Lesson 16

176. exodus | 190. fetish

176. ex-o-dus  noun  ēk'-so-dus

[exodos (Greek), “a going out”; from ex (Greek), “out” + hodos (Greek), “road, way”]

Definition: A departure, usually of large numbers of people.

The massacre in Burundi in 1994 was the main cause of the hurried exodus of population from that African nation.

Large-scale building projects are likely to cause the exodus of wildlife from a previously undeveloped area.

Synonyms: (nouns) flight, escape, migration, emigration, hegira

Antonyms: (nouns) arrival, influx, immigration

Flight Words

In both Latin and English, the second book of the Old Testament of the Bible is called Exodus. It recounts the departure of the Israelites (under the leadership of Moses) from Egypt during the time of the pharaohs, about 1260 B.C. The word exodus is actually Greek in origin, but the title of the Old Testament book helped it come into English. This is just one of the ways in which the Bible has influenced the growth of our vocabulary. Refer to page 204 for other examples.

In Arabic, the prophet Mohammed’s departure from Mecca in A.D. 622 is called “Al Hijrat,” which means “The Flight.” The event is important in the Muslim world because it is regarded as the beginning of the Muslim era. It has importance in the English-speaking world as well. That is because it gave modern English a new word for “flight” or “exodus.” The word is hegira, which is pronounced hi-ji’-rə or hēj’ər-ə.
177. **ex-o-tic** adjective  ěg-zŏt'-ĭk

[exotikos (Greek). "foreign"; from exo (Greek), "outside"]

**Definition:** Foreign; charmingly unfamiliar or strikingly unusual.

"Australia is a fascinating continent full of strange and **exotic** wildlife," my Canadian friend remarked.

**Phrases:** an exotic plant, exotic foods

**Synonyms:** (adjectives) alien; striking, extraordinary

**Antonyms:** (adjectives) native, indigenous, endemic; commonplace, familiar, ordinary

178. **ex-pe-di-ent** adjective and noun  ěk-spĕ'-dĕ-ĕnt

[expediens. expedientis. "freeing, disentangling"; from ex (Latin). "out of" + pes. pedis (Latin), "foot"]

**Definition:**

a. (adjective) Advantageous to one's interest or purpose.

"In solving this problem, we cannot simply do whatever is **expedient.**" I protested. "We must make sure that the course of action we adopt is also ethical."

b. (noun) An emergency course of action; a means to an end.

"We can overcome our present financial problems in a number of ways," the personnel manager remarked. "Cutting back on the staff is by no means the only **expedient** open to us."

**Related Forms:** (noun) expediency; (adjective) inexpedient

**Synonyms:** (adjectives) convenient, opportune, timely, practical; (nouns) device, scheme, design, stratagem, maneuver, stopgap

**Antonyms:** (adjectives) disadvantageous, unserviceable, unsuitable

179. **ex-ploit** verb: ěk-sploit'  noun: ěk'-sploit

[exploit. explait (Old French). "achievement"; from ex (Latin). "out" + plicare (Latin), "fold"]

**Definition:**

a. (verb) To use to the greatest possible advantage, often selfishly.

Working conditions have come a long way since the "bad old days," when it was customary to **exploit** the labor of children.

b. (noun) A brilliant or heroic deed.

Because he took such pride in his wartime **exploits**, we thought it fitting to bury my grandfather in his army uniform.

**Related Forms:** (nouns) exploitation, exploiter; (adjective) exploitable

**Synonyms:** (verbs) capitalize on; (nouns) feat, heroics, coup, tour de force, derring-do

**Related Phrases:** cash in on, make the most of, take advantage of
180. **ex-pound**  *verb*  ēk-spoon'd* or * īk-spoon'd*  

[espo(undre) (Old French), "put forth"; from ex (Latin), "out" + ponere (Latin), "put, place"]

**Definition:** To explain in detail.

In an influential book published in 1936, the English economist J. M. Keynes *expounded* his epoch-making theory of the causes of economic collapse.

I spent most of the evening listening to her *expound* her views on all sorts of interesting topics.

**Related Forms:**  (nouns) exposition, exponent; (adjective) expository

**Synonyms:**  (verbs) clarify, elucidate, explicate, delineate (Word 121)

**Antonyms:**  (verbs) summarize, abstract, synopsise

**Related Phrases:**  air one's views, in a nutshell, a thumbnail sketch

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**Exposition and Expository Writing,**

Basically, the word *exposition* refers to the setting forth of meaning or intent in a clear and intelligible way. Nonetheless, the word has several technical usages that are worth knowing about. For example, to musicians, *exposition* indicates the opening section of a sonata or fugue, where the various musical themes that will be developed are first introduced. To dramatists, the word indicates the part of a play where the chief characters and overall theme are first presented. And to producers of public entertainments, it indicates a public exhibition of recent artistic or industrial developments.

*Expository writing* is the technical term for the kind of writing that is designed to set forth ideas or describe people and events in straightforward intelligible English. This is essentially the kind of writing that is necessary in all sorts of everyday situations. For example, a book review, a newspaper article, a business letter, and a chapter in a textbook all involve expository writing of one kind or another. Students, of course, are familiar with expository writing from the compositions, reports, and term papers that they do for school courses.

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181. **fab-ri-cate**  *verb*  fāb'-rī-kät  

[fabricari, fabricatus (Latin), "make, build"]

**Definition:**

a. To assemble or construct from separate parts.

Philosophers have been *fabricating* new theories of the universe for thousands of years.

b. To make up with the intention of deceiving.

"I don't believe that your account of the incident has any basis in fact," Mom said. "I think you *fabricated* it in order to avoid my displeasure."

**Related Forms:**  (nouns) fabrication, fabricator; (verb) prefabricate
Prefabricate refers to a manufacturing process in which standardized parts or sections are mass-produced for shipment and assembly elsewhere. Thus, a prefabricated house is constructed out of ready-made sections that were manufactured in another place.

**Synonyms:** (verbs) produce, devise, manufacture, concoct, contrive, come up with, cook up

**Related Phrases:** a trumped-up charge; coin an excuse; make up out of whole cloth

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**182. facetious adjective  fe-së'-shës**

[facetieux (Old French), "joking"; from facetia (Latin), "joke, jest"]

**Definition:** Not meant seriously; playful or humorous.

"Be careful what you say to him," I warned my sister. "He is so sensitive that he takes even a facetious remark to heart."

I didn’t pay any attention to what he said because I could see that he was being facetious.

**Related Forms:** (noun) facetiousness; (adverb) facetiously

**Synonyms:** (adjectives) waggish, whimsical, joking, comic, frivolous, droll

**Antonyms:** (adjectives) serious, grave, solemn, sober, earnest, humorless

**Related Phrases:** a tongue-in-cheek remark, joshing, kidding; for real
183. **fac-sim-i-le**  
**noun and adjective**  
fa-k-sim'-ə-lē

(fac simile (Latin), "make (it) the same"); from facere (Latin), "do, make" + similis, similis (Latin), "same"

**Definition:**
- **(noun)** An exact copy.
  Art books often contain surprisingly accurate full-color *facsimiles* of the paintings they discuss.
- **(adjective)** Reproduced exactly.
  Usually, a photocopy is in every respect a *facsimile* copy of the original from which it was made.

**Synonyms:**  
(nouns) replica, reproduction, duplicate

**Related Phrases:**  
a carbon copy, a chip off the old block; a mirror image

184. **fal-la-cy**  
**noun**  
fał'-ə-sē

(fallacia (Latin), "deceit, trick"); from fallere (Latin), "deceive"

**Definition:**
- **(noun)** Faulty reasoning; an error in logic.
  "It shouldn’t be too hard to shoot holes in his argument," I observed. "After all, the *fallacies* it contains are as plain as day."
- **(adjective)** A false or mistaken notion.
  It’s a *fallacy* to assume that all redheaded people have quick tempers.

**Related Forms:**  
(adjective) fallacious; (noun) fallaciousness

**Synonyms:**  
(nouns) mistake, flaw, fault, defect (Word 117), solemism

185. **fath-om**  
**noun and verb**  
fa-th'-əm

(faethm (Old English), "the distance between two outstretched arms")

**Definition:**
- **(noun)** A unit of length roughly equal to six feet and used primarily in the measurement of marine depths.
  It might be difficult to raise a famous wreck like the *Titanic* because its remains lie under hundreds of *fathoms* of water.
- **(verb)** To get to the bottom of; to understand.
  For as long as human beings have been able to think, they have attempted to *fathom* the mysteries of the universe.

**Related Forms:**  
(adjectives) fathomable, unfathomable, fathomless

**Synonyms:**  
(verbs) sound, plumb, probe, delve, penetrate; ferret out, root out; divine, grasp, comprehend
186. **fat-u-ous**  adjective  fāch'-ō-ō-wəs

[fatuus (Latin), "silly, foolish"]

**Definition:** Unconsciously foolish, stupid, or absurd.

It was such a fatuous remark that I almost burst out laughing when I heard it.

**Phrases:** a fatuous expression on one's face, a fatuous monarch

**Related Forms:** (nouns) fatuousness, fatuity

**Synonyms:** (adjectives) inane, vacuous, vapid, nonsensical, laughable, silly, ridiculous, ludicrous; wacky, goofy

**Antonyms:** (adjectives) sensible, intelligent, perceptive; acute, incisive; judicious

187. **fea-si-ble**  adjective  fē'-za-bəl

[faisable (Old French), "workable"; from facere (Latin), "do, make"]

**Definition:** Possible; both doable and workable.

"I would really like to invite everyone I know to my party," LeVar remarked. "Unfortunately, that idea just isn't feasible because my home is too small to hold all my friends."

**Phrases:** a feasible solution, a feasible plan, a feasible proposal

**Related Forms:** (adjective) unfeasible; (nouns) feasibility; feasibleness

**Synonyms:** (adjectives) practicable, practical, usable, realistic

**Antonyms:** (adjectives) impossible, unworkable, impracticable, impractical

**Related Phrases:** within the realm of possibility, out of the question

**A Useful Distinction**

Practicable indicates that something is capable of being done. Practical indicates that it is not only capable of being done but also sensible or worthwhile. Thus, it may be practicable to travel to and from the office by pogo stick, but the idea certainly doesn't sound practical.
Fetish

A fetish is an inanimate object that is believed to possess magical powers of some sort. Fetishes may be natural objects (for instance, an unusual stone) or man-made items (for example, a small carved image). Many peoples, both ancient and modern, have employed fetishes; and items thought to be fetishes of one kind or another have been found in prehistoric grave sites in many parts of the world. The use of fetishes is still fairly widespread today. Do you know someone who possesses a lucky rabbit’s foot?

A group of Native American fetishes.

188. **feign**  *verb*  fån

(*feindre* (Old French), "pretend"; from *fingere* (Latin), "shape, form")

**Definition:** To pretend or give a false appearance of.

“He wasn’t really sick,” I said. “He just *feigned* illness in order to get out of school early.”

**Phrases:** feign sleep, feign authorship of, feign knowledge of

**Related Forms:** *(adjective)* feigned; *(noun)* feint

**Synonyms:** *(verbs)* fake, sham, simulate

**Related Phrases:** sail under false colors, pass oneself off as, pose as; a wolf in sheep’s clothing, a humbug, an ignis fatuus; the real McCoy

189. **fe-lic-i-tous**  *adjective*  fi-lís’-i-təs or fə-lis’-ə-təs

(*felicity + ous: from *felicitas* (Latin), “happiness”; from *felix, felicis* (Latin), “happy”)

**Definition:** Agreeably suited to the purpose or occasion; aptly or gracefully expressed.

“I know you don’t consider yourself much of a diplomat,” Mom told me. “Still, I think you handled that very delicate problem in a truly *felicitous* manner.”

“Perhaps the phrasing of your letter isn’t particularly *felicitous,*” I said, “but the sentiments you express are indeed appropriate.”

**Related Forms:** *(nouns)* felicity, felicitousness; *(adverb)* felicitously; *(verb)* felicitate

**Synonyms:** *(adjectives)* appropriate, suitable, fitting, apropos, apposite, apt; graceful, agreeable, seemly, becoming; well chosen, well put

**Antonyms:** *(adjectives)* graceless, unseemly, unbecoming, unsuitable; awkward, inept

**Related Phrases:** to the point, on target, ad rem; wide of the mark
190. **fet-ish** noun fet'-ish or fe'-tish

[fêt'i-cho (Portuguese), “charm”; from facere, factus (Latin), “do, make”]

**Definition:**

a. An object believed among primitive peoples to have magical powers.

Down in the main square, a wrinkled old peasant woman sold charms and fetishes to ward off the evil eye.

b. An object of unreasonably excessive attention or reverence.

It is one thing to be concerned about discipline; it is quite another to make a fetish of it.

**Synonyms:** (nouns) charm, amulet, talisman; fixation, obsession (Word 283), preoccupation; compulsion

**Related Phrases:** an idée fixe; a hang-up; get a complex about; a monomaniac; a sacred cow

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**Using the Words**

**Exercise I. Parts of Speech**

Indicate the part of speech of each of the following words. In some cases, two answers are correct.

1. exotic 4. exploit 7. fathom
2. facsimile 5. expedient 8. exodus
3. expound 6. fabricate 9. feasible

**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. *feign* illness
   a. cure b. prevent c. investigate d. pretend e. cause
2. *fatuous* comments
   a. perceptive b. interesting c. silly d. appropriate e. surprising
3. a *felicitous* remark
   a. well-known b. well-worn c. well-heeled d. well-fed e. well-chosen
4. *exotic* dishes
   a. delightfully unfamiliar b. outrageously expensive c. unusually sweet d. woefully inadequate e. moderately priced
5. will do whatever is expedient
   a. fashionable  b. advantageous  c. easy  d. enjoyable  
   e. correct
6. expound a theory
   a. attack  b. demolish  c. improve  d. investigate  
   e. explain
7. facsimile copies of the document
   a. secondhand  b. forged  c. newly discovered  d. exact  
   e. famous

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.

fallacy  fabricate  feasible  
fathom  facetious  feign  
exodus  exploit  fetish

1. “He is not interested in solving this problem quickly and intelligently,” I said. “He is only interested in ________ the difficulties it has created to his own advantage.”
2. “Let’s get out of here,” Sy said after we’d been in the museum only ten minutes. “All these strange idols and ________ give me the creeps!”
3. In The Art of the Possible, Golda Meir suggests that politics and diplomacy have one thing in common. They are both concerned with what is ________ rather than with what is ideal.
4. Fortunately, we were able to ________ a replacement for the missing article from a few short press releases and some government statistics.
5. “I’ve puzzled about it for days,” Mom told Dad, “but I still can’t ________ the motives behind young Tom’s strange behavior lately.”
6. The blatant anti-Semitism of the Nazi regime was wholly responsible for the tremendous ________ of Jews from Germany in the 1930s.
7. “Your conclusion isn’t valid,” I remarked, “because the argument leading up to it contains an obvious ________.”
8. “This is a serious conversation,” Jane protested. “Why do you insist on disrupting it by constantly making ________ remarks?”
Exercise IV. Synonyms and Antonyms

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

1. a. overwhelm b. clarify c. imagine d. elucidate e. manufacture
2. a. devise b. escape c. concoct d. stumble e. pretend
3. a. solution b. duplicate c. salary d. problem e. copy
4. a. charm b. hobby c. guilt d. profession e. amulet
5. a. migrate b. understand c. comprehend d. create e. summarize

Now, for each pair of synonyms, supply a word from the Basic Word List for this lesson (Words 176–190) 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. fatuous a. honest b. brave c. intelligent d. wealthy e. famous
2. feasible a. unworkable b. unknown c. unseen d. unfaithful e. unavoidable
3. facetious a. awkward b. usable c. ridiculous d. commonplace e. serious
4. exodus a. scheme b. arrival c. flaw d. lie e. copy
5. exotic a. convenient b. sensible c. mistaken d. native e. comic

Exercise V. Word Roundup

1. Explain the difference between the words in each of the following pairs.
   a. feint—faint b. practical—practicable
2. What is a hegira? From what foreign language does the word come, and to what historical event did it originally refer?
3. Define each of the following words.
   a. solecism b. coup c. humbug d. heroics e. monomaniac f. exposition
4. Explain the meaning of each of the following colorful phrases.
   a. in a nutshell b. a tongue-in-cheek remark c. deeds of derring-do d. a carbon copy e. a tour de force f. an idée fixe
Exercise VI. Framing Sentences
A. Use each of the following words in an original sentence that clearly illustrates its meaning.

1. exodus  
2. exotic  
3. expedient  
4. exploit  
5. expound  
6. facsimile  
7. fatuous  
8. felicitous  
9. fetish

B. Give an adjective form of each of these words, and use it in an original sentence.

1. fallacy  
2. feign  
3. fathom

C. Give a noun form of each of these words, and use it in an original sentence.

1. feasible  
2. fabricate  
3. facetious

Completing Verbal Analogies

"A Is Primarily Concerned with B." Another word relationship that frequently appears in the analogy sections of standardized vocabulary tests is "A is primarily concerned with B; C is primarily concerned with D." Here is an example of an analogy question involving this relationship. Try to determine the correct answer before you go on to read the explanation of it.

veterinarian : animals =

a. druggist : addicts  
b. psychology : mind  
c. disputes : arbitrator  
d. warden : prisoners  
e. theologian : angels

The answer is d. A warden is primarily concerned with prisoners, just as a veterinarian is primarily concerned with animals.

None of the other choices exhibits the same relationship as the key pair of words. A druggist is not primarily concerned with addicts (choice a), nor is a theologian primarily concerned with angels (choice e). Though an arbitrator is certainly concerned with disputes (choice c), disputes are not concerned with arbitrators. In other words, the two items in the pair come in the wrong order. Finally, psychology is indeed concerned with the mind (choice b), but the items in the pair are not parallel to the items in the key pair. Psychology indicates a science, not a person (as veterinarian does), and mind indicates a human faculty, not a type of creature (as animals does). Both choices b and c were intentionally included to confuse the student and make the selection of the right answer more difficult.

"A Is a Part of B." Another word relationship that appears in the analogy sections of standardized tests is "A is a part of B; C is a part of D." Here is an example of an analogy question involving this relationship. Try to determine the correct answer before you read the explanation of it.

rung : ladder =

a. cauldron : kettle  
b. saddle : stirrup  
c. apartment : room  
d. match : lighter  
e. step : staircase
The answer is e. A step is part of a staircase, just as a rung is part of a ladder.

None of the other choices exhibits the same relationship. A cauldron is not part of a kettle (choice a); it is a kind of kettle. In other words, the two words mean roughly the same thing. A saddle is not part of a stirrup (choice b), though a stirrup is part of a saddle. Similarly, an apartment is not part of a room (choice c), though a room is part of an apartment or may even be an apartment. In other words, the items in choices b and c come in the wrong order. Finally, a match is not part of a lighter (choice d), though it serves the same function as a lighter. In other words, these items are complementary, since they indicate two different ways of producing a flame.

Parallelism. In the explanation of the example under "A is primarily concerned with B," it was pointed out that the items in the answer you select should always be as parallel as possible to the items in the key pair. If they are not, you have probably made the wrong choice and should reconsider your answer.

Exercise I

Complete each of the following analogies based on the word relationships "A is primarily concerned with B" and "A is a part of B."

1. chapter : novel =
   a. pen : pencil
d. act : drama
e. paragraph : sentence
   b. dictionary : word
c. essay : composition
2. dentist : teeth =
   a. ornithologist : ears
d. feet : chiropodist
e. pharmacy : medicine
   b. surgeon : bruises
c. ophthalmologist : eyes
3. deck : ship =
   a. church : pew
d. bookcase : shelf
e. floor : house
   b. field : meadow
c. chair : table
4. legislator : lawmaking =
   a. lawfulness : judge
d. lawsuit : attorney
e. police officer : law enforcement
   b. citizen : law-abiding
c. criminal : lawbreaker
5. astronomy : stars =
   a. archaeologist : antiquities
d. philatelist : coins
e. insects : entomology
   b. zoology : animals
   c. archery : buildings
6. county : state =
   a. tree : forest
d. continent : peninsula
e. mare : stallion
   b. hive : bee
c. voyage : trip
Exercise II.

Compose two complete analogies involving the word relationship “A is primarily concerned with B” and two involving “A is a part of B.”

Exercise III

The following items review what you have so far learned about analogy questions. Complete each.

1. augment : increase :: horrify :
   (arbitrate, appall, condone, atone, deviate)

2. circuitous : direct :: skimpy :
   (culpable, scant, devoid, copious, deferential)

3. failure : chagrin :: success :
   (disgust, puzzlement, elation, apathy, frustration)

4. cantankerous : affability :: disgruntled :
   (ability, wisdom, courage, honesty, contentment)

5. like : adore :: dislike :
   (loathe, lithe, lathe, loath, lath)

Working with Context Clues

Inference Clues. The third general type of context clue you are likely to meet in the sentence-completion sections of standardized vocabulary tests is an inference clue. In an inference clue, the whole situation outlined in the sentence or pair of sentences suggests the sense of the word that goes in the blank. For that reason, the reader must infer the word that is wanted, often by recognizing familiar situations, drawing on past knowledge and experience, or applying simple logic. As you can see, an inference clue is a broader and more indirect type of hint than a restatement clue or a contrast clue.

Here is an example of a sentence-completion exercise that involves an inference clue. Try to determine the correct answer before you read the explanation of it given below.

Ninety-year-old Annie Blakeley’s *The Lowing Herd Winds Slowly O’er the Lea* presents the reader with a touching picture of life in ________ Kansas at the turn of the 20th century.

a. industrialized  b. rural  c. maritime  d. urban  e. colonial

The answer is b. rural. Here’s why.

The position of the blank indicates that you are looking for a descriptive adjective. A quick check of the five choices you are offered confirms this impression. Now you know what you need.

But you know something else as well. The blank appears immediately before the word *Kansas*. This suggests that Kansas will be of some value in determining the word that goes in the blank.
Now read the entire sentence carefully to determine what else it offers in the way of clues to the correct choice. The sentence concerns the content of a novel or memoir by a woman who grew up in Kansas around 1900. This suggests that the title of the book will be of some help in ascertaining the correct choice. The sentence also suggests that the part of the country mentioned (Kansas) and the time frame indicated (at the turn of the 20th century) may be of some use.

Now you know where the clues are likely to be. Notice that an understanding of the sense of the sentence and the application of simple logic were the governing factors in isolating the probable clues.

Reread the title of the 90-year-old woman's book carefully. It evokes a picture that immediately eliminates three of the five choices as the correct answer.

And what is that picture? It is a picture of a herd of cows moving slowly through a meadow. *Low* means the same thing as *moo*, so you know you are dealing with a herd of cows. *Lea* is an old poetic word for *meadow*.

Now, in what sort of setting would you be likely to find a herd of cows crossing a meadow? Certainly not in an *industrialized* area (choice a) or an *urban* center (choice d) or even a *maritime* community (choice c). These three items are clearly wrong, and you are down to two possibilities because cows would be found in both a *rural* and a *colonial* setting (choices b and e).

To determine which of the two remaining possibilities is correct, think about each in regard to the part of the country mentioned (Kansas) and the time frame indicated (around 1900). Kansas was primarily an agricultural area at the turn of the century, so *rural* (choice b) seems to fit. However, Kansas was never one of the 13 colonies and by 1900 had long since become a full-fledged member of the Union. Clearly, *colonial* (choice e) won't work, so *rural* (choice b) must be the correct answer. And, of course, it is.

Notice that determining the correct answer to this sentence-completion exercise depended on a combination of utilizing the whole context, recognizing familiar situations, drawing on past knowledge, and applying simple logic. These are essentially the ingredients that go into the successful solution of the type of sentence-completion exercise that involves an inference clue.
Exercise I

The following sentence-completion exercises contain inference 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. *Sanitary engineer* is an example of a(n) _________ for *janitor* or *garbage collector*.
   - a. euphemism
   - b. criterion
   - c. qualification
   - d. epithet
   - e. advertisement

2. As my polite request failed to _________ any response from my noisy neighbors, I decided to call the police.
   - a. abet
   - b. buttress
   - c. curtail
   - d. stop
   - e. elicit

3. Self-help groups such as Narcotics Anonymous try to help people overcome their _________ to drugs.
   - a. sensitivity
   - b. fetish
   - c. addiction
   - d. revulsion
   - e. anathema

4. Only a truly _________ person could forgive a friend who deliberately spread lies about him and tried to ruin his reputation.
   - a. benign
   - b. boisterous
   - c. felicitous
   - d. fatuous
   - e. callous

5. Public officials who routinely tell half-truths to their constituents destroy their own _________.
   - a. anachronism
   - b. equanimity
   - c. credibility
   - d. duplicity
   - e. fallacy

Exercise II

The following exercises review everything 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 make your choice.

1. Whenever I am in a lighthearted and carefree frame of mind, I find myself humming a _________ tune.
   - a. banal
   - b. boisterous
   - c. blithe
   - d. belligerent
   - e. bizarre

2. Many people cannot speak well before a large audience, but they can be surprisingly _________ when speaking in small, informal settings.
   - a. effete
   - b. bland
   - c. elite
   - d. concise
   - e. articulate
3. Writers often complain that editors cut out important sections of their manuscripts without asking their permission to _________ the material.
   a. allude  b. delete  c. review  d. defer  e. deviate
4. In most corporations, you have to work hard to get ahead. Advancement goes to those who are most _________.
   a. efficacious  b. affable  c. diligent  d. erudite  e. candid
5. The corporate president observed that although the financial officer's proposal would reduce some of the company's cash-flow problems, unfortunately it would also _________ others.
   a. exacerbate  b. circumvent  c. entice  d. atrophy  e. delineate

Enriching the Lesson

Exercise I  Loan Words from Faraway Places

The inclusion of the word exotic in this lesson brings to mind the fact that some of the vocabulary of present-day English comes from very striking and unusual sources. Listed below are a number of these unusual loan words. With or without the aid of a dictionary, define each and tell where it comes from. Then choose any five, and for each compose an original sentence.

1. kowtow  8. taboo  15. juggernaut
2. amuck  9. loot  16. paradise
3. tycoon 10. mogul  17. mumbo jumbo
4. powwow 11. tariff  18. mufti
5. zombie 12. pariah  19. voodoo
6. thug 13. totem  20. nadir
7. boomerang 14. caucus  21. oasis

Exercise II. The Language of Logic

One of the words studied in this lesson is fallacy, which is a technical term in the language of logic. Below are listed some other words and expressions used in the study of logic. With or without the aid of a dictionary, define each.

1. logic  6. induction
2. syllogism  7. deduction
3. major premise  8. valid
4. minor premise  9. invalid
5. conclusion  10. pathetic fallacy
Exercise III. "Diehards"

This lesson includes the word *fathom*, which might be termed a "diehard" in the sense that it goes back, practically without change, to Old English. Old English, you will recall, represents the earliest stage of our language. It was used in England in the period before the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Diehards such as *fathom* make up an important and sizable segment of the vocabulary of present-day English. A few examples of other diehard expressions are listed below. With or without the aid of a dictionary, define each.

1. mirth 6. threat 11. quench
2. seethe 7. spurn 12. forbear
3. din 8. fret 13. mood
4. slough 9. mete (*verb*) 14. beckon
5. quell 10. swarthy 15. hurdle

Exercise IV. The Language of the Mind

*Fetish*, studied in this lesson, is frequently used in connection with psychology, which is the science that deals with the workings of the mind and with human behavior. The 20th century witnessed major developments in the science of psychology, and for many years there has been great popular interest in it. As a result, many psychological terms have become part of everyday speech and writing.

Listed below are a number of terms and expressions drawn from the language of psychology. With or without the aid of a dictionary, define each.

1. neurotic 6. split personality 11. introvert
2. psychosomatic 7. maladjustment 12. extrovert
3. paranoid 8. psychic 13. schizophrenic
4. subconscious 9. complex 14. hypochondriac
5. extrasensory 10. psychotic 15. burnout

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 16. 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. influx 6. synopsis 11. replica
2. preoccupation 7. explicate 12. solecism
3. stratagem 8. devise 13. delve
4. talisman 9. earnest 14. simulate
5. feat 10. whimsical 15. apposite
Academic Vocabulary

The following vocabulary words and phrases are often used in the fields of anthropology and sociology. Like fetish, introduced in Lesson 16, they are useful when discussing the origins and social relationships of human beings.

**agrarian** *adjective* ə-grərˈ-ē-ən

*Definition*: Relating to agriculture or the interests of farmers.

Before the Civil War, cotton, rice, tobacco, and indigo were the most important crops in the agrarian economy of the South.

**anthropomorphism** *noun* an(t)-thrə-pə-mər-ə-fəz əm

*Definition*: The attribution of human characteristics to a god, an animal, or an inanimate object.

Although many animal behaviorists and pet lovers believe animals have a consciousness and the ability to experience emotions, some have long dismissed such claims as unscientific anthropomorphism.

**atavistic** *adjective* aˈ-tə-vəzəm

*Definition*: Relating to a characteristic found in an individual’s remote ancestors.

In many cultures, rituals inherited from olden times, such as funerals and dance ceremonies, often exert an atavistic pull on the participants.

**egalitarian** *adjective* i-gə-lərˈ-ē-ən

*Definition*: Characterized by the belief that all people should have equal political, social, and economic rights.

From ancient Athens onward through the ages, egalitarian convictions have played a major role in the development of democracy.

**esprit de corps** *noun* əs-prə-də-kør

*Definition*: Group spirit; sense of pride or honor shared by people involved in the same team effort.

In her speech to the project team, the group leader heartily praised her co-workers’ esprit de corps.

**liminal** *adjective* liˈ-mə-nəl

*Definition*: Of or related to a sensory threshold; located at a boundary or transitional point between two stages in a process or condition.

The anthropologist Victor Turner (1920-1983) placed great emphasis on liminal states or conditions, especially in his studies of rites of passage.

**parvenu** *noun* pərˈ-vənə

*Definition*: A person who has recently achieved wealth or power but who is not fully accepted by the class associated with the higher position.

His neighbors snobbishly looked down on Reynolds as a parvenu, even though he had worked hard to become a self-made millionaire.

**patriarchal** *adjective* pə-trə-ārˈ-kəl

*Definition*: Characteristic of a society that is under the oppressive domination of men; organized so that the father or oldest male is recognized as the head of the family or tribe, with kinship traced through the male line.

Ancient Roman society was distinctively patriarchal: The head of a family, or paterfamilias, even had the power of life and death over his sons.
Exercise. Completing Sentences

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

1. Alone on the prairie, Julian experienced a(n) ___________ yearning to perform the ancient ceremony that his forebears had acted out in honor of the sun.
   a. agrarian  
   b. egalitarian  
   c. patriarchal  
   d. atavistic

2. In the spirit of _____________, the ancient Greeks regularly attributed human physical features, as well as human emotions and motivations, to their gods and goddesses.
   a. anthropomorphism  
   b. esprit de corps  
   c. egalitarian  
   d. parvenu

3. In contrast to the ___________ societies of northern India, family descent in the southern state of Kerala is often traced through the mother's line.
   a. parvenu  
   b. patriarchal  
   c. agrarian  
   d. egalitarian

4. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, the title character possesses a magnetic personality but, even so, is spurned by some of the other characters as a wealthy _____________.
   a. patriarchal  
   b. anthropomorphism  
   c. parvenu  
   d. esprit de corps

5. In expressing the idea that all men are created equal, the *Declaration of Independence* begins with one of the most famous ____________ statements of all time.
   a. egalitarian  
   b. atavistic  
   c. liminal  
   d. patriarchal

6. Adolescence is appropriately described as a(n) ____________ state in which a developing youngster is no longer a child but not yet an adult.
   a. parvenu  
   b. egalitarian  
   c. anthropomorphism  
   d. liminal

7. Every athletic coach, project leader, school principal, and military commander benefits by cultivating the ____________ of his or her team or group.
   a. esprit de corps  
   b. patriarchal  
   c. atavistic  
   d. parvenu

8. The transition from a(n) ____________ to an industrial society nearly always causes stress: witness the turbulent history of the United States between 1830 and 1880, a time of increasing migration to cities and employment in factories.
   a. agrarian  
   b. patriarchal  
   c. liminal  
   d. atavistic