

Lesson 14

146. eclectic — 160. enigma

146. **ec-lec-tic** *adjective and noun* ě-klĕk'-tĭk
[eklektikos (Greek), "picked out"; from *ek* (Greek), "out of" + *legein* (Greek), "choose"]

Definition:

- a. (*adjective*) Choosing what seems best from various sources.
Because of her **eclectic** teaching methods and "pick-and-choose" testing techniques, students enjoy Miss Curry's classes.
- b. (*noun*) One whose opinions and beliefs are drawn from various sources.
In a sense, St. Thomas Aquinas was an **eclectic** because he attempted to reconcile ancient Greek philosophy with Christian theology.

Phrases: an eclectic philosopher, an eclectic style of architecture

Related Form: (*noun*) eclecticism

Synonyms: (*adjectives*) selective, synthesized

Antonyms: (*adjectives*) uniform, monolithic

Related Phrase: all of a piece

147. **ef-fete** *adjective* ě-fĕt' or ĭ-fĕt'
[effetus (Latin), "worn out by childbearing"; from *ex* (Latin), "out" + *fetus* (Latin), "offspring"]

Definition: Worn out or exhausted; marked by weakness, self-indulgence or decadence.

By late imperial times, centuries of soft living had turned the once hardy Roman people into an **effete** and indolent race.

Phrases: an effete snob, an effete aristocrat, an effete society

Related Form: (*noun*) effeteness

Usage Note:

When used of males, the word *effete* often carries with it a sense of effeminacy or unmanliness.

Synonyms: (*adjectives*) spent, burned-out; decadent; barren, sterile

Antonyms: (*adjectives*) vigorous, energetic, dynamic; productive, fertile, flourishing, prolific

Edward Gibbon

The English historian Edward Gibbon (1737–1794) was the author of the multivolume *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, a monumental study of the material decay and moral decline that brought about the collapse of a great civilization and turned a vigorous people into an effete and indolent race. The work, which begins with events in the second century A.D., covers almost 1300 years of history. Despite harsh criticism from some quarters, the book won Gibbon immediate acclaim as a historian and is still one of the most widely read historical studies.



148. **ef-fi-ca-cious** *adjective* ěf-ə-kā'-shəs
[*efficax, efficacis* (Latin), "effective"; from *ex* (Latin), "out" + *facere, factus* (Latin), "do"]

Definition: Capable of producing the desired effect.

After-school detention seems to be an **efficacious** solution to the problem of student lateness.

Related Forms: (*nouns*) efficacy, efficaciousness; (*adverb*) efficaciously

Synonyms: (*adjectives*) effective, effectual, efficient, powerful, potent

Antonyms: (*adjectives*) ineffective, ineffectual, inefficient, unserviceable, useless, inadequate

149. **ef-fron-ter-y** *noun* ě-frün'-tə-rē
[*effronterie* (French), "shamelessness"; from *effrons, effrontis* (Latin), "barefaced"; from *ex* (Latin), "out" + *frons, frontis* (Latin), "forehead"]

Definition: Shameless boldness.

"You mean to tell me," I exclaimed in surprise, "that you had the **effrontery** to ask for a raise when your productivity has really fallen off lately?"

Synonyms: (*nouns*) audacity, impertinence, temerity, gall, nerve, cheek, chutzpah, presumption

Antonyms: (*nouns*) timidity, shyness, meekness, modesty, diffidence

Related Phrase: barefaced audacity

150. **e-lic-it** verb ĭ-līs'-īt

[*elicere*, *elicitus* (Latin), "draw out"; from *ex* (Latin), "out of" + *lacere* (Latin), "draw"]

Definition: To draw out or call forth.

I was surprised that the mayor's appeal for help did not **elicit** more of a response than it did.

Occasionally, a teacher's question will **elicit** only a blank stare from the entire class.

Phrases: elicit a reaction, elicit the truth

Usage Note:

Do not confuse *elicit* with the adjective *illicit*, meaning "unlawful."

Synonyms: (*verbs*) evoke, prompt, extract, educe, produce

151. **e-lite** noun and adjective ĭ-lēt' or ā-lēt'

[*elite* (French), "choice"; from *ex* (Latin), "out" + *legere*, *lectus* (Latin), "pick"]

Definition:

a. (*noun*) A highly select group of superior individuals.

Membership in the National Honor Society indicates that a young person belongs to this country's academic **elite**.

b. (*adjective*) Select; superior.

Every army has one or two **elite** forces trained to handle especially difficult or dangerous assignments.

Related Forms: (*noun*) elitism; (*adjective*) elitist

A group of aristocrats, the elite of French society, attending a reception at Versailles during the reign of Napoleon III (1852–1870).



Usage Note:

Though *elite* is usually a favorable word, *elitist* and *elitism* are definitely not. These two words suggest undue pride in belonging to some supposedly superior group. They also imply an underlying belief in the domination of society by the people on top. Thus, they indicate attitudes that are usually considered antidemocratic and antilibertarian. For this reason, these words are distinctly pejorative in tone.

Synonyms: (nouns) privileged class, privileged few, aristocracy, nobility, upper crust, cream of the crop, crème de la crème; (adjectives) aristocratic, choice, exclusive, first-class, top-notch, top-drawer, A-one

Antonyms: (nouns) masses, common herd, proletariat, hoi polloi, rank and file, rabble, riffraff, dregs of society; (adjective) proletarian

152. **e-ma-ci-at-ed** adjective ē-mā'-shē-āt-īd

[e (Latin), "completely" + *maciare*, *maciatus* (Latin), "make lean"; from *macies* (Latin), "leanness"]

Definition: Wasted or reduced by starvation, disease, or the like.

The hollow eyes and shrunken cheeks of the **emaciated** children in the magazine ad were haunting reminders of our role in the fight against world hunger.

Nothing causes a checking account to look more **emaciated** than paying all the monthly bills.

Related Form: (noun) emaciation; (verb) emaciate

Synonyms: (adjectives) gaunt, haggard, shriveled, withered, skeletal, undernourished

Antonyms: (adjectives) fat, chubby, plump, corpulent, obese

153. **em-a-nate** verb ĕm'-ə-nāt

[ex (Latin), "out" + *manare*, *manatus* (Latin), "flow"]

Definition:

a. To flow out of.

When Coach Casey gives his pregame pep talk, the enthusiasm that **emanates** from him sparks the whole team.

b. To send forth.

Some radioactive substances can **emanate** dangerous radiation for many years.

Related Form: (noun) emanation

Synonyms: (verbs) flow from, proceed from, spring, originate, emerge; emit, project, give off, issue

Antonyms: (verbs) soak up, absorb, draw in, attract

154. **em-bel-lish** *verb* ěm-bĕl'-ĭsh
[*embellir* (Old French), "beautify"; from *en* (Latin), "causing" + *bellus* (Latin), "beautiful"]

Definition: To decorate or enhance.

There is rarely a good reason to **embellish** the truth.

Medieval monks **embellished** the pages of the manuscripts they copied with all sorts of beautifully colored drawings called *illuminations*.

Related Form: (*noun*) embellishment

Usage Note:

Embellish is often used in the sense of adding fictitious details to a story or statement. When used in this way, the word is virtually a synonym of *fabricate* (Word 181). Thus, a story that has been *embellished* may be partially or totally untrue.

Synonyms: (*verbs*) adorn, dress up, spruce up, gussy up, garnish

Antonyms: (*verbs*) mar, deface, disfigure

155. **em-i-nent** *adjective* ěm'-ĕ-nĕnt
[*eminens, eminentis* (Latin), "lofty"; from *ex* (Latin), "out" + *minere* (Latin), "stand; project"]

Definition:

a. High in rank; distinguished.

Your best friend's father may be an **eminent** neurosurgeon.

Who would have suspected that such a soft-spoken, retiring woman was actually an **eminent** scientist with an international reputation?

b. Outstanding; conspicuous.

Your mother may treat all her children with **eminent** fairness.

Tact and graciousness may be **eminent** among the sterling qualities you possess.

Related Forms: (*noun*) eminence; (*adverb*) eminently

Usage Notes:

a. The legal expression *eminent domain* indicates the right of a government to take over private property for public use (after paying a reasonable compensation for it, of course).

b. Do not confuse *eminent* with *imminent*, which means "threatening" or "impending."

c. *Your Eminence* is the proper phrase to employ when addressing a cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church.

Synonyms: (*adjectives*) prominent, renowned, illustrious; notable, great, noteworthy; remarkable, marked

Antonyms: (*adjectives*) obscure, lowly, undistinguished; unremarkable

156. **em-pa-thy** *noun* ěm'-pə-thē
[*empathia* (Greek), "passion"; from *en* (Greek), "causing" + *pathos* (Greek), "suffering"]

Definition: A sympathetic understanding of, or identification with, the feelings, thoughts, and attitudes of someone or something else.

Ellen's volunteer work at the nursing home is motivated, not by a detached sense of duty, but by a genuine **empathy** for those who are lonely.

So strong is my **empathy** with the poems of Robert Frost that I often feel as though I could have written them myself.

Related Forms: (*adjectives*) empathic, empathetic; (*verb*) empathize

Synonyms: (*nouns*) sympathy, compassion

Antonyms: (*nouns*) insensitivity, callousness

Related Phrases: lack of understanding, lack of appreciation

157. **em-u-late** *verb* ěm'-yə-lāt
[*aemulari*, *aemulatus* (Latin), "vie with, strive to be equal; be envious"]

Definition: To try to equal or excel the excellence of.

The old fable tells us to **emulate** the industry of the ant, so that we don't wind up empty-handed beggars like the improvident grasshopper.

Related Forms: (*nouns*) emulation, emulator

Synonyms: (*verbs*) imitate, match, rival, follow, mirror, take after

Related Phrases: follow in the footsteps of, follow the example of, model one's behavior on

158. **en-clave** *noun* ěn'-klāv' or än'-klāv
[*enclave* (Old French), "enclosure"; from *in* (Latin), "in" + *clavis* (Latin), "key"]

Definition:

a. A country or area lying wholly within the boundaries of another country or area.

Though a completely independent state, Vatican City is no more than a tiny **enclave** in the heart of the great Italian capital city of Rome.

b. A separate group or community within a larger group or community.

"All of us had dedicated our lives to the arts," I recalled. "For that reason, we thought of ourselves as an **enclave** of culture in a society concerned only with making money and having fun."

Synonyms: (*nouns*) enclosure, precinct

159. **en-dem-ic** *adjective* ěn-děm'-ĭk

[*endémique* (French), "endemic"; from *endem(i)os* (Greek), "dwelling in a place"; from *en* (Greek), "in" + *demos* (Greek), "people"]

Definition: Peculiar to a particular locality or group of people.

Lemurs are primates that are **endemic** to the island of Madagascar, which is located off the coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean.

Phrases: an endemic plant or animal, an endemic disorder

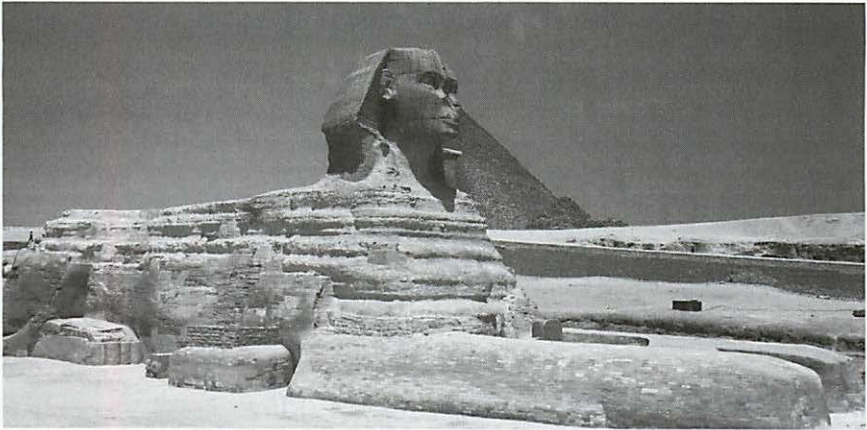
Related Forms: (*adjectives*) *endemical*

Usage Note:

Though the use of *endemic* is normally restricted to diseases and plant or animal life, the word may occasionally be used figuratively in other contexts. For example, a problem may be said to be endemic to a particular profession, or racism endemic to a particular area or group.

Synonyms: (*adjectives*) *indigenous, native*

Antonyms: (*adjectives*) *alien, extraneous, foreign*



An Enigmatic Creature

In classical mythology, the sphinx was a monster having the head of a woman, the body of a lion, and the wings of an eagle. This odd creature was said to crouch on a block of stone outside the Greek city Thebes, where she confronted travelers with a riddle intended to stump them. The traveler who could not answer the riddle was killed. When Oedipus, a famous figure in Greek mythology, solved the riddle, the sphinx promptly killed herself. The ancient Egyptians constructed a colossal figure of a recumbent sphinx near the pyramids of Giza (*see photo*).

Our modern word *sphinx* derives from this creature out of Greek myth. Today, the word is sometimes used to indicate a person who habitually asks unsolvable riddles, is engaged in mysterious actions, always wears an enigmatic facial expression (the proverbial poker face), or deliberately answers questions evasively.

160. **e-nig-ma** *noun* ĭ-nĭg'-mə
[*ainigma* (Greek), "riddle"; from *ainos* (Greek), "tale; story"]

Definition:

- a. An intentionally obscure statement; a riddle.
Sometimes crossword-puzzle clues contain puns, **enigmas**, and other kinds of brainteasers, rather than straightforward hints to the words that are wanted.
- b. Someone or something that is puzzling or mysterious.
Her consistently strange and unpredictable behavior has caused many people to regard her as a complete **enigma**.
The unexpected death of a young person is one of life's most perplexing **enigmas**, especially for those who are the same age as the deceased.

Related Forms: (*adjectives*) enigmatic, enigmatical

Synonyms: (*nouns*) mystery, puzzle, conundrum, dilemma, brainteaser, mind boggler

Related Phrases: a tough nut to crack, a complete question mark, terra incognita, a sealed (or closed) book

Using the Words

Exercise I. Parts of Speech

Indicate the part of speech of each of the following words. In one case, two answers are correct.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. endemic | 4. empathy | 7. effrontery |
| 2. enclave | 5. enigma | 8. elite |
| 3. emulate | 6. effete | 9. efficacious |

Exercise II. Words in Phrases

In each of the following groups, select the item that best expresses the meaning of the *italicized* word in the introductory phrase.

1. an *eclectic* style of architecture
a. excellent b. selective c. efficacious d. modern
e. popular
2. an *effete* snob
a. greedy b. depressed c. inventive d. worn out
e. outstanding
3. the *elite* of the entertainment world
a. retired members b. fans c. rank and file d. charlatans
e. crème de la crème

4. a light *emanating* from the tunnel
 a. flashing b. hurrying c. blinking d. radiating
 e. stolen
5. *endemic* to the North American continent
 a. related b. averse c. accustomed d. extraneous
 e. native
6. *empathy* for her patient
 a. medical attention b. compassion c. fear d. apathy
 e. financial support
7. a complete *enigma*
 a. puzzle b. fool c. success d. failure e. joke
8. an *eminent* historian
 a. elderly b. obscure c. renowned d. retired e. foreign

Exercise III. Completing Sentences

Complete each of the following sentences or pairs of sentences by selecting the most appropriate word from the group of words given below. Use each word only once. Make any adjustments that are necessary to fit the words into the sentences properly.

emaciated	enclave	empathy
elicit	eminent	efficacious
effrontery	embellish	emulate

1. "I was really only on a fishing expedition," the D.A. remarked. "I never expected my innocent question to _____ such an incriminating statement from the witness."
2. Though several workable solutions to the landfill problem were suggested at the meeting, Mrs. Brown's appeared to be the most _____.
3. My dad lost so much weight during his recent illness that for a while he looked positively _____.
4. Paris fashions are so popular that profit-minded New York designers take pains to _____ them.
5. He had the _____ to ask me for a recommendation despite the fact that I had just fired him for gross inefficiency.
6. "I know Monaco is an independent country," I replied. "Still, as far as territory goes, it is nothing more than a tiny _____ in the southeast corner of France."
7. One of the candidates running for the Senate is an _____ educator with a national reputation. The other is an obscure used-car salesman from Missoula.
8. "Your hat is decorated enough already," Glenda remarked. "You don't need to _____ it any further."

Exercise IV. Synonyms and Antonyms

A. In each of the following groups, select the **two** words that are most nearly **synonyms**.

1. a. spent b. vigorous c. inclement d. burnt-out
2. a. audacity b. temerity c. timidity d. callousness
3. a. evoke b. illicit c. produce d. echo
4. a. puzzle b. enclosure c. mind boggler d. gall
5. a. sympathy b. callousness c. compassion d. shyness

Now for each pair of synonyms that you have selected, supply a word from the Basic Word List in this lesson (Words 146–160) that means **the same** or **almost the same** thing.

B. In each of the following, select the item that is most nearly **opposite** in meaning to the numbered word at the left.

1. elite a. hoi polloi b. aristocracy c. enclave
 d. affluence e. modesty
2. emaciated a. uniform b. timid c. corpulent
 d. haggard e. barren
3. endemic a. useless b. native c. fertile d. alien
 e. puzzling
4. efficacious a. selective b. basic c. exclusive
 d. potent e. ineffective
5. embellish a. fabricate b. adorn c. deface d. emerge
 e. imitate

Exercise V. Word Roundup

1. Explain the difference in meaning between the words in each of the following pairs:
 a. imminent—eminent b. illicit—elicit
2. With or without the aid of a dictionary, explain the meaning of each of the following phrases:
 a. hoi polloi d. upper crust g. a sealed book
 b. terra incognita e. all of a piece h. rank and file
 c. eminent domain f. cream of the crop
3. Who should be addressed as *Your Eminence*?
4. With or without the aid of a dictionary, explain the story behind each of the following expressions:
 a. sphinx b. a poker face

Exercise VI. Framing Sentences

A. Use each of the following words in an original sentence.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. eclectic | 4. effrontery | 7. enclave |
| 2. effete | 5. endemic | 8. empathize |
| 3. elite | 6. elicit | 9. enigmatic |

B. Give a **noun** form of each of the following words, and use it in a short illustrative sentence.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. embellish | 3. eminent | 5. efficacious |
| 2. emulate | 4. emaciated | 6. emanate |

Completing Verbal Analogies

“A Causes B.” Another word relationship that frequently appears in the analogy sections of standardized tests is “A necessarily causes B; C necessarily causes D.” An example of an analogy question involving this relationship is given below. See if you can figure out the correct answer before you read the rest of this section.

starvation: emaciation ::

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. moderation : burliness | d. abstinence : stockiness |
| b. gluttony : obesity | e. dieting : rotundity |
| c. fasting : corpulence | |

The answer is *b*. *Starvation* will necessarily produce bodily *emaciation*. In the same way, *gluttony* (that is, excessive overeating) will necessarily lead to *obesity*.

None of the other choices offered exhibits the same cause-effect relationship involved in the key pair of words. *Moderation* in the consumption of food has nothing to do with *burliness* (choice *a*), nor does *abstinence* relate to *stockiness* (choice *d*). Similarly, *fasting* does not produce *corpulence* (choice *c*), and *dieting* does not lead to *rotundity* (choice *e*).

Notice, however, that two of the wrong choices exhibit a relationship that involves the *opposite* of the relationship that is wanted. *Fasting* certainly does not produce *corpulence*, but it may lead to *emaciation*. Similarly, *dieting* does not lead to *rotundity*, but *rotundity* may make a person want to go on a *diet*. These items were both purposely included to make the selection of the correct answer more difficult.

“A Will Make a Person B.” A closely related form of the word relationship “A necessarily causes B” can conveniently be expressed as “A will make a person B; C will make a person D.” Here is an example of an analogy question involving this relationship. Study it carefully.

practice : proficient ::

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. interest : apathetic | d. wealth : wise |
| b. experience : talented | e. famous : accomplishment |
| c. study : knowledgeable | |

The answer is *c*. Continuous *practice* of a skill or art will make a person *proficient* at it. Similarly, continuous *study* of a subject will make a person *knowledgeable* about it.

None of the other choices exhibits this cause-effect relationship. *Interest* in something does not make a person *apathetic* about it (choice *a*). *Experience* does not make a person *talented* because talent tends to be inborn (choice *b*). The possession of *wealth* has nothing to do with how *wise* a person is (choice *d*). Finally, the two words in choice *e* come in the wrong order. In the key pair of words, the adjective (*proficient*) follows the noun (*practice*); in choice *e*, however, the adjective (*famous*) precedes the noun (*accomplishment*).

"A indicates the Extreme of B." Another common word relationship that appears on standardized vocabulary tests is "A indicates the extreme of B; C indicates the extreme of D." Here is an example of an analogy question involving this relationship. Study it carefully.

gigantic : large ::

a. cold : frigid

b. tepid : lukewarm

c. economical : frugal

d. tiny : small

e. drab : colorful

The answer is *d*. *Tiny* indicates that something is *very small*, just as *gigantic* indicates that it is *very large*.

None of the other choices exhibits this relationship. *Frigid* means *very cold*, but *cold* does not mean *very frigid* (choice *a*). Similarly, *frugal* means *very economical*, but *economical* does not mean *very frugal* (choice *c*). *Tepid* just means *lukewarm*, not *very lukewarm* (choice *b*). And finally, *drab* does not mean *very colorful*; it means the *opposite* of *colorful* (choice *e*).

Word Order. The comments just made about choices *a* and *c* point up an important consideration to bear in mind when answering analogy questions. It is this: Always make sure that the two words in the answer you select come *in the same order* as the two words in the key pair. If, for example, the key pair contains an adjective followed by a noun (or a strong word followed by a weak one), be certain that your answer also contains an adjective followed by a noun (or a strong word followed by a weak one). If not, you've made the wrong choice.

Teachers unfold the mysteries of computers and the Internet to groups of eager students. Teaching at any level is an excellent career goal for someone who uses words well.



Exercise I

Complete the following analogies based on the word relationships studied in this lesson.

- relish : like ::**
 - upset : outrage
 - cherish : loathe
 - leave : depart
 - deter : abet
 - abhor : dislike
- liquor : intoxication ::**
 - food : obesity
 - color : candor
 - noise : blandness
 - water : aridity
 - sun : pallor
- distraught : upset ::**
 - bleak : rosy
 - simple : austere
 - gaunt : thin
 - modest : demure
 - irritation : peevish
- enigma : puzzlement ::**
 - confrontation : belligerent
 - discomfiture : chagrin
 - bickering : empathy
 - enclave : dejection
 - calumny : devotion
- disappointment : cynical ::**
 - hardship : blithe
 - insult : dormant
 - failure : dexterous
 - irritation : peevish
 - pressure : calm

Exercise II

Compose **two** complete analogies based on the word relationship "A necessarily causes B" (or the related relationship "A will make a person B"), and **two** based on "A indicates the extreme of B."

Exercise III

Complete the following analogies.

- dexterous : gauche** = circumspect :
(*clandestine, complacent, cogent, compatible, incautious*)
- alienate : estrange** = augment :
(*atone, augur, appall, increase, curtail*)
- dilatory : promptness** = distraught :
(*composure, energy, money, backbone, honesty*)
- dormancy : inactive** = dilapidation :
(*impartial, rundown, dissimilar, biased, manageable*)
- opulent : rich** = exhausted :
(*energetic, lazy, tired, prosperous, untidy*)

Working with Context Clues

Contrast Clues. The second general type of context clue that you are likely to meet in the sentence-completion section of a standardized test may conveniently be called a **contrast clue**. As you already know, a restatement clue more or less repeats the meaning of the missing word. A contrast clue, on the other hand, provides an *antonym* for, or a phrase that means the *opposite* of, the word that is wanted.

Study the following example of a sentence-completion exercise carefully. It contains both a contrast clue and a linking expression that points to this clue.

"As you say, my view of the situation may be far too rosy," I admitted.
"On the other hand, yours may be a bit too _____."

a. optimistic b. scholarly c. pious d. concise e. bleak

Notice the presence of the phrase *On the other hand* at the beginning of the second sentence. This is the kind of linking expression that binds together two contrasting or dissimilar sentences or sentence elements. In this case, it connects two complete sentences.

Thus, the words *On the other hand* tell you that you are about to read a sentence that in some way contrasts with the preceding sentence. In other words, the phrase pretty much tells you what kind of clue you are likely to find. It is a contrast clue.

But the phrase *On the other hand* also tells you something else. It tells you where to look for the clue. Since the blank for the missing word follows (rather than precedes) the words *On the other hand*, you are likely to find your clue in the first sentence in the example.

Look at the first sentence. It tells you that the speaker ("I") has far too "rosy" a view of a particular situation. *Rosy*, of course, means "optimistic" or "confident." This implies that the person who is dealt with in the second sentence ("you") must have a view of the same situation that contrasts with the speaker's view. In other words, it must in some way be "unrosy." Now you know the sense of the missing word.

Now look at the five words from which you are to select the item that goes in the blank. Only one of them means anything like "unrosy" or "unoptimistic." It is choice *e*, *bleak*, which, as you learned in Lesson 7 (page 99), can mean "gloomy." This is clearly the missing word.

Exercise I

All the following sentence-completion exercises contain contrast clues. Complete each by selecting the word that makes the best sense in the sentence (or pair of sentences) as a whole. Underline the clue or clues that led you to make your choice.

1. "There is nothing bold about this character," the director said.
"She is as _____ as a spring flower."
a. effete b. delightful c. avid d. demure e. agile
2. Although it is easy to criticize the failings of people you dislike, it is much harder to _____ them for their good qualities.
a. praise b. elicit c. condone d. abet e. compare

3. One child in a family can be very _____ and easy to handle; while another sibling may be very troublesome and hard to manage.
a. docile b. diligent c. boorish d. affectionate e. belligerent
4. I keep feeling responsible for our messy room, but my sister seems to _____ responsibility for the mess.
a. assume b. claim c. defer d. abdicate e. consider
5. Some household pets gain weight as they grow older; others, however, become _____ with age and illness.
a. chronic b. demure c. cantankerous d. corpulent
e. emaciated

Exercise II

The following exercise reviews everything that you have learned about sentence-completion questions and context clues to this point. Complete each item in the exercise by selecting the word that makes the best sense in the sentence (or pair of sentences) as a whole. Underline the clue or clues that led you to your choice.

1. I thought the meal was very _____, but my companion found it very interesting and tasty.
a. bland b. eclectic c. desultory d. delicious e. bizarre
2. Since our accountant advised us to put off buying a house until mortgage rates declined, we agreed to _____ the purchase.
a. abet b. pursue c. defer d. expedite e. conclude
3. The handiwork of one of the carpenters is extremely skillful and _____; the other's is clumsy and awkward.
a. captious b. desultory c. callous d. dexterous e. arbitrary
4. Although I find his argument _____, I am not convinced he believes what he is saying so forcefully.
a. captious b. weak c. dire d. academic e. cogent
5. When Edward VIII chose to _____ the English throne, he did not realize he would have to give up most of his power and influence as well.
a. abdicate b. expel c. secure d. exalt e. undo

Enriching the Lesson

Exercise I. Our Latin Heritage

A number of the English words studied in this lesson (e.g., *efficacious*, *enclave*, *emulate*) are based on Latin originals. English is rich in such Latin borrowings. As a matter of fact, they make up a huge part of the vocabulary of present-day English.

A number of words and expressions borrowed or adapted from Latin (including medieval Latin) are listed below. With or without the aid of a dictionary, define each. Then choose any **five**, and for each compose a short illustrative sentence.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. laborious | 11. nugatory | 21. lapse |
| 2. unanimous | 12. punitive | 22. rapacious |
| 3. magnanimous | 13. obliterate | 23. negotiate |
| 4. puerile | 14. ratify | 24. superfluous |
| 5. terminate | 15. malevolent | 25. provoke |
| 6. mandate | 16. nullify | 26. quash |
| 7. supersede | 17. juxtapose | 27. militate |
| 8. raucous | 18. regress | 28. literate |
| 9. nascent | 19. minimal | 29. notorious |
| 10. jocose | 20. malleable | 30. reiterate |

Exercise II. "Extreme" Words

The adjective *emaciated*, studied in this lesson, indicates extreme thinness. Its opposite, *obese*, noted in the synonyms under *emaciated*, indicates extreme fatness. English is rich in such extreme expressions. Do the following exercise involving a few of them.

The words in column A refer to familiar emotions or traits of personality. The words in column B refer to the same emotions or traits but in a more extreme or intense sense. Match each word in column A with its related extreme word in column B.

- | Column A | Column B |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. glad | a. solemn |
| 2. restrained | b. adore |
| 3. dislike | c. immaculate |
| 4. serious | d. elated |
| 5. like | e. distraught |
| 6. clean | f. chaotic |
| 7. wise | g. sagacious |
| 8. forceful | h. austere |
| 9. disorderly | i. overbearing |
| 10. perturbed | j. detest |
| 11. well-off | k. outrage |
| 12. offend | l. opulent |

Exercise III. Too Much of a Good Thing

The desire to excel is generally a healthy characteristic in a person. Experience, however, shows that it can easily go sour. Thus, under the “good” word *elite*, studied in this lesson, the negative words *elitist* and *elitism* also appear. Listed below are some other common English words that suggest a desire to be superior that is expressed in a negative or objectionable way. With or without the aid of a dictionary, define each. Then choose any **five**, and for each compose a short illustrative sentence.

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. snob | 7. poseur | 13. bumptious |
| 2. moralistic | 8. conceit | 14. perfectionist |
| 3. dogmatic | 9. authoritarian | 15. purist |
| 4. sanctimonious | 10. dilettante | 16. self-righteous |
| 5. labored | 11. egocentric | 17. narcissism |
| 6. autocratic | 12. preciousity | 18. jingoism |

Exercise IV. Forms of Direct Address

Under *eminent*, a word studied in this lesson, it was noted that *Your Eminence* is the proper phrase to use when addressing a cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. English has a few other such phrases. They are all used when addressing royalty or persons holding certain positions in the government, the church, or the legal system. Six of these phrases are listed below. With or without the aid of a dictionary, name the person or group of people to whom each is properly applied.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Your Excellency | 3. Your Grace | 5. Your Honor |
| 2. Your Highness | 4. Your Holiness | 6. Your Majesty |

Exercise V. Expanding Your Word Power

The words listed below are not on the Basic Word List, but they were mentioned in passing in Lesson 14. All of them would make useful additions to your working vocabulary. Define each, give its etymology, list **two** synonyms and **two** antonyms (where possible), and use in a short illustrative sentence.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. monolithic | 6. diffidence | 11. garnish |
| 2. decadent | 7. evoke | 12. obscure |
| 3. prolific | 8. aristocratic | 13. compassion |
| 4. ineffectual | 9. obese | 14. indigenous |
| 5. impertinence | 10. originate | 15. dilemma |

Academic Vocabulary

The following vocabulary words and phrases are often used in the fields of logic and philosophy. Like **discourse**, introduced in Lesson 13, they are useful when discussing philosophical concepts.

empirical *adjective* im-pir'-i-kəl

Definition: Relying or based on experiments or experience, rather than on theory.

The **empirical** philosophy of David Hume (1711–1776) had a notable influence on the European Enlightenment; it helped pave the way for the Romantic movement in the arts by insisting on the primacy of the senses.

epicurean *adjective* e-pi-kyu'-rē'

Definition: Fond of luxury and the pleasures of the senses, especially eating and drinking.

The American cookbook author Julia Child (1912–2004) took an **epicurean** delight in good food; through her television shows and many books, she inspired generations of Americans to cook—and relish—meals using fresh ingredients rather than canned and frozen alternatives.

epistemology *noun* i-pis-tə-mā-lə-jē

Definition: The science that focuses on the origins, methods, and limits of knowledge.

Because philosophers have always debated the nature and source of knowledge, two of the most fundamental questions in **epistemology** are “What is knowledge?” and “How is knowledge acquired?”

existential *adjective* eg-zis-ten(t)('-)shəl

Definition: Reflecting the philosophy of existentialism, in which each individual exists in a purposeless universe and must exercise free will to struggle against a hostile environment.

Soon after World War II, the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre popularized an **existential** worldview, in which human beings were considered doomed to a destiny of alienation and struggle.

nihilism *noun* nī-(h)ə-li-zəm

Definition: The belief that there is no meaning or purpose in existence; denial that there is any basis for knowledge or truth.

Adherents of **nihilism** generally reject customary beliefs in morality and religion and, denying authority, often call for the destruction of existing political institutions.

stoic *adjective* stō'-ik

Definition: Unaffected by passion; seemingly indifferent to pleasure or pain.

In Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, Brutus's wife Portia is portrayed as courageous, exhibiting a **stoic** indifference to physical pain.

syllogism *noun* si'-lə-ji-zəm

Definition: A form of reasoning in which two statements or premises are made and a logical conclusion is derived from them.

The process of deductive reasoning, or determining facts by combining several truths, typically depends on a **syllogism**.

tabula rasa noun ta-byə-lə-rä'-zə

Definition: Something existing in its original or pristine state, used especially of the mind before impressions are recorded as a result of experience.

Beginning with Aristotle, many philosophers have held that human beings are born with no innate mental content, but rather with a **tabula rasa**, or blank slate.

Exercise. Completing Sentences

Complete each of the following sentences by selecting the most appropriate academic word or phrase.

1. "Seize the day" and "Live life to the fullest" are mottoes consistent with a(n) _____ outlook on life.
a. stoic b. existential c. empirical d. epicurean
2. _____ makes a fundamental distinction between knowledge and belief: knowledge implies truth, while belief may be mistaken.
a. Epistemology b. Nihilism c. Tabula rasa d. Syllogism
3. The idea that the human mind is a(n) _____ at birth contrasts strongly with Plato's theory of the mind as pre-existing in the heavens.
a. nihilism b. tabula rasa c. stoic d. syllogism
4. The following three statements are examples of a(n) _____: (1) All humans are mortal; (2) Aristotle is a human; (3) Aristotle is mortal.
a. syllogism b. nihilism c. epistemology d. tabula rasa
5. The philosophy of _____ is depicted in the 1999 film *Fight Club*, in which the main character becomes disillusioned in his search for meaning in a society he considers mindlessly consumeristic and morally bankrupt.
a. nihilism b. tabula rasa c. syllogism d. existential
6. In _____ philosophy, knowledge is an outgrowth of practical experience rather than of revelation.
a. existential b. epicurean c. empirical d. stoic
7. The novels of French author Albert Camus (1913–1960), which highlight the pessimism and alienation of his characters, were notably influenced by the beliefs of _____ philosophers.
a. empirical b. existential c. stoic d. epicurean
8. Since they are so prone to injury, many professional athletes cultivate a(n) _____ indifference to physical pain.
a. epicurean b. existential c. stoic d. empirical