHF uh mawrz).

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

SORDID adi (SAWR did) morally vile; filihy; squalid

"What a sordid little story I read in the newspaper this morning," Aunt Helen said to her nephew. "Do you think they'll ever find the man who—" She whispered the rest into his ear so that her impressionable young niece wouldn't hear the terrible things the man had done.

For many years, it turned out, Mr. Rubble had been involved in a sordid affair with the teenaged daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Flintstone.

This is just about the most sordid cottage I've ever seen. Look at that mold on the walls! Look at the slime on the floor! When I track down that rental agent, I'm going to give her a piece of my mind.

SOVEREIGN n (SAHV run) supreme ruler; monarch

Wouldn't the people in this country be surprised to learn that their sovereign is not a human but a mynah bird?

Sovereign can also be used as an adjective, in which case it means principal or foremost. Getting those kids to school safely should be the bus driver's sovereign concern, but I'm afraid he's really more interested in finding a place to stop for a doughnut as soon as he has finished his route.

Sovereignty (SAHV run tee) means supremacy of authority—it's what kings exercise over their kingdoms.

The disgruntled Californians declared sovereignty over some rocks in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and declared their intention of establishing a new nation.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

SPATE n (spayt) a sudden outpouring

Julia has received a *spate* of media coverage in the days since her new movie was released; last week, her picture was on the covers of both *Time* and *Newsweek*.

"The recent spate of copycat crimes proves at least-criminals are watching our news programs," said the executive of the struggling television station. "That's kind of good, isn't it?"

In British usage, a spate is a literal flood. When the spate had

197

abated, the villagers were horrified to discover how hard it is to remove mud from upholstered furniture.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #74

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

•		. 1	
1		singu	ar
•	•		•

2. skirmish

3. skittish

solace
 solidarity

7. sophomoric

8. sordid

9. sovereign

10. spate

a. consolation

b. sudden outpouring

c. fight between small numbers of troops

d. quench

e. exceptional

f. juvenile

g. nervous

h. sense of unity

i. morally vile

SPECIOUS adj (SPEE shus) something that seems correct or appropriate but that lacks real worth; deceptive; misleading; not genuine

That's very specious reasoning, Olivia; the fact that both roses and blood are red does not mean that roses contain blood.

Medical doctors have long viewed chiropractic as a specious discipline, but that attitude has changed somewhat in recent years as a number of careful studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of certain chiropractic techniques.

SPECTER n (SPEK tur) ghost; phantom

The specter of old Miss Shaffer still haunts this house, making mysterious coughing noises and leaving tattered issues of TV Guide in unexpected spots.

As the girls gazed at him, transfixed with horror, he gradually shriveled up and turned into a *specter* before their very eyes. "I told you we shouldn't touch that switch," Suzy snapped at Muffy.

A specter doesn't have to be a literal ghost. The specter of the Great Depression continued to haunt the Reeses, making them reluctant to spend money on anything that seemed even remotely frivolous.

To be spectral (SPEK trul) is to be ghostly or specterlike. The ladies in the Library Club were hoping to give the Halloween funhouse a thoroughly spectral atmosphere, but their limited budget permitted them to buy only a couple of rolls of orange and black crepe paper and some candy corn.

SPECTRUM n (SPEK trum) a broad sequence or range of different but related things or ideas

The entire spectrum of acting theories is represented in this work-

shop, from the notion that all you have to do to act is act to the belief that you must truly become the character in order to be convincing.

If the spectrum of political beliefs were an actual line, Rob's views would occupy a point slightly left of center. He's liberal enough to irritate his parents, but too conservative to earn the total trust of his leftist friends.

SPURN v (spurn) to reject disdainfully; to scorn

The female peacock spurned the male's advances day after day; she took so little notice of him that he might as well have sold his tail feathers and tried to make time with the chickens.

Preschoolers usually spurn their parents' attempts to serve them healthy meals; they turn up their noses at nice, wholesome fruits and vegetables and ask where the chips are.

Elizabeth spurned Jeff's apologies; she could see that he wasn't sorry at all, and that he was, in fact, on the verge of laughing.

STALWART adj (STAWL wort) sturdily built; robust; valiant; unwavering "Don't forget," Elbert droned to Frieda, "that those brawny, stalwart youths you seem to admire so much have little to recommend them, intellectually speaking."

The chipmunk made a *stalwart* effort to defend her babies from the sallies of the cat, but it was my own efforts with a water pistol that finally drove the attacker away.

Ernie has been a stalwart friend through thick and thin, even when I used to pretend not to recognize him as I passed him in the hall.

STARK adi (stahrk) utter; unmitigated; harsh; desolate

If you play that song one more time, I will go stark, raving mad, and throw the stereo out the window.

Stark terror leaped into the baby-sitter's eyes when she realized that both the car and the triplets were missing.

A lump rose in Lulu's throat when she saw the view out her apartment window for the first time; the room faced a *stark*, deserted alley whose only adornment was a rusty old fire escape.

This word can also be an adverb, in which case it means utterly and absolutely. Ella used to answer the door *stark* naked, just to see what would happen; lots of things happened.

STINT v (stint) to restrict or hold back on; to be frugal

"Please don't stint, ladies," wheedled the con man as he waved his jar around drunkenly. "Every penny you give me goes to support the orphanage."

David's eyes glowed as he beheld his hot fudge sundae; the waiter certainly had not stinted on the hot fudge, which was flowing out of the bowl and onto the tablecloth.

The adjective is stinting (or unstinting). When stint is used as a noun, it means a period of time spent doing a job or special duty. Ed would have done a stint in the military, but he didn't like the thought of having to keep his sergeant's shoes polished.

STIPEND n (STYE pund) income; allowance; salary

The stipend this university pays its teaching assistants is so low that some of them are forced to rummage for food in the dumpster behind McDonald's.

In addition to his commissions, the salesman received a small stipend to cover his travel expenses.

An allowance is a *stipend* that a child receives from his or her parents. It is always too small.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

STOLID adj (STAHL id) not easily roused to emotion; impassive; apathetic; phlegmatic

Not a ripple of emotion passed across her brother's stolid countenance when she told him that his best friend had just asked her to marry him. "That's nice," he said, without looking away from the TV.

Our local veterinarian no longer treats farm animals because the stolid expressions of cows make him feel uneasy and depressed.

In professional football, the *stolid* performers sometimes have longer careers than the flashy superstars, who have a tendency to burn themselves out after a few years.

STOUT adj (stowt) plump; stocky; substantial

Karen has been working in the candy store for just a week, but she's already become noticeably stouter. In fact, she has started to waddle.

Mr. Barton was built a little bit like a beach ball; he was stout in the middle and skinny at either end.

Mr. Reardon never goes for a walk without carrying a stout stick along; he uses it to steady his balance, knock obstacles out of his path, and scare away dogs and small children.

Stout also means brave, plucky, or resolute. The "stout-hearted men" in the well-known song are courageous men.

"I don't mind walking home over Haunted Hill," the little boy said stoutly.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #75

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- a. stocky 1. specious b. reject 2. specter c. robust 3. spectrum d. restrict 4. spurn e. phantom stalwart f. desolate 6. stark g. not easily roused to emotion 7. stint h. deceptive 8. stipend i. broad sequence 9. stolid
 - i. allowance

10. stout

STRATAGEM n (STRAT uh jum) a maneuver designed to outwit an enemy; a scheme; a ruse

The Pied Piper's stratagem was successful; entranced by the sound of his pipe, the rats followed him out of town and never came back.

Our stratagem for replacing the real newspaper with a parody issue involved kidnapping the driver of the delivery truck and taking over the delivery route ourselves.

Jordan has devised a little stratagem to test whether Santa Claus really exists; the next time he writes Santa a letter, he's going to drop it in the mailbox without showing it to his parents first.

To devise stratagems toward a particular goal is to develop a strategy.

STUPENDOUS adj (stoo PEN dus) remarkable; extraordinary; remarkably large or extraordinarily gigantic

Everyone had told Chet to expect a *stupendous* view from the top of the World Trade Center, but the weather was foggy on the day he visited, and all he could see was clouds.

A stupendous pile of laundry awaited Phyllis when she returned from her business trip; she had forgotten to tell her children that they should do their own wash while she was gone.

To climb Mount Everest on a bicycle would be a stupendous accomplishment.

STUPOR n (STOO pur) a stunned condition; near-unconsciousness; apathy; inertia

After Thanksgiving dinner, we were all too full to do anything except lie around on the floor in a *stupor* and watch the dog walk in circles in front of the fireplace.

Polls indicated that the new anchorman was sending viewers into a stupor of boredom, so he was quickly replaced by a baton twirler and relegated to doing the weather report.

Rachel's first view of college was not an impressive one; immediately after stepping out of the taxi, she ran into a group of seniors weaving around the quadrangle in a drunken stupor.

To be in a stupor is to be stuporous (STOO pur us). To stupefy (STOO puh fy) is to astonish or stun.

SUBSIDE v (sub SYDE) to sink or settle; to diminish; to lessen

• The house's foundation subsided to the point where the first-floor windows were in danger of disappearing from view.

Mrs. Bailey eyed her students sternly until their chattering had subsided and they were ready to hear her views on linguistic development.

The popular new drug helps anxieties to subside, but it does not eliminate them completely.

Cornelia's homesickness subsided rapidly, and by the end of the first week, she found that she had come to prefer being at camp to being at home.

201

SUBSIDIARY adj (sub SID ee er ee) supplemental; additional; secondary or subordinate

The Watsons pay their kids both a weekly allowance and a subsidiary sum for doing particular chores; the system worked until the children decided they would rather be broke than do chores.

Poor Carrie doesn't seem to realize that she's stuck in a subsidiary position for at least the near future; Mr. Vitale will never promote her unless someone quits, and no one's going to quit with the job market the way it is.

This word can also be a noun, in which case it often refers to a small company owned by or closely associated with a larger company. Acme Corp's main business is manufacturing boomerangs, but it has subsidiaries that make everything from tennis balls to french fries.

SUBSIDIZE v (SUB suh dyze) to provide financial aid; to make a financial contribution

"We'll lend you money for your apartment, but we're not subsidizing your boyfriend, too," Amanda's parents told her. "Either he contributes to the rent, or he moves out."

The professor's assertion that cigarette smoking can be healthful was discredited when a reporter discovered that the tobacco industry had subsidized his research.

The school lunch program is *subsidized* by the state; the school system is reimbursed by the state for a portion of what it spends on pizza and peach cobbler.

SUBSTANTIATE v (sub STAN shee ayt) to prove; to verify; to confirm

Experts from the transit department were unable to substantiate the woman's assertion that little men from the center of the earth had invaded the subway system and were planning to take over the world.

The prosecutor did her best to substantiate the charge against the defendant, but it was an uphill job; she couldn't find a single witness willing to testify against him.

Lawrence's entire scientific career is built on unsubstantiated theories; a case in point is his ten-year study of communication between rocks.

SUBTERFUGE n (SUB tur fyooj) artifice; a trick or stratagem; a ruse

Pearl isn't allowed to wear jeans to school, so she has gotten into the habit of leaving a pair of jeans in the bushes behind her house and changing into them in her best friend's garage. This little subterfuge is about to be discovered, however, because Pearl's mother is dropping in on the school unexpectedly today to bring her the lunchbox she left at home this morning.

SUFFICE v (suh FYSE) to be sufficient; to be enough

At Thanksgiving dinner, Grandma said that she wasn't very hungry, and that a crust of bread and a few drops of water would suffice.

Instruction in reading and writing alone will not *suffice* to prepare our children for the real world; they must also be given a solid grounding in mathematics, and a passing familiarity with the martial arts.

Rosemary passed out at the table and woke up many hours later in the guest bed in a pool of vomit; suffice it to say that she was not invited back to that house again.

SUFFRAGE n (SUF rii) the right to vote

Amazing though it seems today, suffrage for women was a hotly contested issue at the beginning of the twentieth century. Many men—and many women, for that matter—seriously believed that choosing among political candidates would place too great a strain on women's supposedly feeble intellects, and women were not guaranteed the right to vote until 1920.

Women who advocated the extension of suffrage to women were known as suffragettes (suf ruh JETS).

Universal suffrage is the right of all people to vote, regardless of race, sex, ownership of property, and so forth.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #76

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1. stratagem

a. prove

2. stupendous

b. stunned condition

3. stupor

c. artifice

4. subside
5. subsidiary

d. maneuver designed to outwit

subsidiary
 subsidize

an enemy

e. provide financial aid

7. substantiate

f. remarkable

8. subterfuge

g. sink

9. suffice

h. supplemental

10. suffrage

i. be sufficient
i. right to vote

SUFFUSE v (suh FYOOZ) to cover; to overspread; to saturate

A crimson blush suffused the timid maiden's ivory cheeks as she realized that she had forgotten to put on clothes before leaving the house.

The room that was once filled with dazzling sunbeams is now suffused with the ugly grayish light of a fluorescent lamp.

Suffusing the meat with a marinade will add flavor, but it won't tenderize the meat.

The adjective is suffuse (suh FYOOS).

SUMPTUOUS adj (SUMP choo us) luxurious; splendid; lavish

The walls were covered with sumptuous silk tapestries, the floors with the finest Eastern rugs, and I felt stupid standing there, because

A sumptuous feast awaited the travelers when they reached the great hall of the king's castle.

SUPERSEDE v (soo pur SEED) to take the place of; to supplant; to make (something) obsolete

Every few minutes, someone introduces a new antiaging cream that allegedly supersedes all the existing antiaging creams on the market; it's a wonder we haven't all turned into babies.

Your new address list supersedes the address list you were given last week, which superseded the list of the previous week, and will be superseded next week by an updated list to be distributed at that time.

Note carefully the spelling of this word.

SUPINE adj (soo PYNE) lying on one's back

Shirley lay supine on her deck chair, soaking up the sunshine and, in the process, turning her complexion into leather.

When you've got both broken legs in traction, you'd better stay supine or you'll be awfully uncomfortable.

Supine is sometimes used figuratively to describe a person who is inert or inactive. A Chinese legend speaks of a man so supine that he starved to death because he couldn't be bothered to turn around a necklace of biscuits his wife had placed around his neck.

The opposite of supine is prone (prohn). To be prone is to be lying face down.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

SUPPLICATION n (sup luh KAY shun) humble prayer; earnest entreaty
It's almost frightening to walk through the streets of any city
nowadays, there are so many people making supplications for food or
spare change.

The priest asked our prayers and supplications for the sick and dying of the parish.

To make a supplication is to supplicate (SUP luh kayt). A person who does so is a supplicant (SUP luh kunt). The king has set aside a

part of every day to hear the petitions of his supplicants, some of whom had journeyed hundreds of miles in order to ask him favors.

SUPPRESS v (suh PRES) to overpower; to subdue; to quash

Mom and Dad suppressed our brief show of rebellion by threaten-

ing to hold our hands in public if we didn't behave.

Everyone had expected the Soviet army to suppress the uprisings against the coup, but for once the army was behind the populace. The soldiers' refusal to quash the demonstrators effectively ended the coup. See our listing for repress.

SURMISE v (sur MYZE) to conjecture; to guess

From the messages the eight-ball has been sending me, I surmise

that someone's going to be giving me a present soon.

Gazing at the group with a practiced eye, the tour guide surmised that 25 percent of the tourists would want to see famous people's houses, 25 percent would want to visit museums and cathedrals, and

the remaining 50 percent would spend most of the tour wondering when they would have a chance to go to the bathroom.

This word can also be a noun, in which case it means guess or supposition. As Keats wrote, Cortez's men looked at each other "with a wild surmise" when they first saw the Pacific Ocean and realized that they had achieved their goal. Or, rather, they had achieved the goal of Balboa, who, as Keats either didn't know or didn't care, was actually the first European to see the Pacific from this spot.

The noun is pronounced "SUR myze."

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

SURREAL adj (suh REE ul) having an unreal, fantastic quality; hallucinatory; dreamlike

Bob was so tired when he stepped off the train that his first view of India had a faintly *surreal* quality; the swarming crowds, the strange language, and, above all, the cows walking in the streets made him feel as though he'd stumbled into a dream.

Alice's adventures in Wonderland were rather surreal, perhaps because it turned out (disappointingly) that they actually were part of a dream.

SUSCEPTIBLE adj (suh SEP tuh bul) capable of being influenced by something; capable of being emotionally affected; vulnerable or receptive to

Baby Willie is almost always sick; he seems to be susceptible to every germ that passes by.

In The Wizard of Oz, the emotionally susceptible Tin Man begins to cry every time a remotely sad thought passes through his hollow head.

The doctors finally gave Pam the long-dreaded news that her illness was not susceptible to treatment; all she can do is hope a cure will be discovered before she runs out of time.

Ray's susceptibility (suh sep tuh BIL i tee) to new fads hasn't diminished in recent years; he now spends much of his time sitting on an aluminum foil mat in order to "metallicize" his joints and ligaments.

SWEEPING adj (SWEE ping) for-reaching; extensive; wide-ranging
The new CEO's promise to bring sweeping change to the company
basically means, "A lot of you had better be ready to get the ax."

I wish Matthew wouldn't make such sweeping judgments; what gives him the right to decide that an entire continent is in bad taste?

The principal's sweeping gaze made every kid in the lunchroom tremble.

SYNTAX n (SIN taks) the patterns or rules governing the way grammatical sentences are formed in a given language

Poor syntax is the same thing as bad grammar, ain't it?

205

SYSTEMIC adi (sys TEM ik) affecting the entire system, especially the entire body

The consultant said that the problem was not isolated to one department, but was systemic: that is, it affected the entire company,

"Systemic circulation" is another term for the circulatory system in vertebrates.

A systemic illness is one that affects the entire body. Systemic lupus erythematosus, for example, is an autoimmune disease in which the body essentially becomes allergic to itself.

Don't confuse this word with systematic (sis tuh MAT ik), which means orderly or meticulous.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #77

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

		C C	
Ι.	SU	ttu	se

- 2. sumptuous
- 3. supersede
- 4. supine
- 5. supplication
- 6. suppress
- 7. surmise
- 8. surreal
- 9. susceptible
- 10. sweeping
- 11. syntax
- 12. systemic

- a. humble prayer
- b. overpower
- c. lying on the back
- d. overspread
- e. arammar
- f. take the place of
- g. far-reaching
- h. luxurious
- i. hallucinatory
- affecting the entire system
- k. conjecture
- I. capable of being influenced

TACTICAL adi (TAK ti kul) having to do with tactics, especially naval or military tactics; marked by clever tactics or deft maneuvering

The admiral made a tactical error when he ordered his men to drag their ships across the desert as part of the surprise attack.

"Tell me about that, Georgina," began Mr. Hopp-and then, realizing that the use of her first name so early in the evening had been a tactical blunder, he quickly added, "Miss Bringhurst, I mean."

TAINT n (taynt) contaminant; a trace of something spoiled, contaminated, off-flavor, or otherwise offensive

The flavor of the rich, buttery sauce picked up a slight taint from the mouse that had fallen into the sauceboat and drowned.

There's a taint of madness in that family; they're okay for a generation or two, and then suddenly one of them turns out to be an ax murderer.

This word can also be a verb. I'm sure my mother-in-law meant well, but as far as I'm concerned her peacemaking efforts are tainted by my knowledge that she tried to pay her daughter not to marry me.

TEDIUM n (TEE dee um) dullness: monotony: boredom

Oh, God, another evening at Gwen's house! Always the same bland food, always the same people with nothing to say, always the same slide show of Gwen's tropical fish. I don't think I can stand the tedium.

The initial excitement of summer vacation had gradually turned to tedium, and by the end of August, the children were ready to go back to school.

Although some find the composer's work brilliant, others find it tedious (TEE dee us); for example, there is his seven-hour composition in which a single note is played over and over.

TEEM v (teem) to swarm; to be inundated; to overrun

When the waiter brought Bob the cheese course, Bob stopped his fork just before digging in; the cheese was teeming with maggots.

On a clear night high in the mountains, the sky teems with stars.

We'd better hire some extra security for the concert; it's going to be teeming with hopped-up kids, and they'll be furious when they find out that the main act canceled last night.

For some reason, people will sometimes say, "It's teeming out" during a heavy rainstorm. This is an idiomatic use of the word.

TEMPORAL adi (TEM pur ul) pertaining to time; pertaining to life; earthly existence; noneternal; short-lived

Jet lag is a kind of temporal disorientation; rapid travel across several time zones can throw off a traveler's sense of time.

Why is it that temporal pleasures seem so much more fun than eternal ones? I'd rather eat a hot-fudge sundae than sit on a cloud playing a harp.

As the rich old man approached ninety, he grew less concerned with temporal matters and devoted more and more energy to deciding which of his children should be left out of his will.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

TEMPORIZE v (TEM puh ryze) to stall; to cause delay through indecision An important skill required of television newscasters is an ability to temporize during technical difficulties so that viewers don't become bored and switch channels.

The co-op board was afraid to tell the actress flat out that they didn't want her to buy an apartment in their building, so they temporized by saying they had to look into some building restrictions first.

"All right, all right, I'll open the safe for you," Clarence temporized, hoping that the police would arrive soon, "but in order to do it, I'll need lots of hot water and some birthday candles."

Pizza is best when it's served piping-hot, while some salads taste better tenid or at room temperature.

A baby's bathwater should be *tepid*, not hot; you can test it with your elbow before you put the baby in.

The teacher's praise of Tina's painting was *tepid*, perhaps because Tina's painting was a very unflattering caricature of the teacher.

"Oh, I guess I'll go to the prom with you," Mona said tepidly, "but I reserve the right to change my mind if something better comes along."

THESIS n (THEE sis) a theory to be proven; a subject for a composition; a formal paper using original research on a subject

At the first Conference on Extraterrestrials, Caroline Riggs advanced her controversial thesis that aliens operate most of our nation's bowling alleys.

The thesis statement of a written composition is a sentence that states the theme of the composition.

Stu is writing his senior thesis on Anglo-Saxon building techniques, a topic he's fairly certain no one else in the senior class will be working on; the thesis of his thesis is that Anglo-Saxon building techniques were more sophisticated than modern scholars generally believe.

If you have more than one thesis, you have theses (THEE seez). Antithesis (an TITH uh sis) is a direct opposite, as in the antithesis of good is evil.

- Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

THORNY adj (THAWR nee) full of difficulties; tough; painful

A rosebush is literally thorny, a problem may be figuratively so. Before we go any further, we'll have to resolve the thorny question of who's going to pay for the next round.

Whether to let children go out alone after dark is a thorny topic for the parents of urban teenagers. Is it more important to keep them safe at home or to allow them to develop a sense of independence?

THRESHOLD *n* (THRESH ohld) the sill of a doorway; a house's or building's entrance; any point of beginning or entering

No matter how many times I see home videos of a new groom dropping his bride when he tries to carry her over the *threshold*, I still laugh.

Ambrose hung a sheaf of grain over the threshold of his house to keep demons away; to keep burglars away, he put a leghold trap just inside the door.

The dean told the new grad lates that they stood at the threshold of a great adventure; what he didn't say was that for many of them the adventure would be unemployment.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #78

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. tactical
- a. pertaining to time
- 2. taint

b. stall

3. tedium

c. having to do with tactics

- 4. teem 5. temporal
- d. dullness
- 6. temporize
- e. full of difficulties f. sill of a doorway

7. tepid

a. swarm

8. thesis

h. contaminant

10. threshold

- i. theory to be proven
- i. lukewarm

THROTTLE v (THRAH tul) to choke; to strangle; to work a fuel lever or feed the flow of fuel to an engine

"If that cat jumps onto the counter one more time, I'm going to throttle her," said Bryce, rising grimly to his feet.

The pilot's frantic throttling was to no avail; the engine would not respond because the airplane was out of fuel.

This word can also be a noun. A car's throttle is its gas pedal. To make a car go faster, you step on the throttle.

To run an engine at full *throttle* is to run it at full speed. To do anything else at full *throttle* is to do it rapidly and with single-mindedness. When Nicky has an idea for a poem, she runs to her desk and works at full *throttle* until the poem is finished; she doesn't even stop to answer the phone or go to the bathroom.

THWART v (thwawrt) to prevent from being accomplished; to frustrate; to hinder

I wanted to do some work today, but it seemed as though fate thwarted me at every turn; first someone on the phone tried to sell me a magazine subscription, then a Jehovah's Witness came to the door and wouldn't leave, then my computer's printer broke down, then I discovered that my favorite movie was on TV.

There's no thwarting Yogi Bear once he gets it into his mind that he wants a picnic basket; he will sleep till noon, but before it's dark, he'll have every picnic basket that's in Jellystone Park.

TIMOROUS adj (TIM ur us) fearful; easily frightened

"Would you mind getting off my foot, sir?" the wizened old lady asked in a tiny, timorous voice.

On Halloween night, the DeMados decorate their house with skeletons and bats, and timorous trick-or-treaters are afraid to approach their door.

209

Hannah's timorous boyfriend broke up with her by sending her a telegram announcing that he was going out with someone else. Timorous is related to the word timid.

TITILLATE v (TIT uh lavt) to excite; to stimulate; to tease

It's really cruel to titillate a friend's curiosity by starting to share a choice piece of gossip and then abruptly saying, "No, I really shouldn't spread this around."

Appetizers are supposed to titillate people's appetites, not stuff

them to the gills.

The new movie was such a turkey that even the titillating poster the studio created for it failed to attract any viewers at all.

TITULAR adi (TICH uh lur) in title or name only: nominal

The titular head of the company is Lord Arden, but the person who's really in charge is his secretary; she tells him whom to hire. whom to fire, and whom to meet for lunch.

The family's titular breadwinner is my father, but it's Mom's trust

fund that actually puts food on the table.

Titular also means bearing the same name as the title. Flipper, the titular star of the TV show Flipper, was in reality a female dolphin named Suzv.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

TOIL n (TOY ul) hard work; labor; drudgery; exhausting effort

"Am I going to have to toil in the fields like this all day?" asked Celia plaintively after being asked by her mother to pick some chives from the garden.

Meeting the manufacturing deadline required weeks of unremitting toil from the designers, some of whom worked past midnight nearly

every night.

This word can also be a verb. To toil is to engage in hard labor. Toiling in the hot sun all morning had made Arnold tired and thirsty.

TORTUOUS adj (TOR choo wus) winding; twisting; serpentine; full of curves

Don't confuse this word with torturous (TOR chur us), which means torturing or excruciating. A movie with a tortuous plot is one that is hard for a viewer to follow; a movie with a torturous plot is one that is agonizing for a viewer to watch.

On the tortuous path through the woods to the tent, one or two of

the Cub Scouts always managed to get lost.

Sybil had to use tortuous reasoning to persuade herself that it was really all right to shoplift, but after a bit of mental gymnastics she was able to accomplish the task.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

TOXIC adi (TAHK sik) poisonous

After the storm, the beach was covered with spilled oil, spent nuclear fuel, contaminated medical supplies, and other toxic wastes.

Toxic residues from pesticides can remain on or in fruits and vegetables even after they have been washed with soap.

It is now clear that cigarettes are toxic not only to smokers but also to nonsmokers who breathe in exhaled smoke.

Something toxic is a toxin (TAHK sin). Some shellfish contain a toxin that can make diners violently ill.

TRANSFIX v (tranz FIKS) to cause to stand motionless with awe, amazement, or some other strong emotion: to rivet

The children stood transfixed at the astonishing sight of Mary Poppins rising into the air with her umbrella.

The hunter aimed his flashlight at the eyes of the bullfrog, hoping to transfix his prey so that it would be easier to catch.

The students were transfixed with disgust at the sight of their gym teacher setting up square-dance equipment.

TRAUMA n (TROW muh) severe shock or distress; a violent wound; a wrenching experience

Ella needs some spoiling right now to help her recover from the trauma of her parents' divorce.

In medical terms, a trauma is a serious wound or shock to the body. The gunshot victim was hurried to the hospital's new trauma center. which was staffed by physicians experienced in treating big, ugly wounds.

Anything that causes trauma is said to be traumatic (truh MAT ik). Having their carpets cleaned is a traumatic experience for people who believe that their carpets have suffered enough.

To induce trauma is to traumatize (TROW muh tyze). The fox traumatized the hens by sneaking into the henhouse and licking his

Q•U•I•C•K • Q•U•I•Z #79

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. throttle a. severe shock 2. thwart b. prevent from being accomplished 3. timorous c. choke 4. titillate d. poisonous 5. titular e. in name only 6. toil f. excite a. fearful 7. tortuous 8. toxic h. winding i. cause to stand motionless 9. transfix
- i. hard work 10. trauma

TRAVESTY n (TRAV is tee) a grotesque or shameful imitation; a mockery; a perversion

The defense lawyer complained that the continual snickering of the judge had turned his client's trial into a travesty, and he demanded that the case be thrown out.

Every year at homecoming, the college glee club puts on a travesty of a popular play or movie, and their show is always popular with drunken alumni.

TRENCHANT adj (TREN chunt) concise; effective; caustic; sarcastic

The reporter's trenchant questions about the national deficit unhinged the White House spokesman, and after stumbling through a halfhearted response, he declared the press conference over.

Joellen's presentation was trenchant and well researched; that was not surprising, since she had paid her clever new assistant to write it.

As the landlord showed the couple around, Billy managed to sound most appreciative about the new apartment, but his trenchant asides to his wife made it clear that he thought the place was a dump.

TRIUMVIRATE n (trye UM vuh rit) a ruling coalition of three officials; any group of three working jointly

The dying emperor appointed a triumvirate to succeed him because, he said, he wanted to make sure that no single person ever again held all the power in the realm.

Mother Goose Land is ruled by a triumvirate consisting of the

butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker.

Those three girls have been a triumvirate of best friends ever since the first day of nursery school, when all three of them had potty accidents at once.

TRYST n (trist) a secret meeting of lovers

Jan and Greg were always arranging trysts that didn't work out; either it rained when they were going to meet under the stars, or Greg's parents came home early when they were going to meet in his backyard swimming pool.

"I'm perfectly happy for alley cats to have a little romance in their lives," groaned Barry, "but why do their trysts always have to be under my bedroom window?"

In romance novels, the characters never have mere dates; they have trysts.

TUMULT n (TYOO mult) violent, noisy commotion; uproar; outbreak

In the tumult of the rock concert, Bernice was unable to find her dropped contact lens.

Such a tumult breaks out when the end-of-school bell rings that the teachers have learned to jump onto their desks to avoid being trampled.

To be a tumult or like a tumult is to be tumultuous (tuh MUL choo wus). The fans' tumultuous celebration at the end of the football game left the field a muddy mess.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

TURBID adi (TUR bid) murky; opaque; unclear

The boys were reluctant to jump into the turbid water; mind stirred up by the flood had turned the water in their swimming hole the color of chocolate milk.

The air was turbid with an oily black smoke that coated everything in soot and made noon look like midnight.

Turbid can also be used figuratively to mean confused or muddled. The professor was easily able to refute my turbid argument in favor of not having a final exam.

The noun is turbidity (tur BID uh tee).

TURMOIL n (TUR movi) state of great confusion or commotion

The president's sudden death threw his administration into turmoil, as his former deputies and assistants vied with one another for power.

"Ever since the baby was born we've been in kind of a turmoil," Donna said cheerfully, kicking a pair of dirty socks under the table as she led her visitor on a tour of the house.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #80

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. travesty
- 2. trenchant
- 3. triumvirate
- 4. tryst
- 5. tumult
- 6. turbid
- 7. turmoil

- a. secret meeting of lovers
- b. ruling coalition of three
- c. murky
- d. concise
- e. violent, noisy commotion
- f. grotesque imitation
- g. state of great confusion

H

UNCANNY adj (UN kan EE) extraordinary; unimaginable; seemingly supernatural

Jessica has an uncanny ability for sniffing out the most expensive item in a store.

People often say that the similarity between Ted's and Fred's mannerisms is uncanny, but since the two men are identical twins who have lived together all their lives, it actually isn't all that unusual.

Uncanny is not the opposite of canny, which means artful, wily, or shrewd (and which, by the way, derives from the word can).

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213

UNDERLYING adj (un dur LYE ing) basic; fundamental; only noticeable under scrutiny

The underlying cause of the cult's disintegration was not faithlessness but homesickness on the part of its members.

Albert seems dopey at first, but there's a keen intelligence underlying those vacuous mannerisms of his.

UNDERMINE v (UN dur myne) to impair; to subvert; to weaken by excavating underneath

The children's adamant refusal to learn French considerably undermines their teacher's efforts to teach it to them.

The rushing waters of the flood had undermined the north end of the foundation, and the house was now leaning in that direction.

UNDERPINNING *n* (UN dur pin ing) a system of supports beneath; a foundation or basis

The underpinning of George and Harriet's long-lasting marriage was a shared enthusiasm for bowling.

The underpinnings of our friendship extend back to childhood, when I helped Kristie steal a dollar from her mother's purse.

UNDERSCORE v (un dur SKAWR) to underline; to emphasize

Harriet was so nervous about the exam that she ended up underscoring her entire textbook in yellow marker.

"I hate you!" Ryan shouted. To underscore his point, he added, "I think you stink!"

Harold's terrible hunger underscores the importance of remembering to eat.

UNDERWRITE v (un dur RYTE) to sponsor; to subsidize; to insure

There would be no such thing as public television in this country if rich American oil companies were not willing to *underwrite* the rebroadcast of expensive British television shows.

The local bank agreed to *underwrite* the high school production of *South Pacific*, providing money for props, costumes, and the rental of a theater.

UNILATERAL adj (yoo nuh LAT ur ul) involving one side only; done on behalf of one side only; one-sided; not mutual

In my family, there was unilateral agreement on the subject of curfews; my parents agreed that I should be home by midnight, and I did not.

Unilateral disarmament is the decision by one side in a conflict to lay down its arms.

In law, a unilateral contract is a contract in which only one of the signers bears any obligation.

As might be expected, bilateral (bye LAT ur ul) means two-sided. In biology, a body whose left and right sides are mirror images of each other is said to exhibit bilateral symmetry. People's bodies are not bilaterally symmetrical—you have a spleen on only one side of your gut, for example—but worms' bodies are. Good for worms.

As might further be expected, multilateral (mul tee LAT ur ul) means many-sided. In a multilateral treaty, many nations participate.

And lateral (LAT ur ul) means of or pertaining to a side. A lateral move in a career is one in which you switch jobs without ascending or descending the corporate hierarchy.

USURY n (YOO zhur ee) lending money at an extremely high rate of interest

My sister said she would lend me ten dollars if I would clean her room for a week, a bargain that I considered to be usury.

A usurer (YOO zhur ur) is someone who practices or commits usury. Eight-year-old Chuck is quite a little usurer; if a kid in his class borrows a dime for milk money, Chuck makes him pay back a quarter the next day.

The adjective is usurious (yoo ZHOOR ee us). Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #81

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. uncanny
- 2. underlying
- 3. undermine
- 4. underpinning 5. underscore
- 6. underwrite
- 7. unilateral
- 7. unilateral 8. usury

- a. system of supports beneath
- b. involving one side only
- c. basic
- d. impair
- e. sponsor
- f. extraordinary
- g. lending money at extremely high rates
- h. underline

V

VACUOUS *adj* (VAK yoo wus) empty of content; lacking in ideas or intelligence

I don't think that woman understands a word you're saying; her expression is as vacuous as a rabbit's.

If Gail has to spend one more hour cooped up with Karen and her vacuous observations, she cannot answer for the consequences.

Vacuous and vacant (VAY kunt) both refer to emptiness, but not the same kind of emptiness. Vacant is generally used to mean literally empty; an apartment with no tenant is vacant, not vacuous. Similarly, a dull person's thoughts can be vacuous, even though his skull is not literally vacant. However, a vacant expression and a vacuous expression are the same thing.

THE WORDS

VAGARY n (vuh GAR ee) whim; unpredictable action; wild notion

"This meal was a little vagary of your father's," said Mrs. Swain grimly as she sat the children down to plates of steak topped with whipped cream.

Thanks to the vagaries of fashion, everyone is wearing tennis rackets instead of shoes this summer.

The vagaries of Sean's boss are a little unsettling; one day he'll tell Sean that he is in line to become president of the company, and the next day he'll tell him to scrub the executive washroom.

This word often appears in the plural: vagaries (vuh GAR eez). Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

VANQUISH v (VANG kwish) to conquer; to overpower

Nancy finally vanquished her nail-biting habit by coating her nails with a deadly poison.

"Nyah, nyah, we vanquished you!" the unsportsmanlike soldiers sang as their enemies retreated.

VANQUISH is the name of a new toothpaste that uses muriatic acid to remove brown stains.

VENEER n (vuh NEER) facade; coating; outward appearance

To a woodworker, a veneer is a thin sheet or strip of wood that has been sliced or peeled from a larger piece of wood; plywood, for example, is a sandwich of veneers.

In general usage, a veneer is any thin outward surface.

Under her veneer of sophistication—acquired, at great expense to her parents, at a Swiss finishing school—Holly is actually a shy, nervous hick.

VERDANT adj (VUR dunt) covered with green plants; leafy; inexperienced

Verdant is derived from the French word for green.

In springtime, the *verdant* hills seem to whisper, "Skip school and come for a walk!"

When the movie crew reached their destination, they were dismayed to find the landscape still verdant; they were supposed to be making a movie about skiing.

"I'm afraid you're a little—well—verdant to play Lady Macbeth," the agent apologized to thirteen-year-old Linda.

VERGE n (vuri) border; brink; edge

On the verge of the pond is a mushy spot where it's not safe to skate. Eleanor has been on the verge of tears ever since her mother told her that she would not be allowed to attend the prom.

This word can also be a verb. Nick's surly answer verged on rudeness, but his father decided not to swat him.

To converge (kun VURJ) is to come together or meet. The water is churning and frothy at the spot where the two rivers converge.

To diverge (di VURJ) is to separate. A fork in a road is a place where two roads diverge.

VERITY n (VER uh tee) the quality of being true; something true

You could hardly doubt the verity of her claim to have been beaten, especially when she rolled up her sleeve and showed us the bruise.

Many truth-related words derive from the Latin root "verus" which means true. Verisimilar (ver i SIM uh lur) means having the appearance of truth, and verisimilitude (ver i si MIL uh tood) is the quality of being verisimilar. The plastics company had found a way to make fake leather of shocking verisimilitude.

Veracious (vur AY shus) means habitually truthful. It would be easier to trust Charlotte if she had a reputation for being veracious—but she doesn't. In fact, she's been called a liar many times before.

To aver (uh VUR) is to state with confidence, as though you know it to be the truth. "Yes, that's the man. I recognize him for sure," Charlotte averred.

To verify (VER i fye) is to prove that something is true, to confirm it. The police were able to verify Bill's claim that he had been out of the country at the time of the crime, so they let him go.

VIE v (vye) to compete; to contest; to struggle

Sally vied with her best friend for a promotion.

The two advertising agencies vied fiercely for the Lax-Me-Up account, which was worth \$100 million a year in billings.

VIGILANT adj (VIJ uh lunt) constantly alert; watchful; wary

Miss Grimble is vigilant against grammatical errors; when she spots a misplaced modifier, she pounces like a tiger.

Dad vigilantly guarded the door of the living room to keep the children from seeing the Easter bunny at work.

To be vigilant is to exhibit vigilance (VIJ uh luns).

Distracted by the loud noise in the hallway, the guard let his vigilance slip for a moment, and the prisoner quickly escaped.

VIGNETTE n (vin YET) a small, decorative design or drawing; a short literary sketch; a brief but expressive scene in a play or movie

Lauren decorated the top of each thank-you note with a tiny vignette of a dolphin leaping gracefully out of the water.

The editor at the publishing company told Mrs. Proutie that the vignettes she had written about her garden would be unlikely to sell many more copies if published as a book.

The boring movie was enlivened somewhat by half a dozen sexy vignettes sprinkled through it.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #82

1.

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

1.	vacuous	a.	whim
2.	vagary	Ь.	border
3.	vanquish	c.	conquer
4.	veneer		compete
5.	verdant	e.	covered with green plants
6.	verge		facade
7.	verity	g.	empty of content
8.	vie	h.	quality of being true
9.	vigilant		constantly alert
10.	vignette	į.	short literary sketch

VISCOUS adj (VIS kus) thick; gluey; sticky

I rapidly lost my thirst as I watched the water ooze from the tap in a viscous, brownish stream.

That viscous sap dripping from the gash in the trunk of the pine tree may one day harden into amber.

To be viscous is to have viscosity (vis KAHS uh tee). Motor oils are rated according to their viscosity; less viscous oils are usually used in the winter, because cold weather can cause more viscous grades to become excessively thick.

VIVACIOUS adj (vi VAY shus) lively; animated; full of pep

The eighth-grade girls became bubbly and vivacious whenever a cute boy walked by, but as soon as he was out of sight they settled back into their usual grumpy lethargy.

To be vivacious is to have vivacity (vi VAS i tee). Beatrice's vivacity dimmed noticeably when she realized that the news she was waiting for would not be good.

Note carefully the pronunciation of these words.

VOGUE n (voha) fashion; style

Never throw away old clothes; outdated styles inevitably come back into vogue.

Vogue is a famous magazine filled with fashion photographs, clothing advertisements, and articles about whatever is in vogue at the moment.

The goldfish were sorry to learn that the campus vogue for swallowing live goldfish is back.

To be in vogue, or susceptible to vogues, is to be voguish (VOHG ish).

VOLUMINOUS adj (vuh LOO muh nus) large; extensive; having great volume

Kate frantically searched through her voluminous lecture notes for the phone number of the boy sitting next to her.

Hidden in the folds of her voluminous skirts are a potted plant, a small child, an electric fan, three pairs of snowshoes, and a bag of breath mints.

After Stacy's death, Henry burned their voluminous correspondence because he didn't want anyone to find out that he and Stacy had been exchanging letters for years.

VOLUPTUOUS adj (vuh LUP choo wus) pleasant to the senses; luxurious; pleasure-seeking; extra full and shapely

The restaurant's most popular dessert is called Sinfully Voluptuous Chocolate Torte; each serving contains a pound each of chocolate and butter

"Wouldn't you care for something to read?" Iris purred, lolling voluptuously (vuh LUP shoo wus lee) on her satin sheets.

Doreen's figure has passed the point of being voluptuous and reached the point of being fat.

A person addicted to voluptuous things is a voluptuary (vuh LUP choo ar ee).

VORACIOUS adj (vuh RAY shus) having a huge appetite; ravenously hungry

Whenever he goes skiing, Reed comes home voracious; once he even ate an entire uncooked meat loaf that his mother had intended to prepare for dinner.

The voracious lions circling outside her tent made Patty hesitant to step outside.

Clay is a voracious reader; he always has his nose buried in a book.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #83

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

 viscous vivacious 	 a. having a huge appetite b. pleasant to the senses
 vogue voluminous 	c. large d. fashion

5. voluptuous e. lively
6. voracious f. thick

W

WAFT v (wahft) to float; to drift; to blow

First a gentle little breeze wafted through the window, then a typhoon blew the house down.

Rick closed the kitchen door to keep the smell of popcorn from wafting upstairs because he didn't want his sister to know that he was making a snack.

When the odor of dead skunk wafted into the ballroom, the dancers lost their festive moods.

WAIVE v (wayv) to relinquish (a right); to forgo; to put aside for the time being

The murder suspect waived his right to have a lawyer present during his questioning, saying that he had nothing to hide.

An act or instance of waiving is a waiver (WAY vur).

WAKE n (wayk) an all-night vigil kept over a dead body before it is buried; the trail a boat leaves behind it in the water; a track or path left behind something

Bill's old friends turned his wake into a party, on the assumption that if he had been present he would have been the first to break out the beer.

Jonathan loves to stand at the back of the ferry so he can watch the churning, roiling wake behind the boat.

What started out as an honest, pull-no-punches discussion left terribly hurt feelings in its wake, and the participants didn't speak to one another for many days afterward.

WANE v (wayn) to decrease in strength or intensity; to fade away; to decline in power

Congressman Boote's political influence waned dramatically following his announcement that he had been kidnapped by creatures in a flying saucer.

A trip to Greece did little to revive Barry's waning interest in Greek history; in fact, it strengthened his new conviction that Greece was boring.

The opposite of wane is wax (waks). As the moon grows full, it is said to wax: as it turns into a sliver, it is said to wane.

WARRANT v (WAWR unt) to justify; to provide grounds for; to guarantee

Mac's writing doesn't warrant a second glance; it's unreadable
garbage.

The employment agency warrants that its temporary secretaries can type 100 words a minute and that they don't mind making coffee.

When warrant is used as a noun, it means an authorization or official permit. It is illegal for the police to enter someone's home uninvited unless they have a search warrant.

A warranty (WAWR un tee) is a written guarantee. Did the store provide any kind of warranty with that vacuum cleaner? I hope so, because it's already broken.

WARY adj (WAR ee) cautious; watchful; careful

Billy Green is wary of new baby-sitters; he hides behind his father's legs and cries when it's time for his parents to go.

The mouse cast a wary eye out of its hole and, seeing no cat, scampered into the living room.

Ann is wary about picking up the telephone these days; she is afraid that a collection agency may be on the other end.

To be wary is to beware. So beware.

WIZENED adj (WIZ und) shriveled; withered; shrunken

The prince was horrified when he lifted his new bride's veil and found not the princess he had been expecting but a wizened old crone.

A few wizened apples were all we found on the tree; all the nice ones had already been picked.

Bent and wizened with age, Mr. Simmons spends his days hobbling through the center of town and getting in people's way.

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

WOE n (woh) suffering; affliction; distress

If I told you all the woes that have befallen Karl this year, you'd think I was making them up; no one could have that much bad luck.

Jamie gazed up at his mother with a look of woe, pointing to the ant farm he had just dropped on the carpet.

"Oh, woe is me," moaned Libby. "I'm turning forty tomorrow, and no one has planned a surprise party for me!"

The adjective is woeful.

WRATH n (rath) deep anger; fury

Dawn's wrath knew no bounds when she realized that Ron had started the dishwasher during her shower.

The wrathful vampire lurched toward Marlene and bared his pointy fangs.

"Why are you treating me this way?" Catherine demanded wrathfully. "I'll bet I'm the only girl in the whole sixth grade who has to pay rent to live in her own house!"

 \mathbf{Z}

ZEITGEIST n (ZYTE gyst) the mood or spirit of the times

Zeitgeist is a German word that means, literally, time spirit.

It's interesting to see how Americans always assume the zeitgeist changes automatically with the arrival of a new decade. The eighties were allegedly the decade of greed; then, on the first day of 1990, greed supposedly went out of style, and old-fashioned niceness be-

came the order of the day. What did all those formerly greedy people do with their stuff?

Note carefully the pronunciation of this word.

ZENITH n (ZEE nith) highest point; peak; pinnacle

The zenith of my career as a singer came when I was asked to give a recital in Carnegie Hall for the royal family, the president, Madonna, and a boy in high school whom I'd always had a crush on; since then, it's all sort of been downhill.

Q-U-I-C-K - Q-U-I-Z #84

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- 1. waft
- 2. waive
- 3. wake
- 4. wane
- 5. warrant
- 6. wary
- 7. wizened
- 8. woe
- 9. wrath
- 10. zeitgeist
- 11. zenith

- a. justify
- b. cautious
- c. deep anger
- d. float
- a. noar
- e. suffering f. shriveled
- g. spirit of the times
- h. highest point
- i. all-night vigil
- i. decrease in strength
- k. relinguish



VOCABULARY FOR THE SAT (CONTINUED FROM WORD SMART I)

Here's what we said in Word Smart I about vocabulary for the SAT:

Despite all the talk about "scholastic aptitude" and "reasoning ability," the verbal Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is primarily a vocabulary test. If you don't know the words on the test, you wou't carn a good score. It's as simple as that.

If you learn every word on the main word list in this book, you'll have a big advantage on the SAT. The bigger your vocabulary, the better you'll do. But not every word on the main list is the sort of word that is tested on the SAT. If you're getting ready to take the SAT or a similar standardized test, you should focus your attention on the words in the following list, which we call the Hit Parade.

The Hit Parade is a list of the words tested most frequently on the SAT, in order of their frequency on the SAT. We created the Hit Parade by using a computer to analyze all released SATs. Princeton Review students use the Hit Parade to get the maximum possible mileage out of their vocabularies and improve their verbal SAT scores. Not all Hit Parade words appear on our main word list, but all of them have appeared on recent SATs.

We've included short definitions to make it easier for you to learn the words. These definitions aren't always exactly like the ones you'll find in the dictionary or the main word list of this book; they're the definitions of the words as they are tested on the SAT.

Keep in mind that these are not the only words you need to know for the SAT. They're just the words that have been tested most frequently in the past—the words that the Educational Testing Service's question writers tend to come back to over and over again. Also keep in mind that the words near the top of the list are more likely to turn up than the words near the bottom.

Some SATs are absolutely loaded with Hit Parade words; others don't contain as many. One of the most

important things the Hit Parade will teach you is the *level* of the vocabulary on the test. Once you get a feel for this level, you'll be able to spot other possible SAT words in your reading.

After you finish the Hit Parade, you might want to memorize the GRE Hit Parade that follows. All the words in Word Smart, by the way, are SAT-type words.

The Hit Parade in this book is a continuation of the Hit Parade in Word Smart I (make sure you've learned the Hit Parade words from that book, too). When different parts of speech are spelled in markedly different ways, we have included them in parenthesis.

Like our previous Hit Parade, these words are listed in order of their importance. Start at the beginning and work your way through the list. Steady, consistent practice is better than trying to memorize several hundred words the week before the big day. If the SAT is coming up in the next few months, make sure you learn at least five to ten words a day.

Get to work!

soothe to calm: to ease pain: to relieve vigor strength; liveliness trivial unimportant; insignificant vulnerable in danger; unprotected qualify to state exceptions to a general statement essential important; vital; absolutely necessary detrimental harmful; working against prosperous wealthy: well-off somber gloomy; serious terse brief; concise; to the point opaque (opacity) dark; unclear; impossible to see through or understand opposition disagreement; opinions against; people against; the other side reprove to criticize mildly uniform unchanging; the same everywhere prolong to lengthen in extent or duration viable workable; capable of living enlighten to inform; to explain inquisitive curious solitary alone: isolated modest shy; reserved; not extreme progressive moving forward plausible believable spontaneous (spontaneity) happening without apparent cause; happening freely; free distinguish to recognize something separately serene (serenity) quiet; calm; peaceful exotic foreign; uncommon; from a distant place; unusual ruffle to disturb the smoothness of; to upset mildly capricious (caprice) unpredictable; likely to change the basic fact; the maximum; a final aim

transparent clear; easily seen; easily understood theoretical not based on experience; in theory only; unproven sympathy shared understanding or feeling verify to prove or test the truth of flourish to grow well; to grow strong; to grow abundantly incidental occurring accidentally; by the side; of less importance morose gloom; sullen; sad rotund round vital alive; of great importance; crucial widespread occurring widely expunge to erase; to strike out repulse to send back: to reject color to affect, especially to influence another's opinions or beliefs prevaricate to lie meticulous especially careful; paying close attention to detail effectual effective reserved self-restrained; modest; retiring; not showy swindler a cheat: a con man volunteer to offer freely; to join a cause harmony pleasant agreement: friendship inspire to encourage; to give hope to alutton one who eats or consumes excessively isolated alone; single; unconnected integrity honesty: trustworthiness responsive readily able to respond; friendly wary cautious: unsure deliberate to think over barren unproductive: lacking: desolate corrupt to make impure rigidity stiffness; unwillingness to change or bend tonic something that refreshes; a refreshing or invigorating drink devotion lovalty explicit to make clear and specific; stated tragic disastrous elegance refinement; grace vivid clear and bright weight importance surfeit excess; excessive amount; overeating or overdrinking void emptiness revelation something revealed; insight; an understanding given by someone else novice beginner retaliation revenge intensify to increase the strength, size, or force of; to make more severe soporific sleep inducing; extremely boring subjugate to subdue and dominate; to enslave superfluous (superfluity) extra; unnecessary remote far away; unfriendly resourceful able to deal effectively with different situations

innate existing since birth; inborn ratify to approve formally or officially stalemate a stand-off: a situation where nobody wins sporadic stopping and starting: scattered: occurring at irregular intervals ominous threatening vociferous loud: outspoken monarch a single ruler; a king or queen kindle to begin to burn variable changing trunk the main body of something . harsh severe; demanding; unfriendly sanction formal or official approval; a legal penalty tranquil quiet; calm: serene synchronize to cause to act on the same schedule swagger to strut uproar noisy excitement or confusion strut to walk with overconfidence spurious false: fake wayward going one's own way; erratic; unpredictable optimism hope; a positive outlook slight an insult affectation (affected) artificial behavior, usually intended to impress enhance to improve: to make better extreme intense: remote: drastic: severe malice ill will: a desire to harm inhibit to hold back; to restrain relieve to ease: to free from an unpleasant situation stolid emotionless severe harsh; demanding; painful; serious; without frills weary tired; exhausted endurance ability o last vertical upright; standing up; perpendicular to the ground table to remove from consideration zany light-hearted; crazy durable lasting arrogant cocky; overconfident tailor to shape or alter for a particular purpose submissive giving in easily mosaic a detailed pattern made from many different tiles or pieces trite unoriginal; overused vague unclear: lacking definite shape or substance ethical moral; correct; honest raucous harsh or rough-sounding predicament a difficult situation, especially when a tough choice must be made stupor mental confusion reform to improve; to change for the better scale to climb up prose ordinary speech or writing (as opposed to poetry)

valid having legal force; sound traditional as was done in the past: customary tardy late diminish to reduce: to make less sullen sulky: in a bad mood tirade a long, angry speech wooden stiff: inflexible rebuff to reject to snub; to refuse abruptly anonymous (anonymity) of unknown identity sluggard a lazy person theology the study of religion surmise to guess pompous (pomposity) arrogant: cocky: showy profane (profanity) not having to do with religion; irreligious; unholy; disrespectful newfanaled new: untested intricate detailed: complex well-founded based on solid evidence or good reasons fertile productive: supporting plants aill the breathing organ of a fish unruly difficult to control: disobedient stratagem a trick or deception splinter a sharp, slender piece broken or split off from something; to split thimble small protective cap that protects a fingertip treachery betraval of trust troupe a company of actors, singers, or dancers virtuous honest: moral: ethical blueprint the plan of a building; a detailed plan indifferent having no feeling about a matter; not really caring; unbiased jovial happy; in good spirits; jolly vestige (vestigial) the remains of something that no longer exists soloist an individual performer vent to give expression to; to release one's feelings undermine to weaken the support of replete (repletion) completely filled; stuffed; abounding prudish (prude) overly concerned with being modest or proper vindictive revengeful trespass to invade another's property; to overstep; to commit an offense bear to endure; to put up with salutary beneficial: wholesome renounce to resign; to disown; to give up formally; to reject thrive to grow strong; to flourish wince to shrink in pain meager thin; of small quantity flower to flourish; to mature well turbulent stormy erratic inconsistent; unpredictable; constantly changing; all over the place spacious roomy; having a lot of space determined firm of purpose; unwavering

hyperbole an exaggeration hypocrisy (hypocrite) pretending to feelings or beliefs one does not have: insincere unhold to maintain or fight for swell to grow large protrude to push outward uncouth ill-mannered warm friendly: kind repress to hold back: to hold down: to restrain irrational incoherent: illogical; without apparent reason paradigm a good model or example ponder to think over deeply clarify to make clear sinister evil: threatening preposterous unbelievable: implausible residual left over when something is gone revive to bring back to life oasis a fertile spot in a desert or barren place; an enjoyable place motive a reason or justification to do something vitality liveliness: energetic hindrance an obstruction; something that gets in the way symbolism representation by signs or symbols formal strictly following traditions or conventions; stiff; rigid proliferate to spread rapidly hasten to quicken; to speed up summons an order to appear in court heart courage: spirit stymie to get in the way of: to hinder stilts tall, slender supporting posts effervescent bubbly stratify (stratum) to make into layers suppress to hold down; to hold back tumor a local growth of abnormal tissue in the body hangar storage facility for planes subside to sink; to become less active pushover a person easily influenced or exploited condense to compress; to shorten compromise to settle differences; to agree (rarely: to expose to suspicion or ridicule) extensive widespread poltry of a tiny or insignificant amount; meager; scant ponderous heavy; difficult turpitude shameful wickedness; evil utter to say shrine a holy site surreptitious secret; sneaky impose to establish on others by force or authority accolade an award; an honor impulsive tending to act thoughtlessly

material substantial: important synonsis a brief statement or outline seminary a school for religious training placate to please; to soothe proclaim to state publicly savor to taste something delicious distant unfriendly: uncommunicative quandary a state of uncertainty miser a greedy person resplendent brilliant lure an attraction obstinate stubborn: unvielding ascendancy dominance; being on top sobriety (sober) seriousness erroneous incorrect; false; mistaken threadbare tattered unsung unrecognized: uncelebrated rectify to correct: to straighten: to make amends for vulgar person wake the track left when something leaves, especially a boat anxiety (anxious) deep nervousness agunt thin and bony, especially from illness or lack of food unilateral on one side only embrace to hug; to accept; to adopt a cause; to include check to stop; to hold back; to block tangential (tangent) off to the side; secondary trait a feature that characterizes someone obliterate to wipe out; to destroy completely extricate to free from difficulty; to remove something entangled; to untangle tightfisted greedy monotonous dull; boring; unchanging superlative of the highest quality; superb; praiseworthy utilize to use fitful irregular: subject to sudden, violent outbursts transcribe to write down foolhardy overly brave; foolishly unaware of dangers torso the body varieagted diversified: having great variety humility being humble whim a sudden idea; an impulse; a caprice



VOCABULARY FOR THE GRE (CONTINUED FROM WORD SMART I)

Vocabulary on the GRE is just as important as on the SAT. The following list is the second batch of words that appears often on the GRE. This list is a supplement to the list that appeared in Word Smart I. If you want to do well on the GRE, you should know all the words on the GRE and SAT Hit Parades, starting with those in Word Smart I. Take ten words a day and commit them to memory. In a few weeks you'll have mastered this list.

As with the SAT Hit Parade, you will find that many of the GRE Hit Parade words appear in our main listing.

distend (distension) to expand or extend greatly vilify to attack someone's reputation; to slander din loud noise ebullient eager; enthusiastic endemic native; belonging to a specific region or people doff to take off, especially clothing somatic of the body chary careful; cautious; warv loll to hang out lazily gauche unsophisticated; inclegant apprise to inform palatable tasty; easily accepted quiescent to grow quiet; calm verdant greenery; fertile green fields wax to grow stronger, larger, or more intense diatribe a bitter verbal attack aversion (averse) dislike mollycoddle to pamper; to spoil someone with kind treatment profligate (profligacy) extravagantly wasteful; wildly immoral whimsy playfulness eschew to avoid; to shun recant to take back what was said nonplus to baffle; to confuse belie to show or prove something as false perfunctory careless; unenthusiastic fulminate to denounce harshly macerate to soften by soaking

tout to praise highly; to brag publicly about profuse flowing: extravagant serrated with many edges, as a knife fluke a chance event: a coincidence ubiquitous being everywhere at the same time supposition an assumption puissant powerful rue to regret predilection a natural preference for something; an inclination; a strong tortuous twisting: winding fledaling a beginner; a young bird alib easy and superficial in speech; insincere tendentious argumentative scotch to put an end to; to injure forestall to put off: to prevent estrange to alienate; to lose the affection of someone precursor someone or something that precedes another preen to adorn oneself carefully; to primp perorate to speak formally pluck spirit; courage molt to shed periodically an outer covering of skin or feathers altruistic selfless: devoted to the welfare of others encomium high praise embellish to beautify: 10 add to, especially details to a story; to exaggerate derivative unoriginal; coming from or based on something else armada a fleet of warships endow to give, especially a large gift taciturn not talkative by nature; silent overwrought overly nervous; overly detailed or complicated reconcile to settle a dispute; to make up upright honest; moral; virtuous discount to deduct; to disregard exhort (hortatory) to urge strongly parquet (parquetry) a type of floor using a pattern of inlaid wooden pieces peccadillo a minor offense epitaph writing on a tombstone aspersion (asperity) an insult; slander; defamation implacable angry; really pissed off; unable to be pleased extirpate to rip out; to uproot; to destroy propensity natural inclination or tendency; predilection pan to criticize harshly simper to smile foolishly prelude the preliminary part, especially of a musical piece; an introduction interregnum the period between two successive governments don to put on, especially clothing steadfast loval: faithful iconoclast one who attacks popular beliefs or institutions; a maverick lope to run at a steady, easy pace

ballast heavy material used to balance a ship conviction determination: resolve droll (drollery) humorous: funny unlettered ignorant: unschooled; unsophisticated affirm to declare something to be true resilient able to recover quickly; able to be stretched and returned to normal deluge a flood complaisant eager to please malapropism the humorous misuse of a word ggog eager: excited pucker to gather into wrinkles gicove a room extension burgeon to expand: to flourish gver to assert: to state as true cornucopia an abundance of food stickler someone who stubbornly insists on something stricted with thin lines or grooves mace a medieval war club apparition a ghost commensurate of equal size; of the proper amount lassitude exhaustion: weakness adulterate to contaminate; to make impure trinket a small piece of jewelry; something of little value forfeit to give up something, especially as a penalty transitional temporary; during a time of change girder a steel beam used in the frame of a building vertigo extreme dizziness leverage positional advantage; being able to exploit something to one's advantage sonata a musical composition lumen a measure of light intensity drawl to speak with drawn-out vowels; to speak slowly filibuster delaying tactics, especially in the political process supplant to take the place of, especially by being better than; to replace engaging charming, interesting feian (feint) to pretend; to deceive latitude freedom leaven to raise dough ellipsis the omission of words from a sentence grable able to be farmed outgrowth a result; a part growing out of something else; a consequence metaphysics the study of what exists; the study of ultimate reality rind a tough outer covering, especially of a fruit subdue to conquer; to bring under control; to lessen the intensity of someskiff a small boat agenda program; things to be done prompting inspiration; strong encouragement; incitement rift a narrow crack; a split; a break in friendship

abevance a temporary suspension perquisite a "perk"; something extra on top of a regular salary; a claimed admonish to scold gently: to warn retiring shy; modest putrefy (putrefaction) to rot grovel to beg persistently self-deprecating modest: humble; reserved; retiring reclaim (reclamation) to take back what was once your own babble to talk foolishly: to chatter castigate to criticize severely ballad a folk song or poem perplex to confuse irate extremely angry resound to ring; to sound loudly decimate to slaughter; to destroy utterly successive following immediately one after another commodity a thing; something bought or sold coerce (coercion) to force someone to do something awe the emotion of respect mixed with fear retard to slow down; to hold back receptive open; willing to accept murmur a low, unclear sound delirious (delirium) incoherent: seriously mentally confused indomitable invincible; unconquerable reside to live in a place sneer to express contempt for gaffe an embarrassing social error anomalous (anomaly) irregular; deviating from a rule; unusual; unexpected burlesque a silly imitation; racy entertainment cultivate to help grow; to develop; to farm mediocre (mediocrity) unimpressive; of medium to poor quality waver to swing back and forth; to be unsure numismatist a coin collector or specialist nostrum a quack remedy hieroglyphics illegible or incomprehensible symbols; illegible writing amalgam a blend of different things devoid empty heterodoxy conventional wisdom consign to give someone something for safekeeping epistemology the study of what can be known dossier a file of documents or records marginal on the edge; insignificant; secondary palpitate to beat strongly, as a heart nest to fit snugly together; to make a home lavish extravagant; freely given in abundance intimate to hint abscond to leave quickly and secretly routine habitual; regular; ordinary; expected

dichotomy a division purist someone who observes traditions or conventions strictly conscript to draft fusillade a rapid outburst, as of gunfire inborn present at birth, as opposed to something acquired arill to question aggressively burnish to polish buttress support for a wall; support adumbrate to sketch; to outline; to give a hint of things to come congruent of the same shape gione to make amends for aggrieve to offend; to treat unjustly captious critical; fault-finding commiserate to sympathize with bask to enjoy warmth and sunshine; to enjoy praise bereave (bereft) to be left alone, especially through the death of another coaquiate to solidify clamor to cry out loud; public noise or protest bilk to cheat converge to come together grchetype an original mold, model, or pattern ongular with sharp edges annotation a note explaining or criticizing a literary work elicit to draw out ogle to stare at, especially in a disrespectful or suggestive way hourd to accumulate; to save constantly litigant person involved in a law suit foppish overly dressed histrionic overly dramatic; theatrical elucidate to explain; to make understandable operetto a light, operalike theater work officious overly helpful; meddlesome; interfering efficacious (efficacy) effective martial warlike; pertaining to war; intending to fight mimic to imitate espy to glimpse; to descry insular of limited outlook or experience; isolated; insulated penury (penurious) extreme poverty gouge to scoop or cut out descry to perceive something, especially something hard to see; to discern misanthrope someone who hates mankind iniquitous (iniquity) evil; unjust emend to change ensign a flag; a naval officer perennial continual; happening again and again, year after year dilettante a dabbler; an amateur magnanimous (magnanimity) generous; big-hearted extrapolate to infer; to draw a conclusion based on past evidence; to project . a trend

obviote to make unnecessary
debilitate to weaken
immutable unchanging; everlasting
coy shyly flirtatious; calculating
demote to lower in rank
intractable not tractable; stubborn; unyielding; uncompromising
gloat to brag greatly
exemplar an excellent model
homeopathy a system of natural healing



WORD ROOTS YOU SHOULD KNOW Here is a list of the most helpful roots to know. It is the same list that appears in Word Smart 1. As we said there, learning roots helps you memorize words. When you look up the definition of a word on this list, try to relate that definition to the meaning of the root. You should recognize these roots in new words, but don't struggle to memorize their definitions. These roots are in thousands of words you already know. You simply have to become aware of them.

Some students go through these lists one root at a time; they look up all the words under one root and learn the definitions together. That way they can link the meanings of different but related words. Linking words together improves your understanding and helps you remember better.

As always, whatever works for you is best.

Note: some roots words have more than one spelling. We have listed the most common forms of each.

A (without) amoral atheist

atheist atypical anonymous apathy amorphous atrophy apartheid anomaly

agnostic

AB/ABS

(off, away from, apart, down)

abduct abhor abolish abstract abnormal abdicate abstinent absolution abstruse abrogate abscond abiure abstemious ablution abominate aberrant

AC/ACR (sharp, bitter)

acid
acute
acerbic
exacerbate
acrid
acrimonious
acumen

ACT/AG

(to do, to drive, to force, to lead)

agent
agile
agitate
exacting
litigate
prodigal
prodigious
pedagogue
demagogue
synagogue
cogent
exigent

AD/AL (to, toward, near)

adapt
adjacent
addict
admire
address
adhere
administer
adore
advice
adjoin
adultery
advocate
allure
alloy

AL/ALI/ALTER (other, another)

alternative
alias
alibi
alien
alter ego
alteration
altruist
altercation
allegory

AM (love)

amateur amatory amorous enamored amity paramour inamorata amiable amicable

AMB (to go, to walk)

ambitious
amble
preamble
ambulance
ambulatory
perambulator
circumambulate

AMB/AMPH (around)

amphitheater ambit ambiance ambient

AMB/AMPH

(both, more than one)

ambiguous amphibian ambivalent ambidextrous

ANIM (life, mind, soul, spirit)

unanimous animosity equanimity magnanimous pusillanimous

ANTE (before)

ante anterior antecedent antedate antebellum antediluvian

ANTHRO/ANDR (man, human)

anthropology android misanthrope philanthropy

241

anthropomorphic philander androgynous anthropocentric

ANNU/ENNI (year)

annual
anniversary
biannual
biennial
centennial
annuity
perennial
annals
millennium

ANTI (against)

antidote antiseptic antipathy antipodal

APO (away)

apology
apostle
apocalypse
apogee
apocryphal
apotheosis
apostasy
apoplexy

APT/EPT (skill, fitness, ability)

adapt aptitude apt inept adept

ARCH/ARCHI (chief, principal)

architect archenemy archetype archipelago

ARCHY (ruler)

monarchy matriarchy patriarchy anarchy hierarchy oligarchy ART (skill, craft)

art
artificial
artifice
artisan
artifact
artful
artless

auction

AUC/AUG/AUX (to increase)

auxiliary augment august AUTO (self) automatic autopsy autocrat autonomy

BE

belittle

(to be, to have a certain quality)

belated bemoan befriend bewilder begrudge bequeath bespeak belie beguile beset bemuse bereft

BEL/BELL (war)

rebel belligerent bellicose antebellum

BEN/BON (good)

benefit
beneficiary
beneficent
benefactor
benign
benevolent
benediction
bonus

bon vivant bona fide

BI (twice, doubly)

binoculars biannual biennial bigamy bilateral bilingual bipartisan

BRI/BREV (brief, short)

brief abbreviate abridge brevity

CAD/CID

(to fall, to happen by chance)

accident coincidence decadent cascade recidivism cadence

CAND (to burn)

candle incandescent candor

CANT/CENT/CHANT (to sing)

chant enchant accent recant incantation incentive

CAP/CIP/CEPT (to take, to get)

capture
anticipate
intercept
susceptible
emancipate
recipient
incipient
percipient
precept

CAP/CAPIT/CIPIT (head, headlong)

capital
cape
captain
disciple
principle
principal
precipice
precipitate
precipitous
capitulate
capitalism
precipitation
caption
recapitulate

CARD/CORD/COUR (heart)

cardiac courage encourage concord discord accord concordance cordial

CARN (flesh)
carnivorous
carnival
carnal
carnage
reincarnation

incarnation

CAST/CHAST (cut)

caste castigate chastise chaste

CAUST (to burn)

caustic holocaust

CED/CEED/CESS
(to go, to yield, to stop)

exceed precede recess concede cede access
predecessor
precedent
antecedent
recede
abscess
cessation
incessant

CENTR (center)

central
concentrate
eccentric
concentric
centrifuge
egocentric

CERN/CERT/CRET/CRIM/CRIT (to separate, to judge, to distinguish, to decide)

concern
critic
secret
crime
discreet
ascertain
certitude
hypocrite
discriminate
criterion
discern
recrimination

CHRON (time)

synchronize chronicle chronology chronic chronological anachronism chronometer

CIRCU (around, on all sides)

circumference circumstances circuit circumspect circumvent circumnavigate circumambulate circumlocution circumscribe circuitous

CIS (to cut)
scissors
precise
exorcise
excise
incision
incisive
concise

CIT (to set in motion)

excite incite solicit solicitous

CLA/CLO/CLU (shut, close)

closet
enclose
conclude
claustrophobia
disclose
exclusive
recluse
preclude
seclude
cloister
foreclose

CLAIM/CLAM (to shout, to cry out)

exclaim proclaim acclaim clamor disclaim reclaim declaim

CLI (to lean toward)

decline recline climax proclivity disinclination

CO/COL/COM/CON (with, together)

connect confide concede coerce cohesive cohort confederate collaborate compatible coherent comply conjugal connubial congenial convivial coalesce coalition contrite conciliate conclave commensurate

CRAT/CRACY (to govern)

bureaucracy democracy aristocracy theocracy plutocracy autocracy

CRE/CRESC/CRET (to grow)

creation increase crescendo increment accretion accrue

CRED (to believe, to trust)

incredible credibility credentials credit creed credo credence credulity incredulous

CRYP (hidden)

crypt cryptic apocryphal cryptography

CUB/CUMB (to lie down)

cubicle succumb incubate incumbent recumbent

CULP (blame)

culprit culpable exculpate inculpate mea culpa

COUR/CUR (running, a course)

occur recur current curriculum courier cursive excursion concur concurrent incur incursion discourse. discursive precursor recourse cursory

DE (away, off, down, completely, reversal)

descend detract decipher deface defile defraud deplete denounce decry defer defame delineate deferential DEM (people)

democracy
epidemic
endemic
demagogue
demographics
pandemic

DI/DIA (apart, through)

dialogue
diagnose
diameter
dilate
digress
dilatory
diaphanous
dichotomy
dialectic

DIC/DICT/DIT

(to say, to tell, to use words)

dictionary
dictate
predict
contradict
verdict
abdicate
edict
dictum
malediction
benediction
indict
indite
diction
interdict

obiter dictum

DIGN (worth)

dignity
dignitary
dignify
deign
indignant
condign
disdain
infra dig

DIS/DIF

(away from, apart, reversal, not)

disperse disseminate dissipate dissuade diffuse

DAC/DOC (to teach)

doctor doctrine indoctrinate doctrinaire docile didactic

DOG/DOX (opinion)

orthodox paradox dogma dogmatic

DOL (suffer, pain)

condolence indolence doleful dolorous

DON/DOT/DOW (to give)

donate donor pardon condone antidote anecdote endow dowry

DUB (doubt)
dubious
dubiety
indubitable

DUC/DUCT (to lead)

conduct
abduct
conducive
seduce
induct
induce
ductile

DUR (hard)
endure
durable
duress
dour
obdurate

DYS (faulty)

dysfunction dystopia dyspepsia dyslexia

EPI (upon)
epidemic
epilogue
epidermis
epistle
epitome
epigram

epithet epitaph

EQU (equal, even)

equation
adequate
equivalent
equilibrium
equable
equidistant
equity
iniquity
equanimity
equivocate
equivocal

ERR (to wander)

err
error
erratic
erroneous
errant
aberrant

ESCE (becoming)

adolescent obsolescent iridescent luminescent coalesce quiescent acquiescent effervescent incandescent evanescent convalescent reminiscent EU (good, well)

WORD ROOTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

euphoria
euphemism
eulogy
eugenics
euthanasia
euphony

E/EF/EX

(out, out of, from, former,

completely)
evade
exclude
extricate
exonerate
extort
exhort
expire
exalt
exult
effervesce

extenuate efface effusion egregious

EXTRA (outside of, beyond)

extraordinary extrasensory extraneous extrapolate

FAB/FAM (speak)

fable
fabulous
affable
ineffable
fame
famous
defame
infamous

FAC/FIC/FIG/FAIT/FEIT/FY

(to do, to make)
factory
facsimile
benefactor
facile
faction
fiction
factitious

efficient deficient proficient munificent prolific soporific figure figment configuration effigy magnify rarefy ratify ramification counterfeit feign fait accompli ex post facto

FER (to bring, to carry, to bear)

offer
transfer
confer
referendum
infer
fertile
proffer
defer
proliferate
vociferous

FERV (to boil, to bubble, to burn)

fervor ferment fervid effervescent

FID (faith, trust)

confide
confident
confident
affidavit
diffident
fidelity
infidelity
perfidy
fiduciary
infidel
semper fidelis
bona fide

FIN (end)

final
finale
confine
define
definitive
infinite
affinity
infinitesimal

FLAG/FLAM (to burn)

flame
flamboyant
flammable
inflammatory
flagrant
conflagration
in flagrante delicto

FLECT/FLEX (to bend)

deflect flexible inflect reflect genuflect

FLICT (to strike)

afflict inflict conflict profligate

FLU. FLUX (to flow)

fluid
influence
fluent
affluent
fluctuation
influx
effluence
confluence
superfluous
mellifluous

FORE (before) foresight

forestall forgo forebear FORT (chance)

fortune fortunate fortuitous

FRA/FRAC/FRAG/FRING
(to break)

fracture fraction fragment fragile refraction fractious infraction refractory infringe

FRUIT/FRUG (fruit, produce)

fruitful fruition frugal

FUND/FOUND (bottom)

foundation fundamental founder profound

FUS (to pour) confuse transfusion profuse effusive

diffuse suffuse infusion

GEN (birth, creation, race, kind)

generous
generate
genetics
photogenic
degenerate
homogeneous
genealogy
gender
genre
genesis
carcinogenic
genial
congenial
ingenuous

ingenue
indigenous
congenital
progeny
engender
miscegenation
sui generis

GN/GNO (know)

ignore
ignoramus
recognize
incognito
diagnose
prognosis
agnostic
cognitive
cognoscenti
cognizant

GRAND (big) grand grandeur

grandeur grandiose aggrandize grandiloquent

GRAT (pleasing)

grateful ingrate ingratiate gratuity gratuitous

GRAV/GRIEV (heavy, serious)

grave grief aggrieve gravity grievous

GREG (herd)
congregation
segregation
aggregation
gregarious

GRAD/GRESS (to step)

progress graduate gradual aggressive

egregious

regress degrade retrograde transgress digress egress

HER/HES (to stick)

coherent cohesive adhesive adherent inherent

(H)ETERO (different)

heterosexual heterogeneous heterodox (H)OM (same)

(H)OM (same) homogeneous homonym homosexual anomaly homeostasis

HYPER (over, excessive)

hyperactive hyperbole

HYPO (under, beneath, less than)

hypodermic hypochondriac hypothesis hypocritical

ID (one's own)

idiot idiom idiosyncrasy

IM/IN/EM/EN (in, into)

in
embrace
enclose
ingratiate
intrinsic
influx
incarnate
implicit
indigenous

IM/IN (not, without)

inactive

indifferent innocuous insipid indolence impartial inept indigent

INFRA (beneath)

infrared infrasonic

INTER (between, among)

interstate interim interloper interlude intermittent interplay intersperse intervene

INTRA (within)

intramural intrastate intravenous

JECT (to throw, to throw down)

inject
eject
project
trajectory
conjecture
dejected
abject

JOIN/JUNCT (to meet, to join)

junction
joint
adjoin
subjugate
juxtapose
injunction
rejoinder
conjugal
junta

JUR (to swear)

jury perjury abjure adjure LECT/LEG (to select, to choose)

collect
elect
select
electorate
predilection
eclectic
elegant

LEV (lift; light, rise)

elevator relieve lever alleviate levitate relevant levee levity

LOC/LOG/LOQU (word, speech)

dialogue
eloquent
elocution
locution
interlocutor
prologue
epilogue
soliloquy
eulogy
colloquial
grandiloquent
philology
neologism
tautology
loquacious

LUC/LUM/LUS (light)

illustrate
illuminate
luminous
luminescent
illustrious
fackluster
translucent
fucid
elucidate

LUD/LUS (to play)

illusion ludicrous delude elude elusive allude collusion prelude interlude

LUT/LUG/LUV (to wash)

lavatory dilute pollute deluge antediluvian

MAG/MAJ/MAX (big)

magnify
magnitude
major
maximum
majestic
magnanimous
magnate
maxim
magniloquent

MAL/MALE (bad, ill, evil, wrong)

malfunction
malodorous
malicious
malicious
malcontent
malign
malaise
dismal
malapropism
maladroit
malevolent
malinger
malfeasance
malefactor
malediction

MAN (hand)

manual manufacture emancipate manifest mandate mandatory

MATER/MATR (woman, mother)

matrimony maternal maternity matriculate
matriarch
MIN (small)
minute
minutiae
diminution
miniature
diminish

MIN (to project, to hang over)

eminent imminent prominent preeminent

MIS/MIT (to send)

transmit
manumit
emissary
missive
intermittent
remit
remission
demise

MISC (mixed) miscellaneous miscegenation promiscuous

MON/MONIT (to warn)

monument monitor summons admonish remonstrate

MORPH (shape)

amorphous metamorphosis polymorphous anthropomorphic

MORT (death)

immortal morgue morbid moribund mortify

MUT (change)

commute mutation mutant immutable transmutation permutation

NAM/NOM/NOUN/ NOWN/NYM (rule, order)

astronomy economy autonomy antimony gastronomy taxonomy

NAT/NAS/NAI (to be born)

natural
native
naive
cognate
nascent
innate
renaissance

NEC/NIC/NOC/NOX/

(harm, death)
innocent
noxious
obnoxious
pernicious
internecine
innocuous
necromancy

NOM/NYM/NOUN/NOWN

(name) synonym anonymous nominate pseudonym misnomer nomenclature acronvm homonym nominal ignominy denomination noun renown nom de plume nom de guerre

NOV/NEO/NOU (new)

novel
novelty
renovate
innovate
neologism
neophyte
nouvelle cuisine
nouveau riche

novice

NOUNC/NUNC (to announce)

announce
pronounce
denounce
renounce
OB/OC/OF/OP
(toward, to, against,
completely, over)

obese
object
obstruct
obstinate
obscure
obtrude
oblique
oblivious
obnoxious
obstreperous
obtuse
opprobrium
obsequious
obfuscate
OMI (all)

omnipotent PAC/PEAC (peace)

omnipresent

omniscient

peace appease pacify pacifist pacifier pact

PAN (all, everywhere)

panorama panacea panegyric pantheon panoply pandemic PAR (equal)

par parity

par parity apartheid disparity disparate disparage

PARA (next to, beside)

parallel
paraphrase
parasite
paradox
parody
paragon
parable
paradigm
paramilitary
paranoid
paranormal
parapsychology
paralegal

PAS/PAT/PATH

(feeling, suffering, disease)

apathy
sympathy
empathy
antipathy
passionate
compassion
compatible
dispassionate
impassive
pathos
pathology
sociopath
psychopath

PATER/PATR (father, support)

patron
patronize
paternal
paternalism
expatriate
patrimony
patriarch
patrician

PO/POV/PAU/PU (few, little, poor) poor poverty paucity pauper impoverish puerile

pusillanimous
PED (child, education)
pedagogue

pedagogue pediatrician encyclopedia PED/POD (foot)

pedal
pedestal
pedestrian
podiatrist
expedite
expedient
impede
impediment
podium
antipodes

PEN/PUN (to pay, to compensate)

penal
penalty
punitive
repent
penance
penitent
penitentiary
repine
impunity

PEND/PENS

(to hang, to weigh, to pay)

depend dispense expend stipend spend expenditure suspense compensate propensity pensive indispensable impending pendulum appendix append appendage ponderous pendant

persistent

PER (completely, wrong)

perforate
perplex
perspire
peruse
pervade
perjury
perturb
perfunctory
perspicacious
permeate
pernicious
perennial
peremptory
pertinacious

PERI (around)
perimeter
periscope

periscope peripheral peripatetic

PET/PIT (to go, to seek, to strive)

appetite
compete
petition
perpetual
impetuous
petulant
propitious
PHIL (love)
philosophy

PHIL (love)
philosophy
philanthropy
philatelist
philology
bibliophile

PHONE (sound)

telephone symphony megaphone euphony cacophony PLAC (to please)

placid
placebo
placate
implacable
complacent
complaisant
PLE (to fill)
complete
deplete
complement
supplement
implement

plethora

replete

PLEX/PLIC/PLY (to fold, to twist, to tangle, to bend)

complex complexion complicate duplex replica ply comply implicit implicate explicit duplicity complicity supplicate accomplice explicate accomplice explicate

PON/POS/POUND (to put, to place)

component
compound
deposit
dispose
expose
exposition
expound
juxtapose
depose
proponent
repository
transpose
superimpose

PORT (to carry)

import
portable
porter
portfolio
deport
deportment
export
portmanteau
portly
purport
disport
importune

POST (after) posthumous posterior posterity ex post facto

ex post facto
PRE (before)
precarious
precocious
prelude
premeditate
premonition
presage
presentiment
presume
presuppose
precedent
precept
precipitous

precedent precept precipitous preclude predilection preeminent preempt prepossess prerequisite prerogative

PREHEND/PRISE
(to take, to get, to seize)

surprise comprehend enterprise impregnable reprehensible apprehension comprise apprise

WORD SMART II

apprehend comprehensive reprisal

PRO (much, for, a lot)

prolific
profuse
propitious
prodigious
profligate
prodigal
protracted
proclivity
proliferate
propensity
prodigy
proselytize
propound
provident
prolix

PROB (to prove, to test)

probe
probation
approbation
probity
opprobrium
reprobate

PUG (to fight)

pugilism pug pugnacious impugn repugnant

PUNC/PUNG/POIGN/POINT

(to point, to prick)

point
puncture
punctual
punctuate
pungent
poignant
compunction
expunge
punctilious

QUE/QUIS (to seek)

acquire acquisition exquisite acquisitive request conquest inquire inquisitive inquest query querulous perquisite

QUI (quiet)

quiet disquiet tranquil acquiesce quiescent

RID/RIS (to laugh)

ridicule derision risible

ROG (to ask) interrogate arrogant prerogative abrogate surrogate derogatory

SAL/SIL/SAULT/SULT (to leap, to jump)

insult
assault
somersault
salient
resilient
insolent
desultory
exult

arrogate

SACR/SANCT/SECR (sacred)

sacred
sacrifice
sanctuary
sanctify
sanction
execrable
sacrament
sacrilege

SCI (to know)
science
conscious
conscience
unconscionable
omniscient
prescient
conscientious

SCRIBE/SCRIP (to write)

describe script postscript prescribe proscribe

nescient

scribble .

ascribe
inscribe
conscription
scripture
transcript
circumscribe
manuscript

scribe
SE (apart)
select
separate

separate seduce seclude

segregate secede sequester sedition

SEC/SEQU (to follow)

second prosecute sequel sequence consequence inconsequential obsequious

obsequious nonsequitur

SED/SESS/SID (to sit, to be still, to plan, to plot)

preside resident sediment session dissident obsession residual sedate subside subsidy subsidiary sedentary dissident insidious

sedulous

SENS/SENT (to feel, to be aware)

sense
sensual
sensory
sentiment
resent
consent
dissent
assent
consensus
sentinel
insensate
dissent
sentient
presentiment

SOL (to loosen, to free)

dissolve
soluble
solve
resolve
resolution
irresolute
solvent
dissolution
dissolute
absolution

SPEC/SPIC/SPIT (to look, to see)

perspective aspect spectator specter spectacles speculation suspicious auspicious

superfluous spectrum superlative specimen supersede introspection superficial retrospective perspective surmount surveillance perspicacious circumspect survev conspicuous TAC/TIC (to be silent)

respite reticent

specious tacit STA/STI (to stand, to be in a place) taciturn

static TAIN/TEN/TENT/TIN (to hold)

stationary contain destitute detain obstinate pertain obstacle pertinacious stalwart tenacious stagnant abstention steadfast sustain constitute tenure constant pertinent stasis tenant status tenable status quo tenet . homeostasis sustenance apostasy

TEND/TENS/TENT/TENU (to stretch, to thin)

tension extend tendency tendon tent tentative contend contentious tendentious contention contender tenuous distend attenuate extenuating

THEO (god)

apotheosis

theocracy

theology

atheist

persuade dissuade

SUA (smooth)

suave

assuage

SUB/SUP (below) submissive subsidiary subjugate subliminal subdue

sublime subtle subversive subterfuge

subordinate suppress supposition

SUPER/SUR (above)

surpass supercilious superstition

TOM (to cut) tome microtome enitome dichotomy

TORT (to twist) tort extort

torture tortuous

TRACT (to drag, to pull, to draw)

tractor attract contract detract tract tractable intractable protract abstract

TRANS (across)

transfer transaction transparent transport transition transitory transient transgress transcendent intransigent traduce translucent

US/UT (to use) abuse

usage utensil usurp utility

utilitarian **VEN/VENT**

(to come, to move toward)

adventure convene convenient event venturesome avenue

intervene advent contravene circumvent VER (truth)

verdict verify veracious verisimilitude

aver verity

VERS/VERT (to turn) controversy

revert subvert invert divert diverse aversion extrovert introvert inadvertent versatile traverse covert overt avert advert VI (life) vivid vicarious convivial viable vivacity ioie de vivre

VID/VIS (to see)

bon vivant

evident television video vision provision adviser provident survey vista visionary visage

WORD SMART II

VOC/VOK (to call)

vocabulary
vocal
provocative
advocate
equivocal
vocation
avocation
convoke
vociferous
irrevocable
evocative

revoke convoke

invoke

VOL (to wish)

voluntary volunteer volition malevolent benevolent



OUR FINAL EXAM

Final Exam Drill #2: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

• •	
1. denunciation	a. dotage
2. embroil	 b. ingratiate
3. depose	c. verdant
4. cordial	d. endearment
5. conspicuous	e. emancipate
6. contumely	f. champion
7. alienate	g. cloistered
8. precocity	h. abasement
	i. effrontery
9. stark	
10. compunction	i. brusque

Every word in Word Smart II appears at least once in these final exams. There are three types of questions: Definitions, Pronunciations, and Buddy Checks.

Definitions require you to match a word with its approximate definition. These are the same as the Quick Quizzes you've been doing all along.

Pronunciations ask you to decide for each word which of two pronunciations is correct. Pronounce the word first and then select the version that comes closer to your pronunciation.

Buddy Checks ask you to match a Word Smart word with another Word Smart word that is either similar or opposite in meaning. Buddy Checks require some flexible thinking on your part since the two words are rarely exact synonyms or antonyms.

For each ten-question drill, you should be getting eight or nine correct. If not, you should spend more time with each Word Smart entry to make sure you have ingrained the word firmly in your long-term memory. You might want to do these drills on scratch paper so that you can quiz yourself again at some future date.

Good luck!

Final Exam Drill #1: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	suffrage bauble enumerate arcade acquisitive clandestine shibboleth deign	b. c. d. e. f. g. h.	arched passageway difference gaudy trinket greedy right to vote secret name one by one catchword
	discrepancy		fashion
10.	vogue	į٠	condescend

Final Exam Drill #3: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. regimen a. perform without prepara	
2 toil b. regulated course	
3. supine c. lying on the back	
4. quell d. familiar	
4. quen	
5. presede	
U. and a minister	
/ , Impasso	
8. jingoism h. put an end to	
9 improvise i. violent, noisy commonor	1
10. conversant j. deadlock	

Final Exam Drill #4: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

 explication 	a. depleted
2. wizened	b. anathema
3. puritanical	c. expunged
4. appalling	d. demise
5. dismay	e. estimable
6. extant	f. prurient
7. resurrection	g. corpulent
8. benediction	h. dissuade
9. induce	i. exuberance
10. rife	j. inquisition

Final Exam Drill #5: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

vacuity	a.	VAK yoo uh tee	Ь.	va KYOO uh tee
draconian	a.	dra KOHN ee un	b.	dray KOH nee ur
tumult	a.	TUM ult		TYOO mult
explicable	a.	ek SPLIK uh bul		EKS pli kuh bul
patina	a.	puh TEE nuh		PAT uh nuh
presage	a.	pree SAYJ	b.	PRES ij
grimace	a.	gri MAYS	b.	GRIM is
licentious	a.	lye SEN shus	Ь.	lye SEN tee us
cabal	a.	kuh BAL	Ь.	CAB ul
auxiliary	a.	awg ZIL uh ree	b.	awg ZIL yuh ree
	vacuity draconian tumult explicable patina presage grimace licentious cabal auxiliary	draconian a. tumult a. explicable a. patina a. presage a. grimace a. licentious a. cabal a.	draconian tumult explicable patina presage grimace licentious cabal a. dra KOHN ee un a. TUM ult a. ek SPLIK uh bul a. puh TEE nuh a. pree SAYJ a. gri MAYS a. lye SEN shus a. kuh BAL	draconian tumult a. TUM ult b. explicable patina presage grimace licentious a. dra KOHN ee un b. b. cabal a. ek SPLIK uh bul b. p. puh TEE nuh b. grimace a. pree SAYJ b. grimAYS b. licentious a. lye SEN shus b. cabal

Final Exam Drill #6: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1.	fledgling	a.	influx
2.	advent	b.	defunct
3.	integral	c.	aftermath
4.	emanation	d.	auxiliary
5.	suppress	e.	affiliate
6.	aghast	f.	fuel
7.	secede	g.	flippant
8.	acquit	h.	forestall
9.	accede	i.	stupefy
١٥.	galvanize	j.	arraign

Final Exam Drill #7: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. antipodal	a. make filthy
- 2. partition	b. division
3. parallel	c. tedious recounting
4. implication	d. sink
5. subside	e. harmful
resplendent	f. exactly opposite
7. inimical	g. abolish
8. abrogate	h. something suggeste
9. degrade	i. similar
10. litany	i brilliantly shining

Final Exam Drill #8: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

OUR FINAL EXAM

1. slake	a. emaciate
2. antedate	b. posturing
3. exodus	. c. ensue
4. impassioned	d. nebulous
5. drollery	e. repugnant
6. insouciance	f. angst
7. distinct	g. confluence
8. redeeming	h. consternation
9. cohort	i. dispassionate
10. forthright	j. nemesis

Final Exam Drill #9: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

 deploy consign olfactory adduce 	a. citeb. linec. hand overd. something that heals
5. mode	e. temporary encampment
6. balm	f. method of doing
7. bivouac	g. pertaining to the sense of smell
8. accouterments	h. trappings
9. queue	i. reduction
10. diminution	 arrange strategically

Final Exam Drill #10: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1. fallacy	a. entity
insuperable	b. verity
3. doleful	c. pluralism
4. porous	d. superseded
5. chaste	e. dejected
6. cipher	f. sordid
7. gratis	g. exorbitant
8. jubilant	h. elated
9. bravado	i. impenetrable
10. solidarity	j. being demur

Final Exam Drill #11: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

1.	diminution	a.	di muh NOO shun	Ь.	dim yoo NISH un
2.	insuperable		in SUP ur uh bul		in SÓO pur uh bul
3.	hypertrophy	a.	HYE pur troh fee	Ь.	hye PUR truh fee
4.	triumvirate	a.	trye UM vuh rit	Ь.	trye um VYE rayt
5.	junta	a.	HOON tuh	Ь.	JOON tuh
6.	bivouac	a.	BIV wak	Ь.	BIV oo ak
	atrophy	a.	A truh fee	Ь.	ah TROH fee
8.	wizened	a.	WYE zund	Ь.	WIZ und
		a.	AD junkt	Ь.	AJ unkt
10.	posthumous	a.	pohst HUM us	b.	PAHS chuh mus

Final Exam Drill #12: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

	capacious	a.	noisome
2.	expostulate	b.	propound
3.	allegory	c.	nomadic
4.	armistice	d.	voluminou
5.	citadel	e.	accord
6.	spurn	f.	arsenal
Ź.	curb	g.	bulwark
8.	armament	ň.	rebuff
9.	errant	i.	avert
10.	odious	į.	parable

Final Exam Drill #13: DEFINITIONS

 $For each \, question \, below, match \, the \, word \, on \, the \, left \, with \, its \, definition \, on \, the \, right.$

1.	annuity	a.	model of excellence
2.	paragon	b. '	funeral song
3.	engaging	c.	ascribing human characteristics
4.	intervene		far-reaching
5.	sanction	e.	annual allowance
	bilious	f.	charming
			person skilled in a craft
	dirge		come between opposing groups
9.	artisan	i.	official permission or approval
10.	sweeping	į.	ill-tempered

Final Exam Drill #14: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1. zenith	a. nescient
2. facade	b. crescendo
3. spate	c. surmise
4. purblind	d. epicurean
5. ascribe	e. impunity
6. crux	f. attribute
7. sumptuous	g. cascade
8. ratiocinate	h. ribald
9. titillating	i. motif
10. exemption	i, facet

Final Exam Drill #15: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

a. fake medication
b. unbury
c. summon forth
d. vanguard
e. pray for
f. top-notch
g. marshy, mucky ground
h. basic
i. tendency
j. concise

Final Exam Drill #16: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.cabeyance	;	a. rend
2. melee		b. replica
3. lout		c. cowering
4. fragment		d. cataclysm
5. clone	S	e. boor
6. craven		f. altercation
7. millennium	:	g. verge
8. threshold		h. moratorium
9. skirmish		i. disarray
10 conflagration		i. epoch

OUR FINAL FXAM

Final Exam Drill #17: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

1. halcyon	a. HAL see un	b. HALK yun
2. hubris	a. HUB ris	b. HYOO bris
3. protégé	a. PROH tuh zhay:	b. PROH teeg
4. inviolate	a: in VYE uh lit	b. in VYE oh lay
hypocrisy	a: hi PAHK ruh see	b. HYE poh kris
6. rhapsodic	a. RAP suh dik	b. rap SAHD ik
7. motif	a. MOH tif	b. moh TEEF
8. fiasco	a. fee AS koh	b. fye AS koh
9. rationale	a. RASH uh nul	b. rash uh NAL
10. fruition	a, froo ISH un	b. froo shun

Final Exam Drill #18: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	tryst	 a. reactionary
2.	concession	b. dilemma
3.	dissidence	c. resignation
4.	crux	d. divination
5.	conservative	e. punctilious
6.	augury ·	f. plight
7.	decry	g. dissent
8.	meticulous	h. abound
9.	teem	i. deplore
0.	affliction	į. liaison

Final Exam Drill #19: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. amid	a. incitement
2. fiscal	b. system of names
delinquent	c. largely confined to sitting down
4. double entendre	d. word made up of initials
5. nomenclature	e. in the middle of
6. acronym	f. gray or white with age
7. provocation	g. monetary
8. concomitant	h. neglecting a duty
9. sedentary	i. following from
10, hoary	j. double meaning

Final Exam Drill #20: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	uncanny	a. elocution
2.	deft	b. quaint
	primal	c. gambit
4.	articulation	d. forswear
5.	peculiar	e. repartee
	abjure	f. inexplicable
7.	impassive	g. presume
8.	retort	h. aboriginal
9.	stratagem	i. canny
10.	presuppose	j. objective

Final Exam Drill #21: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. reprobate a. rule or law	
2. exposition b. make an ugly f	ace
3. rationale c. greeting	
4. canon d. seemingly unen	ding
 interminable e. depraved, wick 	
6. salutation f. force of movem	ent
7. ebb g. explanation	
8. momentum h. diminish	
 materialistic i. underlying reas 	
10. grimace j. preoccupied wi	th material things

Final Exam Drill #22: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	lobby	а	. consolidate
2.	muster	Ь	. subsidiary
3.	entrepreneurial	c	. advocate
4.	ennui	d.	. cull
5.	serpentine	• е	highest caste
6.	elite	f	. self-made
7.	adjunct	g	commiseration
8.	pathos	h:	pristine
	garner		tortuous
10.	untainted	i	doldrums

269

Final Exam Drill #23: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

 bacchanal 	a. BAK uh nul	b. Buh CHAN ul
2. schism	a. SIZ um	b. SKIZ um
reclamation	a. rek luh MAY shun	b. ree klam AY shun
4. punitive	a. PUN i tiv	b. PYOO nuh tiv
degradation	a. deg ruh DAY shun	b. duh gray DAY shun
6. integral	a. in TEG rul	b. IN tuh grul
7. ennui	a. AHN wee	b. EN wee
apostasy	 a. AP oh stay see 	b. uh PAHS tuh see
prescient	a. PREE see unt	b. PRESH unt
10. mores	a. mawrs	b. MAWR ayz

Final Exam Drill #24: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1.	singular	a.	tedious
2.	bracing	Ь.	serenity
3.	jaunty	c.	rarefied
4.	rampant	d.	hypertrop
5.	festering		anterior
6.	attest	f.	generic
7.	wane	g.	dismal
8.	bedlam	ĥ.	query
	posterior		wake
10.	harbinger	į.	remission

Final Exam Drill #25: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1.	careen	٦.	shockingly horrible
2.			classification
3.	apprise	٥.	group of close associates
		ł.	crazed excitement
	ghastly e	€.	supreme ruler
6.	denomination	f.	aimlessly rambling
		j.	swerve
		١,	display threateningly
		i.	give notice to
10.	brandish	١.	government order suspending trade

Final Exam Drill #26: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	lascivious	a.	reprimand
2.	inflammatory		herald
3.	override	c.	occult
4.	revile	d.	eclipse
	perverse	e.	disposition
6.	demeanor	f.	prurient
7.	harp	g.	cavil
	mysticism		incendiary
9.	apropos	i.	refractory
10.	presage	i.	apt

Final Exam Drill #27: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. apposite	 a. political meeting
2. caucus	b. direct
3. channel	c. biting irony
4. impresario	d. pertaining to a city or town
5. commemorate	e. distinctly suitable
archipelago	f. person who manages public
7. municipal	entertainments
8. sarcasm	g. honor the memory of
9. pastoral	h. group of islands
10. divulge	i. rural
	i reveal

Final Exam Drill #28: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1.	confound	a.	averse
2.	genesis	Ь.	epilogue
3.	aver	c.	discourse
4.	prattle	d.	premeditated
5.	abet	e.	debunk
6.	enmity	f.	confederacy
7.	avid	·g.	throttle
8.	inadvertent	ĥ.	vigilant
9.	perpetuate	i.	envision
10.	impromptu	i.	thwart

Final Exam Drill #29: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

a. FAWR ay	b. faw RAY
a. BIL ee us	b. BIL yus
a. DOW ur	b. door
a. dep ruh VAY shun	b. duh prye VAY shu
a. TIT yoo lur	b. TICH uh lur
a. in SOO see unt	b. in SOO shee unt
a. puh RAHK sum	b. PAR uk siz um
a. ri TAWRT	b. REE tawrt
a. LEE uh zahn	b. lee AY zahn
a. ahl FAK tur ee	b. OHL fak tur ee
	a. BIL ee us a. DOW ur a. dep ruh VAY shun a. TIT yoo lur a. in SOO see unt a. puh RAHK sum a. ri TAWRT a. LEE uh zahn

Final Exam Drill #30: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1.	mawkish	a.	convene
	corrugated	Ь.	explicable
3.	conundrumlike	c.	callous
4.	boon	d.	jocular
5.	dour	e.	adversity
6.	adjourn	f.	concerted
7.	embellish	g.	vivacity
8.	listlessness	ĥ.	seamless
9.	quintessence	i.	dross
١٥.	unilateral	j.	dilapidate

Final Exam Drill #31: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1.	canvass	a.	shortage
2.	vagary		free from injury
3.	inviolate	c.	disaster
4.	patrimony	d.	seek votes or opinions
	revamp		inheritance
	calamity	f.	whim
7.	entreat	g.	revise
	balk	ĥ.	diplomatic etiquette
9.	deficit	i.	ask earnestly
10.	protocol		refuse abruptly

Final Exam Drill #32: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1.	paranoid	a.	ancillary
2.	halcyon	Ь.	harried
3.	timorous	c.	waive
4.	repose		disquiet
5.	impending		brazen
	assert		stalwart
	exquisite		botched
	apoplexy		posthumous
	embryonic		composure
10.	cardinal	İ٠	retrospective

Final Exam Drill #33: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

 precarious duress 	 a. a landing on the edge of the water b. float
3. critique	c. dangerous
4. waft	d. currently holding office
5. brouhaha	e. stridently loud
6. muse	f. reproduce
7. propagate	g. coercion
8. quay	h. ponder
9. incumbent	i. uproar
10. raucous	j. critical review

Final Exam Drill #34: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1.	foreclose	a.	infraction
2.	sophomoric	Ь.	opprobriu
3.	bland	c.	foster
• 4.	limpid	d.	august
5.	obeisance		quiescence
6.	conviction	f.	hubris
7.	fawning		pungent
8.	acclaim	h.	traumatize
9.	avail	i.	turbid
10.	paroxysm	i.	oscillation

273

Final Exam Drill #35: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

١.	satyr	a.	SAY tur	Ь.	SAT ur
2.	quasi	a.	KWAY zye	Ь.	KWAH zee
3.	exquisite	a.	ek SWIZ it	Ь.	EKS kwiz it
4.	electoral	a.	ee lek TAWR ul	b.	i LEK tuh rul
5.	emaciate	a.	i MAY shee ayt	Ь.	i MAY see ayt
6.	remuneration			Ь.	ree noom ur AY shun
7.	crevasse	a.	kruh VAS	b.	KREV us
	pathos	a.			PATH ohs
	, ,	a.			kway
10.	trauma	a.	TROW muh	b.	TRAW muh

Final Exam Drill #36: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

1.	impregnable	a.	homage
	affront		woe
3.	allegiance	c.	aspersion
4.	replete	d.	scant
5.	copious	e.	vacuous
6.	bliss	f.	empower
7.	loathe	g.	panegyric
	eulogy	h.	estrangemen
	diatribe		susceptible
10.	nullify	į٠	rhapsodize

Final Exam Drill #37: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1.	arid	a.	loathing
2.	cloy	Ь.	out of proportion
3.	revulsion	c.	cause to feel too full
4.	equestrian	· d.	very dry
5.	chaff	e.	displaying glowing, changing colors
6.	inimitable		impair
7.	undermine	g.	worthless stuff
8.	disproportionate .	ň.	impossible to imitate
	devout		having to do with horseback riding
10.	iridescent		deeply religious

Final Exam Drill #38: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most nearly its opposite on the right.

١.	wax	a.	atrophy
2.	discretionary	Ь.	imperative
3.	plausible		perigee
	downplay	d.	insufferable
	captivate		harass
	dissembling		aggrandizemen
	compatible		ludicrous
8.	diminution	h.	disaffect
9.	coddle		ballyhoo
10.	apex	i.	forthright

Final Exam Drill #39: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1. elite	a. most select group
obviate	b. remove by cutting
3. corrosive	c. make unnecessary
4. stint	d. restrict
5. excise	e. smuggled goods
6. lyrical	f. melodious
contraband	g. affecting the entire system
demographics	h. study of population characteristics
9. ascertain	i. determine with certainty
10. systemic	j. eating away

Final Exam Drill #40: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	interlude	a.	tamine
2.	toxic	Ь.	rhapsodic
3.	ineluctable	c.	interim
4.	elegiac	d.	carcinogenic
5.	privation		jocose
6.	crevice	f.	booty
7.	cabal		oxymoron
8.	antithesis		cohort
9.	plunder	i.	ineradicable
10.	lyrical	j.	aperture

Final Exam Drill #41: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

1. psyche	a. SYE kee	b. syke
2. harass	a. HAR us	b. ha RAS
3. ascertain	a. as SUR tun	b. as ur TAYN
4. antiquity	a. AN tye kwit ee	b. an TIK wuh te
5. calumny	a. kuh LUM nee	b. KAL um nee
6. placebo	a. PLAYS boh	b. pluh SEE boh
7. panegyric	a. pan i JIR ik	b. payn GYE rik
8. balm	a. bahlm	b. bawm
9. melee	a. MAY lay	b. MEE lee
10. cordial	a. KAWR júl	b. KAWR dee u

Final Exam Drill #42: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	pallid	a.	derelict
2.	bestow	b.	melancholy
3.	ostracize	c.	infringe
4.	arrears	d.	blanched
5.	accentuate	e.	confer
6.	assess		bandy
7.	banter	g.	aggrandíze
8.	breach	h.	rebuff
9.	rueful	i.	assay
10.	amass	i.	underscore

Final Exam Drill #43: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the !sft with its definition on the right.

1.	inculcate	a.	causing resentment
2.	denote	b.	mournful poem
3.			be sufficient
4.	ecosystem	d.	instill
5.	referendum	e.	organisms and their environment
6.	affidavit		harmful action
7.	elegy	g.	signify
8.	titular	ĥ.	in name only
9.	disservice	i.	public vote
10.	invidious		sworn written statement

Final Exam Drill #44: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	reassess	a.	phlegmatic
2.	defile		precocious
3.	importune	c.	meditate
	rout		supplicate
	vanquish	e.	decree
6.	stolid	f.	fiasco
7.	electorate	g.	surmount
	cogitate	h.	constituency
	shrewd	i.	debase
10.	ordinance	j.	reappraise

Final Exam Drill #45: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1.	alchemy	a.	envy
	contretemps	b.	embarrassing occurrence
3.	forebode	c.	be an omen of
	apostasy	d.	with suspicion
5.	impoverish	e.	humorous misuse of a word
	punitive	f.	abandonment of faith
	askance	g.	reduce to poverty
	malapropism	ĥ.	seemingly magical transformation
	habituate	i.	accustom to a situation
10.	begrudge	į.	inflicting a punishment

Final Exam Drill #46: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1. in	frastructure	a.	savant
2. bo	roque	Ь.	spectrum
3. pu	ındit	c.	underpinning
4. en	itailment		underwrite
5. su	bsidize	e.	corollary
6. sh	ackle		appellation
7. go	ımut-		meander
8. ps	eudonym	h.	convoluted
9. pe	regrinate	i.	impetuous
10. fic	kle	į.	impede

277

Final Exam Drill #47: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

 obtrusive 	a. severe shock
2. overture	b. interfering
3. trauma	c. raw material
fodder	d. humorous
5. concoct	e. collection of animals
6. aggrieve	f. create by mixing ingredients
7. menagerie	g. opening move
8. droll	h. mistreat
9. motley	i. extremely varied
10. congeal	j. solidify

Final Exam Drill #48: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

1.	importune	a.	im PAWR toon	Ь.	im pawr TOON
2.	ratiocination	a.	rash ee oh suh NAY shun	Ь.	ray shee oh sin ay shun
3.	bravado	a.	bruh VAH doh	Ь.	BRAY va doh
	savant	α.	SAV unt	Ь.	suh VAHNT
5.	sophomoric	α.	sahf MAWR ik	Ь.	sahf uh MAWR ik
6.	schematic	α.	skuh MAT ik	Ь.	skee MAT ik
7.	inculcate	a.	IN kul kayt	Ь.	in KUL kayt
8.	vivacity	α.	vi VAS i tee	Ь.	vye VAS uh tee
	stipend	a.	STYE pund	Ь.	STIP und
10.	byzantine	α.	BYE zan teen	Ь.	BIZ un teen

Final Exam Drill #49: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	dolt	a.	phantom
2.	antiquity	Ь.	transfix
3.	rivet	c.	bemoaning
4.	odyssey		rapture
5.	disgruntled	e.	delectable
6.	nirvana	f.	pilgrimage
7.	voluptuous	g.	quotidian
8.	diurnal	ĥ.	posterity
9.	wraith	i.	lavish
0.	palatable	į٠	buffoon

Final Exam Drill #50: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

OUR FINAL EXAM

1.	deity a		ignorant
2.	figment b		seat of government
3.	zeitgeist c		spacious
4.	commodious d		something made up
5.	fulminate e	•	god or goddess
6.	benighted f		insignificant
7.			spirit of the times
8.	marginal h		denounce vigorously
9.	capital i		person with whom secrets are shared
			improvise

Final Exam Drill #51: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	preponderant	a.	incursion
2.	mores	b.	depredation
3.	extortion	c.	brusque
4.	clout		dispirited
5.	churl	e.	ethics
6.	foray	f.	dominant
7.	callous		curmudgeon
	appurtenance	h.	appendage
	downcast	i.	impecunious
10.	impoverished	į٠	prowess

Final Exam Drill #52: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1	barrage	a	beginner
2.	neophyte	ь.	accumulate
3.	medium		highly significant
4.	accrue	d.	means by which something
5.	cant		is conveyed
6.	specious	e.	false information purposely
7.	guise		disseminated
8.	wary	f.	cautious
9.	disinformation	g.	deceptive
	pregnant		outpouring of artillery fire
		i.	appearance
			insincere speech

Final Exam Drill #53: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	annexation	a. cache
2.	empathy	b. pontificating
3.	allot	c. osmosis
4.	dire	d. bromide
5.	adage	e. disclaim
6.	ratify	f. crest
	asylum	 g. apportion
8.	sententious	h. solace
	apogee	i. warrant
0.	demur	j. grievous

Final Exam Drill #54: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

1. forte	a. for TAY	b. fawrt
vagaries	a. vuh GAR eez	b. VAY guh reez
3. repartee	a. rep ur TAY	b. rep ur TEE
4. apostasy	a. uh PAHS tuh see	b. AP oh stay see
epochal	a. EP uh kul	b. uh PAHK ul
6. dolorous	a. duh LAWR us	b. DOH lur us
7. heinous	a. HEE nis	b. HAY nus
8. jocose	a. JOH kohs	b. joh KOHS
9. feign	a. fee gun	b. fayn
10. obeisance	a. OHB i suns	b. oh BAY suns

Final Exam Drill #55: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	fathom	a.	livid
2.	proclaim	Ь.	underscore
3.	compliant	c.	pummel
4.	surreal	d.	ominous
5.	baleful	e.	arrant
6.	cavalier	f.	pliable
7.	assail	g.	paranormal
8.	heinous		competent
	bristling	i.	nonchalant
0.	effectual	į.	delve

Final Exam Drill #56: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1	edifice`	_	sail all the way around
2.	redress	Ь.	mutual relation
3.	circumnavigate	c.	protection
4.	auspices	d.	cling
	cleave	e.	remedy
6.	conservatory	f.	having to do with marriage
7.	efficacy		big, imposing building
8.	conjugal	ĥ.	extermination of a race or
9.	genocide		religion or people
10.	correlation	i.	effectiveness
		i.	greenhouse or music school

Final Exam Drill #57: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	suffuse	a.	subterfuge
2.	intrigue		disperse
3.	contempt		gaffe
4.	impeach	d.	brink
5.	discomfit	e.	wrath
6.	sally	f.	disconcert
7.	abomination	g.	indict
8.	threshold	h.	scorn
9.	folly	i.	lax
10.	cursory	į.	reprisa!

Final Exam Drill #58: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

 bona fide 	 a. demonstrate convincingly
underpinning	b. cause to spread out
3. evince	c. judge
4. emissary	d. human soul or mind
5. deem	e. eject
6. diffuse	f. thick and sticky
7. karma	g. good or bad emanations
8. viscous	h. sincere
9. psyche	i. system of supports beneath
10. oust	i. messenger or representative

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

compilation astringent	Ь.	incarnate edict
		expiate
quandary		depict
specter	e.	anthology
pandemic	f.	draconian
corporeal	g.	predicament
atone	h.	veneer
patina	i.	rampant
render	j.	phantasm
	astringent fiat quandary specter pandemic corporeal atone patina	astringent b. fiat c. quandary d. specter e. pandemic f. corporeal g. atone h. patina i.

Final Exam Drill #60: PRONUNCIATIONS

Pronounce each of the following words without looking at column a or column b. Then select the column that comes closer to your pronunciation.

1.	reprobate	a.	REP ruh bayt	Ь.	ree PROH bayt
2.	depredation	a.	duh pray DAY shun	Ь.	dep ruh DAY shun
3.	prophesy	a.	PRAHF uh sye	Ь.	PRAHF uh see
4.	cardinal	a.	KAHR duh nul	Ь.	KAHRD nul
5.	deity	a.	DAY uh tee	Ь.	DEE uh tee
6.	chutzpah	a.	CHUTZ puh	Ь.	HUT spuh
7.	dissemble	a.	di SEM bul	b.	dis uh SEM bul
8.	fiat	a.	FEE ut	Ь.	FYE ut
9.	prelude	a.	PREL yood	Ь.	PRAY lood
10.	tryst	a.	trist	Ь.	tryst

Final Exam Drill #61: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	oligarchy	a.	dissemble
2.	florid	Ь.	triumvirate
3.	feign	c.	substantiate
4.	document	d.	intricate
5.	usurious	e.	implication
	stipend	f.	bacchanal
	prescience	g.	exorbitant
	gastronomy	h.	remuneration
9.	licentious	i.	presentiment
0.	innuendo	j.	cuisine

Final Exam Drill #62: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

OUR FINAL EXAM

1.	chortle	a.	short, literary sket
2.	cherub	b.	hint
3.	vignette	Ć.	full of difficulties
4.	access	d.	intruder
5.	omniscient	e.	chuckle with glee
	intimate	f.	accidental
	interloper	g.	brazenness
	chutzpah	h.	supercute child
9.	adventitious	i.	right to approach
10.	thorny	į.	all-knowing

Final Exam Drill #63: BUDDY CHECKS

For each question below, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

1.	ostracism	a.	tactic
2.	brawn	Ь.	intermittent
3.	bluster	c.	bombast
4.	idiom	d.	jargon
5.	interspersed	e.	omnivorous
6.	voracious	f.	infuse
7.	imbue	g.	hypertrophy
8.	schism	ĥ.	dichotomy
9.	embodiment	i.	effigy
10.	connivance	i	seclusion

Final Exam Drill #64: DEFINITIONS

For each question below, match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

1.	epilogue	a.	pertaining to time
2.	modulate	Ь.	afterword
3.	temporal	c.	reduce or regulate
4.	cartography	d.	command
5.	behest		having to do with the church
6.	ecclesiastical	f.	highly changeable person
7.	callous	g.	insensitive
8.	ban vivant	h.	art of making maps
9.	chameleon	i.	luxurious liver
10.	travesty	į.	grotesque imitation



THE ANSWERS

Warm-Up Warm-Up Warm-Up Warm-Up Test #2d Test #4 All the answers are a. Sorry about that. 1. b. 1. b. 1. wakes a. Sorry about that. 2. h. 2. i. 2. mode 3. d. 3. g. 3. patina Warm-Up 4. a. 4. h. 4. revel Test #2a 5. c. 5. a. 5. atone 1. b. 6. g. 6. j. 6. arid 2. a. 7. j. 7. c. 7. waive 3. h. 8. j. 8. d. 8. stout 4. c. 9. e. 9. mania 5. d. 10. f. 10. f. 10. taint 6. e. 7. f. Warm-Up Warm-Up 12. stint 8. j. Test #2c Test #3 13. avid 9. i. 1. f. 1. arrant 14. dire 10. g. 2. c. 2. averse 15. dolt 3. i. 3. cache 16. obet
4. d. 4. canon 17. allot 5. a. 5. canvass 18. arcade 6. e. 6. careen 19. balm 7. h. 7. rationale 20. scorn 8. b. 8. confident 21. louts 9. j. 9 corporeol 22. loathe 10. g. 10. demur 23. apt 11. dissemble 24. junta 12. systemic 25. spate

Quick Quiz #1 1. h 2. a 3. c 4. i 5. g 6. b 7. d 8. e 9. f 10. j	Quick Quiz #5 1. e 2. h 3. c 4. a 5. 6 7. b d 9 10. g	Quick Quiz #9 1. f 2. a 3. ; 4. c 5. g 6. b 7. : 8. d 9. h	Quick Quiz #12 1. c 2. f 3. 5 4. i 5. a 6. d 7. e 8. g 9. i 10. h
Quick Quiz #2 1. h 2. c 3. d 4. f 5. a 6. i 7. e 9. i 10. g Quick Quiz #3 1. f 2. i 4. b 5. a 7. 8. c 9. e h Quick Quiz #4 1. a 3. i 4. b 5. e 6. f 7. g 9. h 10. d	Quick Quiz #6 1. i 2. e 3. c h b b f 7. i 8. g 10. a Quick Quiz #7 1. c 3. e h b 7. f 6. f 10. d Quick Quiz #8 1. f 3. a 9. d 4. g 6. f 9. i 0. d Quick Quiz #8 1. f 3. a 9. d 6. f 9. d 9. i 10. d Quick Quiz #8 1. f 9. d 9. i 10. d Quick Quiz #8 1. f 9. d 9. i 10. i	Quick Quiz #10 1. a 2. e 3. h 4. c 5. f 6. n 7. i 8. k 9. k 10. g 11. i 12. b 13. d 14. l Quick Quiz #11 2. b 3. i 4. d 5. i 6. c 7. f 8. a 9. e 10. h	Quick Quiz #13 1. c 2. e 3. g 4. i 5. a 6. b 7. h 8. i 9. d Quick Quiz #14 1. f 2. c 3. i 4. a 5. o 6. m 7. i 8. l 9. b 10. 9 11 n 12 k 13. d 15. e

	***				Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz
Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz		#31	#35	#39	#43
#15	#19	#23	#27		1. h	1. b	1. a	1. e
1. h	1. f	1. b	1. i		2. e	2. f	2. c	2. c
2. c	2. d	2. i	2. c		3. c	3. h	З. е	3. h
3. j	3. h	3. c	3. f	•	4. i	4. a	<u>4</u> . g	4. a
4 . i	4. b	4. h	4. a		5. b	5. i	5. j	5. b
5. a	5. j	5. e	5. j		6. a	6. j	6. k	<u>6</u> . d
6. b	<u>6</u> . a	6. f	6. g		7. d	7. g	7. j	7. i
7. f	7. c	7. a	7. h		8. f	8. c	8. h	8. g
8. d	8. e	8. j	8. b		9. g	9. d	9. f	9. F
9. g	9. g	9. g	9. e		10. j	10. e	10. d	10. į
10. e	10. i	10. ď	10. d .	•	Quick Quiz		11. b	
		0.11.0.1	Quick Quiz			Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz
Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz			#32	#36	#40	#44
#16	#20	#24	#28		1. c	1. d	1. e	1. b
1. e	1. h	1. e	1, i		2. a	2. g 3. b	2. k	2. a
2. j	2. d	2. c	2. d		3. i		3. h	3. d
3. g	3. j	3. a	3. g		4. e	4. e	4. i	4. c
4. b	4. g	4. i	4. Ď		5. g	5. h	5. 1	5. e
5. h	5. c	5. h	5, f		6. j	6. c	6. b	
ان .6	6. f	6. j	6. a		7. h	7. a	7. d	Quick Quiz
7. a	7. b	7. g	7. j		8. f	8. j	8. f	#45
8. c	. 8. i	8. b	8. c		9. d	9. f	9. a	1. i
9. i	9. e	9. d	9. h		10. b	10. i	10. c	2. b
10. f	10. a	10. f	10. e			. 10.1	11. g	3. f
					Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	12.	- 4. k
Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz		#33	#37	12. [5. h
#17	#21	#25	#29		1. k	1. i	Quick Quiz	6. f
1. a	1. ክ	1. g	1. i		2. j	2. e	#41	7. j
2. b	2. f 3. d	2. e	2. c		3. e	2. e 3. g	1. c	8. c
3. i	3. d	3. c	3. f		4. c		2. f	9. e
4. g	4. e	4. f	4. j		5. d	4. c	3. b	10. g
5. d	5. j	5. d	5. a		6. a	5. j	4. i	11. a
6. f	6. i	6. b	6. b		7. i	6. d 7. f	5. g	12. d
7. c	7. a	7. a	7. h		8. i	7. r 8. h	6. ď	. 4. 0
8. i	8. b	8. i	8. g		9. f		7. a	Quick Quiz
9. h	9. g	9. h	9. e		10. b	9. b	8. e	#46
	10. c		10. d	®	11. g	10. a	9. h	1. c
10. e		Quick Quiz			12. h		10. j	2. f
Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	#26	Quick Quiz	i.		Quick Quiz	-	3. i
	#22	1. g	#30		Quick Quiz	#38	Quick Quiz	4. a
#18	1. d	2. d	1. j		#34	1. j	#42	5. e
1. d	2. a	3. c	2. g		1. i	2. i	1. a	6. d
2. g	3. j	4. į	3. b		2. c	3. h	2. d	7. b
3. f	4. h	5. a	4. e		3. f	4. d	3. g	
4 . i	-	6. b	5. a		4. j	5. g	4. c	8. j
5. c	5. e	7. f	6. d		5. a	6. a	5. b	9. h
<u>6</u> . a	<u>6</u> . g	7. i 8. e	7. c		6. d	7. b	6. f	10. g
7. e	7. c	o. e 9. h	7. c 8. i		7. g	8. c	7. j	
8. ի	8. f	9. п 10. i	9. f		8. h	9. e	8. ĥ	
9. b	9. b	10. 1	9. r 10. h		9. e	- 10. f	9. e	
10. j	10. i		10. 11		10. b		10. i	

Quick Quiz #47 1. d 2. b 3. i 4. f 5. c 6. g 7. i 8. e 9. a 10. h	Quick Quiz #51 1. g 2. i 3. t 4. e 5. d 6. a 7. h 8. i 9. c 10. b	Quick Quiz #55 1. b 2. e 3. g 4. d 5. h 6. a 7. c 8. f 9. i 10. i	Quick Quiz #59 1. h 2. d 3. f 4. b 5. e 6. a 7. c 8. j 9. i 10. g
Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz	Quick Quiz #56	Quick Quiz
#48	#52	1. a	#60 1. b
1. g 2. c	1. b 2. g	2. e	2. g
3. f	3. d	3. j 4. a	3. d
4. b	4. a	5. b	4. j
5. d 6. a	5. f 6. h	6. d	5. e 6. a
7. e	7. e	7. m 8. i	7. i
8. h	8. c	9. f	8. h
9. j	Quick Quiz	10. c	9. c 10. f
10. i	#53	11. n 12. l	10. 1
Quick Quiz	1. b	13. k	Quick Quiz
#49	2. f 3. e	14. h	#61 1. b
1. c 2. g	3. e 4. a	Quick Quiz	2. c
3. d	5. d	#57	3. h
4 . a	6. c	1. b 2. e	4. f
5. b 6. i	7. f 8. h	3. h	5. j 6. i
o. 1 7. h	9. i	4. c	7. g
8. f	10. g	5. i 6. a	8. d
9. j	Quick Quiz	7. d	9. a 10. e
10. e	#54	8. g 9. f	10. 6
Quick Quiz	1. c	9. t	Quick Quiz
#50	2. a	Quick Quiz	#62 1. i
1. h 2. a	3. f 4. d	#58 1. e	2. e
3. b	5. b	1. e 2. b	3. d
4. c	6. e	3. g	4. a
5. d		4. a	5. b 6. g
6. i 7. g		5. j 6. i	7. f
8. e		7. h	8. h
9. j		8. c	9. j
10. f		9. f 10. d	10. c

Quick Quiz #63	Quick Quiz #67	Quick Quiz #71	Quick Quiz #74
1. g	1. a	1. c	1. e
2. ď	2. h	2. k	2. c
3. b	3. j	3. i	3. g
4. a	4. f	4. f	4. d
5. i 6. f	5. e	5. e	5. a
o. r 7. e	6. b	6. a	6. h 7. f
8. c	7. k	7. b	8. j
9. j	8. c	8. n	9. i
10. h	9. d	9. m 10. l	10. b
10. 11	10. g	10. 1 11. d	10. 5
Quick Quiz	11. i	12. g	Quick Quiz
#64	Quick Quiz	13. j	#75
<u>1</u> . f	#68	14. h	1. h
2. c	1. e	14. 11	2. e
3. h	2. c	Quick Quiz	3. i 4. b
4. e 5. g	3. g	#72	5. c
5. g 6. a	4. a	1. c	6. f
7. b	5. b	2. h	7. d
8. d	6. h	3. g	8. j
9. j	7. F	4. a	9. g
10. i	8. d	5. b	10. a
	9. i	6. j	0:10:
Quick Quiz	10. j	7. i	Quick Quiz #76
#65	Quick Quiz	8. f	#/ o 1. d
1. c 2. h	#69	9. e 10. d	2. f
3. e	1. d	10. a	3. b
4. f	2. h	Quick Quiz	4. g
5. j	3. a	#73	5. ȟ
6. i	4. c	1. i	6. e
7. a	5. b	2. g	7. a
8. b	6. j	3. e	8. c
.9. d	7. f	4. f	9. i
10. g	8. e	5. c	10. j
Quick Quiz	9. g	6. d	Quick Quiz
#66	10. i	7. b	#77
1. d		8. h	1. d
2. g	Quick Quiz	9. j 10. a	2. h
3. Ь	#70 1. f	10. u	3. f
4. a	2. c		4. c
5. k	3. b		5. a
6. h	4. j		6. b
7. j 8. i	5. h		7. k 8. i
9. İ	6. a		9. i
10. f	7. e		10. g
11. c	8. d		11. e
12. e	9. g	1	12. j
	10. i		,

290	WORL	D SMART II			٠.	THE ANSWERS	
Quick Quiz #78	Quick Quiz #80	Quick Quiz #82	Quick Quiz #84	•	Final Exam Drill #1	Final Exam Drill #5	Final Exam Drill #9
1. c	1. f	1. g	1. d		1. e	1. b 2. b	1. [2. c
2. h	2. d	2. a	2. k		2. c	3. b	3. g
3. d	3. Ь	3. с	3. i		3. g 4. a	4. b	4. a
4. g	4. a	4. f	4. i	3 :.	4. d 5. d	5. b (a is also	5. f
5. a	5. e	5. e	5. a		6. f	acceptable)	6. d
6. b	6. c	6. þ	6. b		7. h	6. b	7. e
7. j	<i>7</i> . g	7. h	7. f		8. j	7. either is acceptable	8. h
8. i		8. d	8. e	F*	9. b	8. a	9. b
9. e	Quick Quiz	9. i	9. c	Σ.	10. i	9. a	10. i
10. f	#81	10. j	10. g		10. 1	10. b	
	1. f		11. Ř		Final Exam		Final Exam
Quick Quiz	2. c	Quick Quiz			Drill #2	Final Exam	Drill #10
#79	3. d	#83			1. d	Drill #6	1. b
1. c	4. a	1. f			2. e	1. b	2. d
2. b	5. h	2. e			2. 6 3. f	2. c	3. h
3. g	<u>6</u> . e	3. d				3. d	4. i ·
4. ř	7. b	4. c			4. j	4. a	5. f
5. e	8. g	5. b			5. g	5. f	6. a
6. j		6. a			6. h	6. g	7. g
7. h					7. b	7. e	8. e
8. d				Ð,	8. a	8. j	9. j
9. i					9. c	9. h	10. c
10. a					10. i	10. i	
				•	Final Exam	10.1	Final Exam
					Drill #3	Final Exam	Drill #11
				'	ยกแ #3	Drill #7	1. a
					1. b	1. f	2. b
					2. e	2. b	3. b
					3. с	3. i	4. a
					4. h	4. h	a (b is marginally
					5. f	5. d	acceptable)
					6. i	6. j	6. a
*					7. j	7. e	7. a
	· ·		• .		8. g	8. g	8. b
					9. a	9. a	9. b
					10. d	10. c	10. Ь
					Final Exam	10. 0	
	,				Drill #4	Final Exam	Final Exam
,	•				1. j	Drill #8	Drill #12
•					1.	1. a	1. d
	•				2. g	2. c	2. b
					3. ř	3. g	3. j
				,	4. e	4. i	4. e
					5. i	5. f	5. g
•					6, c	6. h	6. ȟ
					7. d	7. d	7. i
					8. b	ਰੋਕ 8. e	8. f
					9. h	9. i	9. c
					10. a	10. b	10. a
						105	

Final Exam Drill #33 1. c 2. g 3. i 4. b 5. i 6. h 7. f 8. a 9. d 10. e

Final Exam Drill #34

Final Exam Drill #35

9. a 10. a (b is marginally acceptable)

Final Exam Drill #36

1. i 2. a 3. h 4. e 5. d 6. b 7. i 8. c 9. g 10. f

1. a 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. a 8. a

1. c 2. d 3. g 4. i 5. a 6. i 7. f 8. b 9. h 10. e

Final Exam Drill #13	Final Exam Drill #17	Final Exam Drill #21		Final Exam Drill #25	Final Exam Drill #29
1. e	1. a	1. e		1. g	1. a
2. a	2. b	2. g		2. f	2. b
3. {	3. u	3. i	1	3. i	3. Ь
4. h	4. a	4. a	:	4. e	4. a
5. i	5. a	5. d	Ţ.	5. a	5. b
6. j	6. b	6. c		6. b	6. a
7. c	7. b	7. h			7. b
8. b	8. a	8. f		7. c	8. a
9. g	9. b	9. j	· 🚎 '	8. j	
10. d	7. b 10. a		.	9. d	9. a (b is also
10. a	10. a	10. b	,	10. h	acceptable) 10. a
Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam	1	Final Exam	10. u
Drill #14	Drill #18	Drill #22		Drill #26	Final Exam
1. b	1. j	1. c			Drill #30
2. j	2. c	2. a		1. f	1. c
3. g	3. g	2. d 3. f		2. h	2. h
3. g 4. a				3. d	
4. d 5. f	4. b	4. į		4. a	3. b
	5. a	5. i		5. i	4. e
6. i	<u>6</u> . d	6. e		6. e	5. d
7. d	7. i	7. b		7. g	6. a
8. c	8. e	8. g	b	8. c	7. j
9. h	9. h	9. ď	. •	9. j	8. g
10. e	10. f	10. h			9. i
		70. 11		10. b	10. f
Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam		Final Exam	
Drill #15	Drill #19	Drill #23	· ·		Final Exam
1. d	1. e	1. a	·	Drill #27	Drill #31
2. h	2. g 3. h	2. a		1. e	1. d
3. e	3. Ř	3. a		2. a	2. f
4. f	4. i	4. b	•	3. Ь	3. b
5. b	5. b	5. a		4. f	4. e
6. c	6. d	6. b		5. g	5. g
7. g				6. h	5. g 6. c
8. j	7. a	7. a	\$	7. d	7. i
9. a	8. i	8. b		8. c	
	9. c	9. b			8. j
10. i	10. f	10. b		9. i	9. a
Final Exam				10. į	10. h
	Final Exam	Final Exam	£	Final Exam	1 -
Drill #16	Drill #20	Drill #24	· •		Final Exam
1. h	1. f	1. f		Drill #28	Drill #32
2. i	2. i	2. a		1. i	1. f
3. e	3. h	3. g		2. b	2. b
4. a	4. a	4. c	>	3. е	3. e
5. b	5. b	5. j		4. c	4. d
6. c	6. d	6. h		5. j	5. j
7. j	7. j			6. Ì	6. c
8. g	8. e	7. d		7. a	7. g
9. f	9. c	8. b		8. h	8. i
10. d		. 9. е		9. g	9. h
10. 0	10. g	10. i			9. n 10. a
				10. d	10, 0

Final Exam Drill #37 1. d 2. c 3. a 4. i 5. g 6. h 7. f 8. b 9. j 10. e	Final Exam Drill #41 1. a 2. a (b is marginally acceptable) 3. b 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. b 9. a 10. a	Final Exam Drill #45 1. h 2. b 3. c 4. f 5. g 6. i 7. d 8. e 9. i 10. a
Final Exam Drill #38 1. a 2. b 3. g 4. i 5. h 6. i 7. d 8. f 9. e 10. c	Final Exam Drill #42 1. d 2. e 3. h 4. a 5. i 6. i 7. f 8. c 9. b 10. g	Final Exam Drill #46 1. c 2. h 3. a 4. e 5. d 6. i 7. b 8. f 9. g 10. i
Final Exam Drill #39 1. a 2. c 3. j 4. d 5. b 6. f 7. e 8. h 9. i 10. g	Final Exam Drill #43 1. d 2. g 3. c 4. e 5. i 6. i 7. b 8. h 9. f 10. a	Final Exam Drill #47 1. b 2. g 3. a 4. c 5. f 6. h 7. e 8. d 9. i 10. j
Final Exam Drill #40 1. c 2. d 3. i 4. e 5. a 6. j 7. h 8. g 9. f 10. b	Final Exam Drill #44 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. a 7. 8. c 9. b 10. e	Final Exam Drill #48 1. b 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. b (a is marginally acceptable) 8. a 9. a 10. b

Final Exam Drill #49 1. 2. h 3. b 4. f 5. c 6. d 7. i 8. g 9. a 10. e	Final Exam Drill #53 1. c 2. h 3. g 4. 5. d 6. i 7. a 8. b 9. f 10. e	Final Exam Drill #57 1. b 2. a 3. h 4. g 5. f 6. i 7. e 8. d 9. c 10. i
Final Exam Drill #50 1. e 2. d 3. g 4. c 5. h 6. a 7. 8. f 9. b 10. i	Final Exam Drill #54 1. b 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. a 6. b 7. b 8. b 9. b	Final Exam Drill #58 1. h 2. i 3. a 4. j 5. c 6. b 7. g 8. f 9. d 10. e
Final Exam Drill #51 1. f 2. e 3. b 4. i 5. g 6. a 7. c 8. h 9. d 10. i	Final Exam Drill #55 1. 2. b 3. f 4. g 5. d 6. i 7. c 8. e 9. a 10. h	Final Exam Drill #59 1. e 2. f 3. b 4. g 5. 6. i 7. a 8. c 9. h 10. d
Final Exam Drill #52 1. h 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. 6. g 7. i 8. f 9. e 10. c	Final Exam Drill #56 1. g 2. e 3. a 4. c 5. d 6. i 7. i 8. f 9. h 10. b	Final Exam Drill #60 1. a 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. a 8. b 9. a 10. a

Final Exam Drill #61	Final Exam Drill #63	Final Exam Drill #64
1. b	1. j	1. b
2. d	2. g	2. c
3. a	3. c	3. a
4. c	4. d	4. h
5. g	5. b	5. d
6. h	ó. e	6. e
7. i	7. f	7. g
8. j	8. h	8. i
9. f	9. i	9. f
10. e	10. a	10. i

Final Exam Drill #62 1. e 2. h 3. a

- 7. d
- 8. g 9. f
- 10. c

About the Author

Adam Robinson was born in 1955. He graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania before earning a law degree at Oxford University in England. Robinson, a rated chess master, devised and perfected the now famous "Joe Bloggs" approach to beating standardized tests in 1980, as well as numerous other core Princeton Review techniques. A free-lance author of many books, Robinson has collaborated with The Princeton Review to develop a number of its courses. He lives in New York City.