

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 174–175 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- Every week she meets with a small circle of (**naive, kindred**) souls whose greatest interest in life is the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.
- Rioters smashed windows and (**disclaimed, ransacked**) government offices as they attempted to overthrow the dictator.
- A person who behaves with (**kindred, arrogant**) disregard for the feelings of others is likely to have very few friends.
- He found a comfortable (**niche, rote**) for himself at a bank and worked there quite happily for more than forty years.
- Although I was furious, I faced my accusers with a (**tedious, bland**) smile.
- We are now learning the hard way that our energy sources are not (**infinite, ramshackle**) and that we will have to use them carefully.
- You will learn that nothing is more (**amplifying, gratifying**) than to face a problem squarely, analyze it clearly, and resolve it successfully.
- The spirit of the new law to protect consumers is not "Let the buyer beware" but, rather, "Let the (**vendor, solvent**) beware."
- My next-door neighbor is a(n) (**tedious, arrogant**) individual with a remarkable talent for boring me out of my wits.
- What is important for the children is not a(n) (**infinite, rote**) recital of the poem but an understanding of what the words really mean.
- Rather than (**disclaim, obliterate**) their religious faiths, many Protestants, Catholics, and Jews left Europe to settle in the New World.
- I (**ransacked, gratified**) my brain feverishly, but I was unable to find any way out of the difficulty.
- In Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*, the protagonist is so (**naive, tedious**) that he does not understand that he is being trained to become a pickpocket.
- The beginning of commercial television in the 1940s marked a revolutionary (**niche, epoch**) in the history of mass communications.
- Several (**vendors, epochs**) at the fair were giving away free samples to entice customers to buy their wares.



The music of Bach (1685–1750), a Baroque period composer, has stood the test of time.

Antonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. **organized** the hotel room _____ ransacked
2. **spur-of-the-moment** actions _____ rote
3. a report that the applicant is **completely broke** _____ solvent
4. **acknowledged** her part in the scheme _____ disclaimed
5. a **conflict** in the Middle East _____ armistice

Completing the Sentence

From the words in this Unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word form in the space provided.

1. The Declaration of Independence's assertion that "all men are created equal" marked a new _____ epoch _____ in world history.
2. How could you have been so _____ naive _____ and foolish as to take their compliments seriously?
3. "Unless we learn to control nuclear weapons," the speaker said, "they may _____ obliterate _____ the human race."
4. "You should understand the reason for each step in the problem," our math teacher said, "not simply do the steps by _____ rote _____."
5. We want to download an application that will _____ amplify _____ our sound effects without distorting them.
6. Because I was obeying all traffic regulations at the time the accident occurred, I _____ disclaimed _____ responsibility for it.
7. Along the walls of the palace, there were _____ niches _____ in which statues had been placed.
8. Although she had been separated from her family for years, at her hour of need her _____ kindred _____ came to her aid.
9. We did not realize how poor the people in that isolated region were until we saw the _____ ramshackle _____ huts in which they were living.
10. Optimists believe that the world is ultimately marked by _____ infinite _____ power and goodness.

11. Increasing dissatisfaction with the direction her political party was taking slowly _____ **estranged** _____ her from it.
12. When the electric power failed, we _____ **ransacked** _____ the kitchen to find candles and matches.
13. He used to be a modest, likable fellow, but now that he has inherited some money, his manner has become exceedingly _____ **arrogant** _____ and offensive.
14. I've been broke for so long that I'm afraid I won't know how to behave when I find myself _____ **solvent** _____ again.
15. The tinkling bell of the ice-cream _____ **vendor** _____ making his way through the streets is a pleasant sound on a summer evening.
16. Now that a(n) _____ **armistice** _____ has finally been arranged, the even more difficult job of making a lasting peace must begin.
17. After eating so much highly spiced food while on vacation, I craved some pleasantly _____ **bland** _____ home cooking.
18. "A dinner that is truly well prepared _____ **gratifies** _____ the eye as well as the palate," a famous chef once remarked.
19. After four hours of doing the same small task over and over again, I began to find my new job _____ **tedious** _____.
20. I think the vivid phrase "having a short fuse" aptly describes my neighbor's _____ **irascible** _____ temperament.

Writing: Words in Action

Answers to both prompts will vary.

1. Look back at "Now Arriving on Track 1: New York Dry Goods" (pages 174–175). Suppose you are William's friend, and you have decided to head west. You want to persuade William to join you on the trip. Write a letter using at least two details from the passage and three words from the Unit to convince him.
2. Think about how conveniences like e-commerce, priority mail, overnight deliveries, courier services, and other methods of shipping merchandise quickly have affected the exchange of goods in today's world. Then, in an essay, compare and contrast the business practices of today with those of 1869. Support your essay with evidence from the reading (refer to pages 174–175) or from your own knowledge, experience, or observations. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

Writing prompt #2 is modeled on that of standardized tests.

Vocabulary in Context

Literary Text

The following excerpts are from *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Some of the words you have studied in this Unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. "You start a question, and it's like starting a stone. You sit quietly on the top of a hill; and away the stone goes, starting others; and presently some **bland** old bird . . . is knocked on the head in his own back-garden."

Something that is **bland** is NOT

- a. true c. plain
b. forgettable d. exciting
2. "But it is more than ten years since Henry Jekyll became too fanciful for me. He began to go wrong, wrong in mind. . . . Such unscientific balderdash," added the doctor, flushing suddenly purple, "would have **estranged** Damon and Pythias."

When people are **estranged**, they are

- a. separated c. confused
b. exhausted d. eccentric
3. The middle one of the three windows was half-way open; and sitting close beside it, taking the air with an **infinite** sadness of mien, like some disconsolate prisoner, Utterson saw Dr. Jekyll.

A sadness that is **infinite** is

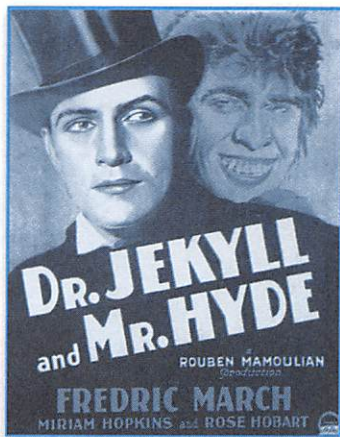
- a. foreign c. immeasurable
b. inadequate d. fleeting
4. For two months, however, I was true to my determination; for two months I led a life of such severity as I had never before attained to, and enjoyed the compensations of an approving conscience. But time began at last to **obliterate** the freshness of my alarm; the praises of conscience began to grow into a thing of course.

To **obliterate** something is to

- a. evaluate it c. protect it
b. spoil it d. eliminate it
5. At this moment, however, the rooms bore every mark of having been recently and hurriedly **ransacked**; clothes lay about the floor, with their pockets inside out; lock-fast drawers stood open; and on the hearth there lay a pile of grey ashes, as though many papers had been burned.

Something **ransacked** has been

- a. maintained c. handed out
 b. gone through d. abandoned



In the 1931 film version of Stevenson's book, Frederic March played both Jekyll and Hyde.

Interactive Quiz



Snap the code, or go to vocabularyworkshop.com

Note that not all of the 20 Unit words are used in this passage. *Dregs, inert, oblivion, pallid, and parable* are not included.

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 15. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

C CCSS Vocabulary: 4; Reading (Informational Text): 4, 6. (See pp. T14–15.)

Muckraking Journalist Ida M. Tarbell

<Biographical Sketch>



Ida M. Tarbell, c. 1904

Ida M. Tarbell was a pioneering investigative journalist. Her 1902–1904 magazine serial exposé, “The History of the Standard Oil Company,” did much to reform the United States oil industry. It changed the face of journalism and was the **crucial** catalyst for the breakup of the Standard Oil Trust in 1911. Her nineteen-part **opus** painted a scathing portrait of the shady practices of Standard Oil and its founder and president, John D. Rockefeller, America’s first billionaire.

That it was a woman who helped bring down an oil empire may have surprised some in an era when women were still regarded as the “weaker sex.” But it did not surprise those who knew Ida Tarbell.

While outwardly modest, with the **vener** of a polite and proper lady, Tarbell **embodied** daring and courage. She had a passion for exposing the truth.

She also claimed an oil-related **heritage**. Tarbell was born in 1857 in Hatch Hollow, Pennsylvania. Her father became an independent oil producer and refiner in the state’s oil-rich region. Young Ida watched as he lost his business due to Rockefeller’s **mercenary** practices, which involved **reciprocal** agreements between powerful railroad interests and a select group of large oil refiners. These tactics effectively shut out smaller companies.

Tarbell never forgot the **fiasco** that had **befallen** her father. It played a key role in shaping her later career. After high school, she attended Allegheny College (she was the sole female in her freshman class in 1876). She taught science briefly before becoming a writer. She moved to Paris, France, to work on a biography of a French revolutionary, and returned home at the invitation of a publisher who was starting a political and literary magazine.

Tarbell composed acclaimed pieces for the monthly *McClure’s Magazine* on Napoleon Bonaparte and Abraham Lincoln. But this was just a dry run. It was her carefully researched and **rational** articles on illicit industrial practices—**garnished** with her trademark spirited insights—that made her famous. And it proclaimed the era of the Progressive and the muckraker (a term made popular by President Theodore Roosevelt to describe how the journalists “dug up the dirt” on those they investigated).