it pays to increase your WORD POWER

Based on the famous Reader's Digest feature

by Peter Funk
IT PAYS TO
INCREASE
YOUR
WORD POWER
Do you ever find yourself "at a loss for words" just when you most need to be really forceful or fascinating? Are you one of those people who thinks of exactly the right thing to say—much too late? Did you ever lie awake wishing you could repeat a conversation because you couldn't think of the right words at the time? Do other people have trouble understanding just what your ideas are because you can't express yourself clearly?

If that describes you, then read

**IT PAYS TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER**

It can really help you!
IT PAYS TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER
BY PETER FUNK
To the memory of my father, Wilfred Funk, whose lifelong love affair with the English language happily influenced thousands of us to fall in love with words ourselves.
FOREWORD

How To Get the Most Out of This Book

It is hoped that this book will be of value to you in two ways.

First, that it will help your vocabulary to grow in richness of expression and power.

Second, that it will help you remember the words you are learning so that they will always be at your command.

The words selected are all highly useful ones appearing in magazines, newspapers, books, heard on the radio and television or in ordinary conversation. They should give you the ability to be explicit in the way you talk and write, bringing a sense of excitement and vividness. An additional emolument which follows logically is that, without doubt, you will understand more of what you read and hear.

To get the most from HOW TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER, there are a few simple rules it would be well to follow. They are not difficult and will be a distinct aid in building up an impressive Word-Bank memory.

GOOD HABITS

Plan to use this book a few minutes each day. It does not really matter how fast or slow you go. This depends on you.
and your time schedule. What is of paramount importance, however, is the consistency of your efforts. Psychology teaches that to establish a good habit, you must be consistent.

DEFINITIONS

When a word is somewhat more difficult, needing amplification, various examples of usage are given, and the overall meaning clearly delineated. The answer sections therefore, should always be read with utmost care. They are the heart of this book.

WRITE THE WORD

Take a 3 x 5 card. On one side write the word you want to learn or remember. Underneath, put the phonetic pronunciation. Now, on the opposite side of the card write the definition together with a sentence illustrating how the word is used. This will be your most vital step in committing this word to memory. By writing it out, you are involved physically as much as you are mentally. Your mind and eyes are aiding you. Your muscles in your hand and arm are being used also. Psychologists call this developing a kinaesthetic sense, or a muscle sense.

If you are without eyesight, you can visualize an object by running your hands over it, feeling its shape. It is no longer an abstract object. There is a similar effect in writing a word. It actually becomes a part of you.

I adjure you then, to do this with every single word that is not yet a part of your working vocabulary. It is without question the easiest way to make a word yours for life.

PUT THE CARD WHERE THE ACTION IS

Place the card where you will see it many times during the day. Take some scotch tape putting it on the bathroom mirror, or on a bulletin board, your desk, on a door. Each time you see it, your memory will be refreshed, automatically.
REPETITION IS THE SECRET

The advertising industry employs the principle of repetition. Think how jingles and slogans barrage us. Use your word as often as you can when talking to others. By experimenting and trying it in as many different situations as possible, you will grow familiar with it. And don't be afraid of making a mistake; most of us do at one time or another. This is the way you learn.

THE ACID TEST

When feasible, try to explain the word to a child in terms and examples he will understand. This is the "acid test" as to whether or not you grasp the essence of its meaning. A happy peripheral benefit is that the child is going to gain.

SUGGESTED DAILY PROGRAM FOR A MORE DYNAMIC VOCABULARY

Sunday. Read through chapter.
Monday through Friday. Take four words each day, writing the word on a card. Practice as suggested.
Saturday. Retake the tests in the chapter, going over any words you are doubtful about.
The last weekend in each month. Test yourself on all the words you have learned during that period.
And remember to keep your cards available for quick reference in a Word Bank box.

HOW TO SCORE

Each test is scored in the same way.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Correct</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20—19</td>
<td>correct</td>
<td>excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>18—16</td>
<td>correct</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15—15</td>
<td>correct</td>
<td>fair</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When you complete a test, turn to page (187), marking your score on the graph. As you progress you will have an exact visual image of your rating.
PRONUNCIATION KEY

Just a brief word on pronunciations.
This is the bête-noire, the bugaboo for most people. The trouble is that our language does not have enough vowels to carry the many different sounds. Consequently linguists have devised a phonetic system which is rather complicated if one is unfamiliar with it. A few moments spent looking over the pronunciation key of a dictionary will clarify the mystery.

In this book I have followed essentially the commonly used pronunciation system, but I have tried to simplify when it has seemed helpful to do so. As nearly as possible, the words have been made self-pronouncing. You will notice that sometimes, after a given pronunciation, I have tried to make it clearer by inserting within another parenthesis the way that part of the word would be spelled if spoken.

ACCENTS

ä, äy sounded as in lâte, lây
ë, ee " " " éve, bee
i " " " fine
ö " " " tûne
ü, ū " " " pûre (or few)
ô " " " fûd

Vowels not marked at all are sounded like those usually taught in classes learning to read phonetically, as in hat, bed, did, lot, cut.

Short vowels are marked with a breve above to show that they are almost equivalent to an apostrophe.

ä sounded as in fi'nal
ë " " " hov'el
i " " " em'I grant
ö " " " för bid'
ü " " " mi'nüs
The whole point of either speaking or writing is to try to convey a thought which is to be understood. We have over six hundred thousand words to choose from. This may seem like an inordinate amount to be faced with, and indeed it is. But we must remember, also, that this vast number includes many technical words found in the various professions and are of interest only to those involved in a particular specialty.

We draw on a far smaller list. Dropping obvious prepositions and articles of speech such as the, of, to, etc., the number falls somewhere in the neighborhood of five thousand words.

This may seem surprising, but that list includes the living heart of our English language. Within this framework are most of the words which give us the wide range of expression and power that we should have.

Unfortunately, too many people limit themselves to a thousand words or fewer. In this way they resemble a color blind artist who is only aware of a few colors. Consequently his ability to create on canvas is lamentably restricted.

The twenty words in the following test are of one syllable only. So often we find that the words which have punch, color, warmth and emotion turn out to be the shorter ones.

Do we say, Residence Pleasantable Residence? No! It is Home Sweet Home.
PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 5)


IT PAYS TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER


Answers.

1. BROOK (v)—A: To put up with; bear with; tolerate; endure.

   He was an intolerant dictator who could brook no interference.
   I will not brook such outrageous conduct.

   The word, nearly always, is used now with a negative construction, such as no or not.

   From the Old English brucan, "to use, enjoy."

2. VIE (v)—B: To compete; to strive for superiority; put forth great effort to outdo others.

   Playing their hardest, the two teams vied for the championship.
   The students vie for the highest marks.

   From the Old French envier, "to invite, challenge."

3. EKE (v)—B: To supplement; to supply by some means, whatever is lacking; to piece out. Another common definition is to make a living with difficulty.

   The driver eked out the last bit of speed from his racing car.

   They eke out a living by selling wood carvings.

   From the Old English ecian, "to increase."
4. **BRUNT (n)**—B: The main impact, shock or stress of a blow or an attack; the hardest part.

*The Marines had to bear the brunt of the attack.*

*She bore the brunt of his anger.*

From the Old Norse *bruna*, "to advance quickly, as a fire."

5. **ROIL (v)**—D: to irritate; to ruffle the temper, or arouse the resentment of; vex; rile.

*The governor was roiled by the obvious lie.*

The word comes from the French *rouiller*, "to make muddy." The first definition of the English word given in the major dictionaries therefore, is that of making water or wine cloudy or opaque; as the water was *roiled* by the ship's propellers.

6. **SLOTH (n)**—D: Idleness; sluggishness; laziness. This is a highly derogatory word used in the sense of physical or mental inactivity. It is a reluctance to do whatever work one should. This is a stronger word than just *idle* or *lazy*. Historically, *sloth* is one of the Seven Deadly Sins.

*A slothful person is always a burden to any group.*

From the Middle English *slothbe*, "slow."

7. **CULL (v)**—C: To select; pick out from among others; choose.

*Please cull the good ears of corn from that pile.*

*I culled that sentence from a story in a magazine.*

From the Latin *colligo*, "collect."

8. **PRATE (v)**—B: To babble; to talk foolishly and at length; chatter; prattle.

*It is better not to prate about family affairs.*

*He would continually prate about his difficulties.*

From the Middle English *praten*, "chatter."

9. **BODE (v)**—A: To foreshadow; predict or foretell; presage by signs or omens; portend.

*A red sun in the evening bodes good weather for sailors.*
The new evidence bodes ill for the lawyer's case.
From the Old English bodian, "to announce, tell."

10. QUALM (n)—B: Sudden misgiving; uneasy feeling of acting wrongly; reluctance.
   *He felt a certain qualm at leaving his work uncompleted.*
   *They had many qualms as to whether the plans were practical.*
   *The origin of the word is uncertain, though the original English definition meant illness or disease.*

11. MOOT (adj)—C: Debatable. Originally in Anglo-Saxon days a "townmoot" was a town meeting for purposes of debate and discussion. Today a moot question or a moot point in law is one that is debatable and disputable and not yet settled.

12. BANE (n)—C: Affliction; anything that ruins or spoils.
   *Poverty was the bane of his existence.*
   *From the Old English bana, "destruction."

13. DEIGN (v)—A: To condescend or behave in a patronizing manner, conscious of having come from a superior position; in keeping with one's dignity.
   *The duke would not deign to reply to the reporter.*
   *The chief deigned to pay us a visit aboard our boat.*
   *From the Old French deignier, from the Latin dignari, "to consider worthy."

14. TRYST (n)—A: An appointment to meet at a previously arranged meeting place, especially one made between lovers.
   *She hurried to keep her tryst with Robert.*
   *From the old French triste, "a place for watching or waiting (in hunting); an ambush."

15. IRK (v)—D: To annoy; irritate; exasperate; bore.
   *Detail seems to irk him.*
   *The way she drove a car was irksome to him.*
   *From the Middle English irden, "to tire."
16. GLUT (v)—D: To overfill; fill to excess; satiate; over-supply.
   *Too many eggs will glut the market.*
   *After the banquet, I felt glutted with food and drink.*
   From the Latin *glutus*, "swallow."

17. DRONE (v)—A: To speak in a monotonous tone; to make a dull, humming sound.
   *We almost went to sleep as he droned along.*
   *I heard the droning of bees near my window screen.*
   From the Old English *dran*, "a drone, male bee."

18. MERE (adj)—A: Nothing but; nothing more nor better than what is mentioned; only.
   *I escaped with a mere scratch.*
   *But he is a mere puppy!*
   *The TV show is mere trash.*
   *The mere mention of his name filled the children with terror.*
   *Mere and *bare* are often interchangeable, the difference being, however, that *bare* is more often thought of in a positive sense. "He barely escaped with his life." *Mere* is negative, suggesting something lacking, "He is merely a private." *Mere* comes from the Latin *merus*, "bare."

19. DEEM (v)—A: To consider; to believe; judge.
   *The Arab wants to shape his corner of the earth as he deems best.*
   *Do whatever you deem fair.*
   From the Old English *dom*, "judgment."

20. LOLL (v)—C: To lounge; recline in a relaxed and languid manner; also to droop, dangle or hang loosely.
   *He is completely relaxed as he lolls in his chair.*
   *His head lollled on his shoulders.*
   From the Middle Dutch *lullen*, "to sleep."

   YOUR SCORE  _____
PART II

You may be still uncertain as to the meanings of some of the test words used in this chapter. Match the key descriptions in the left column with the words in the right column.

_Can You Match Them Up?

1. judge or think   a. brook
2. take on the main stress of something  b. loll
3. an appointed place or meeting  c. deem
4. only  d. bode
5. foretell  e. brunt
6. choose  f. mere
7. rest lazily  g. cull
8. endure something  h. ick
9. stoop patronizingly  i. tryst
10. exasperate  j. deign

Answers: 1-e; 2-i; 3-b; 4-f; 5-d; 6-g; 7-b; 8-a; 9-j; 10-b.

1. talk foolishly  a. bane
2. indicates a monotonous sound  b. vie
3. to not want to do anything  c. roil
4. be something that causes great harm  d. moot
5. arouse resentment  e. eke
6. have too much of it around  f. sloth
7. be a question or point not yet settled  g. drone
8. have a certain reluctance  h. glut
9. try to outdo others  i. prate
10. supply whatever is lacking  j. qualm

Answers: 1-i; 2-g; 3-f; 4-a; 5-c; 6-h; 7-d; 8-j; 9-b; 10-e.
PART III

Which of the words above best replaces the italicized word or phrase?

1. She could no longer tolerate his arrogance.
2. The two put out great effort to compete with each other to win the nomination.
3. He raised chickens to supplement his income.
4. The island bore the main impact of the storm.
5. The unfair criticism ruffled the temper of the French chef.
6. His laziness infuriated me.
7. He carefully picked out the best shells from the box.
8. The entire time she chattered about her imagined illnesses.
9. The strong market indicates or foretells great success for my common stock.
10. As we left the port he had uneasy feelings about the weather.
11. Her selfishness was the main affliction of his life.
12. It's a real question as to whether the case should even come before the judge.
13. She walked by, not condescending to even look at the receptionist.
14. Somehow he found out about our appointment to meet.
15. There was something about him that irritated people.
16. We were so filled with victory, we threw it away.
17. His dull and monotonous voice made us restless.
18. I only want to ask a question.
19. The President judged it important to sign the Bill immediately.
20. It was a hot day, and we relaxed in the shade.

By this time, you will know which words are giving you difficulty. Concentrate on them during the week. Use them whenever possible.
And don't forget to make your flash-cards!
You have three different kinds of vocabularies:
  reading or recognition
  listening
  writing and speaking

1. Your recognition vocabulary is by far the largest. One of
   the reasons for this is that you can see the word in relationship
   to a sentence and a whole thought. Even if you don't know
   it, you can often sense the meaning.

   Suppose you came across the following sentence by an au­
   thor who had been reviewing a book about big business.
   "Most of what makes life pleasant (for the executives) lies
   outside the ambit of the corporate planners."

   You might make a reasonable guess that ambit could pos­
   sibly mean control or boundary. If the whole paragraph were
   quoted the use of the word would be even clearer, and it
   would lead you to the second choice. The definition is circum­
   ference, boundary, or limits. If we knew our Latin well, and
   today most of us do not, we would recognize ambitus, mean­
   ing "a going around" which certainly would give us the clue.

   Another reason that the reading vocabulary is the largest
   of the three is that there is a difference between writing and
   speaking. Some of the words found in print would sound too
   literary in speech.
1. **FATOUS (adj)—B: Foolish, complacently stupid or silly.**  
   The word is one of contempt.  
   
   *His was a fatuous remark.*  
   
   *The fatuousness (n) of the suggested policy was obvious.*  
   *"Noisy children," she said fatuously, (adv) "always grow up to be quiet adults."*  
   
   From the Latin *fatuous,* "foolish."

2. **ARCHETYPE (n)—B: Original pattern or model from which copies are made; prototype.**  
   
   *The actress was the archetype of feminine beauty.*  
   *Plato's archetypal (adj) ideas are important still to modern philosophy.*  
   
   From the Greek *archetypon,* from arch, "chief," and typos, "stamp, pattern."

3. **COMMISERATE (v)—C: Feel compassion for; express sorrow for; lament over.**  
   
   *I commiserate with you on your misfortune.*  
   
   From the Latin cum, "with," and miseror, "pity."

4. **RIGMAROLE (n)—C: Silly talk; incoherent talk or writing; nonsense.**  
   
   *The speech was filled with rigmarole.*  
   *We had to go through the rigmarole of lengthy formalities.*  
   *An alteration of the words, ragan's roll. In 1391 the Scottish nobles were forced to sign pledges of allegiance to Edward I. These signatures came in bundles of mixed papers and documents.*

5. **INCLEMENT (adj)—B: Harsh or severe; stormy; rigorous; not clement or mild.**  
   
   *The inclement weather spoiled the entire vacation.*  
   
   From the Latin *inclement, from in, "not" and clement, "mild."
6. TENUOUS (adj)—G: Extreme thinness; slender; slim.
The spider spins his tenuous web.
The moon is covered with a tenuous mist.
The word, however, can also be used in a more figurative sense, meaning: of slight importance; weak; flimsy; vague; unsubstantial; as a tenuous argument, story or claim. From the Latin tenuis, “thin.”

7. PLUTOCRACY (n)—A: Rule by the wealthy; rule by the power of wealth.
We must beware that big business does not form a plutocracy.
From the Greek ploutokratia, from ploutos, “wealth,” and krato, “be strong,” also “to rule or govern.”

8. GENOCIDE (n)—A: The systematic extermination of a racial or national group.
A recent example of genocide was the treatment of the Jews under the Nazi regime during World War II.
The word was coined by Raphael Lemkin in 1944. It comes from the Greek genos, “race, tribe,” and cide, “killer or destroyer of.”

9. ABJURE (v)—B: To renounce; repudiate under oath; disavow; forswear; recant.
One of the underlying causes of tragedy is that if a man abjures love, and if he bases his career on hate, he can often seize power.
“Give me liberty or give me death,” Patrick Henry cried, refusing to abjure his principles.
From the Latin abjurare, “to deny upon oath.”

10. BLATANT (adj)—A: Unpleasantly noisy; loud and vulgar; bellowing.
He was described as a blatant, course, unpopular fellow.
The speech against freedom was a blatant denial of one of our most cherished beliefs.
Attributed to the sixteenth century poet, Edmund Spenser.

First glance the words arp, immerse, smother, and dank may almost seem to be like sextuplets, virtually identical. Yet, on closer inspection you find this is not so.


4. NOMADIC (adj)—D: Roaming; roving; having no fixed home, as the nomads.

He relished the carefree, nomadic life of the hunter.
From the Greek nomadikos, "pastoral."

5. WELTER (n)—A: Confusion or jumble. Though it is closely allied to wallow, "to roll about pleasurably," it is a stronger word, usually implying a helpless kind of confusion brought on by outside forces.

Her voice was lost in the welter of shouts and cries.
The welter of claims confused the issue.
Hidden in the welter of casual news, the tragedy was not at first apparent.
From the Dutch welteren, "to turn over."

6. HURTLE (v)—D: To rush headlong or impetuously; smash into something, as a force.

...
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"Most of what makes life pleasant (for the executives) lies outside the ambit of the corporate planners."

You might make a reasonable guess that *ambit* could possibly mean *control* or *boundary*. If the whole paragraph were quoted the use of the word would be even clearer, and it would lead you to the second choice: The definition is *circumference*, *boundary*, or *limits*. If we knew our Latin well, and today most of us do not, we would recognize *ambitus*, meaning "a going around" which certainly would give us the clue.

Another reason that the reading vocabulary is the largest of the three is that there is a difference between writing and speaking. Some of the words found in print would sound too literary in speech.
2. Because of radio, television, and our traveling, we are constantly exposed to the talk of other people. Each day, therefore, we hear a large number of words. Consequently, we will often come across those that are favorites of the speaker but which, though we understand them, are not yet a part of our own working vocabulary.

3. Your speaking and writing vocabularies, the smallest of the three groupings, depend directly on the effort you make to acquire new words. If you are lazy, your speech will have a paucity of expression. If you are aware of new words and use them, your language will become rich and your writing and conversation more vivid and interesting.

Remember this advertisement? "Read the New York Times. It’s more interesting and you will be too."

The same analogy applies to increasing your vocabulary. Once you get the habit of being a word collector, it becomes a fascinating subject. And concomitantly,* more people may realize you too are fascinating.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 16)


* See #19 in this test!
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   - "Noisy children," she said fatuously, (Adv) "always grow up to be quiet adults."
From the Latin fatuus, "foolish."

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5. INCLEMENT (adj)—B: Harsh or severe; stormy; rigorous; not clement or mild.
The inclement weather spoiled the entire vacation.
   - From the Latin inclement, from in, "not" and clement, "mild."
10. PREEMPT (v)—A: To appropriate; take possession of, excluding others. The general meaning implies that something is taken by high-handed, arbitrary, and sometimes unfair methods. Another synonym might be arrogate, "to seize arrogantly."

_When they arrived, there were no more choice seats, for John had preempted them._

_The pioneers preempted grazing lands for their herds of cattle._

_From the Medieval Latin praemere, "to buy beforehand."_

11. AUGMENT (v)—A: To increase; enlarge; multiply; become greater or more numerous. The word suggests that whatever is being referred to was not necessarily small, weak, etc., and is merely being added to. We increase in quantity and augment in amount or intensity.

_When sales are augmented by a campaign, previous sales may have been satisfactory. They are now simply being increased._

_This initial victory augmented their desire to win the championship._

_From the Latin augmentare, "to increase."_

12. INSIDIOUS (adj)—D: Designed to entrap or ensnare; treacherous; wily; doing harm or working ill by slow and stealthy means.

_An insidious argument is a sly one, intending to entrap the victim._

_The hate within him grew insidiously (adv) until one day it exploded into open violence._

_From the Latin insidious, "harmful."_

13. EXONERATE (v)—B: To absolve; free from blame; acquit; vindicate.

_If a person has been exonerated from some misdemeanor, there's not even the slightest suspicion remaining against him._

_The exoneration (n) of all the players seemed justified._

_From the Latin exonerare, "to free from a burden."_
14. INURE (v)—B: To accustom; harden or toughen by use; adapt. A kind of patient endurance is suggested.
   *The Eskimos are inured to hardship.*
   *Some people are inured to pain.*
   From the French *oeuvre*, "work."

15. COMPLICITY (n)—A: Sharing responsibility; participation in wrongdoing; state of being an accomplice; partnership in an evil action.
   *He was charged with complicity in the crime.*
   *Can you clear yourself of all complicity in the matter?*
   From the Latin *complex*, "closely connected."

16. OBTUSE (adj)—C: Stupid; dull; insensitive to emotions or ideas.
   *He was too obtuse to take a hint.*
   *The art director's obtuseness (n) kept him from appreciating the drawing's fresh approach.*
   From the Latin *obtundere*, "to dull."

17. SUPERVENE (v)—A: To follow closely upon something; come as an extraneous, additional, unanticipated development; to take place or happen.
   *They expected disaster, but a happy event supervened which remedied everything.*
   *The general's battle plan was so complicated that confusion supervened and the enemy slipped away unnoticed.*
   From the Latin *supervenire*, "to come upon."

18. ENDUE (v)—A: To endow; bestow with specific powers or qualities; empower; invest; clothe.
   *The quarterback was endued with almost instantaneous reactions.*
   *As an artist he is endued with a spectacular sense of color.*
   From the Latin *inducere*, "to put on."
19. FORTUITOUS (adj)—B: Accidental; by chance or unexpectedly.
   A fortuitous interception of a pass gave them a touchdown.
   We don't have time to sit around waiting for a fortuitous event to solve our nation's international problems.
   From the Latin fortis, "chance."

20. MAWKISH (adj)—D: Sentimental to a point that creates disgust because of its obvious pretense or excessive emotionalism. Other synonyms: maudlin; romantic.
   How such a mawkish story could win the prize astounded him.
   From the Middle English mawke, "maggot."

YOUR SCORE

PART II

Here is another way of testing yourself on the words you have just learned.

semantics fiat
platitude nomadic
welter hurtle
punitive cavil
heinous preempt
augment insidious
exonerate inure
complicity obtuse
supervene endue
fortuitous mawkish

In the following sentences, some of the italicized words are used correctly and others are not. Cross out the word if incorrect and write the correct one in the space at the left.
1. By exonerating the disputed strip of land as its own and disregarding the claims of others, that nation is putting the adjacent countries under the threat of war.

2. The main trouble with his lectures was that he reached into the past for complicity and then passed them on to us as unique and fresh insights.

3. I worry about those youngsters who hurtle along bad roads in their cars.

4. Congress will never get the bill passed if certain members don't stop supervening at almost every other word.

5. People would not disagree so much if they understood more about semantics.

6. His life was punitive and filled with adventures in foreign lands.

7. The principal of the school looked at the broken window. "Some augmented action must be taken," he said.

8. Faced with this welter of facts, he was at a loss as to how to begin.

9. The meeting was insidious. She happened to come down the street while he waited on the corner for the light to change.

10. He was a domineering individual, ruling his country by fiat.

11. He was delighted to endure his salary with the additional work.
12. We were too obtuse to understand that they were subtly trying to warn us.

13. The old time farmers were insured to the long, hard hours of work.

14. His sly, nomadic methods to gain their confidence included many promises which later he broke.

15. The heinous catastrophe was due mostly to the captain's careless plotting of his course.

16. The poet Browning was caviled with a capacity for spiritual insight.

17. He was counting on this platitudeous speech of his to send the audience home in an emotional shower of tears.

18. Admitting to mawkishness in the plot, the mobster gave himself up.

19. The company president was completely preempted from the charge of price-fixing.

20. Taking advantage of the poor and ignorant is a most fortuitous thing to do.

Answers: 1-preempting; 2-platitudes; 3-burlie; 4-cavilling; 5-semantic; 6-nomadic; 7-punitive; 8-welter; 9-fortuitous; 10-flat; 11-augment; 12-obtuse; 13-insured; 14-insidious; 15-supervening; 16-endued; 17-mawkish; 18-complicity; 19-exonerated; 20-heinous.

PART III

This test may seem a little confusing at first. You will be asked for the opposite meaning, or what is known as the antonym. So decide which of the alternate choices A, B, C, is more nearly opposite to the key word and underline your answer.
8. CAVIL—A: bicker. B: be uncritical. C: be impatient.

Answers: 1-B; 2-A; 3-C; 4-B; 5-A; 6-A; 7-A; 8-B; 9-C; 10-G; 11-B; 12-C; 13-B; 14-G; 15-A; 16-B; 17-A; 18-C; 19-B; 20-C.

A recent study proved that repetition is an important factor in remembering. Use these new words of yours often!
FIRST
REFRESHER TEST

Here is a review list of twenty words drawn from the eighty you have studied in the preceding four chapters. If you miss one find out from the index on what page it is described and then go over the word carefully. Put the Word-Book card, which you have already made out, where you will see it often. In this review test check the word you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 47.


Answers: 1-put up with; 2-irritate; 3-misgiving; 4-annoy; 5-loange; 6-foolish; 7-harsh; 8-unpleasantly noisy; 9-sudden, brilliant stroke; 10-swollen; 11-angry speech; 12-ominous; 13-ill-natured person; 14-ill-tempered woman; 15-remorse; 16-a study of word meanings; 17-confusion; 18-too appropriate; 19-sharing in wrongdoing; 20-sentimental.

SCORE

20—19 correct excellent
18—16 correct good
15—13 correct fair
For centuries, mankind has been searching for that one universal language which could be understood throughout the world. Wherever you might go you would be assured of being able to converse with the local people.

Many elaborate schemes have been drawn up. There have been Esperanto, Interlingua, Novial, and Basic English, just to mention a few of the thirty or so of these linguistic inventions. Some of them have been inordinately elaborate, others rather simple.

The most recent and perhaps the most practical of all, Basic English, was developed by two semanticists, Ogden and Richards, during the 1930s. They found that a comparatively few words could carry the burden of simple communication.

Ultimately, they were able to hone down their basic working vocabulary to eight hundred and fifty words. Admittedly, this is basic indeed, when you think of the six hundred thousand or so which are available. During World War II, it proved invaluable in facilitating communication between people of different nationalities.

What is particularly interesting is that out of the three to four thousand verbs in relatively common use, Basic English relies only on eighteen: be, come, do, get, give, go, have, keep, let, make, may, put, say, see, seem, send, take and will.
But since World War II, the need for an invented form of communicating has waned because the English Language, with all of its latent possibilities, has exploded to become one of the linguistic wonders of the world. In effect, it has become the universal language that history has sought for so long.

It is estimated that more than six hundred million people throughout the world can use English as their second major language.

At an Asian conference representing nearly one and a half billion people, the meetings were conducted in English. It was the only way these people from diverse nations and backgrounds could understand one another.

You may remember that when the Chinese Communists invaded Tibet the Dalai Lama fled to India. Prime Minister Nehru met him at the border of the two countries. How did they greet each other? Certainly not in any of India’s eight hundred and forty-five languages and dialects.

"How are you?" Mr. Nehru asked in English.

"Very nice," came the reply.

Thus the words you and I use in talking with one another are no longer relegated to North America and the member nations of the English Commonwealth.

Perhaps this is as it should be, for it is like a circle that has at last been completed.

Our language is one that has borrowed lavishly from other nations and civilizations. And now, what we have gathered in is being returned to the world.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 52)


**Answers:**

1. GARRULOUS (adj)—D: Talkative, especially about trivial things.
   The garrulous old woman talked about childhood incidents.
   From the Latin *garrulus*, from *garrire*, “to chatter, talk.”

2. COVERT (adj)—B: Secret; concealed; hidden; something done under cover.
   Slowly they became aware of the covert resistance of administrative officials.
   He mingled with the crowd, covertly (adv) watching the girl in the pink dress.
   From the Old French *covir*, from the Latin *cooperire*, “to hide thoroughly.”

3. PROVIDENT (adj)—A: Foresighted; careful in providing for the future.
   Being a provident husband and father, he anticipated the needs of the growing family.
   A provident sailor will try to provide for every contingency.
   From the Latin *providens*, from *providere*, “to see ahead.”

4. ILLUSIVE (adj)—D: Pertaining to misconception, or delusion; deceptive and misleading; unreal.
   “Are these only illusive hopes for peace?”
   His conception as to how to remedy the situation is wholly illusive.
   Caught up in illusory dreams, he did not hear the telephone. (Illusory is an exact synonym for illusive.)
Illusive is an interesting and important word, for it describes how we may be misled by something which appears to be so and is not. It is the result of a false impression, due to various reasons. One can be deceived by an optical illusion. Or one’s own state of mind may alter the facts of a situation. We can be stimulated through an emotional appeal as in literature, music, art and accept as real what is, in fact, only imaginary.

The word may be confused with elusive (ē' lū' siv), "tending to slip away; hard to grasp or perceive;" as an elusive fragrance. The pronunciation here could be confusing. With elusive stress the (ē), whereas with illusive stress the (i), as in habit.

*Illusive* comes from the Latin *illoquere*, "to mock."

5. MENAGE (n)—A: Household; the persons that compose a household.

*It was a happy, rollicking ménage of adults and many children.*

*The Count was wealthy enough to maintain a costly ménage.*

From the French *ménage*, "household."

6. TUNDRA (n)—A: A rolling, treeless arctic plain covered with moss and at times marshy.

*Vast camps have been built on land created from the swamps and tundra of the Arctic.*

A word borrowed from the Russian.

7. IMPUNITY (n)—A: Freedom from punishment, harm or injurious consequences.

*We will not allow other nations to violate our rights with impunity.*

*You cannot commit murder with impunity.*

From the Latin *impunitas*, from *impune*, "without punishment."
8. FELINE (adj)—B: Catlike; resembling members of the cat family.

She moved with a feline, effortless grace.
There was a sly, feline quality to the girl.
From the Latin felinus, from felis, "cat."

9. FLAGRANT (adj)—C: Openly scandalous or shockingly bad; notorious. As the Funk & Wagnalls dictionary comments: "Anything flagrant draws attention to itself like the heat and light of a great fire." It cannot help being noticed.

Seizing the land by force was a piece of flagrant injustice.
Fortunately for the public, his manipulations were so flagrant that they were soon discovered by government officials.
From the Latin flagrans, from flagrare, "to burn."

10. RIBALD (adj)—A: Coarse and indecent; vulgar; gross; obscene. The word indicates the kind of vulgarity that provokes laughter among people who are not overly fastidious.

She was fearless, intimidating even the most ribald of men.

When he sang the ribald verses, a few people in the audience snickered.
From the Old French ribaud, from riber, "to be wanton."

11. LATENT (adj)—C: Hidden; unawakened; dormant. The overall sense is that of something's being present but not visible.

His greatest pleasure was to develop latent talent.
There is a latent evil in any form of dictatorship.
From the Latin latere, "to lie hidden."

12. CREDULOUS (adj)—D: Gullible; overready to believe; easily deceived; ready to believe on slight evidence.

It was hard to believe anyone could be as credulous as that man was.
From the Latin credulus, from credere, "to believe."
13. ADROIT (adj)—D; Dexterous; skillful; clever; deft. The overall implication is that of involving physical aspects. There is a suggestion of being quick witted.
   As the adroit debater parried his opponent's remark, the audience clapped.
   Under pressure the quarterback got off an adroit pass.
   From the French à droite, "to the right."

14. GAUCHE (adj)—C; Awkward; clumsy; inept; boorish; lacking in social grace. A lack of experience, ill-breeding or shyness is implied.
   The banker wondered what they must think of his gauche companion.
   The woman blanched at his gauche ness (n).
   From the French gauche, "left handed."

15. PEDANTIC (adj)—B; Pompously or ostentatiously learned; pertaining to a needless and tiresome display of learning.
   The pedantic instructor killed the children's love of history.
   From the Latin paedagogus, "teacher."

16. AMBIGUOUS (adj)—C; Equivocal; capable of being understood in more than one sense; having a double meaning.
   Ambiguous wording in a contract must be avoided.
   The ambiguity of his statement puzzled us.
   From the Latin ambiguous, "wandering; of doubtful nature."

17. UNCTUOUS (adj)—B; Overly suave; fustome; bland and oily tongued; having an offensively ingratiating quality; also indicates a sense of hypocrisy masked by a serious, spiritual, or kindly air.
   Unctuous and eager to gain our confidence, he led the way into the room.
   With great unctuousness (n) he praised our meager accomplishments.
From the Medieval Latin unctuosus, from the Latin unctum, "ointment."

18. INFERNAL (adj)—B: Diabolical; hellish; fiendish; demonical.
   Squatting on the sand he held the infernal bomb between his knees, defusing it.
   From the Latin infernalis, from inferus, "underground," where according to Roman mythology, hell was located.

19. SENTENTIOUS (adj)—D: Meaningful; significant; full of meaning; pithy; abounding in pointed maxims; succinct.
   There is also a second meaning, implying a righteousness, a platitudinous attitude.
   The witty, sententious poem threw off exciting sparks of truth.
   Grieg’s manner was impulsive, but never sententious. (an example of the second meaning.)
   From the Latin sententiosus, from sententia, “opinion” and sentire, “to feel, be of opinion.”

20. AMULET (n)—B: Charm; talisman; any object worn for luck or protection against evil.
   Amulets of all kinds are often popular with aircraft pilots.
   From the Latin amuletum, "charm."

YOUR SCORE __

PART II
Can you fill in the blank space with the name of the thing or characteristic described?
1. There are rolling, treeless, and often marshy plains in arctic regions.

2. It is deceptive, unreal, and can be misleading.

3. This person is talkative in a tedious, rambling way.

4. He makes sure that he is providing carefully for the future.

5. A household.

6. It would not take much to convince him that what you say is true.

7. There is freedom from any harmful consequences.

8. The description would resemble a cat.

9. Have you ever felt that deep within you is an unused talent?

10. All parents want to improve and enlighten their children.
11. Sometimes the humor is coarse and vulgar. 

12. We somehow don’t seem to trust a person who is too polite or too ingratiating. 

13. He is apt to be quick witted and clever, especially in emergencies. 

14. A statement that can be taken in two ways. 

15. You wince when he says the wrong thing at the wrong time. He is 

16. There are some people who love to show off how much they know. 

17. It is a fiendish situation to be in. 

18. You really aren’t superstitious, yet you may feel safer wearing a charm. 

19. Your statement is full of pithy meaning. 

20. A spy generally does his work “under cover.” 


PART III

Some of the following words have the same meaning, while others are the opposite. Write an s or o in the center column, whichever you believe to be the correct answer.

1. unctuous _______ brusque
2. sententious _______ terse
3. adroit _______ clumsy
4. covert _______ open
5. garrulous _______ taciturn
6. provident _______ reckless
7. ménage _______ household
8. illusive _______ imaginary
9. tundra _______ forests
10. feline _______ clumsy
11. latent _______ active
12. credulous _______ skeptical
13. ribald _______ offensive
14. flagrant _______ notorious
15. impunity _______ safely
16. gauche _______ graceful
17. ambiguous _______ clear
18. pedantic _______ bookish
19. amulet _______ lucky piece
20. infernal _______ heavenly

Answers: 1-0; 2-5; 3-0; 4-0; 5-0; 6-0; 7-5; 8-5; 9-0; 10-0; 11-0; 12-0; 13-5; 14-5; 15-5; 16-0; 17-0; 18-5; 19-5; 20-0.

Johnson O'Connor, a pioneer in the measurement of vocabulary, had this to say about success.

Why do large vocabularies characterize executives and possibly outstanding men and women in other fields? The final answer seems to be that words are the instruments by means of which men and women grasp the thoughts of others and with which they do much of their own thinking. They are the tools of thought.
Several years ago we were watching two championship tennis stars vie with each other in a finals match. Suddenly one of them executed a shot that was placed exactly where the player intended it to be with a deft sureness that was a delight to behold. There was nothing sloppy or fortuitous about it, and the point was won.

I don't believe it is reaching too far to compare it with the fine beauty of using a word with similar precision.

Recently Clive Barnes, the drama critic, wrote:

Of all the great playwrights Eugene O'Neill is the most banal. Even in his best plays he is likely to drop through into booby traps of cliché, and in his worst plays, melodrama, like poverty, is always with us. . . . But his greatness was in a view of the dramatic epic so clear that few playwrights in this century could rival him. He dared legions and was magnificently unprepared for the littleness of technique.

In this one paragraph, the reader is able to grasp as a whole, the weakness and greatness of O'Neill as a writer.

That one word banal reveals the playwright's most glaring fault. It means that something is so commonplace or trite that it has lost all freshness. It can even suggest a touch of tastelessness. Booby traps, cliché, melodrama all amplify the critic's contention.
But the playwright is described as one who with his vast concept of the dramatic epic—epic in this sense meaning a story heroic and full of grandeur—dares legions. Used here in a figurative sense, daring legions indicates a challenging of ideas and situations that would be beyond ordinary expectations. According to Mr. Barnes, this is where O'Neill's genius lay and his various errors in technique should be overlooked.

The paragraph is a small masterpiece of its kind, an example of expository language at its best. The words are used with accuracy, conveying explicitly that information which is helpful in clarifying a topic that is quite abstruse.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 63)

The -fy ending on the verbs below is a shorthand English symbol for the Latin facere, "to make." It provides the "action" in each word.


5. codify (cOd'l i fl)—A: to convince. B: erect. C: spoil. D: reduce to a system.


8. identify (i den' ti fl)—A: to make alike. B: make different. C: claim. D: show to be the same.
17. indemnify (în dem’ nî fî)—A: to make good a loss. B: establish as being a particular person or thing. C: prove to be true. D: strengthen.

Answers

1. VILIFY—D: To defame; malign; speak evil of; slander. It is an open effort to destroy one’s reputation by offensive abuse, name calling, etc. irrespective of the truth. The intent is to injure.

   How could they think of vilifying a man who has done so much for his people?
It is not usually a wise tactic to vilify an opponent.
The campaign of vilification (n) backfired.
From the Latin vilis, "vile."

2. RAREFY—C: To make thin, less solid, less dense; attenuate.
Altitude tends to rarefy the air.
When used figuratively concerning emotions and ideas, the
word indicates a purifying of anything common, physical, in-
ferior, or impure. There is a spiritual implication to the mean-
ing.
It was a hearty and rarefied group that met later in
the evening.
Her entire being was transformed and rarefied by the
mystical experience.
From the Latin rarus, "rare, thin."

3. RATIFY—D: To make valid by approving; give official
sanction.
The Senate is expected to ratify the treaty.
From the Latin ratus, "fixed."

4. DEIFY—B: To make a god of; to glorify; exalt.
To deify a Roman emperor was not unusual.
They deified their heroes, giving them virtually anything
they wanted.
From the Latin deus, "god."

5. CODIFY—D: To reduce to a system; systematize; arrange.
We must codify international law.
As soon as possible, we must undertake the codification
(n) of our procedures.
From the Latin codex, the "tablet" upon which the
ancient laws were written.

6. QUALIFY—C: To measure up; give a more precise de-
scription in order to give a clearly defined quality of a thing;
to modify; restrict.
This is one of those frustrating words everyone seems to “know” and yet has a problem defining.

The basic meaning of the word is that a thing is so described or qualified that it is going to stand out from the crowd. That one object, person or idea is in a sense isolated from all others because of particular characteristics. In other words, we are taking a thing from the general to the specific.

In the phrase a stone house, the descriptive word stone separates this particular house from all the other millions of houses throughout the world. There are only a relatively few that are built of stone. This qualifies the house by giving it a specific characteristic.

When you “measure up” then, you have certain attributes that set you apart from others. You have met certain standards in some area of work or skill that make you qualified.

So by describing, designating, modifying, you are in one way or another qualifying.

He found it necessary to qualify his blunt statement.
Is he qualified to be a coach?
From the Latin qualis, “such.”

7. CERTIFY—C: To attest as certain; testify to; give reliable information about; vouch for. The word implies a statement in writing.

This is to certify that John Jones has passed all necessary requirements.
Has this check been certified?
I am certifying this case to the committee.
From the Old French certefier, “to certify.”

8: IDENTIFY—D: To show or prove to be the same.
I can identify his handwriting.
From the Latin idem, “same.”

9. SANCTIFY—D: To make holy; set apart as sacred; consecrate; purify.
We sanctify the name of our founding fathers.
The Acropolis, for all its fame, was little better than a barren rock sanctified by history.
From the Latin sanctus, “holy.”
10. VERIFY—B: To prove the truth of; confirm; corroborate; authenticate; attest to the accuracy of. It is an effort to establish the truth of something by examination, research, or comparison.

They will verify the scientific discovery.
Open your eyes and verify your guess.
Who is capable of verifying or refuting his conclusions?
From the Latin verus, "true."

11. AMPLIFY—A: To elaborate upon; expand; enlarge; develop; augment. It clarifies what is inadequate by filling out the details. It also magnifies.

It was necessary for him to amplify his remarks before we could understand the situation.
These points under discussion need further amplification (n).
The microphone amplified the sound.
From the Latin amplus, "large."

12. MAGNIFY—D: To enlarge; to increase the apparent size of; exaggerate.

He was always one to magnify his problems.
She looked at the small print through a magnifying glass.
Their fears were suddenly magnified by the new threat.
From the Latin magnus, "great."

13. MODIFY—C: To make somewhat different; change; alter; to revise by making less extreme. It suggests a kind of moderation, a limiting or restricting.

I think he will modify his demands in the end.
The modifications (n) are all included in this new model.
From the Latin modus, "measure."

14. FRUCTIFY—C: To render fruitful; bear fruit; be productive.

He may not live to see his good deeds fructify.
From the Latin fructus, "fruit."
15. MOLLIFY—C: To appease; pacify; placate. The word suggests previous anger or irritation which has now been soothed. Its synonym appease has a slightly different connotation. It refers to someone who has made demands, or who has a great desire or passion for something or someone. This desire has been satisfied or made content. (Hitler was appeased by the annexation of Austria.)

When I said that I was only joking, it seemed to mollify him.
The red roses sent the following day mollified her to some degree.
From the Latin mollis, "soft."

16. INTENSIFY—B: To increase in force and energy; make more intense; aggravate. It is a strengthening, an increase, or a deepening of a thing.

They have begun to intensify the campaign against crime.
The sun intensified the glorious autumn colors.

Aggravate is a synonym, though only in certain instances.
It indicates that something is made worse. It intensifies a troublesome, evil or disorderly situation; as the riots seemed to aggravate the feelings of hatred.

From the Latin intensus, from intendere, "to stretch."

17. INDEMNIFY—A: To make good a loss. To pay for losses or damage sustained.

The management promised to indemnify him for the missing suitcase.
From the Latin in, "not," damnnum, "hurt."

18. EXEMPLIFY—A: To illustrate or show by example. The word example is the key. Exemplify attempts to explain a difficult or abstract concept or statement by an example.

That one action exemplifies for me the author's character.
During your speech, be sure to exemplify each main point.
Though *illustrate* is a close synonym, it tries to evoke a more graphic picture, to give a vivid example. It may even use graphs etc.

From the Medieval Latin *exempliscaer*, from *exemplum*, "something taken out."

19. **STULTIFY**—D: To cause to be ineffectual; give an appearance of foolishness, inconsistency. One's effort or mental abilities may become futile or ineffectual due to certain outside influences.

_The decisions of the conference seemed to stultify our plans._

_We had hoped to avoid the stultifying influence of the institute._

From the Latin *stultus*, "foolish."

20. **CLARIFY**—C: To make clear and understandable; explain; elucidate.

_I will appreciate anything you can do to clarify this matter._

The synonym *elucidate* translated from Latin literally means, "to make clear, to throw light upon." It does not imply a long, drawn out explanation, but rather an explanation using illustrations.

From the Latin *clarus*, "clear."

**YOUR SCORE ________**

**PART II**

The numbered key words appear in the first row. See if you can pair each one with its proper synonym or synonymous phrase in the second row. Use the appropriate alphabetical listing, a, b, c, etc., for whichever is the correct answer.
1. codify a. to speak evil of
2. rarefy b. make valid by approval
3. vilify c. give reliable information
4. sanctify d. make thin
5. qualify e. show or prove to be the same
6. verify f. to make a god of
7. ratify g. consecrate
8. deify h. authenticate by writing
9. identify i. systematize
10. certify j. give or attribute qualities to

Answers: 1-i; 2-d; 3-e; 4-g; 5-j; 6-c; 7-b; 8-f; 9-d; 10-b.

1. fructify a. to elaborate upon, as to fill in details
2. intensify b. to make ineffectual
3. amplify c. increase the apparent size of
4. modify d. revise by making less extreme
5. clarify e. be productive
6. mollify f. make good a loss
7. exemplify g. make more intense
8. indemnify h. to show by example
9. magnify i. appease
10. stultify j. make clear and understandable

Answers: 1-a; 2-b; 3-a; 4-d; 5-j; 6-c; 7-b; 8-f; 9-i; 10-b.

PART III

The following questions or statements are best answered by one of the choices, A, B, or C.

1. How is one's reputation destroyed? By

2. What word implies a purifying of anything common or carnal?
3. How do you describe or attribute qualities to? By

4. When you systematize a procedure, you

5. The word meaning to give official sanction to, is

6. When you glorify or make a god of a hero, you

7. If it is to be fruitful it will

8. You have vouched for. Therefore, you have

9. What word suggests moderation?

10. You recognize and show that an object is a certain one.

11. Your friend exaggerates. He

12. If you consecrate a plot of land, you

13. When someone elaborates his remarks, he

14. You corroborate a statement. You

15. When you make a situation clear and understandable, you

16. To appease a client, you would
17. If one feels ineffectual, it may be because he is

18. If an emotion is increased, it is

19. When explaining a difficult or abstract concept, each point should be

20. You have lost your hat. You will be

Answers: 1-B; 2-A; 3-A; 4-C; 5-A; 6-C; 7-C; 8-C; 9-A; 10-B; 11-B; 12-B; 13-C; 14-A; 15-C; 16-C; 17-A; 18-C; 19-C; 20-B.

Some words carry an emotional impact just in the sounding of them.

Everyone had said that Harding looked great. Of all men, he looked the part of a president, and when he spoke his words seemed to have just the right sound. One of the key words in his campaign was Americanism.

At a press interview, a reporter asked, “What does Americanism mean, Senator?”

“I haven’t the slightest idea,” replied Harding, “but I know it’s a damn good word with which to carry an election.”
SEVEN

We tend to consider language, as we know it today, as having always been with us. We never think of it as the extraordinary phenomena it really is.

A long time ago the spoken and written word were two very dissimilar items. In the early stages of civilization, the handful of people who were lucky enough to know how to write did so in pictographs (hieroglyphics). If they wanted to mention a house, the symbol would resemble a likeness to the real thing. A man or woman often resembled the kind of stick figures children draw.

What made communication then a real problem and much less efficient than now, was that no real relationship existed between the spoken and written word. Then too, pictographs cannot conveniently convey intricate abstract thought. Naturally this limited expression.

Curiously, the Chinese are still using a type of pictograph symbol for writing. This seems like a clumsy and outmoded way of communication at a time when the safety of the world depends on accuracy in reaching one another with ideas.

Even at best, many words cannot always be translated exactly into one language from another; often the original meaning is changed. French has no exact equivalent for our *wistful*. Russia's definition of *democracy* is certainly vastly different from ours.
The Japanese term *mokusatsu* is believed to have brought on the tragedy of Hiroshima and all that followed because it was not accurately translated. It has two meanings, "to ignore" and "to refrain from comment." Apparently, the emperor and the cabinet were ready to surrender to the ultimatum of the Allies but they wanted a little more time to talk over the terms. They prepared a press release announcing a policy of *mokusatsu*, with the "no comment" implication. Unfortunately the translators inferred the meaning, "to ignore."

What happens to the subtleties of meaning when English is translated into Chinese? It is provocative to speculate whether this awkwardness in their language might not after all be at the heart of why that nation is such an enigma to the rest of the world.

**PART I**

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 75)

11. obverse (ōb′ vurs′) (vurss)—A: with the front part facing the observer. B: unreasonable. C: difference. D: with the rear part facing the observer.

Answers

1. CIRCUMLOCUTION (n)—C: Roundabout way of talking; an evasive and indirect way of saying a thing; verbiage (using more words than necessary).
“Circumlocution means wandering all around an idea, as if it were hot and you were afraid to touch it,” explains Charles R. Riker.

His answer was not entirely clear for it was shrouded in circumlocution.

From the Latin *circumlocutio*, from *circum*, “around” and *loqui*, “to speak.”

2. MANIFESTO (n)—C: A public authoritative declaration or explanation by a political faction or a similar group, making an announcement of intentions or purposes; a proclamation.

The committee presented the people with a carefully devised manifesto.

From the Latin *manifestus*, “clear.”

3. ENMESH (v)—D: To ensnare or entangle in, as a net or trap.

His voice cools about his hearers until they are enmeshed and spellbound.

The clerk was enmeshed in a backlog of work.

From *en*, “an intensive” (prefix adding emphasis or force) and the Old English *max*, “mesh.”

4. REFUTE (v)—B: To disprove; confute; prove false. There are shades of differences between these synonyms which are interesting and helpful to know. For example *disprove* emphasizes the success of an argument; as everyone could see that the scientist had *disproved* the hypothesis.

*Confute* is to virtually overwhelm with proofs; as *confuted* by the mass of evidence, the adversary was reduced to silence.

*Refute*, on the other hand, is more concerned with the way that an argument is conducted.

By sticking to the simple facts, he refuted the accuser’s claim.

From the Latin *refutare*, “to disprove.”

5. CHOREOGRAPHY (n)—B: The art of arranging ballets or elaborate dances.
Balanchine, director of the New York City Center Ballet, is one of the most well-known choreographers of our time.
From the Greek choreia, "dancing" and grapheo, "represent."

6. INGRATE (n)—D: One who is not thankful; an ungrateful person.
Despite all the advantages given him, he turned out to be an ingrate.
Aaron Burr was an ingrate and a traitor.
From the Latin ingratus, "ungrateful."

7. PROLETARIAT (n)—C: Laboring class; wage earners, collectively.
The candidate was acceptable to the proletariat.
From the Latin proletarius, "a citizen of the lowest class, without property."

8. CAPRICE (n)—A: Whim, whimsy; sudden change of mind without apparent reason and suggesting a certain willfulness. The synonyms whim and whimsy denote an intimation of capricious humor along with change.
Her sudden decision was strictly a matter of caprice rather than logic.
True to her whimsical nature, she decided suddenly that everyone should march into the pool fully clothed.
From the Italian capriccio, "prank or caper."

9. REGIME (n)—B: A system of government or administration.
The American regime is one of checks and balances.
From the Latin regere, "to rule."

10. RAVAGE (v)—A: To ruin; devastate; lay waste; sack; wreak havoc upon; despoil; plunder. The word implies extraordinary violence, to such a degree that it may be impossible to restore what has been devastated to its former state of being.
The invaders ravaged the settlement mercilessly.
A fire roared through the forest, completely ravaging it.
The man looked as though he had been ravaged by disease.
From the Middle French ravir, "to ravish."

11. OBVERSE (adj)—A: Pertaining to the front part that faces the observer and is thus the opposite of reverse; the front or chief surface.
The head of Lincoln is on the obverse side of pennies.
England has been like a coin with an obverse and reverse.
From the Latin obversus, from obveto, "turn toward."

12. AMNESTY (n)—D: Pardon, as by a government for past offenses; an overlooking of misdeeds. Not only are the deeds pardoned, but also they are forgotten. Pardon on the other hand denotes release from the penalty but not from a possible guilt.
The government then granted amnesty to all political prisoners.
It finally became necessary to grant something like a general amnesty in the matter.
From the Greek amnesia, "forgetting."

13. POTENTATE (n)—B: A ruler; person having great power; person in authority.
The local potentate was a fat, amiable native.
From the Latin potentitus, "political power, supremacy."

14. INEXPICABLE (adj)—A: Not capable of being explained; pertaining to something that cannot be accounted for.
To many of his contemporaries, Hitler's rise to power seemed inexplicable.
From the Latin in-, "not," ex, "out" and plico, "fold."
Literally then, it means "cannot be unfolded" and so cannot be seen and understood.
15. ESPIONAGE (n) — D: The practice of spying, especially that done by secret police.

From the French espionnage, from Italian spia, "spy."

16. AUTONOMY (n) — A: The power, right and condition of self-government; independence.

England has granted autonomy to many states that were once under her rule.
From the Greek autonomas, from autos, "self" and nomos, "law."

17. VACUOUS (adj) — A: Empty; vacant; blank; void. Figuratively, the word stresses a lack of ideas, being without intelligence or just plain stupid. Vacant implies that something perhaps had been there, but no longer is; as a vacant house; a vacant stare. Blank is similar though suggesting that something may be or at least should be filled in; a blank page; a blank expression on his face. Empty, of course, is a broader, more general word, whereas void has the connotation of being absolutely empty.

Unless it is a conference in more than name only, this gathering will be vacuous and futile.
His vacuity (n) made it impossible for anyone to carry on a conversation with him.
From the Latin vacus, "empty."

18. OBSOLESCENCE (n) — B: The condition or process of falling into disuse; an antiquated or useless state.

An alarming factor is the speed with which obsolescence overtakes new military aircraft.
Many scientific theories are now obsolete (adj).
So many consumer products have a built-in obsolescence.
From the Latin obsolesce, "to pass away by degrees."
19. CAUCUS (n)—B: A meeting of members of a political party to select candidates, plan a campaign, determine policies, etc.

A caucus was held to determine new strategy.
Of North American Indian origin.

20. RUBICUND (adj)—A: Red or inclined to redness; reddish; ruddy.

The salesman’s face was round and rubicund.
From the Latin rubicundus, “red.”

PART II

You have just tested yourself on twenty words, some of which you may not have known previously. But familiarity grows with use. Try to fit them into the following sentences.

1. He brilliantly r________ the arguments by not allowing himself to be sidetracked into the unimportant aspects.

2. The new secretary felt e________ in the welter of paperwork.

3. Will the new u________ lower taxes for all citizens?

4. Who did the c________ for the dances in the new Broadway musical?

5. Won’t you please come out and say what you mean, instead of using a c________.

6. “We now have the u________ which will give us freedom,” he shouted.

7. I would be an i________ if I did not thank him for his generous help.

8. She makes her decisions by c________ rather than by logic.
9. The p_________ was the group to whom Marx tried to appeal.

10. His answer revealed his v_________ mind.

11. We bowed to the p_________ who greeted us with the dignity of a king.

12. The Vikings often r_________ the English villages along the coast.

13. During the historic celebration the government gave a_________ to many political prisoners.

14. When flipping a coin, heads is usually known as the o_________ side.

15. This type of radar is old fashioned and is now o_________.

16. His rise from oblivion to success seemed i_________ to all but his close friends.

17. How could we ever forget the child’s delightful face, as bright and r_________ as a tomato.

18. My friend was falsely accused of e_________ when the secret pictures were shown.

19. It will be interesting to see what will be decided in the c_________ with respect to the future of the political party.

20. Modern Africa now proliferates with states that have become a_________ and now rule themselves.

Answers: 1-refuted; 2-enmeshed; 3-regime; 4-choreography; 5-circumlocution; 6-manifesto; 7-ingrate; 8-caprice; 9-proletariat; 10-vacuous; 11-potentate; 12-ravaged; 13-amnesty; 14-obverse; 15-obsolete; 16-inexplicable; 17-rubicund; 18-espionage; 19-caucus; 20-autonomous.
PART III

Check the answer you believe to be right, true or false.

1. **Circumlocution** is a direct way of stating something.  
   
   T F

2. A **manifesto** is a proclamation.  
   
   T F

3. To **entangle** is to entangle.  
   
   T F

4. To **refute** is to prove correct.  
   
   T F

5. **Choreography** is involved with dancing.  
   
   T F

6. If he expresses appreciation he is an **ingrate**.  
   
   T F

7. The **proletariat** belong to the aristocracy.  
   
   T F

8. **Caprice** and whim are synonyms.  
   
   T F

9. **Regime** implies a system of government.  
   
   T F

10. **Ravage** is to preserve.  
    
    T F

11. **Obverse** and reverse are synonyms.  
    
    T F

12. **Amnesty** is an overlooking of an offense.  
    
    T F

13. If he is a **potentate**, he must have some authority.  
    
    T F

14. An **inexplicable** action is one that may be accounted for.  
    
    T F

15. **Espionage** is usually concerned with secret information.  
    
    T F

    
    T F

17. **Vacuous** and full are antonyms.  
    
    T F

18. If a product is **obsolete**, it is the latest model.  
    
    T F

19. **Caucus** and political meeting are similar.  
    
    T F

20. **Rubicund** suggests roundness.  
    
    T F

Answers: 1-F; 2-T; 3-F; 4-F; 5-T; 6-F; 7-F; 8-T; 9-T; 10-F; 11-F; 12-T; 13-T; 14-F; 15-T; 16-T; 17-T; 18-F; 19-T; 20-F.

My father, Wilfred Funk, a well-known lexicographer (a maker of dictionaries), was a man who had a passion for words. In one of his books he said: "I can only wish that the reader might be encouraged to walk among words as I do, like Alice in Wonderland, amazed at the marvels they hold."
English is winning the world popularity contest for languages. Enthusiasm for it is unbounded. In every land there is nearly an insatiable desire to learn the language which is our birthright.

When the United States Information Service announced registration for English classes in Athens, police were needed to control the crowd. In Teheran an officially endorsed slogan is, "If you don't know English, you know nothing." And in Moscow one of the best sellers in the bookshops is an English grammar. So it goes around the world.

Why this unprecedented passion for English?

Principally because it is so easy to learn and thus makes an ideal second language for anyone.

This is exemplified by a World War II experience when Americans were training foreign aviators. English was an ideal medium. As Lincoln Barnett says in his eminently readable *The Treasure of Our Tongue*, it was found that "perhaps one thousand energetic words which fill all the needs of ordinary communication could be taught and learned more quickly than is possible in any other language spoken on earth."

Though a basic vocabulary such as this is adequate for a rudimentary second language, it becomes quickly evident that there is a practical limit to its usefulness since only simple thoughts may be transmitted.
It is while becoming more proficient one discovers that another of the great glories of our language is the lush expanse of vocabulary, the prodigious number of words from which we have to choose.

When we begin to appreciate this, then we can say with Dr. Samuel Johnson, one of the first philologists smitten with love for his mother tongue, "Wondrous the English language, language of live men!"

As an individual becomes more skilled in using English, he learns that there are times when he must make a careful, conscious choice of a specific word. Our language, more commonly than others, provides a number of synonyms for a particular general concept. As you know already from earlier chapters in this book, synonyms are almost never exactly the same in meaning.

Each word, especially one describing an action, object, or quality, has an interior sense of meaning which is different. The word has its own tenuous feel, and its use will affect the entire implication of a thought. The advantage is a more perfect expression.

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER will help you to sharpen your word sense so that as you pass through the vast "supermarket of words" you will be able to choose those you want with keener selectivity.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 86)

Answers

1. **CONDUIT (n)**—A: Channel or pipe for a fluid, gas, cables or electric wires.
   The fire in the building started through faulty electrical conduits.

2. **ASCRIBE (v)**—B: To attribute; impute; assign. The word suggests a characteristic, quality, value, opinion, etc., that is not outwardly apparent.
   The conduct of the witness could only be ascribed to fear.
   Could you ascribe the collision to carelessness?
   From the Latin *ascribere*, "to attribute."

3. **IMMANENT (adj)**—A: Indwelling; inherent; intrinsic; actually present or abiding in. Do not confuse *immanent* with *emanation*, chapter 3, and *imminent*, number 18, in this chapter.
   The composer had an immanent capacity for emotional expression.
   The philosopher talked about God as being immanent in nature.
   From the Latin *immaneum*, "to remain near."

4. **ACQUIESCE (v)**—B: To accept or comply tacitly or quietly without active opposition; consent; assent. *Acquiesce* is used with either in or to.
   I hope that he will acquiesce in the plans we've made.
   A nod of his head indicated he acquiesced to our suggestion.
   He was too much of a gentleman to acquiesce in what they had in mind.
   From the Latin *acquiescere*, from *ad*, "to" and *quies*, "rest."

5. **CONGRUOUS (adj)**—A: Harmonious; harmoniously related; consonant; suitable; fit; appropriate.
   The ideas in his speech were not congruous with the prevailing ideas.
The lyrics and music were delightfully congruous with each other.
From the Latin congruous, "agreeing, suitable."

6. BENIGN (adj)—C: Kindly; manifesting kindness and generosity; gentle.
The old man had a loving and benign way about him.
From the Latin benignus, "kindly."

7. INCONTINENT (adj)—D: Unrestrained; unchaste; without control of passions and appetites.
It only seems that to be incontinent is normal and that chastity is out of fashion.
From the Latin incontinent, "incontinent."

8. IMPLICATION (n)—D: Something hinted at, but not put into exact words. It is often used interchangeably with inference, though it is better to avoid doing this for there is a difference in meaning.
The easiest way to get at the meaning of implication is through its Latin root. Implico breaks up into im, "in," and plico, "fold." Hence, something is "folded in" and, thus, hidden from view. Remember inexplicable, the word you learned in the last chapter? It is from the same word family, the root meaning "not able to be unfolded."
His talk ended with the implication that he still had more to say on the subject.
There was an implication of threat in the letter.
(In other words, the writer of the letter did not make an obvious threat. To the reader it seemed to be implied in the whole context of what was written. He might then infer, rightly or wrongly, that the threat exists.)

"You misunderstood the implications of his speech, so that your inferences misrepresent his point of view."
(Merriam Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms.)
Bergan Evans in A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage gives an easy rule to remember, The speaker implies. The hearer infers.
9. TRANSITORY (adj)—C: Of short duration; fleeting; not enduring; temporary, therefore implying that whatever it is will soon come to an end.

*The liberty of the people was placed beyond transitory power.*

From the Latin *transitorius*, from *transire*, "to cross, pass."

10. SUBSTANTIATE (v)—G: To verify; to establish as a truth by strong proof or evidence.

*All his statements were later substantiated by facts.*

*His earlier testimony was substantiated.*

From the New Latin *substantiatus*, from *substantiare*, "to establish."

11. POTENTIAL (adj)—A: Possible, but not actual; it does not now exist, but is capable of coming into being. It means possible as opposed to actual.

*That young man has the potential of becoming a tennis star.*

*This common stock has the potential of growing in value.*

*Latent* is a synonym implying something which is hidden although it does exist. The feel is slightly different though, as you can see in chapter 4.

From the Late Latin *potentialis*, from *potentia*, "might, authority."

12. INSATIABLE (adj)—D: Greedy; not capable of being satisfied.

Growing children seem to have insatiable appetites.

Some people are driven by insatiable ambition.

From the Late Latin *insatiabilis*, from *insatiare*, "not satiable."

13. THERAPY (n)—B: That part of medical science that relates to the treatment of disease. *Therapeutic* is the adjective form.

Now that the illness is diagnosed, therapy can begin.

From the Greek *therapeutes*, "attendant."
14. EXPONENT (n)—B: One who or that which explains, interprets, represents or symbolizes something.

The instructor was an exponent of highway safety.
The professor was a well-known exponent of modern theology.
Many of the young players today in tennis are exponents of the "big serve."
From the Latin exponentis, from exponere, "to explain."

15. CACOPHONY (n)—A: Harsh or discordant sounds.

They heard the cacophony of a large city during its busiest hour.
From the Greek kakophonis, "bad sound."

16. AFFILIATE (v)—C: To join, associate or unite as a member to a larger group or organization. A dependent relationship is implied.

Today in business, it is a common practice for a smaller company to affiliate with a larger one.
Would you please explain your affiliation (n) with this group.
From the Latin affiliate, "to adopt."

17. SYBARITIC (adj)—C: Given to luxurious, pleasurable, or voluptuous living.

Some historians suggest that ancient Rome's sybaritic ways contributed to her downfall.
The word is derived from Sybaris, a luxury-loving city of Southern Italy, destroyed in 530 B.C.

18. IMMINENT (adj)—A: Impending; dangerous and close at hand. It is a stronger word than its synonym impending and suggests in a threatening way that a thing is likely to happen at any moment, especially disaster or misfortune.

The sudden and unexpected squall put the small boat in imminent jeopardy.
Because of the spring thaw, an avalanche of snow was imminent.
Impending indicates a similar implication of trouble, but not with the degree of immediacy.

An impending storm grew out of the western horizon.
The impending trial stimulated much interest.
From the Latin *imminentiā*, from *imminēre*, “overhang.”

19. IMPASSE (n)—C: A deadlock; predicament affording no escape; cul-de-sac; stalemate.

Unfortunately there was an impasse in strike negotiations.
He could not raise the necessary money to continue the business. Yet he must go on. It was an impasse.
From the French *passer*, “to pass.”

20. RAMIFICATION (n)—D: A consequence; outgrowth; result. Ramification is generally a stronger word than consequence and is used in a more serious vein.

There are always ramifications to an important decision.
Putting the school on the honor system had significant ramifications in the overall attitude of the children.
From the Middle Latin *ramificare*, “to form a branch.”

YOUR SCORE

PART II

Here are the twenty new words you have just been over. They are sometimes used incorrectly in the sentences below. Cross out the word if you think it is wrong and write the correct one in the space at the left.

acquiesce implication
incontinent benign
congruous sybaritic
conduit ascribe
transitory immanent
therapy substantiate
insatiable potential
exponent cacophony
affiliate ramification
impasse imminent
1. The children accepted his leadership and acquiesced to all of his decisions.

2. The architect designed the house to be congruous with the total environment.

3. The smiling, insatiable face of the gentle nun bent towards the child.

4. As immanent as the danger was to him, he still saw to our safety.

5. Was it the diplomat's careful ramification that this was the best solution to the problem?

6. The scholar substantiated his claims by copious references.

7. A mystic believes that the spirit of God is sybaritic within each of us.

8. There was no way of satisfying his immanent greed.


10. So many of our problems are only incontinent and eventually vanish.

11. They lived a luxurious, voluptuous, and affiliated life.

12. Will the two benign companies be engaged in the same type of work?

13. The implications of that bold, utterly clear statement were felt throughout the world.

14. The discovery of nuclear energy can be a potential boon for all mankind.

15. He is an impasse of free enterprise.

16. The conduit sounds of an orchestra tuning up.
17. The leader had reached an exponent in his negotiations.

18. The analyst ascribed the bull market to investor confidence in the future.

19. The cacophonous program of the doctor was beneficial, and the patient became well.

20. Suddenly the therapy taking oil from the tank began to leak.

Answers: 1-acquiesced; 2-congruous; 3-benign; 4-imminent; 5-implication; 6-substantiated; 7-immanent; 8-insatiable; 9-incontinent; 10-transitory; 11-sybaritic; 12-affiliated; 13-ramifications; 14-potential; 15-exponent; 16-cacophonous; 17-impasse; 18-ascribed; 19-therapeutic; 20-conduit.

PART III

Which of the alternate choices, A or B, is more opposite to the key word? Underline your answer.

8. ascribe—A: to suggest. B: not know.

Answers: 1-B; 2-A; 3-A; 4-B; 5-B; 6-A; 7-A; 8-B; 9-A; 10-B; 11-B; 12-A; 13-A; 14-A; 15-B; 16-A; 17-B; 18-A; 19-B; 20-A.

Mark Twain said that the difference between the right word and the almost right is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.
Words and spices have more in common than you may think. Mixed skillfully, each has the ability to bring out an essence of a thing, to enhance whatever it is put with.

When you cook you really do not need salt or spices or sauces. These items add immeasurably to the flavor, but they are not absolutely necessary. You can get along without them if you must.

How much more fun it is to add a dash of this or that and create a tasty dish that people will exclaim over. Or it may simply be one that you and your family enjoy in the comfort of your home.

And with words!

Yes. We can get along with the bare minimum. The question is, do we want "to just get along"? If so, we will never get the full, exuberant flavor out of life, and many happy experiences will go untasted.

The advertisements tell us to drink milk for vitality.

I urge you to learn words for zestful living.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 97)


Answers

1. LEXICON (n)—A: A dictionary; a list of words relating to a particular subject with definitions; vocabulary of a particular language, person, social class, etc.

   The store told him the latest Greek lexicon.
   In the boy's lexicon, "cool" meant "hot."
   From the Greek lexikon, from lexikos, "pertaining to words."

2. PERUSE (v)—C: To read carefully or attentively; study; examine; scrutinize.

   The child was perusing the book with rapt attention.
   From the Middle English perusen.

3. INELUCTABLE (adj)—D: Inescapable; not to be escaped from or avoided; inevitable.

   She came to the ineluctable conclusion that this was a worthless cause.
   From the Latin ineluctabilis, "irresistible."

4. IMPASSIVE (adj)—B: Without emotion; apathetic; showing no feeling.

   Despite all the commotion, the elderly man remained completely impassive.

   Apathetic differs somewhat in that one is more deliberately negligent or remiss in his impassivity.

   From the Latin im, "without" and passivus, "suffering."
5. ORDINANCE (n)—C: Law. An authoritative decree; an order of a municipal body.  
A new ordinance was passed by the city council governing traffic.  
From the Latin ordinantis, from ordine “to set in order.”

6. AMORAL (adj)—C: Lacking moral responsibility; not concerned with moral or ethical judgment or distinction; making no distinction between right and wrong.  
Animals are said to be amoral.  
From the Latin a, “not” and the Latin moralis, “moral.”

7. EVENTUALITY (n)—B: Probability; contingency; conceivable outcome.  
The originator of a new business must prepare for any eventuality.  
From the Latin eventus, from evenire, “to happen.”

8. MERITORIOUS (adj)—C: Worthy of praise; deserving of honor.  
The Marine won an award for meritorious service.  
From the Latin meritorius, “that which earns money.”

9. AGGRANDIZE (v)—D: To increase; exalt; make great in power, wealth, etc., often at another’s expense.  
By that one move, the Duke will aggrandize his family’s estate.  
His one objective in doing the work was self-aggrandizement.  
From the Latin adgrandire, from grandire, “to make large.”

10. VOLATILE (adj)—D: Unstable; changeable; light-hearted. The difficulty with this word is that there are several shades of meaning depending on usage. The whole gist of the word is bound up with its Latin root, “to fly.” Volatile suggests not only an instability, but also very much of an airy spirit, a light-heartedness, a buoyancy. Because this is so, we can see why the meaning may also be stretched to include transient and ephemeral.
It was a dangerous, volatile (unstable) political situation.
The child has a giddy, volatile (changeable) disposition.
Her happy, volatile (buoyant) spirits cheered everyone.
Be careful with this liquid. It's volatile and may explode!
Their hopes of mine are really only volatile (transient)
daydreams.
From the Latin volare, "to fly."

11. DOGMATIC (adj)—Excessively opinionated; unduly
positive in manner or speech; given to a laying down of truths
or principles that are in the speaker's or writer's mind beyond
dispute.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "My reputation is built
up on an impregnable basis of dogmatic reiteration."

Sometimes children accuse their parents of being dog-
matic.

From the Greek dogma, "opinion."

12. FOIBLE (n)—Personal weakness; failing; frailty. This
word is not so strong a failing as a fault, but is rather to be
thought of as a minor flaw or eccentricity of character.

One of his foibles is the excessive use of platitudes.

From the Old French foible, "the weaker part of a
sword or foil blade, between the middle and the point."

13. APROPOS (adv)—Suitably; relevant or with respect
to; appropriate and opportune; fitting.

Apropos (with respect to) of your remark I believe the
issue should be clarified.
The decision was apropos (appropriate), and you are to
be complimented.

From the French à propos, "to the plan."

14. TEMPORAL (adj)—Worldly; temporary and earthly
as opposed to heavenly or the spiritual.

The temporal affairs of a businessman are mundane.
Latin tempus, "time."

15. TRAVESTY (n)—A grotesque imitation; parody;
absurd distortion.
The trial was a travesty of justice.
His rendition of the Odysse was a travesty of that great epic.
From the French *travesti* , "to disguise."

16. ORDNANCE (n)—D: Military weapons of all kinds.
The battleship opened fire with its heavy ordnance.
Both this word and *ordinance* originate from the same Latin root. See answer number 5, above.

17. DISPUTATIOUS (adj)—B: Argumentative; disposed to argument or debate; given to controversy; contentious.
*He was the most disputatious student I ever had.*
Ultimately from the Latin *disputare*, "to dispute."

18. LIMN (v)—B: To delineate; portray; draw or paint as a picture.
*His hero was limned in glowing words.*
*The stories of the gospel were limned in stained glass.*
From the Old French *luminer*, "to light up, illuminate a manuscript."

19. JARGON (n)—C: Confusing lingo; technical words used by professional or trade groups; gibberish.
*A layman would have difficulty understanding a physicist's jargon.*
From the Old French *jargon*, "warbling of birds, prattle, chatter."

20. PROTEAN (adj)—C: Capable of assuming different forms. It is an outer change, however, rather than an inner one, with the thing's or person's identity and essential characteristics still intact. *Changeful,* a synonym, illustrates this. It is perhaps a more poetic word suggesting the frequency of change.
*The protean genius of Leonardo da Vinci.*
*The protean talents of the actor.*
From the Roman legend of *Proteus,* god of the sea. Since the sea is always changing in appearance, it was easy
for the myth to grow up that Proteus was capable of assuming any shape he chose. So now we know that when we say a person has a protean temperament, we mean that it is one which is always changing.

YOUR SCORE

PART II

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<td>ordinance</td>
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<tr>
<td>disputatious</td>
<td>limn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jargon</td>
<td>protean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the above words would each of these sentences suggest?

1. This is a law passed by the Municipal Council. __________
2. He is utterly unmoved by events. __________
3. The outcome was inevitable. __________
4. You have examined the book very carefully. __________
5. Another word for dictionary or a list of words relating to a particular subject. __________
6. A person who makes no distinction between right or wrong. __________
7. Something is deserving of honor. __________
8. The synonym for unstable. __________
9. It is important to prepare for everything that might conceivably happen.

10. Description of an action that will increase one's power and prestige.

11. The flaw in his character is not a major one. It is more of an eccentricity.

12. That which is in contrast to the spiritual or the worldly.

13. Some action that is appropriate and opportune.

14. A Marine Captain I knew was so utterly positive about everything.

15. The words used at the scientific meeting were beyond my understanding.

16. The trial of the Russian writers was an absurd distortion of justice.

17. The youngster has so many talents. She sings, plays the guitar, dances ballet, makes her own dresses, and is on the honor roll at school.

18. An essential ingredient in any war.

19. The artist painted a portrait.

20. There are some people who seem to argue at every little point.

Answers: 1-ordinance; 2-impassive; 3-ineluctable; 4-forused; 5-lexicon; 6-amoral; 7-morituri; 8-volatile; 9-eventuality; 10-aggrandize; 11-foible; 12-temporal; 13-apropos; 14-dogmatic; 15-jargon; 16-travesty; 17-protem; 18-ordinance; 19-limned; 20-disputations.
Did you find yourself hesitating on some of the answers? Good! This will point out which words you must write on a card. And use them today!

PART III

By comparing our mind with a telescope, we can more easily visualize how each new word we learn adds to our power of penetrating the far reaches of thought.

Let's take another turn at these words. Select what you believe is the most accurate description of the key word.

1. A dogmatic statement is:
   A: rambling and inconclusive.
   B: one that is absolutely positive.
   C: sharply sarcastic.

2. A government must be concerned with temporal affairs.
   A: The word implies an involvement with this present life.
   B: The word implies an involvement with eternity.
   C: Temporal means working on a predetermined time schedule.

3. If a man says something apropos, his words:
   A: are fitting to the occasion.
   B: always indicate approval.
   C: are capricious.

4. A human foible is:
   A: a major character flaw.
   B: a tendency towards deception.
   C: some harmless weakness or failing.

5. Being one of the most cantankerous and disputatious men I have ever known, he was:
   A: given to lying.
   B: fond of arguing.
   C: given to violent brawling.
6. Without proper ordnance an attacking force is:
   A: limiting its chances of success.
   B: improperly dressed.
   C: without law and order.

7. If an author limns a well-known individual he:
   A. has done a parody.
   B. portrays as if painting a picture.
   C. makes up nonsensical lyrics about him.

8. If we describe a dictator as being protean we mean:
   A: he is straightforward and practical.
   B: he is tricky and not to be trusted.
   C: he has the capacity to play different roles.

9. Often the use of jargon is unavoidable because:
   A: it is important to create an air of mystery.
   B: certain technical or special words are essential to a profession.
   C: it adds color to our speech.

10. A travesty against democracy is:
    A: a takeoff or a parody of it.
    B: a military assault.
    C: an investigation of the tax department.

11. An ineluctable set of circumstances would mean that the situation was:
    A: something that might be avoided.
    B: not to be fully understood.
    C: inevitable.

12. If he answers in an impassive way, he does so:
    A: in a rather careful, calculated manner.
    B: without showing any feeling.
    C: with a firmness that cannot be misunderstood.

13. Would I be correct in stating that a list of technical words might be described as a lexicon?
A: No.
B: Only if the words are understood by a relatively large group of people.
C: Yes.

x4. When you *peruse* a book, you:
A: read it with attention.
B: give it the once-over-lightly treatment.
C: only hit the high spots.

x5. By carefully describing an *ordinance* I would:
A: tell you all about a military weapon.
B: be explaining a law.
C: be talking about some event we experienced in common.

x6. When a writer characterizes our age as being *amoral* he implies it:
A: is essentially good.
B: is not concerned with morality one way or the other.
C: is without laws.

x7. A citizen who is cited for *meritorious* action is:
A: deserving of honor.
B: being criticized.
C: being given a ticket by a policeman.

x8. To prepare for an *eventuality* is:
A: to be ready for what must ultimately happen.
B: to look forward to some interesting event.
C: to be ready for something that could possibly happen.

x9. If a man’s investments will *aggrandize* his estate, they will:
A: add to its value.
B: endanger it.
C: eat into it.

x0. When journalists refer to the political situation on Cyprus as being *volatile*, they mean it is:
A: an important part of the overall situation.
B: dangerous.
C: unstable.

Answers: 1-B; 2-A; 3-A; 4-C; 5-B; 6-A; 7-B; 8-C; 9-B; 10-A; 11-C; 12-B; 13-C; 14-A; 15-B; 16-B; 17-A; 18-C; 19-A; 20-C.

Walt Whitman, our American poet, had a deep appreciation for English. He wrote of it:

Language is not an abstract construction of the learned or of dictionary-makers, but is something arising out of the work, needs, ties, joys, affections, tastes of long generations of humanity, and has its bases, broad and low, close to the ground.
SECOND
REFRENSR TEST

In the following review test check the word you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Be sure to review carefully any word you may miss.


Answers: 1-talkative; 2-household; 3-coarse; 4-pompously learned; 5-charm; 6-to defame; 7-reduce to a system; 8-prove the
It pays to increase your word power.

truth of; 9-appease; 10-make clear; 11-roundabout way of talking; 12-art of arranging dances; 13-ruin; 14-spying; 15-red; 16-channel or pipe; 17-coinciding; 18-verify; 19-barsh sounds; 20-consequence.

Score

20—29 correct excellent
18—16 correct good
15—13 correct fair
The tendency, I think, is to view sports writers as being a rather uncouth lot, with an inadequate vocabulary. After all, when writing about football, hockey, horseracing, baseball, or bowling what need is there for the graceful phrase, the striking description, the precise word?

Yet, if you habitually peruse the daily sports pages or a magazine such as *Sports Illustrated*, you cannot help but be impressed by the consistency of good writing and the imaginative use of words. Such writers as Red Smith and Arthur Daley not only use their words well, but also are often able to inject humor. Of course, Ring Lardner, one of America's best known short story writers and one who had a mordant sense of humor, was by profession a sports writer.

One Monday, at random, I chose the following selection from Arthur Daley's column. (Italics are mine.)

"This has been a most harmonious meeting," said William Dale Eckert, the baseball commissioner, at the conclusion of the winter gathering of the big leagues in Mexico City last week.

Maybe the rarified [chapter 5] atmosphere of Montezuma's ancient Aztec capital, about 7,400 feet above sea level, played tricks on the ear. If the general didn't hear any discordant notes, others did. Enough clinkers were struck to spoil the orchestration. It was not all sweet music.
The resentment of the players against the cavalier treatment they had been getting came crashing through disturbingly. Now that they have a professional unionist, Marvin Miller, banging the symbols for them, they are unlikely to be muted as they have been in the past.

The feature continues and includes these additional deictic words: expansionist; discerning; fait accompli; presumption; conceivably; how; serene.

Mr. Daley has the ability to mix slang and standard English in a breezy informative style. It is highly descriptive writing and a pleasure to read. The words in the following test have all been taken from sports pages. Not all of them are easy.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 113)


Answers

1. INDIGENT (adj)—C: Poor and needy; poverty stricken; destitute of property or funds. The emphasis is more on a lack of money rather than on dire poverty.

   *Today, participation in sports is one of the fastest ways an indigent youth can make big money.*

   From the Latin *indigens*, from *indigere*, "to lack, want."

2. GARGANTUAN (adj)—B: Huge; gigantic; enormous.

   *The collapse of the Philadelphia team was gargantuan, the disintegration complete.*
The word comes from *Gargantua*, the noisy, voracious giant, who is the hero of Rabelais’ work *La Vie Très Horifique du Grand Gargantua* which was published in 1534. Before this time *Gargantua* had been known in French folklore as a kindly giant, but the huge prince as we know him, with appetite and vocal cords to match his size, is primarily a creation of the philosopher and satirist Rabelais.

3. DISSERTATION (n)—B: A formal discourse; an extended discourse or a lengthy treatise on a subject; a thesis. *The scholar gave a dissertation on Christian art during the Renaissance.* From Latin *dissertare*, “to treat of, discuss.”

4. PYRRHIC (adj)—A: Pertaining to a victory gained by ruinous loss. *Though they won the game, injuries to their best men made it something of a Pyrrhic victory.* That great Carthaginian, Hannibal, is said to have called *Pyrrhus* first among generals. The genius and daring of *Pyrrhus* did bring many successes in battle, but at *Asculum* in 279 B.C., his victory against the Romans was won at tragic cost. The flower of his army was destroyed. On the occasion he is supposed to have said, “One more such victory and we are lost.” Thus a *Pyrrhic* victory is one in which the losses are so great that it is no victory at all.

5. PARAGON (n)—B: Model of perfection; a type of something perfect. *Ben Hogan is a paragon among golfers.* To test the purity of gold, it is often rubbed against a fine-grained, dark stone such as jasper to see what kind of a mark it leaves. This testing stone is called a “touchstone.” Our word *paragon* comes through Old French from the Italian word *paragone* which originally meant a touchstone, and hence *paragon* came finally to be a standard of true worth.
6. PERIMETER (n)—C: The boundary or circumference; the outline or bounding line.

The happy Willie Mays, on the perimeter of the crowd, was jumping up and down.

From the Greek peri, "around" and metron, "measure."

7. SUNDRY (adj)—B: Several; various, miscellaneous; not classified; of an indefinite small number.

Sundry other players rushed the umpire.

From the Old English syndrig, "several."

8. LETHAL (adj)—A: Deadly; death-dealing; fatal.

Joe Louis always packed a lethal punch.

From the Greek mythological river of oblivion, Lethe.

9. OBVIATING (v)—D: Making unnecessary; preventing by proper measures; meeting or anticipating so as to clear away a difficulty or obstruction.

Most of the tickets were peddled locally, thus obviating the problem of out-of-town crowds.

From the Latin obviatus, from obviare, "to meet, withstand."

10. MIGRANTS (n)—D: Wanderers; those who change their habitats as animals or persons.

This was the time of year when the southbound migrants headed for their "shooting preserves."

From the Latin migrant, from migro, "to depart."

11. ASTUTE (adj)—B: Shrewd; sagacious; perspicacious; acute. Astute implies a combination of its synonyms each of which has a very definite shade of meaning. For instance, shrewd connotes a hard-headed practicality; sagacious suggests wisdom, and perspicacious and acute as having insight.

For one so young, the captain of the tennis team was unusually astute.

"From the Latin astutus, "cunning."

"
22. **ESPLANADE (n)**—A walkway; a level open space for promenading or driving, especially along the shore.

The champion was given a rousing welcome at the hotel esplanade.

From the Latin *explanare*, "to make level, smooth out."

23. **TENACIOUS** (adj)—C: Tough; strong; cohesive; adhesive. Also persistent and retentive. The word suggests a very strong resistance and the ability to hold fast.

"He just wouldn't give up," the wrestler sighed. "He was the most tenacious guy I ever went to the mat with."
With an almost miraculous tenacity (n), they held at the one-yard line.

The old coach still has one of the most tenacious memories around.

From the Latin *tenacitus*, from *tenax*, "holding fast."

24. **THESPIAN (n)**—C: An actor.

Casey Stengel, a thwarted thespian, was once asked why he took up professional baseball.

After Thespis, sixth-century B.C. Greek poet and actor, reputed founder of tragic drama.

25. **ARBITER (n)**—D: A judge; person chosen to decide a dispute; arbitrator.

The spectators gave the arbiter a rousing cheer.

From the Latin *arbiter*, from *ad* "to" and *biter", "to go to; witness."

26. **ENCOMIUM (n)**—D: Formal expression of high praise; eulogy; tribute.

The sportswriters had encomiums for his brilliant performance on the court.

From the Greek *enkomiom*, "eulogy."

27. **EDIFICATION (n)**—A: Instruction or enlightenment; moral or mental uplift; education.

He turned in a pitching classic for the edification of the crowd.

From the Latin *aedification*, from *aedificare*, "to build, edify."
18. LUSTROUS (adj)—C: Shining; gleaming; luminous; brilliant; splendid. The underlying implication of the word is of reflecting light with a radiance or brilliancy.

Minutes earlier his lustrous cue had run out the billiard game.

Through Old French lusteux from the Latin luceo, "shine."

19. CONTRIVE (v)—A: To devise; plan ingeniously; design; manage. The sense of the meaning is a cleverness at managing a difficulty.

Despite all the injuries on their team, they contrived to win.

From the Old French contriver, "to find, invent."

20. CONTUMELY (n)—D: Scornful rudeness; haughty contempt; insult. This is an especially strong word, and the intent of the meaning is to humiliate or disgrace.

No one had ever treated a ball player with such contumely.

From the Latin contumelia, "reproach."

YOUR SCORE

PART II

See how well you can match the words you have just gone over with their synonyms or descriptive phrases in the right hand column.

1. sundry
   A. boundary
2. obviating
   B. of an indefinite, small number
3. encomium
   C. boisterously unruly
4. astute
   D. poverty stricken
5. lustrous
   E. shrewd
6. indigent
   F. preventing by proper measures
7. perimeter
   G. wanderers
8. migrants
   H. tribute
9. raucous
   I. plan ingeniously
10. contrive
    J. gleaming
PART III

Which of these words given above best replaces the italicized word or phrase?

1. They seem to be having an extremely hard time financially.

2. The wrestler has a huge appetite.

3. Professor Smith gave us an (a) extended discourse on etymology.

4. He won his point, but at a ruinous loss to his popularity. It was a dubious victory.

5. Because he anticipated carefully, all threat of danger was cleared away.
6. The spy knew that one mistake would be fatal.
7. She came up with a number of small complaints.
8. The sergeant set up a boundary of defense which took in the entire hilltop.
9. His wife was a model of a housewife.
10. He was introduced as America's leading actor.
11. The rough sound of laughter broke the stillness of the evening.
12. Just off the beach, there was a (an) level open space for promenading.
13. The old woman was an acute judge of character.
14. We watched the wanderers disappearing down the dusty road.
15. He had never had anyone treat him with such humiliating scorn in his entire life.
16. Somehow we managed to get a jury rig up during the height of the storm and sailed into the harbor.
17. The cat's shining eyes reflected in our headlights as if they were two shining jewels.
18. He made sure to enlighten me on all of the important points I should know.
19. The scientist bowed. "I am not used to receiving such eulogies."
20. Both sides finally agreed as to whom the judge would be in this dispute.

Answers: 1-indigent; 2-gargansum; 3-dissertation; 4-Pyrebic; 5-obliviated; 6-leitbal; 7-sundry; 8-perimeter; 9-paragon; 10-thespiain; 11-raucous; 12-esplanade; 13-astute; 14-migrans; 15-contumely; 16-contrived; 17-lustrous; 18-edify; 19-encomiums; 20-arbiter.

At a football game, I listened to a vendor hawking his programs.
"Get your pro—gram here... Know all about the play—
IT PAYS TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER

ahs . . . Know the rules of the game . . . ya can't enjoy the game without a pro-gram. Get your program heah!"

And in a sense that's what this book is all about. This book, *How To Increase Your Word Power*, is your program. When you know words, when you understand them, when you are adept at using them, language becomes a game you will enjoy far more.
What so many people do not realize is that a word can be taken apart just as if it were a mechanical gadget. Perhaps you have never thought of a word in this way before. But when you do, it changes your entire approach to vocabulary. Suddenly the mystery of where words come from, the difficulty of memorizing them, the bother of immediately having to look up the definition of an unfamiliar one, vanishes.

As you may recall, many words have three parts to them. 1. There is the prefix or the beginning. 2. There is the middle or base part which is also called the root, base, or stem. It might be helpful to think of it as a chassis on which the other two parts are hung. 3. Then there is the suffix or ending.

Suppose you come across the sentence: "The clerk has made an egregious error." You may not be entirely sure of the word and so you dismantle it to see what it is made out of.

We know that e is a variation of the Latin form of ex, "out, from, forth." We know also that ious tagged on to the end of a word means that it is an adjective. Now only the center portion remains, egregious. The word is a variation of the Latin grex, "flock or herd."

Literally translated then, egregious means "not of the common herd." In other words, it is something quite unusual. Over the years it has come to mean conspicuously bad; flagrant;
extreme; excessive. So when the clerk committed an *gregious*
error, he made a whopper of a blunder that was out of the
ordinary.

A few other words coming from the root *greg*, are *greg gar-
ious*, "fond of companionship," tending to "flock" together or
associate in companies. So *greg ate* means placed apart from
others, separated from the "herd," cut off from one another.
*Ag greg ate* is gathered into a whole; assembled or gathered
together, as a "flock."

By knowing the forty odd most important prefixes and
perhaps an equal number of the roots, you have an almost
magic key to ferret out the meanings of words without im-
mediate recourse to the dictionary. Later though, it is impor-
tant to check for the exact definition, because usage over the
years may have given a different emphasis to the meaning.

**PART I**

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in mean-
ing to the key word. Answers are on page 123)


Answers

1. Hassle (n)—D: Wrangle; heated and wordy argument; squabble; struggle, implying an effort.
   There was a hassle on the baseball field between the umpire and the manager.
   Thought perhaps to have come from a combination of haggle and hassle.
2. COPIOUS (adj)—C: Abundant; plentiful; ample. The word differs from its synonyms in suggesting great abundance. When applied to writing or speaking it carries the meaning of being diffuse, wordy, profuse, or exuberant in style or treatment.

3. ANIMATION (n)—C: Vivacity; liveliness.

4. SCORE (v)—B: To criticize severely; berate; scold; castigate.

5. ASSUMPTION (n)—C: Supposition; something taken for granted; postulate; premise. It is an arbitrary acceptance of a thing not yet proved.

6. PIQUE (n)—D: Feeling of resentment; offense; umbrage. *Pique* differs from its synonyms in that it suggests wounded pride.
When apparently she seemed to ignore him, he left in a fit of pique.
American bankers were piqued by de Gaulle’s criticism of the dollar’s stability.
From the Middle French piquer, “to sting, prick.”

7. AVARICIOUS (adj)—C: Greedy; covetous; grasping; keen for wealth or gain. The emphasis is on greed and stinginess.
Silas Marner, a famous character in a novel, was an avaricious man.
From the Latin avarus, “greedy.”

8. CHIMERICICAL (adj)—B: Imaginary; fantastic; visionary; unreal. If an idea is chimirical, it is wildly fanciful, highly unrealistic.
Many people consider the vision of a world under one government as chimirical.
Are we being deluded by chimeras (wild fancies)?
In their mythology the Greeks had a fire-eating monster called a chimaira that was believed by some to have the body of a goat, the head of a lion, and the tail of a serpent. A fantastic conception. When this word finally came into English, people began using it in a poetic way. As you know now, when an idea or scheme is spoken of as being chimirical, we mean that it is visionary and won’t work, that it is as much of a fantastic figment of the imagination as the old chimera itself.

9. SUCCULENT (adj)—A: Juicy; rich in tasty fluids; fleshy and thick.
The waiter brought me a succulent piece of meat as I have ever tasted.
From the Latin succulentus, “juicy.”

10. TURBULENT (adj)—A: Agitated; unruly; characterized by violent commotion; tempestuous.
The turbulent seas swept for up the beach.
Many of our frontier towns were often in a state of turbulence (n).
From the Latin turbulentis, "full of disturbance, restless, stormy."

11. FORTE (n)—C: One’s strong point; that which one does easily or well.
As skipper of the sailboat Intrepid, Mossbacher’s forte lay in his clever strategy.
The student’s forte was obviously mathematics.
From the Latin fortis, "strong."

12. VESTIGE (n)—A: Slight trace of something now vanished or lost.
No vestige remained of this endearing, old custom.
He does not have a vestige of interest in art now.
From the Latin vestigium, "footprint."

13. ILK (n)—D: Kind or sort; class; type; breed; nature.
Because it is unspecific, it carries a more general meaning than its synonyms.
He was a keen scientist and he had gathered others of his ilk around him.
From the Old English ilca, "same."

14. ODIOUS (adj)—A: Hateful; pertaining to something excessively disagreeable; offensive; disgusting; exciting repugnance.
Taking out the garbage was an odious chore for the boy.
The official was an odious man who felt he must exert his petty authority.
From the Latin odium, "hatred."

15. ZANY (adj)—B: Crazy; idiotic; odd and comical; outlandish; ludicrous.
It was as zany a game as I’ve ever seen.
Their zany doings have become legendary.
From the Italian zanni, "buffoon."

16. ILLICIT (adj)—Unlawful; illegal; not permitted; unauthorized.
It is illicit to sell certain medicines without a prescription.
From the Latin illicitus, from in, "not" and licitus, "lawful."

17. MISSILES (n)—Objects intended to be thrown or projected, such as spears and bullets. You may have confused this word with missal, meaning prayerbook.
He ducked the heavy missile thrown at him and ran away.
From the Latin missilis, from mitto, "send."

18. COMPORT (v)—To conduct or carry (oneself).
He comports himself well in diplomatic circles.
He never learned to comport himself gracefully on the dance floor.
From the Latin comportare, "to carry."

19. ANOMALY (n)—Abnormality; irregularity; deviation from the common rule; anything out of keeping with accepted notions of fitness or order.
The snow flurry in late summer seemed an anomaly.
Dressed in a neat business suit, plowing the muddy field, he was a comical, anomalous (adj) figure. (Deviating from the rule.)
From the Greek anomalia, from anomalous, "uneven, irregular."

20. GRAFFITI (n)—Inscriptions or drawings scribbled on walls or buildings. Graffito is the singular.
Archaeologists discovered graffiti on the cave walls.
Modern Chinese sometimes pass along current news by utilizing graffiti on wall posters.
From the Italian graffio, "to scratch."

YOUR SCORE
PART II

In the following sentences, some of the italicized words are used correctly, while others are not. Cross out the word if incorrect and write the correct one in the space at the left.

piided            hassle
score             avaricious
copious           comport
turbulent         odious
graffiti           animation
anomaly           assumption
zany              succulent
ilk               vestige
forte             illicit
chimerical        missiles

1. ___________ Did you see the assumption that broke out when the player was benched?

2. ___________ Can the Senator distinguish between succulent and practical politics?

3. ___________ Full of forte she burst into the room.

4. ___________ The Prime Minister knows how to score himself when visiting the Queen.

5. ___________ The colorful ilk on the walls of the cave gave us a clue as to how the people lived.

6. ___________ The turbulent cut of beef was set before us with a flourish.

7. ___________ Fortunately the perfect weather insured a zany harvest.

8. ___________ Odious for wealth and power, he became ruthless.

9. ___________ No anomaly of his whereabouts remained.

10. ___________ "You ought not to have said that to me," he replied, obviously piqued.
11. ________ His *animation* is that the stock market will rise.

12. ________ It was a *copious* task he dreaded beginning.

13. ________ A capital without a country is apparently a *hassle*.

14. ________ The *missiles* flew wildly over our heads.

15. ________ The pirate and others of his *vestige* gathered in the great aftercabin.

16. ________ The *youngster* cringed as the instructor sarcastically began to *comport* his creation.

17. ________ This is certainly a funny, *avaricious* party.

18. ________ White capped, *chimerical* waves tossed our boat about frighteningly.

19. ________ His brilliant speed is his *graffiti* in hockey.

20. ________ This *illicit* smuggling of goods benefited the enemy.

Answers: 1-hassle; 2-chimerical; 3-animation; 4-comport; 5-graffiti; 6-suiculent; 7-copious; 8-avaricious; 9-vestige; 10-piqued; 11-assumption; 12-odious; 13-anomaly; 14-missiles; 15-ilk; 16-score; 17-sany; 18-turbulent; 19-jorte; 20-illicit.

PART III

Check your answer either true or false.

1. An *assumption* is a fact proved. *T* *F*
2. To *score* a thing is to burn it. *T* *F*
3. To be *animated* is to be enthusiastic and lively. *T* *F*

4. *Copious* means skimpy or slight. *T* *F*
5. A *hassle* is a heated and wordy argument. *T* *F*
6. If one is *piqued*, he is offended. *T* *F*
7. A meaning of *succulent* is thick and fleshy. *T* *F*
Don't disparage the dilettante, for he is the one who so often supports and encourages the artist.
The original Latin parent was delectare, "to delight."

12. MALAPROPISM (n)—B: Absurd or humorous misuse of words; specifically the use of a word sounding somewhat like the one intended.
She gasped, "Do you know that the river was full of allegories," a malapropism that amused her guests.
In 1775, Sheridan produced his famous comedy The Rivals. The heroine had a dear old aunt, Mrs. Malaprop, who had a twisted tongue that could never get things quite straight. She referred to her daughter, for instance, as a "progeny of learning." (She meant prodigy.) She would talk of "supercilious knowledge" (meaning superficial) and "contagious countries." (What she meant was contiguous, "near or touching.")
The name of Mrs. Malaprop is a shortening of the French phrase mal a propos which means "inopportune."

13. FRENETIC (adj)—B: Frenzied; frantic; hectic; violently agitated.
The frenetic pace of New York at Christmas time exhausted him.
From the Greek phrenitis, "disease of the mind."

14. MEANDER (v)—D: To wander aimlessly; to wind and turn in a course; a rambling zigzag method.
It was a lovely, warm night, and we meandered through the garden.
They followed the meandering river to its source.
From the Greek Maiandros, a river that wound aimlessly through the fields of Phrygia in the Asia Minor of classic Greece.

15. PAROCHIAL (adj)—B: Limited in range or scope; narrow; provincial; petty.
9. heretical _______ orthodox
10. onus _______ onerous
11. exacerbate _______ soothe
12. diverge _______ merge
13. reprehensible _______ deserving of reproach
14. leonine _______ sheep-like
15. utilitarian _______ practical
16. nadir _______ zenith
17. rinkle _______ fester
18. querulous _______ patient
19. abet _______ hinder
20. simon-pure _______ authentic

Answers: 1-0; 2-8; 3-0; 4-0; 5-8; 6-6; 7-0; 8-0; 9-0; 10-8; 11-0; 12-0; 13-8; 14-0; 15-8; 16-0; 17-8; 18-0; 19-0; 20-8.

Actors and actresses are sharply aware of words. Observe the fun that Richard Burton has with them as he talks about his wife Elizabeth Taylor. (Italics are mine.)

She's one of those women who think if she is fifteen minutes late she is actually being half an hour early. I scold her about this. She nags me about being 'stuffy and using long words. When we scream at one another about something, I accuse her of being 'scatterlogical and having an 'insinuated mind. This generally amuses her so much she breaks up completely.
THIRD REFRESHER TEST

Sometimes we become impatient with our memories. We wish it were easier to retain a word. Yet memory is directly related to frequency of use. If you have forgotten the meanings of some of the words below, use them often during the next few days. They will be yours “for keeps.”

Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 144.


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Answers: 1-dictionary; 2-law; 3-unstable; 4-grotesque imitation; 5-assuming different forms; 6-huge; 7-brewed; 8-high praise; 9-scornful rudeness; 10-several; 11-vivacity; 12-imaginary; 13-kind or sort; 14-to conduct; 15-abnormality; 16-lessen; 17-making good the loss; 18-unorthodox; 19-lion-like; 20-encourage.

SCORE

20—19 correct excellent
18—16 correct good
15—23 correct fair
It is not often that a situation develops wherein an entire public can view the extraordinary power of a word to explode reactions and emotions.

You may recall Governor George Romney's faux pas which involved an everyday phrase. Used, however, in a certain context it produced virtually a disaster for the governor.

Just the careless use of this one word prompted a New York Times editor to write:

Governor George W. Romney has just made one of those unbelievable slips of the tongue that haunt the dreams of every political manager. By asserting that American generals and diplomats 'brain-washed' him during his visit to South Vietnam he raised serious doubts about his own intellectual power and capacity for leadership. (Italics are mine.)

According to a leading poll, the governor's popularity as a presidential candidate plummeted from first place to fourth. There was some speculation as to whether he might be eliminated from serious consideration before the preliminaries of the primary election had even begun. His entire campaign was dogged by his verbal slip.

So, when we talk of word power, it is no idle phrase. How often has that adage, "The pen is mightier than the sword" been quoted?
Some of the words you are learning may not be used by you frequently. But since you are apt to read and hear them as you follow world events, it is important that you understand what is being said. We wear our mantle of democracy lightly, but only an informed citizenry can preserve this precious heritage.

Wilfred Funk, the well-known lexicographer once said:

We must know words to be good citizens. We must be able to understand what our leaders in this country are trying to tell us. There may be a charlatan among them who is using words to deceive us. If we are shrewd in word values we will detect the deception, and we will be able the better to know whom it is wise to follow.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 147.)


**Answers**

1. RETROSPECT (n)—C: A recall; review of past actions or events; a recollection.
   In retrospect, things were better than they seemed at the time.
   He began his lecture with a retrospect.
   From the Latin retrospectus, from retrospectus, "to look back."

2. SYMMETRY (n)—A: Balanced arrangement of opposing parts to make a harmonious whole. There is also the meaning
involving a geometrical regularity of placement of forms to make a harmonious whole.

*The exquisite beauty and symmetry of a snowflake seems a miracle of perfection.*

From the Greek *symmetros,* "equally measured."

3. STENTORIAN (adj)—C: Extremely loud; loud-voiced.

*He made the announcement in a stentorian voice that was heard above the uproar.*

We are indebted to the Greek poet Homer for this word. In his epic poem, the *Iliad,* he tells us the story of *Stentor* who was a Grecian herald of the Trojan war. His voice was "as loud as that of fifty other men together," so when we say, today, that a person has a *stentorian* voice our meaning is obvious.

4. OCCULT (adj)—B: Pertaining to the supernatural; mysterious; beyond ordinary understanding. The general meaning is of mysterious knowledge that can be understood only through supernatural means such as astrology or through magical means. There is, however, also the usage of the word when a thing is extremely difficult to grasp, is abstruse, such as nuclear physics, space exploration, etc.

*There are individuals who use the occult science of astrology in planning their lives.*

*The young scientist tried in vain to explain to the girl the occult principles of rocket propulsion.*

From the Latin *occultus,* "concealed."

5. JUNTA (n)—A: Administrative or legislative council or committee; faction.

*The Government of the country was taken over by a military junta.*

From the Spanish *junta,* from the Latin *jungere,* "to join."

6. CAMARADERIE (n)—D: Comradeship; loyalty; fellowship.

*He relaxed in the friendly camaraderie of the young students.*

From the French *camarade,* "comrade."
11. __________ His animation is that the stock market will rise.
12. __________ It was a copious task he dreaded beginning.
13. __________ A capital without a country is apparently a battle.
14. __________ The missiles flew wildly over our heads.
15. __________ The pirate and others of his vestige gathered in the great aftercabin.
16. __________ The younger cringed as the instructor sarcastically began to comport his creation.
17. __________ This is certainly a funny, avaricious party.
18. __________ White capped, chimerical waves tossed our boat about frighteningly.
19. __________ His brilliant speed is his graffiti in hockey.
20. __________ This illicit smuggling of goods benefited the enemy.

Answers: 1-battle; 2-chimerical; 3-animation; 4-comport; 5-graffiti; 6-suicdent; 7-copious; 8-avaricious; 9-vestige; 10-piqued; 11-assumption; 12-odious; 13-anomaly; 14-missiles; 15-ill; 16-score; 17-xany; 18-turbulent; 19-forie; 20-illicit.

PART III

Check your answer either true or false.

1. An assumption is a fact proved. T F
2. To score a thing is to burn it. T F
3. To be animated is to be enthusiastic and lively. T F
4. Copious means skimpy or slight. T F
5. A battle is a heated and wordy argument. T F
6. If one is piqued, he is offended. T F
7. A meaning of succulent is thick and fleshy. T F
8. Lavish could be a synonym for *avaricious*.  
9. *Vestige* is something worn.  
10. *Chimerical* implies the fantastic.  
11. *Turbulent* and *tempestuous* are antonyms.  
12. *Odious* suggests a bad smell.  
13. *Forté* is that thing one does easily or well.  
14. Broadly speaking, *ilk* and kind or sort could be used interchangeably.  
15. *Zany* and reckless are synonyms.  
16. *Anomaly* is anything out of keeping with accepted notions of fitness or order.  
17. If it is authorized, it is *illicit*.  
18. *Comport* and to be in agreement are similar in meaning.  
19. In the broadest sense of the word, a space capsule could be spoken of as a *missile*.  
20. *Graffiti* and confetti are similar.


Take all the cards you have made out, beginning with chapter 1, and have someone test you. There may be some you are still unsure of. Fasten them on your mirror where you will be reminded of them.
When I visited England, what intrigued me was the clear, crisp way in which their children spoke. There was no question of understanding what they were saying. When I returned home, I could not help but make a comparison with our American children and was appalled. We seemed to be a nation of mumblers. It was the difference between a sharp knife that would cut cleanly and a blunt one that mutilated.

There is something so very attractive about hearing someone speak well. Learning to pronounce, to enunciate without mumbling, and to modulate your voice is not really hard at all. With a small effort you can handle even difficult words with ease.

Here are a few suggestions which will be helpful.

1. When in doubt about a word, write it down and then look it up in the dictionary. Admittedly the various diacritics and modern pronunciation symbols often look like the proverbial “Greek.” But in the front matter of dictionaries there is a pronunciation key, and a half hour spent here will answer most questions. At first it may look like a secret code. This quickly unravels however, and troublesome words can easily be sounded out.

2. Listen carefully to professional speakers on the radio or to leading actors. Hear with what clarity they enunciate each
syllable. You may pronounce a word correctly, but if you mumble it, the effect of whatever you are trying to say will be weakened.

3. Practice modulating your voice. It is most interesting to cover an ear with the palm of your hand and then speak. You can hear what your voice sounds like to others. Practice saying simple sentences and see how pleasant you can make your voice. Generally, the lower the speaking voice the nicer it is to listen to.

Unfortunately, when it comes to pronunciation, our English falls short of many other languages. One glaring deficiency lies in the alphabet. Spoken English has approximately twenty basic vowel sounds, while written English has only six characters, counting ʒ, with which to transcribe them.

This leads to many complexities. How do you pronounce the letters ough? There are though, through, bough, tough, cough, and ought just to mention a few. Or what about the spoken sound, à, pronounced as in say. This can be written as inveigh, au fait, Callais, bouquet, émigré, defray, or chaos.

We must accept patiently, and perhaps even with good humor, the many absurdities in the pronunciation and spelling of our language. Though the art of pronunciation is a vital and graceful one, we ought not take it so seriously that we run the danger of becoming overly timid or self-conscious or stuffy about it.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 134)

5. rankle (rang' k'l)—A: to cause continued resentment. B: be offensively noisy. C: argue angrily. D: confuse.
12. utilitarian (û til' tar' ê an)—A: relating to usefulness. B: sanctimonious. C: forceful. D: pertaining to one who believes there is no purpose in life.
1. IRRETRIEVABLE (n)—C: That which cannot be recovered; that which cannot be repaired or remedied; irreparable.
   *When the document was destroyed, it was an irretrievable loss.*

2. PROPONENT (n)—A: Advocate; one who makes a proposal, puts forward or expounds a thing.
   *The man stood up slowly and said, "I challenge the proponents of this ludicrous scheme."*
   From the Latin proponens, from proponere, "to set forth."

3. ABET (v)—B: To encourage, support or assist, though usually in a wrongdoing.
   *The dictator Hitler was aided and abetted by some of Germany's leading men.*
   From the Middle French abetir, "to bait."

4. ALLAY (v)—D: To lessen; relieve; alleviate; abate. It is a calming, quieting effect, though the implication is that the cause of the concern has not necessarily been removed.
   *Relieve is to free wholly or partly, from pain, fear, pressure, etc., and to at least make it possible to tolerate. Abate suggests reducing in intensity or force whereas alleviate is to make a problem temporarily lighter, pain or a sickness endurable, though not in the sense of being completely relieved or cured.*
   *Finding the long-lost letter clarifying the situation, did much to allay suspicion.*
   *The doctor's report helped to allay his worst fears.*
   From the Old English allegan, "to lay away."

5. RANKLE (v)—A: To cause continued resentment or a sense of injury; produce an inflamed effect; fester.
   *This small defeat rankled him.*
   From the Old French rancler, "to fester."
6. SIMON-PURE (adj)—Genuine; authentic; of untainted purity or integrity.

Bill Bradley, star athlete, scholar, honest, generous, and friendly is the ideal example of someone who could be called simon-pure.

In eighteenth-century England the dramatists often gave allegorical names to the characters in their plays. The famous dramatist, William Congreve, named one of his gossipy characters “Scandal” and a lady of unsteady morals, “Mrs. Frail.” A popular comedy in 1717 was one by Susanna Centlivre called A Bold Stroke for a Wife. During the action of the skit, a certain “Colonel Feignwell,” an impostor, wins a “Miss Lovely” by posing as Simon Pure, a Pennsylvania Quaker of good repute whom the lady has never met. This stratagem, of course, makes it extremely difficult for the real Simon Pure to prove his identity.

7. QUERULOUS (adj)—Complaining; fault-finding; fretful; huffy; irritable; petulant. Querulous and its synonyms exhibit a degree of impatience and anger without really adequate reason.

The stockbroker dreaded the weekly meetings with his wealthy, querulous client.

“Where are you going now?” she asked in a querulous tone.

From the Latin querculōus, from queri, “to complain.”

8. LINEAGE (n)—Ancestral line; pedigree; those descended from the same ancestor.

Queen Elizabeth comes from royal lineage.

From the Latin linea, “line.”

9. RESTITUTION (n)—Making good a loss or damage; restoring something which has been taken away, usually unlawfully; reparation.

The nation demanded restitution of all land taken from it.

He had been promised the restitution of his property, but it was given back to him in ruins.

From the Latin restituere, from restitutus, “to restore.”
10. **Evolve (v)**—D: To develop gradually; work out.

   The British Empire is the first in history to evolve the idea of self-governing Dominions.

   From the Latin *evolvere*, "to unroll," *e* ("out") plus *volvere*, "to roll."

11. **Digress (v)**—D: To stray from the main theme of a discourse or purpose with the intent of returning to it; ramble; wander.

   If I could digress for just a moment, I'd like to tell an anecdote.

   On our trip through Spain, we made a digression (n) (turning aside from a path) to a charming village.

   From the Latin *digredi*, "to go aside, depart." Dismantling the Latin word, we find *di*, "away, away from" and *gradis*, "to step, walk, go."

12. **Utilitarian (adj)**—A: Relating to usefulness; fitness for some desirable practical purpose. It places usefulness above beauty or the amenities of life and considers this as the standard of whatever is good for man. This has led to the philosophical meaning that regards the greatest good or happiness of the greatest number as the main consideration regarding morality. It was a philosophy of which John Stuart Mill was a proponent in the nineteenth century.

   He saw the mountain, not as being part of an entire beauty and majesty on the landscape, but with utilitarian eyes that would turn its graceful slopes into a profitable ski center.

   From the Latin *utiles*, "useful."

13. **Reprehensible (adj)**—D: Blameworthy; deserving reproof.

   This attack on the Senator's character is obviously reprehensible and disgraceful.

   Trying to bribe the basketball player was most reprehensible.

   From the Late Latin *reprehensibilis*, from *reprehendere*, "to hold back."
14. HERETICAL (adj) — C: Unorthodox; not only contrary to accepted opinion but thought to be wrong and detrimental to the truth. It especially concerns religious or political doctrines.

The Episcopal Bishop James Pike was reproved for his heretical views of various sacraments.

The Chinese Marxists consider modern Russian Communists, who have modified certain doctrines, as promoting heresy (n).

From the Greek hairesis, "able to choose."

15. DIVERGE (v) — B: To spread apart; lead away from each other; to move or extend outward in different directions from a common point, as rays of light. It is the opposite of converge.

The careers of the two men now began to diverge.

However divergent (adj) our interests, however diverse our callings and stations, we share the same love for our country.

From the New Latin divergere, "to bend or incline away from."

16. INGENUOUS (adj) — B: Sincere and unaffected; artless; innocent and simple; straightforward; naive; guileless; unsophisticated. An ingenuous person cannot disguise his feelings. He wears his heart on his sleeve.

She was so utterly ingenuous, so open and sincere, that his protective instincts went out to her.

There was no need for the ingenuous youth to say, "I love you," for it showed in his eyes, his expression, his blush.

The ingénue (an’ zhay nwe) in a play is an actress who plays the part of an ingenuous girl.

Be sure not to confuse this word with ingenious, "showing cleverness."

From the Latin ingenuus, "inborn, natural, frank."

17. EXACERBATE (v) — D: To aggravate; irritate; make sharp and bitter. The interior meaning is to make something worse than it is already.
Those foolish words will exacerbate the bad feeling which already exists between them.
Her arthritic pain was exacerbated by the spell of damp weather.
Some psychiatrists believe that violent plays on television exacerbate the violent tendencies that disadvantaged children already harbor.
From the Latin *exacerbatus*, from *exacerbare*, from *ex*, "very" plus *acerbus*, "bitter, harsh."

18. NADIR (n) — B: The lowest point of anything; time of greatest depression.
*At the nadir of my despair, the help I needed arrived.*
From the Arabic *nadir*, "opposite to." It is actually a point directly opposite the *zenith*, "a point exactly overhead."

19. LEONINE (adj) — A: Like a lion.
*I was fascinated by the orchestra conductor’s leonine head.*
From the Latin *leo*, "lion."

20. ONUS (n) — D: A burden; responsibility in the sense that it is a considerable effort, weight, or annoyance.
*The onus of pursuing the war fell on him.*
To Michelangelo, caring for his avaricious family must have seemed an unfair onus.
From the Latin *onus*, "burden."

**YOUR SCORE**

**PART II**
To see how well you know the words you have just been overfill in the blank space with the name of the thing or characteristic described.

irretrievable digress
proponent utilitarian
abet reprehensible
alayed heretic
rankle diverge
simon-pure ingenuous
querulous exacerbate
lineage nadir
restitution leonine
evolve onus

1. To continue to cause bitter, or resentful feelings.

2. You are interested in looking up your ancestral line.

3. This word suggests a degree of impatience and anger without adequate reason.

4. Someone's excessive fears have been quieted.

5. One who makes a proposal.

6. It is a loss that can never be made up.

7. The word means to give assistance to, but usually in a wrongdoing.

8. This word describes a person of unquestioned integrity.

9. It is only truly worthy if it has a useful purpose.

10. A verb describing the gradual growth of, say, an idea.

11. The act of returning a thing to its rightful owner.

12. Describing the type of individual who expresses his feelings openly.
13. It is an effort, a burden, a chore, not a welcome responsibility. 

14. A strong adjective meaning to make worse. 

15. The word originates from the Latin, leo. 

16. Blameworthy; culpable; deserving rebuke. 

17. The lowest point of all. 

18. The opposite from coming together. 

19. The verb meaning to turn aside from a straight line or a predetermined course. 

20. One who's thoughts run contrary to accepted opinion. 

Answers: 1-rankle; 2-lineage; 3-guerulous; 4-allayed; 5-proponent; 6-irretrievable; 7-abet; 8-simon-pure; 9-utilitarian; 10-evolve; 11-restitution; 12-ingenuous; 13-ous; 14-exacerbate; 15-ironic; 16-reprehensible; 17-nadir; 18-diverge; 19-digress; 20-hesitate.

PART III

Some of the following words have the same meaning, while others are the opposite. Write an S or O in the center column, whichever you believe to be the correct answer.

1. allay ______ intensify
2. lineage ______ pedigree
3. proponent ______ adversary
4. irretrievable ______ that which can be remedied
5. digress ______ wander
6. restitution ______ replace
7. evolve ______ regress
8. ingenuous ______ naive
The School Board was so parochial in its outlook, it refused to even be aware of what was happening to education on a national level.

The word was originally used exclusively with regard to ecclesiastical matters, coming from Latin *parochialis,* from *parochia,* "parish." In the Protestant Episcopal and Roman Catholic Church, a parish is a smaller district within a larger one which is called a diocese. So it is very easy to see how the modern meaning evolved.

16. DIVERTISSEMENT (n)—Amusement; entertainment. It is also a light piece of music. Musically, the word is used for a short ballet or similar presentation performed between the parts of a longer work such as a play or an opera.

*She was bored by the dull, daily routine and yearned for a divertissement.*

*Gounod's ballet in his opera Faust is an exciting divertissement.*

From the French *divertissement,* "diversion, pastime, relaxation." Also a light piece of music.

17. DEBACLE (n)—Sudden collapse or downfall; rout, stampede.

*The game ended in a complete debacle.*

*They had their backs to the sea, which led to an inevitable debacle.*

The first meaning of the word in the leading unabridged dictionaries is of breaking up of ice in a river. It is a sudden, violent rush of water which sweeps everything before it. By knowing the basic meaning, we can sense the power behind the word itself when we use it figuratively.

From the French *debacle,* "to unbar, remove a bar or bolt."

18. MAUDLIN (adj)—Weakly sentimental; overemotional; mawkish. There is a suggestion of a lack of restraint to the point of tearful emotionalism.
He told a maudlin story about a little boy, his penniless mother, and his dog.

The word apparently has been associated with Mary Magdalene, who wept at the crucifixion of Jesus. She is often depicted with eyes swollen from weeping.

19. HEDONISM (n)—D: Pleasure-seeking; doctrine that pleasure is the highest good in life; self-indulgent pursuit of pleasure.

- A culture devoted to hedonism is in danger of becoming soft.
- He was tired of long, hard marches, of mud, rain, being shot at, and sweltering heat and determined that when he reached home he would lead a hedonistic (adj) life.
- From the Greek hedone, "pleasure."

20. IRREFUTABLE (adj)—C: Incontestable; incapable of being disproved; cannot be proved false; incontrovertible.

- His irrefutable logic convinced everyone the plan was right.
- The point he made was so manifestly and irrefutably true that it could not be disputed.
- From the Latin irrefutabilis, "not to be argued away."

YOUR SCORE

PART II

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate combination of words, marking your selection as A, B, or C.

1. In ________, hearing the ________ was the high point of our trip.

2. The artistic ________ appreciated the ________ of the delicately balanced mobile.
3. He spoke his _______ in a _______ voice.

4. The government collapse was a _______ and the _______ took over.

5. His arguments concerning the long term dangers of a _______ philosophy, though ________, appealed to only a few people.

6. Admiring courage and being almost entirely without sentiment, he loathed with an especial _______ anything of a _______ nature.

7. It is reputed that even such a _______ as that famous banker occasionally dabbled in the _______.

8. After the _______ attempt to meet the deadline we needed to relax and welcomed the _______.

9. Filled with a warm sense of _______ the four boys _______ through the meadow without plan or destination in mind.
10. If he weren't so _________ in his viewpoint, he would see that this local, outdated law must be _________.


Answers: 1-B; 2-B; 3-A; 4-A; 5-C; 6-B; 7-C; 8-B; 9-C; 10-A.

PART III

One of the quickest ways to test yourself is to match the word you have just been studying with one of its synonyms. It may be a good idea to reread the answers in Part I of this chapter for review.

1. debacle A. beyond ordinary understanding
2. parochial B. loud-voiced
3. frenetic C. cannot be proved false
4. meander D. balanced arrangement
5. divertissement E. entertainment
6. occult F. recollection
7. retrospect G. provincial
8. stentorian H. rout (ou as in out)
9. symmetry I. violently agitated
10. irrefutable J. to wind and turn in a course

Answers: 1-H; 2-G; 3-I; 4-J; 5-B; 6-A; 7-F; 8-B; 9-D; 10-C.

1. hedonism A. mawkish
2. carillon B. an amateur or dabbler
3. junta C. violently hostile
4. virulent D. fellowship
5. dilettante E. chime of bells
6. luminary F. an inspiration to others
7. camaraderie G. faction
8. revoke H. pursuit of pleasure
9. malapropism I. annul
10. maudlin J. confusion of words similar in sound
Answers: 1-H; 2-E; 3-G; 4-C; 5-B; 6-F; 7-D; 8-I; 9-J; 10-A.

There is an alert housewife, whom I know, who pins up words she wants to recollect on a kitchen bulletin board. She makes sure that she uses the words as often as possible. Her motto is use them or lose them.
How can synonyms help you build a more powerful vocabulary?

First of all, we want to be sure of our definition of a synonym. There has been a controversy going on for over a hundred years concerning the definition.

George Crabb (1778-1851) believed that synonyms were not words of the same meaning, but rather "closely allied" to one another, between which there are "nice shades of meaning." His book is still extant, and there are scholars who follow his thinking.

The opposition believes that a synonym is a word having the same or almost the same meaning as some other. According to this group, Crabb is not accurate, and by including words that might only be thought of as second and third cousins to the key word, he tends to confuse people and to blur the meanings of the words.

Though the argument has not yet been resolved in the recondite world of lexicography, all the major dictionaries today adhere to the definition that a synonym has the same or almost the same meaning as the key word. And for our purposes we shall adopt the same point of view in this book.

One would not think that this field would intrigue women, but the fair sex has contributed just as much to the study of
synonyms as have the men. In fact, the book written by Hester Lynch Piozzi (1741-1821) BRITISH SYNONOMY was only the second one published in England and for years was the immensely popular standard.

In 1851 another Englishwoman, Elizabeth Jane Whately, brought out WHATELY'S BOOK OF SYNONYMS in which she showed with acute perception that even though words might denote the same "object, act, process, quality, emotion" they are not necessarily interchangeable. Such words often have different connotations.

To illustrate, she used the example of "swine's flesh" which is prohibited by Mosaic Law for it is plain that it presents to the mind a gross idea, which pork does not. You would not ask your butcher for a roast of swine's flesh, which technically you would be correct in doing.

Another example is the phrase, "May I take the liberty?" Because of various historical associations, the word liberty is used rather than its synonym the Old English, freedom.

Miss Whately also showed that even though two words may name the same thing, they differ because they approach that particular thing from opposite viewpoints. She used the words inference and proof to demonstrate how this is so.

Whatever justly infers, proves; and whoever proves, infers: but the word 'inference' leads the mind from the premises which have been assumed, to the conclusion which follows from them: while the word 'proof' follows a reverse process, and leads the mind from the conclusion to the premises.

Her observations are as interesting and pertinent to us today as they were to those of her era.

Synonyms can help build your vocabulary in a direct and simple way. When you look up the definition of a word, you will usually find one or more synonyms given. Our tendency is to brush over these words quickly. Don't!

By spending a half a minute on them, relating the meaning of the synonym to the key word, you cannot help but add to your Word Bank.

Perhaps the word ease offers a germane example. The definition in the Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary
is, "freedom from physical discomfort or mental agitation."
Two of the synonyms listed are: facility, dexterity. As a group,
the words refer to an aptitude for doing something.
"Ease" is largely negative, denoting absence of effort, strain,
hesitation, uncertainty. Facility and dexterity are the ability
to do, acquired by practice; dexterity implies the greater degree
of skill.
Assume you are searching for a word that will describe
the ease of a person's getting a golf shot off a tee. You could
say with some accuracy that "his ease in driving the golf ball
off the tee came from long practice." This same sense of ease
and proficiency could be inferred if you were to say, "he drove
the golf ball off the tee with great dexterity."
You have said what you wanted in fewer words and
have given the sentence more accuracy, color, and impact.
Meanwhile, you have also learned two "new" words which
you can remember with greater facility, since they have been
compared with the key word and with each other and the
precise meanings elaborated.

PART I

Test (Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in mean-
ing to the key word. Answers are on page 171)

1. celerity (səˈlerē tē)—A: intelligence. B: ease. C: slipperi-
ness. D: speed.
5. disrepute (dɪs rə pət)—A: refusal. B: disgust. C: dis-
honor. D: argument.

Answers

1. CELERITY (n)—D: Speed; quickness of motion; alacrity; promptness. The word stresses speed in accomplishing work.
The synonym *alacrity*, also, implies speed, though adding a cheerful willingness.

*He memorized the poem with astonishing celerity.*

*With impressive celerity, the boys cleaned the dirty cellar.*

From the Latin *celeritas*, from *celer*, "swift."

2. **EMIT** (v)—B: To utter; voice; discharge; express; send forth as heat, light, sound.

*She emitted a soft cry and bent forward.*

*Soaked with rain, the high tension wires emitted a kind of buzzing sound.*

From the Latin *emittere*, "to send forth."

3. **COFFER** (n)—B: Strongbox, safe or trunk for valuables.

*They plundered the city, filling their coffers with jewels and money.*

From the Greek, *kopinos*, "basket."

4. **PUERILE** (adj)—D: Childish; characteristic of childhood; juvenile. The word may be extended to mean weak, silly, thoughtless.

*We were astounded at the puerile suggestion.*

*The puerile antics of the marchers amused some bystanders and annoyed others.*

From the Latin *puerilis*, from *puer*, "child."

5. **DISREPUTE** (n)—C: Dishonor; ill repute; disgrace; lack or loss of a reputation. The burden of meaning is on the loss of one's former good standing, name, or reputation.

*Because of the scandal, the mayor's good name was now held in disrepute.*

*The Russian scientist's theories concerning inheritance have fallen into disrepute.*

From the Latin *dis*, "not" and *re*, "again" plus *puto*, "think." Recalling chapter 11, here is a good example of a word formation.

6. **NUANCE** (n)—B: A shade of difference; a fine or subtle variation; as in color, tone, or meaning; a gradation.
In this book we discuss at times the nuances of meaning between synonyms.

As we listened to the symphony, we were intrigued by the melodic nuances.

The twilight sky exhibited subdued nuances of grays and blues.

From the Old French nuer, "to shade."

7. GRIMACE (n)—B: A wry face; deliberate or involuntary distortion of the features expressing annoyance, disapproval, pain, displeasure.

    When he heard the bad news, he grimaced, turning white.
    Grimacing, the small boy picked up the bat and faced the pitcher.
    From the Spanish grimazo, "panic, fear."

8. COMMUTE (v)—B: To exchange; interchange; reduce as a penalty.

    Their thoughts were commuted into action.
    At long last, as in the Biblical metaphor of spears being beaten into plowshares, hate was commuted into love.

    There are several related common meanings to this word in addition to the above definition.
    For example, in the phrase "the death penalty was commuted to a life sentence," the meaning is an exchange for something less severe. And then, of course, anyone who travels to and from work in a car, bus, or train is well acquainted with the word, for he commutes from home to his office.

    From Latin commutare, "to alter."

9. NEMESIS (n)—B: An act or effect of retribution or vengeance; an unusually tenacious or fearsome opponent; source of harm or ruin.

    The hockey player Bobby Hull is the nemesis of many goalies.
    He went far in business, but his insufferable sense of self-righteousness was finally his nemesis.
    This word comes from the Greeks. Their goddess
Nemesis was the goddess of retribution. She punished pretentiousness and extraordinary crimes with her sword, her scourge, and her swift avenging wings. We use the word now in the sense of "an agent of retribution."

10. IMPROMPTU (adj)—C: Offhand; made, done or uttered on the spur of the moment; unpremeditated; improvised; extemporaneous. The broad meaning of this word and its synonyms is a thing done at the moment without preparation. The nuance of meaning of impromptu, however, is something done hastily in response to a demand.

After dinner he was asked to speak, and his impromptu talk was witty and inspiring.

She had not anticipated guests, but her impromptu dinner was an unexpected success.

From the Latin in promptu, "in readiness, at hand."

11. APATHY (n)—C: Listlessness, unconcern; indifference or lack of interest; insensibility.

Again considering nuances of meaning, if apathy is used with the sense of indifference, it is to describe a temporary lack of interest caused by depression, sorrow, despair, etc. Insensibility as a synonym connotes self-absorption or a callous lack of feeling or sympathy. Unconcern suggests a lack of an appropriate emotional response or an unwillingness to become personally involved.

There was a certain apathy in his nature, which led him to let events take their own course. (Listlessness, unconcern)

His apathy almost reached the point of numbness. (Indifference)

He was totally apathetic (adj) to the miserable condition of the poor who surrounded him. (Insensibility)

From the Greek apatheia, from ἀ- without and πάθος, suffering.

12. AVERSION (n)—A: Intense dislike; antipathy; repugnance, with a strong desire to avoid. Though abhorrence is also
considered a synonym, it is actually a stronger word, indicating fear as well as loathing.

I have an especial aversion to crowded New York subways in the summer.

The older woman was not at all averse (adj) to accepting the Boy Scout's help.

From the Old French avertir, from Latin avertere, "to turn aside."

13. MARTINET (n)—A strict disciplinarian; one who demands rigid adherence to rules, etc.

The captain was a martinet, and his company became the outstanding drill company in the division.

"The sales manager is a martinet," she complained, "and I won't work for him."

This word comes from the name of Jean Martinet, a French general who built up the first regular army in Europe during the reign of Louis XIV. This general contributed nothing to military sciences or tactics but his precise and persistent system of drill. He trained his men to fight as a unit in battle.

14. CAJOLE (v)—B to wheedle; coax or persuade with flattery or other enticement; inveigle. If you intend to imply wheedling, the suggestion here is influencing by smooth, flattering, beguiling words or acts. coax is a gentler means of persuasion, by flattery, tact, etc. Inveigle, on the other hand, implies deluding, misleading by guile, flattery, etc. In contrast to its synonyms, cajole is more of an artful persuasion or enticement.

The mother knew how to cajole the child into eating.

Some forms of advertising are persuasive, cajoling, and commanding.

From the French cajoler, "to coax." The ultimate origin is uncertain.

15. OVERT (adj)—A open to view or knowledge; observable; manifest; concealed.

When that country attacked it was an act of overt hostility.
The threat was made overtly, and there was no mistaking it.
From Old French, ouvrir, "to open."

16. PENURIOUS (adj)—B: Stingy; miserly; parsimonious; sparing in the use of money. The word suggests that one is so niggardly as to either actually exist in extreme poverty or to at least give that impression.

Do you recall that penurious old man who, though having a large sum of money, died of starvation in a shack? He confused caution with noninvolvement and frugality with penury (n).
From the Latin penuria, "want, need."

17. BOYCOTT (n)—C: To engage in a concerted refusal to deal with, so as to punish or coerce.

In retaliation, the group boycotted the store, nearly driving it out of business.

Captain Charles Cunningham Boycott was land agent for the estates of the Earl of Erne in County Mayo, Ireland. When the captain raised the rents in the autumn of 1880 the tenants turned on him, under the sponsorship of the Irish Land League. Local shops would sell him nothing; organized marauders destroyed his property and blocked his mail and food supplies. In the end, the captain was glad to flee to England with his life. The occasion was front page news; and the word boycott immediately became a part of our language.

18. ENNUUI (n)—D: Boredom; feeling of listless weariness and vague discontent resulting from inactivity or lack of interest. This feeling is often physical as well as mental.

Glutted with material things and living like a queen, wanting nothing, she suffered from extreme ennui.
The sloth climbs a tree with the same ennui and disdain for quickened movement that it displays toward everything in life.
19. **VAGARY (n)**—D; Caprice; whim; wild fancy. The word connotes an erratic, irrational, extravagant, and usually irresponsible notion.

The vagaries of the hippies upset the community.
We were at the mercy of the vagaries of the winter weather.
Sometimes he wondered how he survived the vagaries of Washington politics.
From the Latin *vagari*, "to wander, stroll about."

20. **MÉLANGE (n)**—A; Mixture; medley; a miscellaneous combination, often of incongruous parts.

The orchestra played a pleasing mélange of old and new tunes.
The exhibition was a curious mélange of avant garde and traditional paintings.
Their behavior was a mélange of hysteria and good sense.
From the French *mélange*, "mixture."

**PART II**

You have just completed a list of twenty words. Can you, without referring to them, fit the proper words into the following sentences?

1. When I worked in New York, it was necessary for me to c__________ to work.

2. Losing his temper on the tennis court was such a p__________ thing to do.

3. She tried to lose weight, but her sweet tooth was her n__________.

4. He did not want to go, but she c__________ him into it.

5. The older woman had an intense a__________ to cats.
6. With a c__________ that was unusual, he shoveled off the walks in a few moments.

7. Arnold Palmer g__________ when he saw that his ball had landed in the rough.

8. The curious m__________ of sweet and sour pork the Chinese enjoy so much, was offered.

9. He had been everywhere and done nearly everything. Nothing interested him now, and he was sunk in a state of e__________.

10. She e__________ a gasp of joy. "Oh, how lovely!"

11. Since the school principal was a m__________, everything was done at a precise time and in a certain way.

12. This was no hidden threat, but rather an o__________ and direct warning.

13. The new play was such a success that the theater's c__________ were overflowing with money.

14. In a legal contract, it is important to so phrase an important clause as to get the exact n__________ of meaning.

15. That one mistake had thrown his political reputation into d__________.

16. The wild, unrealistic scheme was typical of the man's v__________.

17. Caught by surprise, the i__________ performance he gave was amazingly good.

18. The p__________ old beggar hoarded every cent he ever begged, borrowed, or stole.

19. We were worried, for he had sunk into a state of a__________ where nothing at all seemed to interest him.
20. Some Americans ______ French stores in retaliation for de Gaulle's actions against the dollar.

Answers: 1-commute; 2-puerile; 3-nemesis; 4-cajoled; 5-aversion; 6-CELERITY; 7-grimaced; 8-mélange; 9-ennui; 10-emitted; 11-marin- net; 12-overt; 13-coffers; 14-nuance; 15-disrepute; 16-vagaries; 17-impromptu; 18-pennurious; 19-apathy; 20-boycotted.

PART III

Quickly now, run down the following list, answering the questions yes or no. You should be able to do this in a minute and a half.

1. Disrepute has to do with one's good reputation.
   yes no

2. Slowness is an antonym of celerity.
   yes no

3. Would it be correct to say that there could be nuances of harmony?
   yes no

4. Commute and interchanged are synonyms.
   yes no

5. Would it be correct to say, "the fire emitted heat and smoke"?
   yes no

6. An impromptu speech is one carefully prepared.
   yes no

7. Are penurious and frugal synonyms?
   yes no

8. A coffer is a kind of strongbox.
   yes no

9. Puerile could mean weak or silly.
   yes no

10. Vagary could be said to be a departure from the normal and expected.
    yes no

11. Grimace and smile are alike.
    yes no

12. Mélange and mixture could be used interchangeably.
    yes no

13. Nemesis is a source of ruin or harm.
    yes no
14. If one has an aversion to a thing, he is partial to it.

15. Overt means hidden or concealed.

16. If you are cajoled into doing something, you are "persuaded" by force and threats.

17. In the broad sense, are ennui and boredom similar in meaning?

18. To boycott a store is to support it.

19. Apathy and enthusiasm are antonyms.

20. Martinet comes from the name of a French general.

Answers: 1-yes; 2-yes; 3-yes; 4-yes; 5-yes; 6-no; 7-no; 8-yes; 9-yes; 10-yes; 11-no; 12-yes; 13-yes; 14-no; 15-no; 16-no; 17-yes; 18-no; 19-yes; 20-yes.

For a change of pace, select three synonyms from this chapter and make out cards for them, looking up the definitions in the dictionary.
FIFTEEN

There are rich finds in the dictionary that unfortunately most people do not bother digging out. The only time we turn to it, usually in a hurry, is when we want to catch the general meaning of a word. This is, of course, its basic function. Yet there is much more to these reference books. The major dictionaries are virtually a compendium of the English language and sometimes more. Let's highlight three well-known dictionaries to illustrate.

When you open the Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary, just within the covers there is a simple pronunciation key on the left hand page. On the right side is a sample page of actual words as they appear in the dictionary containing a detailed explanation of entries so that the reader will understand how to get the most from a definition. The preface that follows forms an interesting background of what might be called the personality of this particular dictionary.

There is a concise, easily read, and most edifying history of the English language that is basic to a full understanding of our cherished linguistic heritage. Somewhat further on is an article discussing regional variations of American pronunciation. Another one follows on Canadian English. A careful and helpful plan of the dictionary is then given.

Most of the time we do not need an unabridged dictionary.
In this desk-size one, only the most abstruse and technical words are omitted. It has the added advantage of defining more informal words (loosely called slang, some of which may eventually become standard English) than the following very large ones.

*Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary* is an unabridged delight. Anyone using the name *Webster* can be sure not to confuse other "Webster" dictionaries with this one.

The almost incredibly detailed explanatory notes might at first seem unnecessary, but from this meticulous exposition you can glean certain facts which are not commonly known. There is information, for example, about etymology explaining to what extent words are traced to their origins. You will learn, for instance, that a word is considered *obsolete* in standard English if it has not been used since 1755 or *archaic* if, since that date, it is used only sporadically or in special contexts. There is a plethora of odds and ends of information that anyone who enjoys words will relish.

There is an entire section on grammar, including spelling plus a detailed guide to pronunciation, that will be too intricate and detailed for any but the scholar. There is also a section on how to address correspondence to various persons in special categories, such as government, church, and school. One section that appeared in the former edition and is no longer included—which, frankly, I miss—is the one having to do with the names and dates of famous people.

The *Random House Dictionary of the English Language* has, in addition to most of the preceding, a simplified chart tracing the origins of the various branches of language down to our own day. It has a list of commonly used signs and symbols of everything from *astronomy*, *space*, and *time* through *religion*. There is a directory of colleges and universities, a concise dictionary of French, Spanish, Italian, and German, a basic manual of style, and a most valuable section on major reference works. Our constitution is included as is the Charter of the United Nations. A fairly comprehensive Atlas also forms a part of the book.

I have not discussed the incomparable *The Oxford English*
Dictionary which makes up twelve big volumes, because only one who works with words consistently would own a set. But this is the reference work for words. It was first published in 1928 and had taken 70 years to create.

Funk & Wagnalls has also recently published a Modern Guide to Synonyms and Related Words. This is certainly one of the clearest, most readable and easiest books to use of its kind. It has been compiled under the direction of S. I. Haya-kawa, an internationally known figure in the world of language.

So take the time to peruse the various parts of the dictionary. It is often as entertaining to read as the catalogs from the large mail order houses and much more instructive.

PART I

Test (The paired words below, sufficiently similar in form to be confusing, are widely different in meaning. Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 174)


Answers

1. CLIQUE (n) — C: An exclusive or clannish set; a narrow coterie; circle; set. This word and its synonyms denote a group of persons having a common interest. With clique, however, this interest is selfish or hostile to the larger group. It is curious to note that coterie is a friendlier word suggesting con-
geniality. *Circle*, as may be obvious, centers upon a person or activity, whereas *set* infers a large and loosely bound group, as "the jet set."

The ruling clique was too blind to face the issues.
Within the student body, there were several cliques.
From the fifteenth century French clique, "to click, clack, clap."

2. **CLAQUE** *(n)*—Hired applauders in a theater; any group of persons who give praise out of self-interest.

The packed galleries included a professional claqué.
From the French claquer, "to clack, clack, clap."

3. **CAROUSEL** *(n)*—A merry-go-round.

The steady music coming from the gaily painted caroused and the sounds of laughing children riding on it are familiar heralds of spring.
From the Italian carosello, "a military tournament or pageant."

4. **CAROUSAL** *(n)*—A riotous or boisterous drinking party; a jovial feast or banquet. (Notice the difference in spelling between carousal and carousel.)

*This was not an ordinary party; this was a carousal.*

When we pronounce the word *carousal* we are coming as near as we can to saying *gar aus* which is the German word for "completely finished." When a celestial is drinking in a tavern and his glass is *gar aus*, or "completely finished," it is empty, and if it is *gar aus* too often he is starting to carouse.

5. **DISCREET** *(adj)*—Prudent and tactful, especially in dealing with others; careful not to do or say the wrong thing; circumspect.

The questions reporters ask the President are not always discreet.

John was discreet enough not to ask for the car keys until his father seemed in a better humor.
Use discretion *(n)* in choosing your friends.
From the Late Latin *discretus*, from *discernere*, "to discern."

6. DISCRETE (adj) — A: Separate and distinct; detached; disconnected.

The states retain some functions discrete from the federal government. Light is thought to be made up of discrete bullet-like units. **Discrete** and **discreet** are known as "doublets." In philology, a *doublet* is one of two words in the same language, derived from the same original word. At some point the original Latin word *discretus* passed into other languages and so acquired different meanings. Eventually the words turned up in English as we know them today, with their particular meanings. Perhaps it is easier to think of them as twins who were separated at an early age and lived in different parts of the world, having discrete experiences. Each of them, of course, will have acquired a somewhat different approach to life.

7. INVOKE (v) — A: To implore; call upon for aid, support, protection.

Because of the heavy snow storm, the city had to invoke emergency measures. The tribe invoked their gods to send rain. At the beginning of the ceremony, the minister was asked to give the invocation. *(A prayer of aid.)* From the Latin *invocare*, "to call upon."

8. EVOKE (v) — D: To summon or call forth memories, feelings, etc.; elicit or produce a response or reaction as an emotion or interest; to summon up spirits or other supernatural beings. The implication of this word is of some powerful force that will arouse a response.

Visiting the town in which he grew up evoked nostalgic recollections. The love the boy poured out on his dog evoked a reciprocal response in the pet.
King Saul evoked the spirit of Elijah.
From the Latin evocare, "to call forth."

9. APPRISE (v) — C: To inform; give notice of; acquaint; advise a person of something.
He quickly apprised the police officer of the facts.
Apprising his customer of the overall situation in the market, the stockbroker suggested a particular bond for him to buy.
From the Latin apprehendere, "to learn."

10. APPRAISE (v) — D: Evaluate; to set a price or value on; to estimate as to quality, size, weight, etc. In addition to evaluate, synonyms are value, assess, assay, rate.
The jeweler carefully appraised the diamond.
The estate was appraised at less than most people had thought it would be.
 Probably from the Old French preiser into the Middle English preisen, from which developed our word, "to praise." It is likely that appraise was formed by the addition of ap from the Latin ad, "to."

11. FICTITIOUS (adj) — A: Imaginary; not corresponding to actual fact; artificially invented; false; not genuine. The most common synonyms are legendary, mythical, and apocryphal.
He gave a fictitious address.
The investors were misled by entries showing fictitious assets.
From Latin factitius from finge re, "to shape."

12. FACTITIOUS (adj) — C: Artificial or simulated; synthetic; devised or made up for a particular occasion or purpose. It is not natural or spontaneous. The word is generally related to intangible situations, emotions, relations, etc., that do not occur naturally but have been "made up" or manufactured by a person or persons.
The factitious enthusiasm that had greeted the arrival of the tyrant soon died away.
Unfortunately the commander had received a factitious report on the strength of the army.
From the Latin *factitious*, "made by art," from *facere*, "to make."

13. **ALLUDE** (v)—C: To refer to indirectly, by some hint, or in a roundabout way.

*I was told never to look at, or to allude to his excessively large feet, for he was extremely sensitive about this abnormality.*

*He often alluded to what he thought was his genius.*

*In his speech he made several allusions (n) to the technique of the novelist, William Golding.*

From the Latin *alludere*, "to play with, joke."

14. **ELUDE** (v)—B: To evade; avoid; escape by trickery, cleverness, or dexterity. The word may also be used when a baffling or complicated procedure does not permit a thing or idea to be understood.

*He was quick to elude his pursuers.*

*She was especially adept at eluding her responsibilities.*

*The elusive (adj) forward darted up the rink through the other team’s defense and shot a goal.*

*The solution to this problem eludes me.*

From the Latin *eludere*, "to finish playing."

15. **COMPLACENT** (adj)—C: Pertaining to a sense of well being and uncritical self-satisfaction.

*Complacent and relaxed, after the large dinner, he sat in the chair near the window gazing out at his large farm.*

*Even though he had finally become president of the company, no one could ever accuse him of complacency (n).*

From the Latin *complacere*, "to be very pleasing."

16. **COMPLAISANT** (adj)—D: Agreeable and willing to please; courteous; obliging; affable; polite.
The occasional interludes of relaxation were under his complaisant management.
The headwaiter was most complaisant, and we enjoyed a delectable meal.
A doublet of complacent.

17. TURBID (adj)—Bi: Muddy; disturbed; having the sediment stirred up; cloudy; roiled.
- On the East River the turbid waters were catching the mellow light of the summer evening.
- El Greco often painted turbid, sooting skies.
- From the Latin turbidus, from turbare, “to trouble.”

18. TURGID (adj)—Bi: Swollen; inflated. In a figurative sense, this can mean inflated or bombastic language, literary style, etc. It is something overblown or pompous.
- The book was a turgid, smug, and repetitious recital of his apparent heroic achievements.
- His speeches were always turgid and impossibly long-winded.
- From the Latin turgidus, from turgere, “to swell.”

19. PRESumptive (adj)—A: Giving grounds for a well-founded opinion or belief; creating an assurance; affording grounds for taking something for granted without actual proof.
- The evidence was of a presumptive type and not yet based on ascertained facts.
- There was presumptive evidence of the prisoner’s guilt, but no proof.
- From the Latin praevenient, from praehere, “to take for granted.”

20. PRESUMPTUOUS (adj)—A: Offensively bold; unduly confident; venturesome; overbold; daring and forward; audacious.
- The word nearly always has the connotation of overconfidence together with a sense of boldness.
- He was a most disagreeable young man; arrogant, and presumptuous.
When the quarterback threw the long pass instead of kicking, it was the most presumptuous act of his sports career.

From the Latin præsumptiosus, "presumptuous."

YOUR SCORE _____

PART II

discrete carousel
claque evoke
invoke fictitious
complaisant elude
appraise presumptuous
clique turbid
carousel allude
discreet complacent
apprise presumptive
factitious turgid

Which of the above words might be described by the following sentences?

1. Help is needed, and it is necessary to implore someone to come to their aid. _________

2. When something happens, you like to be informed, to be advised of the activity. _________

3. Whatever the statement, it is purely imaginary and certainly does not agree with the actual facts. It is artificially invented. _________

4. The word being described is one that carries the meaning of evading or of avoiding, usually by cleverness. _________

5. This adjective is one that suggests something is muddy, cloudy, or stirred up. _________
6. It is a circle of or a set of friends having a common interest, usually a selfish one.

7. This adjective describes things, events, etc., as being separate, distinct, and not at all connected.

8. The verb means the summoning up or the producing of a response such as an emotion or passion.

9. This adjective indicates intangible situations or relations that do not occur naturally, but have been "made up."

10. The verb is one suggesting a reference to something by a hint or indirectly.

11. He is a person who is agreeable and willing to please.

12. They are hired applauders in a theater.

13. A word that depicts a person as being careful not to do or say the wrong thing.

14. You want an expert to set a price on or to evaluate an antique you have in your attic.

15. Your neighbor might be described as one who is completely self-satisfied about his way of life.

16. The author cannot write simply but consistently writes in a pompous and overblown style.

17. This adjective implies that someone is extremely confident of himself and is bold to the point of being offensive.

18. It is the familiar and ever enjoyable merry-go-round.
19. It is a noisy and boisterous drinking party. 

20. This adjective creates an assurance that something may be taken for granted without actual proof.

Answers: 1-invoke; 2-apprised; 3-factitious; 4-clade; 5-turbid; 6-clique; 7-discrete; 8-evoke; 9-factitious; 10-allude; 11-complacent; 12-claque; 13-discreet; 14-appraise; 15-complacent; 16-turgid; 17-presumptuous; 18-carousal; 19-carousal; 20-presumptive.

PART III

Is each italicized word used correctly? If not, replace it with what you consider to be the correct one.

1. Robert handled the difficult situation in such a discrete way.

2. No matter how often she read the book it invoked memories that made her weep.

3. When we rode the carousel, we felt like children again.

4. Will you apprise me immediately of exactly what happened?

5. Each word seemed to be discreet and utterly unrelated to the preceding one.

6. What I was going to say has completely alluded me now.

7. He was an old style senator, filled with turgid rhetoric.

8. After a heavy rain, the streams are apt to be turbid with mud and debris.

9. You are offering only presumptuous evidence that we cannot accept. Can you prove what you state?

10. In Russia, a relatively small claque runs that vast country.

11. Unexpectedly the party turned into a carousal, and we did not get home until morning.

12. It was a disaster, and the natives evoked help from the local gods.
13. I must tell you that the anecdote is purely fictitious.

14. The young man was energetically complacent, rushing about, trying to make us as comfortable as possible.

15. “Follow me and I will lead you to victory,” the man shouted presumptively, pushing the officers aside.

16. The hired clique shouted, whistled, and stamped their feet when she finished singing the lilting aria.

17. We were not sure what the boat might sell for and asked a boatyard owner to appraise it for us.

18. With a sly, knowing look, he eluded to our having been part of the group.

19. How can he be so complaisant about his situation when he knows that the enemy is better equipped than his own motley group.

20. The excitement and gaiety of a New Year’s Eve party are often fictitious responses to an artificial atmosphere.

Answers: 1-discreet; 2-evoked; 3-carousel; 4-appraise; 5-discreet; 6-eluded; 7-surgid; 8-turbid; 9-presumptive; 10-clique; 11-carousel; 12-invoked; 13-fictitious; 14-complaisant; 15-presumptuous; 16-claque; 17-appraise; 18-alluded; 19-complacent; 20-fictitious.

It has been my hope that in some way this book might have helped to engender in you an enthusiasm for these words of ours that are worth so much and yet cost so little.

If you have suggestions you would like to offer, or questions to which you have difficulty finding the answers, I would be more than happy to hear from you. Write to me in care of the publishers.
FOURTH REFRESHER TEST

This is your final refresher test. Think carefully about the choices given in each question. Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word. Answers are on page 186.


9. MARTINET (mar ti net')—A: strict disciplinarian. B: brag­
gart. C: one who makes a great sacrifice for a principle.
D: puppet.
10. ENNUI (ahn' wē)—A: laziness. B: delay. C: worldly wis­
dom. D: boredom.
11. CAROUSAL (ka rouz' āl)—A: a fight. B: sounding of
D: bless.
13. FACTITIOUS (fak tish' us)—A: humorous. B: literal and
exact. C: artificial. D: given to dissension.
14. PRESumptive (prē züm' tiv)—A: giving grounds for an
opinion or belief. B: seeking admiration. C: taking undue
liberties. D: garish and gaudy.
15. PUNITIVE (pu' nī tiv)—A: pertaining to punishment. B:
D: dispute.
17. SUPERVENE (sō' vən')—A: to follow closely upon.
18. BANDY (ban' dé)—A: to tease. B: dress up. C: wave.
D: give and take.
19. SANCTIFY (sānk'tī fī)—A: to declare. B: defile. C: over­
state. D: make holy.
20. STULTIFY (stūl' tī fī)—A: to make proud. B: confuse the
issue. C: delay stubbornly. D: cause to be ineffectual.

Answers: 1-loud; 2-comradeship; 3-spitefully hateful; 4-misuse
of words; 5-limited; 6-pleasure-seeking; 7-utter; 8-wry face; 9-
strict disciplinarian; 10-boredom; 11-drunken revel; 12-implore;
13-artificial; 14-giving grounds for an opinion or belief; 15-per­taining to punishment; 16-to increase; 17-to follow closely upon;
18-give and take; 19-make holy; 20-cause to be ineffectual.
The numbers at the bottom of the graph refer to the chapters. After taking the test, place an X in the appropriate box opposite the number to the left which indicates the number of words you have correct.

The tests are not all of the same degree of difficulty, and so your score level may vary. You will, however, receive a fairly accurate impression of the current status of your word power.

*Do not enter results of the refresher tests.*
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| certify | chauvinism | choreography | circumlocution | claue | clarify | clique | codify | coffer | commiserate | commute | complacent | complaisant | complicity | comport | compunction | concomitant | conduit | contrive | contumely | copious | coup | covert | credulous | cull | curmudgeon | debacle | decimate | deem | deify | deign | digress | dilettante | discreet | discrete | disputations | disrepute | dissertation | diverge | divertissement |
|---------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|
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| certify | chauvinism | choreography | circumlocution | claue | clarify | clique | codify | coffer | commiserate | commute | complacent | complaisant | complicity | comport | compunction | concomitant | conduit | contrive | contumely | copious | coup | covert | credulous | cull | curmudgeon | debacle | decimate | deem | deify | deign | digress | dilettante | discreet | discrete | disputations | disrepute | dissertation | diverge | divertissement |
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