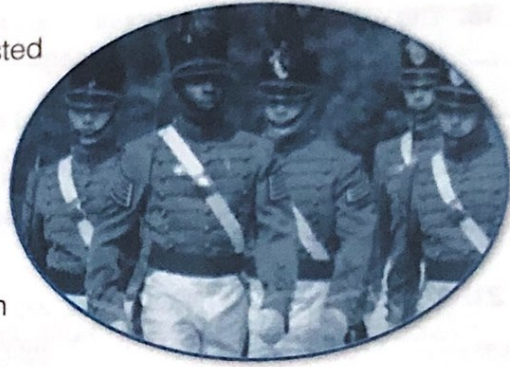


## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 184–185 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. My uncle, who was a West Point graduate, (**embodied, garnished**) all the qualities suggested by the phrase "an officer and a gentleman."
2. What a relief to turn from those (**pallid, negligent**) little tales to the lively, vigorous, earthy stories of Mark Twain.
3. Because decent people would have nothing to do with him, he soon began to associate with the (**dregs, fiasco**) of humanity.
4. "The heroism of these brave men and women speaks for itself and needs no (**oblivion, garnishing**)," said the senator.
5. Underneath the (**vener, oblivion**) of her polished manners, we recognized the down-to-earth young woman we had known in earlier years.
6. If our leadership is timid and (**mercenary, inert**), we will never be able to solve the great problems that face us.
7. As he undertook that big job without any sound preparation, all of his ambitious plans ended in a resounding (**stricture, fiasco**).
8. Isn't it tragic that the religious groups fighting each other are separated by a(n) (**parable, abyss**) of misunderstanding?
9. After his crushing defeat in the election, the candidate returned to his hometown and disappeared into (**heritage, oblivion**).
10. I spent months planning the fund-raiser, but it turned out to be a (**garnish, fiasco**): the guest speaker cancelled at the last minute, and the band was two hours late.
11. Experience teaches us that many of the things that seemed so (**crucial, inert**) when we were young are really of no ultimate importance.
12. When the court found that the car company had been (**negligent, rational**)—selling cars with substandard brakes—it was ordered to pay millions in fines.
13. There are times when it is good to let your imagination run free, instead of trying to be strictly (**rational, crucial**).
14. Marion turned (**opus, pallid**) when she received the news that her grandfather had suffered a stroke.
15. A descendant of one of the Founding Fathers of this country, she strove all her life to live up to her distinguished (**abyss, heritage**).



The United States Military Academy at West Point originally began as a school for military engineers in 1802.



16. If you are (**reciprocal, negligent**) about small sums of money, you may find that you will never have any large sums to worry about.
17. Using the (**dregs, veneer**) in the teacup, the fortune teller gave the young woman a reading about her happiness.
18. The plan of the two schools to exchange members of their faculties proved to be of (**rational, reciprocal**) advantage.
19. Any significant (**dregs, stricture**) of the passages leading to the heart will hinder the normal flow of blood to that organ and cause cardiac arrest.
20. It's hard for people to admit that some of the misfortunes that (**befall, garnish**) them are really their own fault.
21. In this early novel by Dickens, we have an (**abyss, opus**) that gives us a wonderful picture of life in nineteenth-century England.
22. Such familiar stories as "Little Red Riding Hood" are really (**parables, veneers**) that tell a child something about the conditions of human life.
23. Once the war had been won, the victors laid aside their high-minded ideals and became involved in a (**mercenary, pallid**) squabble over the spoils.
24. Her constant chattering while I'm trying to do my vocabulary exercises (**exasperates, embodies**) me more than I can say.
25. The ancient treasure lies at the bottom of an (**abyss, oblivion**) in the Pacific Ocean.



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

1. a thoroughly selfish and **greedy** individual
2. the artist's most brilliant **work**
3. remained **motionless** for a long time
4. a bad habit that truly **maddens** me
5. one who **exemplifies** courage and strength
6. a **teaching tale** with an important message
7. known to have a **sound** mind
8. the **sediment** at the bottom of the pond
9. a state of **unconsciousness**
10. stared at my **ashen** reflection

**mercenary**

---

**opus**

---

**inert**

---

**exasperates**

---

**embodies**

---

**parable**

---

**rational**

---

**dregs**

---

**oblivion**

---

**pallid**

---



## 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. looking for a **factual** lesson
2. throwing a **lively** party
3. **rosy** cheeks and raven hair
4. a place frequented by the **upper crust** of society
5. total **consciousness** of the situation

parable

inert

pallid

dregs

oblivion

## 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. Would you like your new desk finished with a(n) veneer of walnut, maple, or mahogany?
2. Without pretending that he cared about the public welfare, he told us frankly that his interest in the project was purely mercenary.
3. To our dismay, the running back didn't get to his feet after being tackled but instead lay inert on the field.
4. The brief code of laws known as the Ten Commandments embodies basic moral values.
5. A number of famous Roman emperors were clearly madmen for whose actions no rational explanation can possibly be devised.
6. Winston Churchill warned the English people that if they gave in to the Nazis, they would "sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age."
7. Astrologers claim that they can discover what will befall a person by studying the movements of various heavenly bodies.
8. Nothing exasperates me more than neighbors who play loud music outdoors late at night.
9. She was a famous writer in her own day, but her novels and stories have now passed into oblivion.
10. Many composers don't publish their works in the order in which they are written, so the number given to a particular opus might not tell much about the date of its composition.



11. The old adage "I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine" aptly describes the kind of reciprocal arrangement he has in mind.
12. During her confinement in a prisoner-of-war camp, she drained the cup of human suffering to the dregs.
13. In this third century of our nation's history, let us continue to safeguard our heritage of freedom.
14. Of course she didn't look well after her stay in the hospital, but a few days at the beach took care of that pallid complexion.
15. The ancient story of the Prodigal Son is a(n) parable that helps people understand problems and situations of present-day life.
16. In no time at all, poor management turned what should have been a surefire success into a costly fiasco.
17. The judge imposed a heavy fine on the negligent landlord who had failed to provide heat during the cold weather.
18. My mother doesn't think that a plate of food is ready to serve unless she has garnished it with a sprig of parsley or a slice of tomato.
19. In high school, you will make many decisions crucial to your future, but determining what to wear to the prom is not one of them.
20. The administration intends to propose legislation to cut back on customs duties and relax other strictures on foreign trade.

### Writing: Words in Action

Answers to both prompts will vary.

1. Look back at "Muckraking Journalist Ida M. Tarbell" (pages 184–185). Think about how the determination of just one person was able to dissolve the powerful Standard Oil Trust. Write a brief report describing how investigative journalists such as Ida Tarbell can help to bring about social reform. Use at least two details from the passage and three details from your own knowledge.



**Vocabulary  
in Context**  
**Literary Text**

The following excerpts are from *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James. 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. [It] was a big, ugly, antique, but convenient house, **embodying** a few features of a building still older, half-replaced and half-utilized, in which I had the fancy of our being almost as lost as a handful of passengers in a great drifting ship.

The act of **embodying** involves

- a. containing  
 b. obscuring  
 c. offending  
 d. pleasing
2. By the time I reached the pool, however, she was close behind me, and I knew that, whatever, to her apprehension, might **befall** me, the exposure of my society struck her as her least danger.

If something **befalls**, it

- a. sinks  
 b. troubles  
 c. transpires  
 d. satisfies
3. This opportunity came before tea: I secured five minutes with her in the housekeeper's room, where, in the twilight, amid a smell of lately baked bread, but with the place all swept and **garnished**, I found her sitting in pained placidity before the fire.

Something that has been **garnished** is

- a. emptied  
 b. diminished  
 c. dreary  
 d. beautified
4. With the stroke of the loss I was so proud of he uttered the cry of a creature hurled over an **abyss**, and the grasp with which I recovered him might have been that of catching him in his fall.

An **abyss** is a

- a. valley  
 b. chasm  
 c. canal  
 d. mountain
5. [I]n spite of my tension and of their triumph, I never lost patience with them. Adorable they must in truth have been, I now reflect, that I didn't in these days hate them! Would **exasperation**, however, if relief had longer been postponed, finally have betrayed me? It little matters, for relief arrived.

**Exasperation** is NOT

- a. satisfaction  
 b. exhaustion  
 c. paralysis  
 d. annoyance



Ingrid Bergman played the governess in the 1959 television adaptation of *The Turn of the Screw*.

**Interactive  
Quiz**



Snap the code, or go to  
[vocabularyworkshop.com](http://vocabularyworkshop.com)