

MILLION DOLLAR V o c a b u l a r y



Unlock your verbal
edge for success

Dr. J. Michael Bennett
with Paul R. Scheele





MILLION DOLLAR VOCABULARY PLAYBOOK

The course manual is for your personal use only and is to be used with the six audio recordings from the *Million Dollar Vocabulary Personal Learning Course*.

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MILLION DOLLAR Vocabulary

Lesson 1 (37 Mins)

The Wonderful World of Words

Tracks

- 1-4 Introduction
- 5-6 First Vocabulary Lesson & Quick Quiz
- 7 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 2 (35 Mins)

English Language History and Development

Tracks

- 8 Word Blast
- 9 Developing a Powerful Vocabulary
- 10 The Distinguished Dozen
- 11-12 10 Important Words from Business/Law/Finance & Quick Quiz
- 13 Nature & History of English
- 14 10 Interesting Words & Quick Quiz
- 15 More English Language Heritage
- 16-17 12 Words & Quick Quiz
- 18 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 3 (28 Mins)

Alphabet Soup

Tracks

- 1 Word Blast
- 2 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & The Distinguished Dozen
- 3-5 40 Power Charged Words & Quick Quiz
- 6 Quick Quiz
- 7 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 4 (30 Mins)

Learning to Learn

Tracks

- 8 Word Blast
- 9 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & The Distinguished Dozen
- 10-11 Keys to Learning to Learn & Quick Quiz
- 12 Immediate Recall Quick Quiz
- 13 10 High-Utility Action Words
- 14 Spell Checker Quick Quiz
- 15 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 5 (32 Mins)

From Painting to Professoring

Tracks

- 1 Word Blast
- 2 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & Adding to Your Vocabulary
- 3 The Distinguished Dozen
- 4 From Painter to Professor
- 5 Interesting Words from Horatio Alger & Quick Quiz
- 6 10 More Great Words & Quick Quiz
- 7 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 6 (34 Mins)

Reading and the Reader

Tracks

- 8 Word Blast
- 9 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & The Distinguished Dozen
- 10 Mastery Learner Checklist
- 11 Adult Reading & Listening
- 12 Several Words to Consider & Quick Quiz
- 13 Efficient & Effective Adult Reading
- 14-15 Useful Words & Quick Quiz
- 16 Important Words from Education/ Psychology/Sociology
- 17 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

MILLION DOLLAR

Vocabulary

Lesson 7 (33 Mins)

Listen My Children and You Shall Hear...

Tracks

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- 2 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & The Distinguished Dozen
- 3-4 Effective Listening
- 5 6 Most Productive Methods of Vocabulary Development
- 6-7 Useful Words & Quick Quiz
- 8-9 Homonyms, Homophones, Homographs & Quick Quiz
- 10 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 8 (26 Mins)

Word Play

Tracks

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- 12 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & The Distinguished Dozen
- 13 Word Play & Four-letter Words
- 14 Spoonerisms, Freudian Slips, Malapropisms, & Puns
- 15 Vocabulary Preview for this Lesson
- 16-18 Frequently Misinterpreted Four-letter Words
- 19 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 9 (29 Mins)

Sail on the Seven C's

Tracks

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- 2 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & The Distinguished Dozen
- 3-4 Articulate Writing & Speaking
- 5 A Few Interesting Words & Quick Quiz
- 6 Oral Presentation & Speech Preparation
- 7 Seven C's of Articulate Communication
- 8 6 Usage Considerations & Quick Quiz
- 9 Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Lesson 10 (31 Mins)

I Love Words

Tracks

- 10 Word Blast
- 11 Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb & The Distinguished Dozen
- 12 I Love Words
- 13 What Goes Around, Comes Around
- 14 Love Over 30
- 15-18 5 Noble Nouns, Vivacious Verbs, Awesome Adjectives & Quick Quiz
- 19 Final Bennettdiction & Word Blast

Paraliminal Learning

Session 1

Tracks

- 1-3 (28 Mins)

Paraliminal Learning

Session 2

Tracks

- 1-3 (28 Mins)



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immersion,
nascent,
inchoate,
dendrites,
neuronal,
cerebral hemispheres,
sensory,
metacognition,
concomitant,
enabling,
substantive,
arbitrarily,
capriciously,
replete,
modus operandi,
in toto,
acrimonious,
acid,
animus,
magnanimous,
doctrine,
fey,
clairvoyant,
ode,
vie,
anthropocentric,
centrifuge,
carpe diem,
repondez s'il vous plait,
incipient,
whimsical,
temporizing,
hominines,
consigned,
irrevocably,
oblivion,
serendipitously,
cumbersome,
parenthetically,
juxtaposition,
purloined,
filched,
joie de vivre,
lollapalooza,
auscultation,
deflagrate,
per se,
germane,
apropos,
cheerio

1

“THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WORDS”

The Pleasures and Benefits of Building a *Million Dollar Vocabulary*

A hearty welcome and congratulations to you for taking a big step towards self-improvement, self-actualization, and self-confidence! You are embarking on a vocabulary adventure unequalled in effectiveness. Get ready to playfully explore over 600 words to improve your ability to express yourself and understand others.

Scientists have shown us that a brain immersed in learning busily grows dendrites, the essential interconnections that link brain cells together. The more you engage your whole brain with sounds, images, feelings, games, puzzles, and rich challenging experiences, the more densely you grow the useful connections and pathways within your brain. No one can do that for you, only you can, and you will do it naturally by participating in the lessons of this course.

The more you fully involve yourself, the more easily and quickly your brain takes possession of your *Million Dollar Vocabulary*.

Listen to an Audio Lesson

Start by listening to the first lesson. Come back to this playbook to review the corresponding chapter. Consider listening a second time before going on.

Each of the 10 audio lessons of your *Million Dollar Vocabulary Course* has a chapter in this playbook to support what you have learned. Hearing or seeing a word at first may generate a feeling of familiarity, producing a pleasant curiosity that leads you forward to further learning. You connect with these words more deeply through your active participation and use of them while speaking and writing. Each and every time you purposefully choose to use a word, you instantly make it available as an ongoing part of your vocabulary.

Paraliminal Learning Sessions (Lessons 11 & 12)

Begin listening to Paul Scheele's Paraliminal Learning Sessions at least once weekly to fully absorb and integrate your new vocabulary. Listen periodically after you finish the course for review and continued enrichment.

The relaxing, yet deeply effective nature of Paraliminal Learning Sessions necessitates listening in a place free from distractions where you feel comfortable to close your eyes. Do not listen while driving a car. Use stereo headphones to fully enjoy the experience. At times you will hear different voices in either ear speaking the words and definitions of your *Million Dollar Vocabulary*. Relax. You do not have to follow along; the messages are designed to speak to your inner mind.

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb

“Sans operose; sans accrete”

“No strain; no gain”

Three Latin Invaders

ac or **acr**: sharp; bitter:
as in, acid; acute; acrid;
acrimonious

anim: life; mind; soul; spirit:
as in, unanimous; animosity;
animus; magnanimous

doc: to teach: as in, doctor;
doctrine; doctrinaire;
documentation

Three Little Words

fey: clairvoyant; enchanted;
magical; My friend Flicka is a
fey and gifted person.

ode: a lyrical poem of praise;
A toad can't write an ode, but
I can.

vie: to compete: to contest;
The boys vied for Debbie's
attention.

Three Greek Gifts

anthro or **andr**: man;
human: as in, anthropology;
android; anthropocentric;
philanthropist

arch or **archi** or **archy**:
meaning chief; principal;
ruler: as in, architect;
monarchy; archenemy;
hierarchy

centr: center: as in,
concentrate; eccentric;
centrifuge; egocentric

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

carpe diem: enjoy the day; Stop
dawdling Ernesto, *carpe diem*.

modus operandi: method of
operating; The *modus operandi*
of this course is whole-brain
learning.

re'pondez s'il vous plait or
RSVP: (in English) please
reply; Please RSVP so we can
know how many are coming.

Word Blast

Notice the lesson's words printed in the left column on each chapter's first page. Quickly run your eyes down the list to refresh and reinforce your learning and to organize your thoughts in advance of experiencing the chapter's full content.

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverbs

Look for a Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb in each lesson. They are whimsical rephrasings of common proverbs, with big and unusual words, like this one:

“Temporizing hominines are consigned to oblivion,” or, more commonly, “They who hesitate are lost.”

Temporize means to compromise or act evasively in order to gain time, avoid argument, or postpone a decision; hominines means humans, consigned means to deliver, commit irrevocably; and oblivion means completely lost and/or forgotten.

You might wonder when you would ever use, or even be exposed to such words as “temporize.” They're all around you right now! After you learn a new word, you will hear and see it often over a short period of time. You don't “see” or “hear” words you don't know, so to speak. They are screened out of our consciousness. It's like buying a new car you never considered owning. After you have yours, they seem to be everywhere! And, when you know powerful words, you'll use them in your communication, and see and hear them amazingly often.

The Distinguished Dozen

You will find the Distinguished Dozen which consists of: **Three Latin Invaders** (Latin roots and affixes helpful in deciphering and understanding English); **Three Little Words** (not, “I love you”)—three tiny, power-packed words; **Three Greek Gifts** (Greek roots and affixes helpful to English speakers and learners); and **Three Purloined** (that's stolen or filched) **Foreign-language Expressions** in common use among the vocabulary-gifted. For example, one from the French I'm experiencing at this moment, is *joie de vivre*, “heartily and carefree enjoyment of life.” The last component of the Distinguished Dozen is the *Lollapalooza*, a unique and wonderful word. One is “deflagrate” which means “to burn with great heat and intense light.” Not bizarre words, but definitely lollapaloozas.

Bennettdiction

We must remember the “Bennett-diction,” Paul Scheele's term for a “Thought for the Day,” and a nice play on the word “benediction,” or blessing. These are words to ponder, to live by, to learn by. An example would be Ben Franklin's, “Nothing ventured; nothing gained.” It's insightful, wise, and appropriate to the larger lesson at hand. Equally germane to us now is this thought: “To discover new oceans, you must be willing to lose sight of the shore.”

Crossword Puzzles & Matching Challenges

Take time to play with the puzzles and quizzes throughout your playbook so that you become used to thinking and using your new vocabulary. You may even select one or two words each day that will be your words for the day. Use these words often in your written and verbal conversations. Be playful!

Lollapalooza

inchoate: just beginning;
incipient; early stages of
development

Matching Challenge

For each word in the left column find a definition from the right column.

Answers are listed on Page 46.

There are three strategies you can follow:

1. Do the Matching Challenge before beginning a lesson. This will focus your attention on the new words to learn.

2. Do the Matching Challenge after completing a lesson. This will reinforce the new words and their meanings.

3. Do both! This is the best way to learn. When doing the Matching Challenge the first time, write your answers on another sheet of paper.

PhotoRead the Playbook and Dictionary

PhotoReading, a whole-mind approach to processing printed information, can prime your mind with new words and their meanings. This is one of the reasons that beginning PhotoReaders are taught to PhotoRead the dictionary. PhotoReaders routinely notice new words floating into their vocabularies after spending just a few minutes PhotoReading a dictionary. More information on PhotoReading is in the back of this playbook. PhotoReaders should invest the few minutes it takes to PhotoRead this playbook each day of using the course and PhotoRead the dictionary on a regular basis throughout life.

Matching Challenge

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. arbitrary: _____ | a. to flee the scene |
| 2. capricious: _____ | b. to burn with great heat and intense light |
| 3. glean: _____ | c. to pick up or scrape together in piecemeal fashion |
| 4. <i>in toto</i> : _____ | d. whims; passing fancies |
| 5. abscond: _____ | e. a lyrical poem |
| 6. bellicose: _____ | f. choice; discretion; personal preference |
| 7. serendipity: _____ | g. to compromise or act evasively in order to gain time; avoid argument; or postpone a decision |
| 8. juxtapose: _____ | h. to deliver; to turn over to; commit irrevocably |
| 9. temporize: _____ | i. the faculty of making fortunate and unexpected discoveries by accident |
| 10. hominines: _____ | j. without |
| 11. consigned: _____ | k. please reply |
| 12. oblivion: _____ | l. humans |
| 13. <i>joie de vivre</i> : _____ | m. just beginning; incipient; early stages of development |
| 14. deflagrate: _____ | n. clairvoyant; enchanted; magical |
| 15. <i>per se</i> : _____ | o. method of operating |
| 16. sans: _____ | p. enjoy the day |
| 17. operose: _____ | q. completely lost and/or forgotten |
| 18. accrete: _____ | r. hearty and carefree enjoyment of life |
| 19. fey: _____ | s. to piece together; situate side by side |
| 20. ode: _____ | t. totally; entirely; altogether of praise |
| 21. vie: _____ | u. as such; intrinsically |
| 22. <i>carpe diem</i> : _____ | v. warlike |
| 23. <i>modus operandi</i> : _____ | w. to grow, gather, acquire |
| 24. <i>re'pondez s'il vous plait</i> | x. wrought with labor |
| or RSVP: _____ | y. to compete; to contest |
| 25. inchoate: _____ | |

Glossary

A comprehensive glossary is included at the back of this playbook. Sometimes you will find multiple definitions of a word. You may even notice that definitions in the glossary vary from definitions provided in other sections of the playbook. This will help you learn the nuances of the English language.

Listen Multiple Times to the Audio Lessons

Each time through an audio lesson you will reinforce your new vocabulary and learn new words you may have missed in earlier sessions. You may find that learning comes best in layers. And, if you don't use the words you learn, periodic reinforcement will keep them available to you.

Bennettdiction

"The difference between the right word, and the almost right word, is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug." Mark Twain

Cheerio

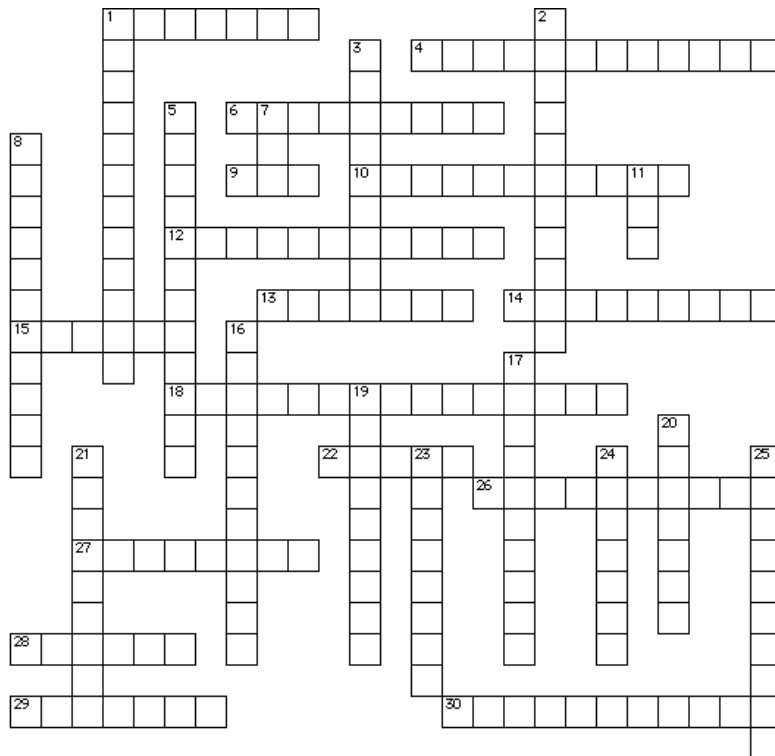
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. Related to the matter at hand
4. The biggest and the best
6. To entrust
9. Otherworldly
10. Having independent existence
12. Impossible to retract
13. Completely filled; brimming
14. To take dishonestly
15. All
18. By chance discovery
22. Bitter taste or smell; pungent
26. To cause to burn
27. Make feasible or possible
28. Deep-seated hatred
29. Of or pertaining to sensation
30. Delay decision to gain time

Down

1. The act of listening
2. Unselfish, big-hearted
3. Erratic in behavior; fanciful
5. Impulsively
7. A lyric poem
8. Occurring in company with
11. To strive for victory
16. Bitingly hostile in nature
17. Difficult to handle; bulky
19. Beginning to exist or appear
20. Fitting
21. Absorbed
23. Early stage; incipient
24. To come forth; emerge
25. To separate by spinning



2

bon jour or bonjour,
 mentor,
 multisyllabic,
 Latinate, lexicon,
 pulchritude,
 cutaneous,
 profundity,
 voluptuous, profound,
 abstruse,
 recondite,
 attributes,
 denominator, oblivious,
 pretentious,
 turbid,
 polyandry,
caveat emptor,
de jure, du jour,
laissez faire,
 usufruct,
 abjure,
 conglomerate, defalcate,
 discount,
 escrow,
 abeyance,
 franchise, quitclaim,
 stochastic,
 suborn, usurp,
 polyglot, procured,
 intermediary,
 ritzy,
 etymology,
 Celts, Angles,
 Saxons, Jutes,
 Normans,
 dispersed,
 lilt, gusto,
 potent,
 sociolinguists,
 inherently, exacting,
lingua franca,
 eccentricities,
 versatile,
 mesmerizing,
 summit,
 torpor, *voila,*
 turgidity, tumidity,
 idiosyncratic,
 pinnacle, veritable,
 vignettes,
 augmentation, trove,
au revoir

“ENGLISH LANGUAGE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT”

Financial Success and Prosperity

Our Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb for this lesson is: “Pulchritude possesses solely cutaneous profundity.”

That set of words is a long way to go if one simply wishes to caution that, “Beauty is only skin deep,” isn’t it? Having recognized that, though, we also need to recognize the important fact that knowing, and being able to use “pulchritude,” “cutaneous,” and “profundity” correctly and appropriately can be very useful in certain situations—especially if you need to be very specific or very precise. That is, to be clear, concise, complete, and correct in your listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Vocabulary power for an educated and capable person is not the icing on the cake; vocabulary power is the cake.

Pulchritude means beauty, but it also means appeal. Why is that important? Because not all beautiful persons are appealing; they’re just accidentally physically gorgeous, and their beauty really is “only skin deep.” Pulchritude implies and suggests voluptuous beauty, such as Marilyn Monroe possessed, as distinguished from austere beauty, like that of Mona Lisa.

Cutaneous refers to skin. Knowing that fact marks you as a person with a knowledge of biology as well as vocabulary, and indicates an understanding on your part of our Latin language heritage, as well.

Profundity refers to something profound, but it also means abstruse, that is, “difficult to understand,” and it means recondite, meaning “concealed or hidden.” And, since profundity has taken on, as a feeling, a rather negative connotation, the most common dictionary-denotation might be something like “overdone; unnecessarily profound.”

So it goes, and so it grows, one word leading to another word, and *voila!* (from the French meaning, “There it is!” or “There you are!”) you possess a deep, wide, powerful vocabulary, and all the things that go with such a vocabulary. Coincidentally, that’s just our goal and purpose in this personal learning course—to empower you toward developing a “deep, wide, powerful vocabulary.”

Many people seem unaware of the importance of words in achieving success. Perhaps they fail to realize how much they are influenced by use of the proper word at the proper time, or they are oblivious or naive as to how their own speech or writing is evaluated by other persons.

To understand and appreciate English one must appreciate the fact that the English language is a polyglot—a wonderful combination of many languages. The language we call

Three Latin Invaders

multi: many: as in multisyllabic; multimillionaire

uni: one: as in unique; unicorn; unicycle

turb: agitate or whirl: as in turbid; disturb; turbulent

Three Little Words

dun: to pester for payment of a debt; Amy keeps receiving a dun for a debt she doesn't owe.

nil: nothing; naught; zilch; nada; Edward's chances of going out with Laura were nil.

opt: choose; decide; go for; Steve will always opt for baked beans.

Three Greek Gifts

dyn: power: as in dynamic; dynamite; dynasty; dynamo

log: word or study: as in etymology; biology; logistics

poly: many: as in polysyllabic; polygamy; polyandry

Three Purloined Foreign-language Phrases

caveat emptor: let the buyer beware; a caveat is a warning or caution

de jure: legally so; and **de facto:** meaning: in fact; The Buick was (*de jure*) Pete's possession; but, (*de facto*) Jackie had the car.

laissez faire: the policy of non-interference in business conduct; that is, market forces, not government forces, rule

Lollapalooza

usufruct (yoo-zoo-fruct): the right to use someone else's property as long as it's not damaged in the process

English was originally a German dialect, and is still Germanic in its structure. The words themselves, however, come from many sources.

As a result of exchanges with other cultures, ranging from war and conquest, to trade and commerce, to works of literature, we have borrowed widely. In fact, we have procured so many words from Latin, either directly or through French as an intermediary, that we would be more accurate to describe English as Anglo-Latin rather than Anglo-Saxon. English also has borrowed many words from Greek, especially in the fields of science and technology, as you will notice in the Three Greek Gifts entries.

A few modern English words are of Celtic origin, surviving from the languages of the so-called "barbaric" people called Celts who inhabited Britain before the coming of the Romans in the second century A.D. A few other words, such as "camp," "street," and "mile," were left by the Romans themselves. When the Angles and the Saxons overran the land in the fifth century, they incorporated into their own language certain Celtic and Latin words, which survive today. Subsequent Danish (i.e. Viking) invasions added many words to the "English" tongue. The most significant and permanent changes were yet to come, however. When the Normans conquered England in 1066 A.D., English was principally Germanic, with as we have noted, a few Celtic words, and some Latin words.

The Normans brought with them their French tongue, which was actually only a Latin dialect. Neither language was able to absorb the other, and for several hundred years the language of the ruling class was Norman, while the language of the working class was Anglo-Saxon.

In time, however, the two became joined together into one. As a result, the grammar was greatly simplified (believe it or not, Old English had an even more bewildering grammar than does modern English) and, in many cases, there came to be two different words with the same meaning—a plain Anglo-Saxon word, such as "pig," or "calf," and a ritzy Norman word, such as "pork," or "veal."

Through the ages, English has been continually enriched by the addition of new words. The result is a complex language of great depth and breadth. Our language can exhibit all the lilt and charm of the Romance languages, all the precision and gusto of the Northern European group, and all the versatility and adaptability of Greek and Latin. The result of all this blending is a unique and potent language.

A very respectable group of sociolinguists maintains that one of the primary reasons for the business, financial, military, and literary successes of English-speaking peoples is related to an aspect of the psychology of our language. According to this view, our language is somehow inherently aggressive, competitive, exacting, and expansive. To think in English, apparently, is to develop a mindset for forceful, personally responsible action. What a fascinating idea—we are what we say, and how we say it!

All this borrowing and adopting, however, has also created some problems. English is considered to be a very difficult language to learn. Rules are hard to come by, and even grammatical patterns have so many exceptions that they are almost useless to a person learning English from a book.

English is, in fact, the *lingua franca* of the world: language of the Franks, meaning a common language. It's ironic then that our mongrel (as some think of it) language is

procured: obtained; acquired

intermediary: arbitrator; agent; broker

polyglot: a mixture of languages; a language composed of many languages

ritzy: elegant; fancy; fashionable

etymology: the branch of linguistics concerned with the derivation of words

lilt: a cheerful, lively manner of speaking

gusto: zest; relish; vigor

potent: powerful; commanding attention

sociolinguists: those who study the interactions of a society and its language

inherently: intrinsic; existing as an essential characteristic

exacting: requiring great care, effort, or attention

expansive: wide; sweeping; comprehensive; grand in scale

eccentricities: idiosyncrasies; quirks; deviations from normal, expected or conventional behavior (note: eccentricities, accessories, accidental and other such words are pronounced with a hard first c and a soft second c)

mesmerizing: enthralling; hypnotic; fascinating

pretentious: making an extravagant outer show; ostentatious (like a peacock)

pinnacle: the highest point; summit; acme

torpor: apathy; insensibility; lethargy

turgid: overly ornate in style or language; grandiloquent

tumid: swollen; overblown; bombastic

abjure: to repudiate or recant solemnly; to renounce under oath; forswear

the international language of business, finance, communications, airports, seaports, scholarly publications, and other areas. Perhaps our weaknesses are our strengths, in that a language that has borrowed, copied, incorporated, procured, and adapted from many other sources has a built-in wide appeal.

It's also interesting to know that while English is fourth to Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish (in that order) in the list of most common first languages, it is by a huge margin the most common second language the world around. It's obvious that a powerful English vocabulary will pay many dividends. In fact, the reason English is learned by so many non-native speakers is often because of the economic power of Great Britain, Canada, United States, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and other English-speaking places.

Books have been written on the confusing and humorous aspects of our language that have developed as a result of the history of English. The point here, however, is that despite its eccentricities, we have at our disposal in the English language an excellent tool; a fantastic, versatile, mesmerizing tool. Our job and our joy in this personal learning course, and for the rest of our lives, is to learn to use this awesome tool to its best advantage.

When your vocabulary is rich and flexible, you will make full use of our unique language, and, as it were, stand comfortably and confidently on the summit separating the triple swamps called Torpor, Turgidity and Tumidity.

***Bennett*diction**

"Yesterday's history; tomorrow's a mystery; Today's a gift—that's why we call it the present."

Au revoir

conglomerate: a company composed of several companies

defalcate: to misuse funds; embezzle

discount: to lend money with the interest deducted in advance

escrow: a contract or money held in abeyance by a third party

quitclaim: a deed giving up one's right to property

franchise: the right to vote; special privilege granted by a corporation or government

stochastic: a mathematical measurement of the momentum of price in the stock market

suborn: to induce another to unlawfully commit a misdeed

usurp: to unrightfully seize power or office

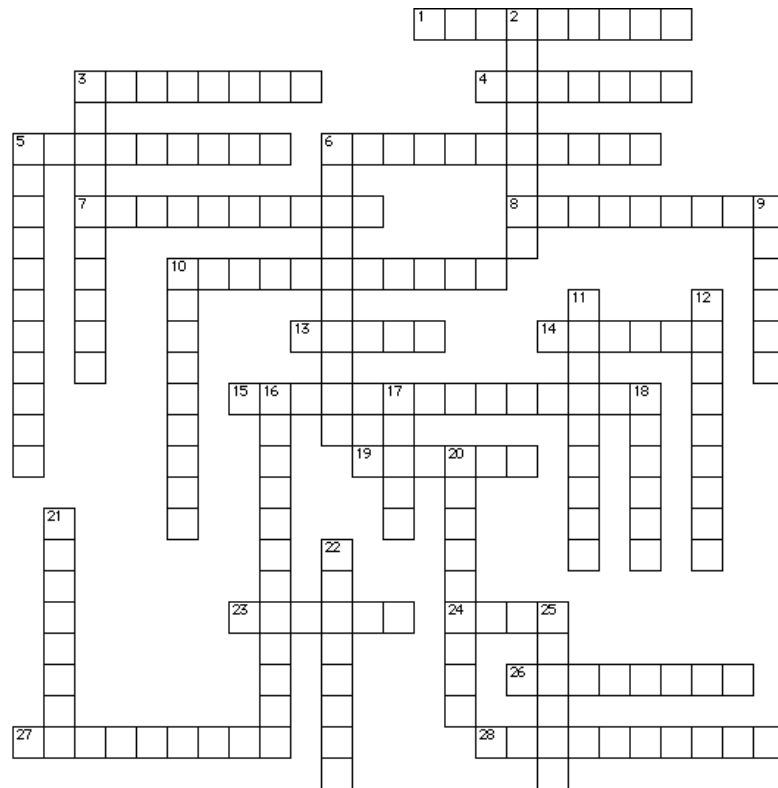
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. Misappropriate funds
3. Short sketch
4. A vocabulary
5. Having more than one husband at a time
7. Intellectual penetration or range
8. To affect the skin
10. A common trait; standard
13. Enthusiasm; zest
14. To take back; recant
15. Depart from the norm
19. Physical or inner strength
23. A leader; advisor
24. A light, happy tune
26. Thoroughgoing; far-reaching
27. Not easily understood; abstruse
28. Conjectural

Down

2. Temporarily inactive; suspended
3. Sensual pleasure
5. Physical beauty
6. An inherent quality
9. The highest point; zenith
10. Spread widely
11. Unmindful
12. Real
16. Clustered together
17. A valuable discovery
18. Commit perjury
20. Origin of words
21. Difficult to understand
22. From the Latin
25. Sluggishness



Matching Challenge

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. pulchritude: _____ | a. legally so |
| 2. cutaneous: _____ | b. to misuse funds; embezzle |
| 3. profundity: _____ | c. requiring great care, effort, or attention |
| 4. <i>voila</i> : _____ | d. the highest point; summit; acme |
| 5. dun: _____ | e. the policy of non-interference in business conduct |
| 6. nil: _____ | f. There it is! or There you are! |
| 7. opt: _____ | g. let the buyer beware |
| 8. caveat emptor: _____ | h. to pester for payment of a debt |
| 9. <i>de jure</i> : _____ | i. apathy; insensibility; lethargy |
| 10. <i>laissez faire</i> : _____ | j. profound; difficult to understand; concealed |
| 11. usufruct: _____ | k. a mixture of languages |
| 12. abjure: _____ | l. overly ornate in style or language; grandiloquent |
| 13. defalcate: _____ | m. beauty with sex appeal |
| 14. suborn: _____ | n. nothing; naught; zilch; nada |
| 15. usurp: _____ | o. intrinsic; existing as an essential characteristic |
| 16. polyglot: _____ | p. to repudiate or recant solemnly |
| 17. inherently: _____ | q. swollen; overblown; bombastic |
| 18. exacting: _____ | r. enthralling; hypnotic; fascinating |
| 19. expansive: _____ | s. the right to use someone else's property |
| 20. mesmerizing: _____ | t. choose; decide; go for |
| 21. pretentious: _____ | u. to induce another to unlawfully commit a misdeed |
| 22. pinnacle: _____ | v. making an extravagant outer show; ostentatious |
| 23. torpor: _____ | w. refers to skin |
| 24. turgid: _____ | x. wide; sweeping; comprehensive; grand in scale |
| 25. tumid: _____ | y. to unrightfully seize power or office |

3

hola,
 encrustations,
 rectitude,
 complicity,
 denigrate,
 coquettish, cacophony,
 antipathy,
 contiguous,
c'est la vie,
 neurotic, ado,
c'est la guerre,
 antipathy,
 coy,
n'est-ce pas
 paleolithic, din,
 rapacious,
 otiose,
 augment,
 bereft, cronies,
 destitute,
 eccentric,
 flatulent, gravity,
 hiatus, inept,
 jejune,
 karma,
 lachrymose,
 mewling,
 nihilistic,
 opined, puerile,
 quirky,
 quixotic,
 quest, rife,
 sententious,
 timorous,
 umbrage,
 vacuous,
 wont,
 expunge,
 extol, exacerbate,
 yokefellows,
 zymurgy,
 deliberation,
 pickings, moolah,
 civil,
 petulant,
 chastened,
 fold,
 minute,
 strife,
 apocryphal,
 adios

“ALPHABET SOUP”

Fun and Mental Stimulation

“May I Have a Word with You?”

Arnold determined after much deliberation that he needed to augment his income. Pickings were getting slim at the family’s thyroid ranch, and he needed more moolah, but was unsure as to an effective methodology. His father was bereft of helpful ideas, and his neurotic cronies were all destitute, so he turned to his eccentric and flatulent cousin, Marcel.

Marcel was made to understand the gravity of Arnold’s needs, but Marcel’s antipathy for his family was so strong that he had placed himself on hiatus from involvement in the endless, inept, and jejune antics of his relatives in their efforts to become rich without working. They all had bad karma, and their lachrymose mewling over their imagined misfortunes made him short-tempered and nihilistic. Consequently, he opined to Arnold that this puerile and piteous effort was no more than yet another quirky, quixotic, crazy quest. “Well, your life is rife with strife, too,” Arnold shouted in a sententious manner, “so keep a civil tongue, Cousin Petulant. Please remember that you inherited your money from our paleolithic Great-Aunt Bouillabaisse!”

Thus chastened, Marcel, who was timorous by nature, pleaded with his cousin not to take umbrage. Marcel’s watery, vacuous eyes were begging for forgiveness. “I’m not wont to hold a grudge,” said Arnold, “so grant me three wishes, and I’ll take you back into the family fold.” “Anything,” said Marcel. “What are your wishes?”

“One: Expunge from your minute mind your former negative opinion of my quest for cash.

Two: Extol my virtues to all who will listen.

Three: Exacerbate my plight no more with your insensitivity,” said Arnold.

“Done, Cousin Arnold,” said Marcel. “We shall be yokefellows from this day forward.”

“Excellent, Cousin Marcel,” said Arnold. “Let’s seal our renewed bond with a bit of the zymurgist’s magic, while I share another word or two with you about an investment I have in mind.” *The End*

I hope your family is a little less dysfunctional than the one described. Now might be a good time to choose your favorite between these two quotable opinions relating to family ties:

1) In our lives, the only thing we really own is our family—treasure it for the treasure it truly is.

2) In our lives, we get to choose everything except our family—we’re stuck with them!

I don’t know—maybe they both work at one time or another? And, I’m sure we wish

augment: enlarge; expand
bereft: dispossessed; deprived
cronies: old friends; companions
destitute: poor; penniless
eccentric: quaint; outlandish
flatulent: full of gas; bombastic
gravity: seriousness; importance
hiatus: break; pause
inept: foolish; awkward
jejune: childish; unsophisticated
karma: fate; destiny
lachrymose: weepy; tearful
mewling: to cry weakly; whimper; to sound like a kitten
 nihilistic: belief that destruction of social institutions is necessary for future improvement
opined: stated as an opinion
puerile: childish; juvenile
quirky: bizarre; erratic
quixotic: from Don Quixote: impractical; hopelessly naïve
quest: crusade; noble search
rife: abundant; riddled
sententious: tense and energetic in expression; pithy
timorous: fearful; timid
umbrage: offense; resentment
vacuous: vacant; inane
wont: accustomed
expunge: obliterate; delete
extol: commend; exalt
exacerbate: intensify
yokefellows: boon companions; partners
zymurgy: the process used in brewing and distilling; a zymurgist is a fermenter.

all the best for the Arnolds and the Marcells of the world. Our quest is different, though. Our quest is for a Million Dollar Vocabulary.

A few words about some words

“Fold” (or flock) has become associated primarily with religion. “Petulant,” “chastened,” “strife,” and “civil” (or rather the absence of civility) are all social/psychological terms which have to do with stress. Finally, “mi nute” is “minute,” with a pronunciation attitude. Incidentally, at a young age I corrected my father’s mispronunciation of “mi nute.” That was some time ago, but I still remember the icy reception of my impertinence. That’s curious because, nowadays, I get paid to help people say and use words to their best advantage. *C’est la vie; c’est la guerre; n’est-ce pas?*

complicity: the state of being an accomplice; involvement

deliberation: reflection; thought

pickings: a share of spoils; booty

moolah: money

civil: proper; polite; civilized

petulant: unreasonably irritable or ill-tempered; peevish

chastened: shamed; corrected

fold: group; herd; flock

minute: microscopic; tiny

strife: dissension; conflict

Bennettdiction

“When all is said and done, more is said than done.”

Adios

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb

"Freedom from encrustations of grime is contiguous to rectitude."

"Cleanliness is next to godliness."

Three Latin Invaders

com: (also con; cor; or col) meaning: *together*: as in, complete; complicity

de: away or down: as in, degrade; derelict

sent: opinion; mind; awareness: as in, sententious; sentious; sentient; sentiment

Three Little Words

coy: bashful; modest; coquettishly shy; The young secretary was very coy.

din: a loud, unpleasant, confused noise; cacophony; Bob's garage band is making quite a din.

nag: an old horse, to engage in persistent, petty fault-finding; Nag, nag, nag – quit picking on me!

Three Greek Gifts

neur: nerve: as in, neurotic; neurosis

anti: against: as in, antipathy; antibiotic

paleo: ancient or prehistoric: as in, paleontology

Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

c'est la vie: Such is life.

c'est la guerre: Such is war. (often said together)

n'est-ce pas?: which means: Is it not so?

Lollapalooza

otiose (o she ose): having a lazy nature; indolent; leisurely – consider "negotiate:" meaning literally, not leisure – i.e. it's work or effort

Matching Challenge

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. contiguous: _____ | a. full of gas; bombastic |
| 2. rectitude: _____ | b. Such is war |
| 3. coy: _____ | c. childish; unsophisticated; also, dull; weak |
| 4. din: _____ | d. weepy; tearful |
| 5. nag: _____ | e. intrepid virtue and righteousness |
| 6. c'est la vie: _____ | f. a loud, unpleasant, confused noise; cacophony |
| 7. c'est la guerre: _____ | g. to engage in persistent, petty, faultfinding |
| 8. n'est-ce pas?: _____ | h. bashful or modest; coquettishly shy |
| 9. otiose: _____ | i. offense; resentment |
| 10. bereft: _____ | j. fate; destiny |
| 11. flatulent: _____ | k. obliterate: delete |
| 12. hiatus: _____ | l. Such is life |
| 13. jejune: _____ | m. fearful; timid |
| 14. karma: _____ | n. childish; juvenile |
| 15. lachrymose: _____ | o. vacant; inane |
| 16. nihilistic: _____ | p. the chemistry of fermentation which is the process used in brewing and distilling |
| 17. puerile: _____ | q. Is it not so? |
| 18. quixotic: _____ | r. break; pause |
| 19. sententious: _____ | s. of questionable authenticity |
| 20. timorous: _____ | t. near; close; touching |
| 21. umbrage: _____ | u. from Don Quixote: impractical; hopelessly naïve |
| 22. vacuous: _____ | v. having a lazy nature; indolent; leisurely |
| 23. expunge: _____ | w. tense and energetic in expression; pithy |
| 24. zymurgy: _____ | x. belief that destruction of social institutions is necessary for future improvement |
| 25. apocryphal: _____ | y. dispossessed; deprived |



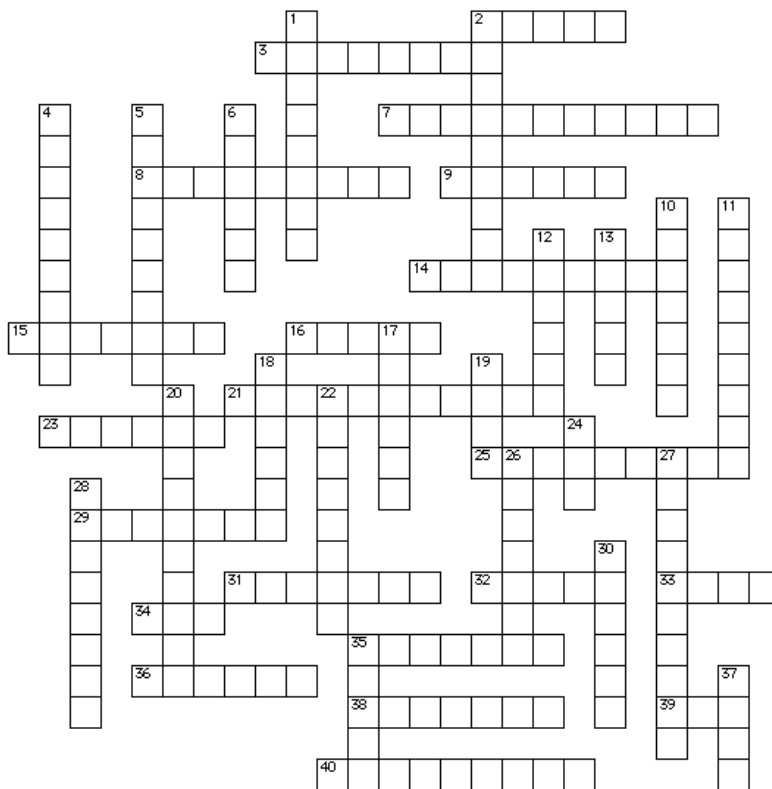
Try out the words you learn in your conversations with others.

Crossword Puzzle Clues**Across**

2. Praise highly
3. An anxious person
7. Comrades
8. A strong feeling of aversion
9. Bitter conflict
14. Moral or ethical strength
15. To add
16. Fate; destiny
21. Terse and energetic in expression
23. Money
25. To defame
29. Resentment; offense
31. Concerned with fermentation
32. Not fitting; inappropriate
33. Widespread
34. Coquettish
35. Long time close friends
36. Deprived of something
38. Empty-headed
39. Busy and useless activity
40. Bloated

Down

1. Easily annoyed
2. Freakish; quirky
4. Unappeasable; voracious
5. To correct by punishment or suffering
6. To state as an opinion
10. Infantile or childish
11. Impoverished
12. A break
13. To try to find; seek
17. Tiny
18. Childish
19. Group with common beliefs
20. Mournful; weeping
22. Apprehensiveness
24. Loud sounds; hubbub
26. Wipe clean; erase
27. False or spurious
28. Foolishly impractical
30. Lazy
35. Characterized by good manners; courteous
37. Habit



4

fecund,
 albeit,
 lithic,
 conglomerates,
 congeries,
 viridescent,
 biophytes,
 surveillance,
 ken,
 yen,
 zen,
 metacognition,
sine qua non,
status quo,
tout de suite,
 sapid,
 gash,
 correlative,
 puissant,
 correlative,
 reciprocally,
 seminal,
 metacognition,
 saw,
 vernacular,
 adjacent,
 rendering,
 labyrinth,
 veracity,
 incidental,
 stylus,
 maze,
 impeded,
 requisite,
 concomitantly,
 juncture,
 abscond,
 cauterize,
 deify,
 disconcert,
 elucidate,
 expurgate,
 finagle,
 prognosticate,
 supersede,
 truncate,
arrivederci

“LEARNING TO LEARN”

Lifelong Learning

Our Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb is “Revolving lithic conglomerates accumulate no congeries of viridescent lycopods,” translates to, “A rolling stone gathers no moss.”

This might have been easier to decipher had you known that lithic conglomerates are rocks; congeries refer to aggregations or agglomerations; viridescent means green; lycopods are mosses.

“Learning to Learn” is an analysis and description of “metacognition” or thinking about thinking, which was discovered and named by Edward Robinson, one of America’s first and best psychologists qua learning theorists.

We should consider a seminal question pondered by all teachers and learners: How do people learn? What makes a subject easy or hard for a given individual? What makes us remember/what makes us forget? We need to know the answers to questions such as these: as individuals, and as a species. What is the key, or set of keys, to learning?

Such questions have intrigued and fascinated learning theorists, psychologists and psychiatrists, neurologists and biologists, teachers and education researchers, since ancient times.

We have isolated many tried-and-true learning habits which help us search for better ways to teach and learn. These strategies and practices seem to be effective regardless of subject matter, delivery system, or individual learning differences.

Of all the things we do know about long-term learning, one of the most efficient and effective practices might be summed up in the vernacular, or, everyday speech, by saying, “Use it, or lose it.” A more formal rendering might be, “If you do not in some way apply the things you learn, those things will quickly fade from your immediate memory.” Either way you express it, one fact is clear: you must practice to learn, but you must learn how to practice.

By way of example, I have for years watched pre-season golfers at the range practice their slice and duck-hook until they could hit the ball so far out of play that they weren’t hitting into the rough, anymore—they were in an adjacent fairway! Obviously, we have to practice the right and correct things.

It might be helpful to think of practice as consisting of three steps:

One: This is the *sine qua non*, the absolutely essential factor, of learning: decide why you need or want to learn whatever skill or subject you are attempting. Focus your thinking.

Two: As far as it’s possible, receive the knowledge being presented in the best situation for you personally. It can be a large class, a small group, or a personal learning course. It’s

Three Latin Invaders

super or **sur**: above; as in, supersede; superfluous; surpass; surveillance

dis: apart; as in, disconcert; disrespect; disapprove

re: retro or back; as in, requisite; retrospect; renew

Three Little Words

ken: perception; understanding; recognition: as in, That subject is within my ken.

yen: desire; yearn; crave: as in, a yen for learning

zen: meditative practice: as in, a contemplation of the meaning of life and the universe; He seems calmer since he began studying zen.

Three Greek Gifts

meta: involving change; beyond; transcending: as in, metacognition or metamorphosis

auto: self: as in, automobile; automatic

astr: star: as in, disaster (“contrary star”) or astrology

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

sine qua non: something absolutely essential

status quo: the existing condition or situation

tout de suite: immediately; right away

Lollapalooza

sapid: pleasant to the mind; engaging

gash: knowing; shrewd; witty; sharp

puissant: (pyoo-is-unt or pwee-san) mighty, powerful, and potent.

worth mentioning that one of the most appealing aspects of the personal learning course is the radical and, for many, rewarding departure from the *status quo* of the lecture hall.

Three: Find a way to use what you learn *tout de suite*—i.e. as soon as possible! It’s a major part of mastery learning, and it works. It works for all persons, in any subject, at any stage of our lives. As they say, “Just do it!” Although using knowledge once, or even twice, may not always result in high proficiency at the task or problem, it will ensure long-term retention, and a higher-than-usual proficiency called mastery learning. In two words, *take action!*

Here are 10 high-utility action words to know and be confident in using.

abscond: to depart hastily and secretly; to flee

cauterize: to sear or close with a hot metal piece

deify: to make a god of; to exalt

disconcert: to embarrass or confuse; upset someone

elucidate: to make clear; to explain

“Marlene had clearly elucidated to Larry her shyness, and so she was disconcerted to the point of wishing she could cauterize his lips together for his pitiful attempt to deify her in public, and then quickly absconding when people began to laugh.”

Another 5 action words are:

expurgate: to remove objectionable material; to purge

finagle: to maneuver; to engineer

procrastinate: to postpone action; to delay

supersede: to take the place of; to supplant

truncate: to shorten; to lop

“The well known procrastinator, Elmo Perkins, finagled an opportunity to expurgate certain unpleasant items from his annual review by truncating the criticisms, and superseding them with effusive approbation.”

Bennettdiction

“To not decide, is to decide.” Martin Luther

Arrivederci

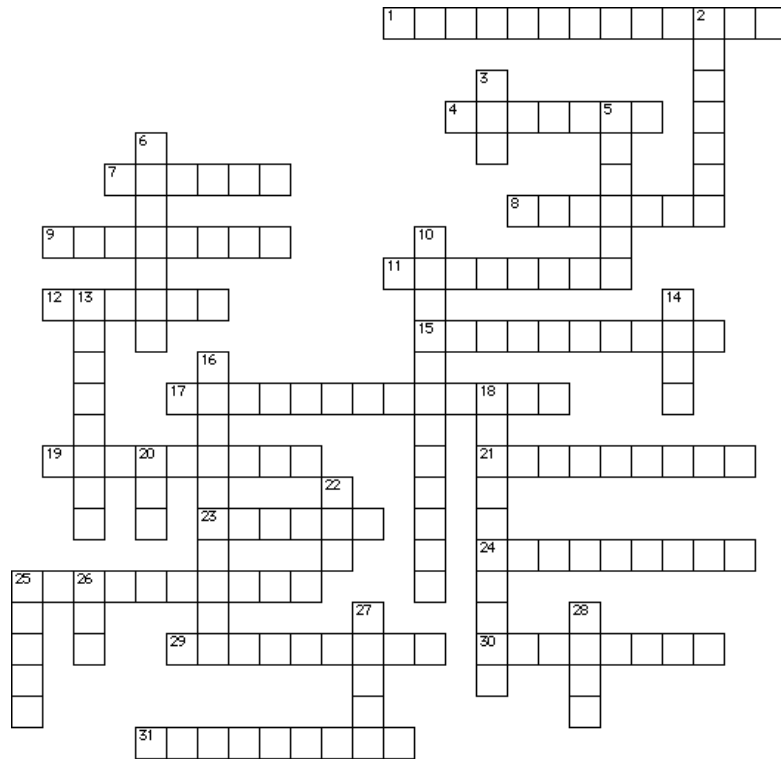
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. Foretell
4. Highly original or creative
7. Relating to stone
8. Hindered
9. Truthfulness
11. Strong; mighty; adept
12. A pointed pen
15. Lingo; jargon
17. Thinking about thinking
19. A maze
21. A quantity accumulated
23. To deliver; return
24. Purify or censure
25. Upset; faze
29. Clarify
30. Adjoining
31. Replace

Down

2. Skip; flee
3. Extent of one's perception
5. Although
6. Achieve through contrivance
10. Close observation
13. Shorten
14. A tangle
16. Interchangeable
18. Subordinate
20. Yearning
22. A Buddhist movement
25. Worship; exalt
26. A familiar saying
27. Agreeable to the mind
28. Knowledge; witty



Matching Challenge

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. albeit: _____ | a. a family of plants including the club moss |
| 2. lithic: _____ | b. to sear or close with a hot metal piece |
| 3. congeries: _____ | c. slightly green; greenish |
| 4. viridescent: _____ | d. desire; yearn; crave |
| 5. lycopods: _____ | e. the existing condition or situation |
| 6. surveillance: _____ | f. pleasant to the mind; engaging |
| 7. ken: _____ | g. perception; understanding; recognition |
| 8. yen: _____ | h. to purge; to remove objectionable material |
| 9. zen: _____ | i. thinking about thinking, or learning to learn |
| 10. <i>sine qua non</i> : _____ | j. relating to stone; made of stone |
| 11. <i>status quo</i> : _____ | k. to shorten; to lop |
| 12. <i>tout de suite</i> : _____ | l. although; even though |
| 13. sapid: _____ | m. meditative practice |
| 14. gash: _____ | n. aggregation; agglomeration |
| 15. puissant: _____ | o. make clear; to explain |
| 16. metacognition: _____ | p. make a god of; to exalt |
| 17. vernacular: _____ | q. something absolutely essential |
| 18. requisite: _____ | r. immediately; right away |
| 19. abscond: _____ | s. to embarrass or confuse; upset someone |
| 20. cauterize: _____ | t. mighty; powerful; potent |
| 21. deify: _____ | u. to covertly observe |
| 22. disconcert: _____ | v. depart hastily and secretly; to flee |
| 23. elucidate: _____ | w. everyday speech |
| 24. expurgate: _____ | x. knowing; shrewd; witty; sharp |
| 25. truncate: _____ | y. a necessity |

5

unremitting, fealty,
 metier,
 interludes, hedonistic,
 renders,
 deflections, hebetudinous,
 hobbledehoy,
 decipher, sans,
 quintessential,
 perspicuous,
 perspicacious, advocate,
 nub, vow, vim,
 ebullient, alliteratively,
 decimate, metacognition,
 euphemism,
 euthanasia, euphoria,
 eulogy, *sans souci*,
deja vu,
wunderkind, prodigy,
 esurient,
 emaciated,
guten Tag, sobriquet,
 ostentatiously,
 clerisy, bodacious,
 quipped, diminutive,
 tenured, traverse,
 assuredly, Thoreau,
 Walden, enterprise,
 measured,
 tenacity,
 bereft, addressograph,
 perused,
 legacy, indubitably,
 verily,
 categorically, Falstaff,
 Scaramouch,
 buffoon,
 Humpty Dumpty,
 cheekily, peevishly,
 ingrate,
 vagabond, lucrative,
 ennui,
 boatswain's chair,
 banal, insipid, trite,
 penchant,
 paragon, expedite,
 abiding,
 alacrity, Horatio Alger,
 perseverance,
 steeplejacks, listlessness,
 sequester,
auf Wiedersehen

“FROM PAINTING TO PROFESSORING”

Moving Onward and Upward Achieving Your Potential

Guten Tag. I've had many titles in my life—kid; sergeant; boss; and Doc, to name a few. My college students used the sobriquet, “Dr. B.” Officially (and ostentatiously), I'm introduced as Doctor J. Michael Bennett, Professor Emeritus of Rhetoric at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. That's not as unique or as important as it sounds, though—I'm just one of the many thousands of professors and other members of the clerisy in the world; but I'll take it. It sounds good, it's true, and I think I earned it.

My current title is a bit more exciting and surprising when you know that I was 28 years old (not 18) when I started college, and that I was a house painter/paperhanger by trade. That's one bodacious occupational change. Painting and decorating is a fine job—you spend your days making the world a more beautiful and pleasant place. I liked it, and I believe I was very good at it.

But by my personal standards, professoring is better. It's a bit like the rough-and-ready actor John Wayne who is said to have quipped, “I've been rich and I've been poor. Rich is better.” Professors usually don't get rich of course, but teaching and researching is a wonderful way to use your life.

Obviously, I've taken an alternate route or two in my walk through life and, for the most part, “I've done it my way.” Such a road takes longer to traverse, one gets bumped around a little, and stuck in a rut or two, but “all roads lead to Rome” as they say, and my “Rome” was a tenured professorship at one of the largest and best universities in the world. What will your destination be like? And how will you get there? What will it take for you to get to your Rome? Will an excellent vocabulary help? I know it most assuredly will!

A wonderful thinker and writer named Henry David Thoreau walked his own walk, too, and, in his powerful and inspiring book *Walden*, he counseled the world about people like him, and me, and, very likely, you. Thoreau said:

“Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed,
 And in such desperate enterprises?
 If a man does not keep pace with his companions,
 Perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.
 Let all persons step to the music which they hear,
 However measured, or far away.”

Three Latin Invaders

ad: to; toward; as in, admissions; adhesive; advocate

co: together; as in, coeducation; cooperation

urb: city; as in, suburb; urban

Three Little Words

nub: a protuberance, knob, lump, or gist of a story; The nub of Shakespeare's *Seven Ages of Man* is that we enter life, and leave life, in much the same condition.

vow: an earnest promise; a pledge; an oath; a formal declaration; She spoke her wedding vows.

vim: ebullient; energetic – often used alliteratively as “vim, vigor, and vitality.” Melissa is filled with vim, vigor, and vitality.

Three Greek Gifts

dec is 10: as in, decade (i.e. 10 years); decathlon; decimate

meta is change or alter: as in, metamorphosis; metabolism

eu is good or well: as in, eulogy; euphemism; euthanasia

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

sans souci: without care; We named our lake cabin *Sans Souci*.

deja vu: a feeling of reliving a past event or rehearsing a past dialogue; There is Yogi Berra's famous remark, “This is *deja vu* all over again!”

wunderkind: a wonder kid; a child prodigy; related to kindergarten; a child's garden; Barbara is a fabulous student – a true *wunderkind*.

Lollapalooza

esurient: (I-soor-ee-unt) hungry and/or greedy; The vagabond was esurient and emaciated.

Thoreau truly was a Renaissance man!

Thoreau also said, “I would not talk so much about myself, if I knew anyone else as well.”

I agree, and this text is more about me than I usually share, but I'm afraid (and I'm sorry) that I must stay the course until I've answered a question you probably have at this point in our present discussion. Something like, “Good for you, Mike. I'm so happy for you. But, in my own life I want to do something positive and potent just as you did. How did you do it? How can I do it, too?”

I think I did it with words!

There was work, and luck, and tenacity, and pushing the envelope, and financial help, and lots of support, of course. But, the oil that made the machine run, so to speak, was my somewhat accidental possession of a powerful, expressive, and always-expanding vocabulary!

I still remember a long and inspirational conversation I had with my mother when I was about 12 years old. We talked about the magic and power of being able to use just the right word. She told me about Humpty Dumpty who, shortly before his fabled fall, cheekily and peevishly told Alice that a word could mean anything he wanted it to mean! She told me of some of the world's most influential and truly powerful people, the people who did their work with words; not with guns or money. And, she shared many other things about the fabulous benefits of owning and using an extensive and excellent vocabulary. She was wonderful, and she was “spot on” that rainy tropical day, so long ago. I still love her for it.

I think that interlude with my mother is probably where my conscious love of reading and vocabulary began.

Ten years passed quickly. I remember wondering from time to time, in quiet moments on a boat or in a book, what happened to my wonderfully wide-open and promising future. I was living a decent life, but one bereft of challenge, anticipation, or deep satisfaction. I was indubitably, verily, categorically, stuck! I felt lost, confused, and ashamed. What was the matter with me?

I had entered three professions at which I had done very well, and then abandoned. I felt like a quitter, an ingrate, a bit of a vagabond. Working in a large power company office was interesting, fun, and lucrative—I left to join the Marines. Being a Marine was exciting, dangerous, and adventuresome—I left anyway. Then I learned the civilian trade of painting.

Painting for fifty or sixty hours a week with brush, roller, or spraygun, precariously poised on an extension ladder, swinging stage, or boatswain's chair was fast-paced and athletic, but after 5 years the challenge was gone, the job had become banal for me, and I was weary and filled with a vague ennui. I felt I had to change directions yet again.

So, I decided I needed to learn more, and off I went to college. The college placement exam at that time was, I believe, the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). I squeaked into the third quartile on the Quantitative section, at the 52nd percentile; a decent score for me—especially a decade after high school graduation.

My score on the Verbal section, however, was another matter. The counselors were astounded, and I was encouraged, by my scoring at the 99th percentile. I missed one word; *misanthrope*—a hater of mankind.

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb

“Unremitting fealty to the metier sans interludes of hedonistic deflection renders John a hebetudinous hobbledehoy.”

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.”

unremitting: ceaseless; as in, unremitting fealty to his job

fealty: loyalty or dedication; as in, unremitting fealty to his job

metier: job or work; as in, unremitting fealty to his metier

interludes: breaks or pauses

hedonistic: pleasure seeking

deflection: deviation

renders: to cause to become

hebetudinous: dullness of mind; mental lethargy

hobbledehoy: boy or lad

sans: without

sobriquet: an affectionate or humorous nickname

ostentatious: a pretentious display meant to impress others

clerisy: the intelligentsia; the educational elite, the literati

bodacious: a fairly new word combining bold and audacious; That is fearlessly daring.

quipped: a brief, witty remark, delivered offhand

perused: carefully, thoughtfully, read and understood

indubitably: undoubtedly

verily: a somewhat archaic, but still useful word meaning certainly or assuredly

categorically: without exception or qualification

The rest is history. I didn't get to play college-level sports, or belong to a fraternity, but I did get a fine education. One academic scholarship followed another. Early on, I won a Ford Foundation Fellowship, which with the G.I. Bill and some painting income, put me through a Bachelor's, a Master's, and a Doctor's degree. From start to finish, my “twelve-cylinder” vocabulary was the catalyst and the linchpin of my advancement. I had a vocabulary which started strong and grew more powerful each year of my life. When I was young, my mom and dad helped by spending many evenings in friendly dictionary competitions, and my sister and I caught the bug. We still have it.

With a little help from my friends, a lot of help from my family, and an extraordinary amount of help from institutions, I moved from painter to professor in 10 years. Not bad for an average guy armed only with a love of reading and a penchant for word knowledge. I'm sure it helps to be a *wunderkind*, but you don't have to be. You have to do the necessary work, and you must really want it (whatever “it” is), but you don't have to be a paragon of any kind.

You, too, can build a powerful, expressive, and impressive vocabulary. This personal learning course will enhance and expedite the process. I have an abiding personal and professional interest in helping you develop the kind of vocabulary that will help you open doors, pass tests, and read, write, speak, and listen with alacrity and precision. Oh, and also, to develop that skill and power in a few weeks; not a few years. I hope that sounds good to you, because it is good. The Chinese observe that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. I hope this personal learning course is, for you, that step. It very well might be just such a step. You'll never know until you try it. Go for it!

Bennett diction

To speak of “mere words” is much like speaking of “mere dynamite.” C. J. Ducass

auf Wiedersehen

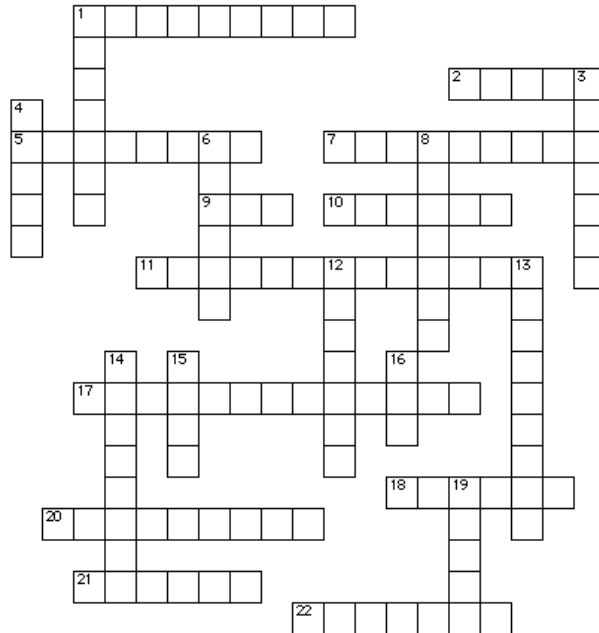
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. An intervening episode
2. Boredom
5. Speed; briskness
7. Hold persistently
9. A bump
10. In truth; indeed
11. Clever
17. Thinking about thinking
18. Forte; specialty
20. Physically haggard; gaunt
21. Faithfulness or devotion
22. Examined closely

Down

1. Ungrateful person
3. Dull
4. Without freshness; ordinary
6. Status of holding on to something
8. Long-standing
12. The educational elite
13. To set apart; segregate
14. To kill savagely
15. Without
16. Eager quality or manner
19. Overused; banal



ennui: listlessness and dissatisfaction resulting from lack of interest

enterprises: pursuits or endeavors

measured: music regular in rhythm and number

tenacity: courage and perseverance

boatswain's chair: a short sitting-board secured by ropes used by sailors and steeple-jacks for repairs and painting

banal: commonplace; trite; ordinary; insipid

misanthrope: one who hates mankind

paragon: a model or pattern of excellence or perfection

expedite: to help; assist; facilitate; move along

abiding: strongly enduring

alacrity: lively action and sprightliness

Matching Challenge

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. unrelenting: _____ | a. an affectionate or humorous nickname |
| 2. fealty: _____ | b. acutely discerning and perceptive |
| 3. metier: _____ | c. without care |
| 4. hedonistic: _____ | d. deviation |
| 5. deflection: _____ | e. refers to the intelligentsia; the intellectual elite |
| 6. hebetic: _____ | f. a brief, witty remark, delivered offhand |
| 7. hobbled: _____ | g. dullness of mind; mental lethargy |
| 8. perspicuous: _____ | h. indicates lively action and sprightliness |
| 9. perspicacious: _____ | i. job or work |
| 10. nub: _____ | j. a feeling of reliving a past event or rehearsing a past dialogue |
| 11. vow: _____ | k. pleasure seeking |
| 12. vim: _____ | l. loyalty; dedication |
| 13. <i>sans souci</i> : _____ | m. boy; lad |
| 14. <i>deja vu</i> : _____ | n. listlessness and dissatisfaction resulting from lack of interest |
| 15. <i>wunderkind</i> : _____ | o. ceaseless |
| 16. esurient: _____ | p. courage and perseverance |
| 17. sobriquet: _____ | q. lucid; clear |
| 18. clerisy: _____ | r. commonplace; trite; ordinary; insipid |
| 19. quip: _____ | s. carefully, thoughtfully read and understood |
| 20. measure: _____ | t. a protuberance; knob; the gist or point of a story |
| 21. tenacity: _____ | u. a wonder kid; a child prodigy |
| 22. banal: _____ | v. an earnest promise; a pledge; an oath; a formal declaration |
| 23. perused: _____ | w. ebullient; energetic |
| 24. ennui: _____ | x. music regular in rhythm and number |
| 25. alacrity: _____ | y. hungry and/or greedy |

6

salaam,
 coruscating,
 entities,
 auriferous,
et al, et cetera,
et tu Brute, ebb,
 lop, vex,
 inane,
tabula rasa,
Homo sapiens, sapient,
 discerning,
summum bonum,
 ratiocinate,
 superfluous, cataclysm,
 neophyte,
 synchronize, *salaam,*
 cogitation,
 contemplation,
 consideration,
 cerebration,
 quintessential, infallible,
 open sesame,
 puissant, ruminative,
 apical, apex, vertex,
 apogee,
 zenith, acme,
 pinnacle, acquisitive,
 substantive,
 synergize,
 abbreviated,
 precedent, prevenient,
 contemplative,
 antecedent, skitter,
 discourse, hobble,
 cardinal,
 strenuous, Siam,
 touchstone,
 probity, retention,
 stick-shift, debacle,
 moil, chagrin,
 recidivate, sublime,
beau geste, impede,
 pivotal, cognition,
 ambivalence,
 ethnocentrism,
 compensation,
 rationalization,
 syncretism, mores,
 peripatetic,
 empirical, heuristic,
 Deweyan,
shalom

“READING AND THE READER”

Lifelong Learning

Salaam. Consider these Mastery Learning inquiries into your learning behaviors:

- 1) Are you now noticing interesting words when you listen or read?
- 2) Are you jotting down such words on a notepad or a computer until you can learn them?
- 3) Are you keeping a master list of words, which are special to you for some reason, in your playbook.
- 4) Are you re-listening to a recorded lesson from time to time?
- 5) Are you reading and participating in the printed playbook lessons?
- 6) Are you starting to feel confident in your language proficiency?
- 7) Have you noticed that your brain has learned to learn? For instance, do you now know your most effective learning style or styles? Do you employ intentional learning, productive practice, and effective reinforcement? Are you becoming a Master Learner—can you feel that particular kind of power about yourself?

Adult reading is thinking—it’s cognition, contemplation, consideration, and cerebration. Efficient and effective reading is a celebration, too, because it’s one of the golden keys that unlock the doors of knowledge and wisdom. Adult reading is the quintessential and infallible “open sesame” for vocabulary development and, of course, for subject matter confidence and competence. It is not too much to say that puissant and ruminative reading can be the apex, the vertex, the apogee, the Zenith, the acme, the pinnacle of learning (all six of those words refer to apical—i.e. “the highest point”).

I’ll begin a discussion of efficient and effective adult reading by previewing my main points. I’ll cover what most persons without training hobble, that is impede, themselves with. Then we’ll unhobble you with some cardinal rapid reading rules you’ll want to adopt.

The first hobble: millions of persons read slowly and poorly largely because they don’t get ready to read. Most folks take the time to warm-up a little before strenuous activity; they look at a map or two before a trip; they make an outline before they write; and, as the King of Siam loved to say, “*Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.*” But, do they get ready to read? Nooooo!

And, yet reading is more challenging and demanding than all those other activities put together! Go figure. So, how can you get ready?

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb

“All coruscating entities are not auriferous.”

“All that glitters is not gold.”

Three Latin Invaders

et: and; as in, *et al*—and others; *et cetera*—and other things; *et tu Brute*—and you, Brutus

summa: the highest thing; as in, summit; summary

tabula: tablet; also table; tabulate; tab

Three Little Words

ebb: to flow back; recede; a decline; recidivate; The tide ebbs and flows.

lop: to cut off unnecessary and superfluous things; Some dog owners lop off their puppy's tail.

vex: to irritate; annoy; pester; bother; Don't vex me with inane questions.

Three Greek Gifts

cat: release; dissolve; loosen—as in, cataclysm; catalogue; catalyst

neo: new; as in, neophyte; neonatal

syn: together; as in, synthesis; synchronize; synergy

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

tabula rasa: lit. erased tablet; a clean slate i.e. mind; The wolf boy's mind was *tabula rasa*.

Homo sapiens: lit. one surviving sapient (i.e. wise; discerning); modern man; the last surviving discerning being; The responsibilities of being a *Homo sapiens* can take away from the pleasure.

summum bonum: the greatest or supreme good; The *summum bonum* of life is kindness.

Here's what to do:

1) Get your environment fixed—good light; comfortable clothes and seating; low noise; no distractions.

2) Look over your reading materials—length; presence of reading aids such as sub-titles and marginal notes; preface and summary; the apparent difficulty.

3) Read the title, and lock it in your mind!

4) Close your eyes to help you focus and block out distractions.

Think about the title; that gives you focus before you read.

Think about it a second time; in another perspective, if possible; knowing the title helps you determine on an ongoing, in-reading basis if the author is on or off course. That is, knowing and using the title as a guide and a locator for your thoughts allows you to be an active participant (instead of a passive recipient) in the sharing and transfer of information and knowledge.

Think about the title one more time; again in a different way; pre-determine that you will reflect on the title after reading, and use that title as a touchstone of the author's effectiveness and probity.

Note: One interesting and very effective way to see a title in different lights is to change the emphasis from word to word. For example, The Rhyme of THE Ancient Mariner; The Rhyme of the ANCIENT Mariner; The Rhyme of the Ancient MARINER. Try it with the phrase: Look AT me! LOOK at me! Look at ME!

5) Set a purpose. Decide exactly what you want from having read the material before you. Do you need an overview, or do you need to memorize details such as names and dates. Is the material important to you, or to someone else? Do you have prior knowledge of the subject, or is your brain, so to speak, *tabula rasa*. Decide whether you wish to achieve long-term or short-term retention. I'm serious; statistical and heuristic research has determined that we can choose the type of memory we need to employ, and, what's more, we need to do that in advance of reading or listening for memory to take place as we wish. Human beings do not respond well to purposeless activities. Set a purpose for your work.

Second hobble: most persons read slowly and carefully when the things they're reading are important. That makes sense, doesn't it? No, it does not! Surprised? Don't be. Ever try to teach someone to serve a tennis ball, or drive a stick-shift car, by doing all the steps of the process in slow motion? It's usually a debacle, because those acts, and the actions and attitudes they call for, require that you move smoothly and swiftly. So it is with reading.

The adult mind hates slow; the adult mind responds to challenge. A reasonable challenge tends to produce extraordinary performances in us *Homo sapiens*.

Reading one word at a time is necessary for children; but they're usually reading for a different purpose than an adult—they're reading for grammar, and spelling, and word order, and sight words, and usage. Adults need to read for thoughts, feelings, and ideas. We are old enough to understand how our language works.

What to do? Speed up. Push yourself from left to right, top to bottom, smoothly and quickly. Challenge yourself. Push yourself. Make a game and sport of it. Please trust me now.

cerebration: thinking; thought

infallible: incapable of failing; dependable

open sesame: a seemingly foolproof means of gaining access and attaining success

ruminative: meditative; reflective; contemplative

apical: an adjective meaning of, pertaining to, located at, or constituting the highest place; the apex

apex: vertex; apogee; zenith; acme; pinnacle; the highest point; the top

acquisitive: tending to acquire and retain ideas and information

substantive: the essence and substance of something; essential

synergize: cooperate; coordinate

prevenient: antecedent; preceding

hobble: to hamper; restrain; impede

cardinal: of foremost importance; pivotal

touchstone: a criterion; a standard; a test of genuineness

probity: honesty; integrity; uprightness

retention: memory; remembrance; cognition

debacle: collapse; rout; ruin

moil: drudgery; toil

chagrin: a feeling of embarrassment or humiliation caused by failure or disappointment

sublime: noble; grand; majestic

beau geste: a gracious gesture

ambivalence: conflicting feelings of love and hate

Letting yourself read quickly, freeing yourself from the moil and chagrin of slow, laborious reading, is to say the least, sublime and exhilarating. For the most part, you really do, “Just do it!” And, in the rapid reading arena, practice does indeed make perfect.

You’re going to be so pleased with what happens. Finding yourself reading quickly, with solid comprehension, and good long-term retention is absolutely wonderful. I imagine it’s a lot like suddenly being able to fly would feel.

Third hobble: Recidivation. To recidivate is to backslide—to take two steps forward, and three steps back. It is probably the worst bad habit of inefficient and ineffective adult readers because the habit not only wastes your time, it also robs you of your confidence, and, further, it breaks your chain of thought.

When you unnecessarily stop your reading and thinking, and regress to the rear, you lose the author’s unity, the thread that makes the whole piece make sense.

Regression is occasionally necessary. But if you need to back-up two or three or four times in every paragraph, then recidivism won’t help you, anyway. Obviously, some other significant something is wrong. Maybe you despise the subject, or the way the author writes. Perhaps you are tired or depressed. Perhaps the whole business is so far over your head that you cannot anticipate the language, or actively participate in the knowledge transfer. Whatever it is, you must discover it, then isolate it, then remediate it.

Unhobble yourself. Do yourself the *beau geste*, the great favor, of getting ready and set before you go. When you do go, go swiftly and smoothly, with few regressions and no daydreaming at all. When you naturally and routinely follow these guidelines, you can achieve the highest reading goal of all—concentration. Deep, serious, sustained concentration, which is dependent on, and part of, the previous suggestions.

Concentration is the *summum bonum* of the reading/learning process. If you can bring your powerful human mind to bear on the topic, any topic, you can learn it. Your mind is more powerful than a hundred computers. You can learn anything, when you can read efficiently. And, you can read efficiently, because your potential is enormous! (And, you now know the basics of how to do so.)

Let’s review how to become an efficient reader:

- Briefly preview your reading material.
- Close your eyes and get your mind right.
- Think about the title and its several uses to you.
- Set a distinct and definite purpose for your reading.
- Push your mind to get your speed up.
- Keep moving ahead; regress only when you truly need to do so.
- Concentrate. Keep your magnificent mind on the topic and the task, and think with and ahead of the print.
- Skitter back through the reading, and using the title as a locator for your thoughts, think about what you’ve learned, and decide if the writer actually wrote about what was promised in the title.

ethnocentrism: belief in the superiority of one's ethnic group—compare ethnocentrism with egocentrism, the belief that oneself is superior to everyone else

compensation: a psychic mechanism or process whereby an individual compensates for a frustrated drive, inadequacy, or imperfection by substituting or stressing another drive, trait, or function; to make up for a perceived shortcoming

rationalization: justifying unreasonable behavior with falsehoods

syncretism: the attempt to combine or reconcile differing beliefs; as in, philosophy and religion; from syn: Greek for bringing things together and “cretan”—to unite

mores: the accepted traditional customs and usages of a particular social group

peripatetic: of or pertaining to the teaching methods of Aristotle, who conducted discussions while walking about in the Lyceum of ancient Athens

empirical: research findings derived from collected or experimental data

heuristic: research by investigation and observation, rather than by statistical analysis of collected data

Deweyan: the works of John Dewey, the preeminent American educator, philosopher, and author, who believed in learning by doing (as did Edward Robinson, the Learning to Learn guru)

Lollapalooza

ratiocinate: to reason methodically and logically: The Commander is logical and unemotional—he can ratiocinate with the best of them.

Bennetttdiction

“It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many lives and as many kinds of lives, as we wish.” S.T. Hayakawa

Shalom



Jot down new words as you come across them in your readings. Have a dictionary at hand to look up their meanings. Review your list of new words regularly to make them a part of your expanded vocabulary.

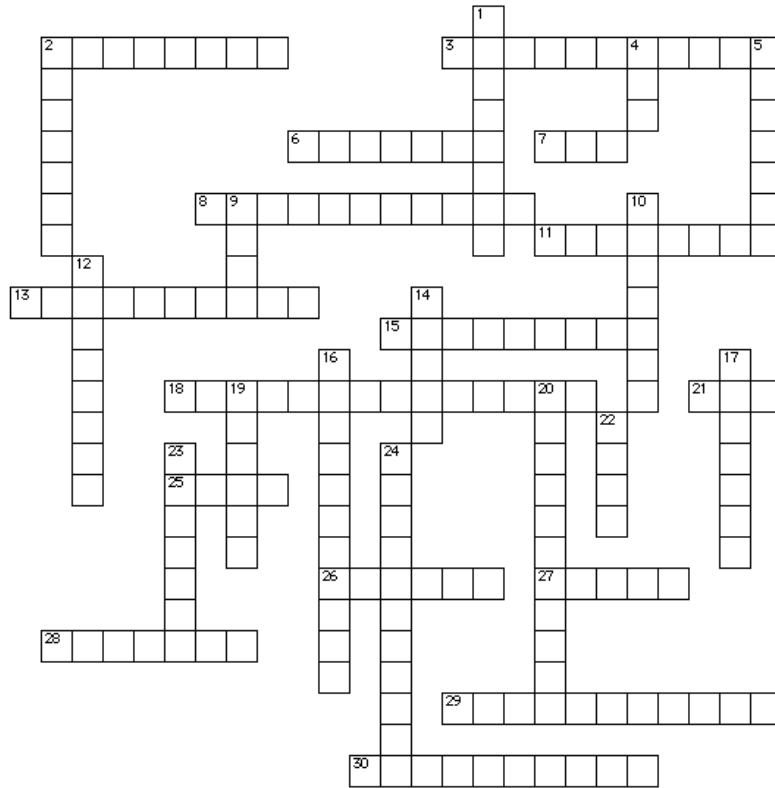
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

2. Great physical strength
3. More than is needed
6. Embarrassment
7. To wane; letup
8. Think logically
11. Careful thought; ponder
13. Antecedent
15. To emit light; sparkle
18. Model; typical
21. Puzzle; irk
25. Highest point
26. One that exists independently
27. Empty; insipid
28. Central
29. Process of thinking
30. Habitual relapse

Down

1. Think through; mull
2. Integrity
4. Trim
5. Supreme; inspiring awe
9. Zenith
10. To exhibit keen insight
12. Novice; tenderfoot
14. Moral attitudes
16. Wandering; vagabond
17. An abrupt disastrous failure
19. Retard progress of
20. Strong urge to obtain or possess
22. Drudgery
23. Wise
24. Essential; real



Matching Challenge

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. coruscating: _____ | a. of foremost importance; pivotal |
| 2. glisters: _____ | b. thinking |
| 3. ebb: _____ | c. the essence and substance of something; essential |
| 4. lop: _____ | d. tending to acquire and retain ideas and information |
| 5. vex: _____ | e. drudgery; toil |
| 6. <i>tabula rasa</i> : _____ | f. antecedent: preceding |
| 7. <i>homo sapiens</i> : _____ | g. a feeling of embarrassment or humiliation caused by failure or disappointment |
| 8. <i>summum bonum</i> : _____ | h. gleaming, glittering; sparkling |
| 9. ratiocinate: _____ | i. cooperate; coordinate |
| 10. cerebration: _____ | j. a criterion; a standard; a test of genuineness |
| 11. infallible: _____ | k. collapse: rout; ruin |
| 12. ruminative: _____ | l. to hamper; restrain; impede |
| 13. apex: _____ | m. to flow back; recede; a decline; recidivate |
| 14. acquisitive: _____ | n. gold-bearing |
| 15. substantive: _____ | o. erased tablet; a clean slate i.e. mind |
| 16. synergize: _____ | p. a gracious gesture |
| 17. prevenient: _____ | q. incapable of failing; dependable |
| 18. hobble: _____ | r. to irritate; annoy; pester; bother |
| 19. cardinal: _____ | s. to reason methodically and logically |
| 20. touchstone: _____ | t. the greatest or supreme good |
| 21. probity: _____ | u. meditative; reflective; contemplative |
| 22. debacle: _____ | v. vertex: apogee; zenith; acme; pinnacle; the highest point |
| 23. moil: _____ | w. honesty; integrity; uprightness |
| 24. chagrin: _____ | x. modern man |
| 25. <i>beau geste</i> : _____ | y. to cut off unnecessary and superfluous things |



aloha,
 neophyte,
 serendipity,
 ado, ilk,
 pejorative,
 wen,
 homonym,
 homophone,
 homograph,
 ad hoc,
 ad hominem,
 ad infinitum/ad nauseam,
 screed,
 diatribe,
 contumacious,
 nascent, truism,
 auditorially,
 assuredly,
 patently,
 perceptions,
 formidable,
 stultifying,
 substantive,
 trivialize,
 minutiae,
 obscure,
 discourse,
 ameliorating,
 consummately,
 gaffes,
 obstreperous,
 cardinal,
 handsel,
 remunerated,
 squander,
 efficacious,
 fructuous,
 foudroyant,
 edification,
 manumit,
 beleaguered,
 alas, alack,
 bestead,
 audition,
 teratogenies,
 till,
 lode,
 mettle,
 elision,
 conundrum,
 Godspeed

“LISTEN MY CHILDREN, AND YOU SHALL HEAR...”

Putting Thoughts into Action and Remembering What You Learn

Aloha. It's become a truism that effective listening is very important for all of us. We spend more of our time listening than we do in any other communication activity. Actually, it is probably more accurate to say that we spend more time hearing, because at least half of what we are exposed to auditorially is probably unimportant, inaccurate, or useless. The problem is that most people listen to (hear) the other 50 percent—i.e. the half that is important, correct, and valuable—with the same unfocused mindset that should be kept for the insignificant “noise” of small talk, popular lyrics, or unsolicited personal opinions.

Why is that, you may wonder? The answer lies, at least in part, in the sad fact that listening is not taught—most assuredly not well-taught—in schools and colleges. It is assumed that composition, reading, and public address need substantial attention. Amazingly, it seems to be assumed that everyone is an accomplished listener. How patently absurd. Effective listening is very difficult for most of us, and listening skills must be learned.

How does one learn to be an effective and selective listener? For starters, to be a good listener, you must keep your attention focused, even when hearing about subjects that seem not only difficult, but boring or stultifying as well.

One effective method for staying alert and participatory in such situations is to be selfish. Yes, selfish. Try to discover something that will work to your advantage, because some positive benefit to you, personally or professionally, can be derived from almost any substantive listening situation. Don't trivialize the importance of listening for unusual vocabulary. Buried in the minutiae of abstruse topics can be a goldmine of useful words and thoughts.

Accurate listening can be difficult or impossible when the listener has a limited vocabulary. You're working on ameliorating that problem now. You have that base covered, so to speak. Not everyone does, of course.

As an important side-bar, we sometimes learn better, and remember longer, from catching the mistakes of others. It's the consummately-human competition thing, I guess. Whatever it is, it works, so instead of feeling annoyed, or superior, use another's verbal gaffes to help you learn.

A common and debilitating listening mistake is “to judge the book by its cover.” Speakers may be physically attractive, well-dressed, and pleasantly spoken. Or, they may be startlingly unattractive, badly-dressed, and speak in a monotonous drone. The former is easier to listen

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb:

“Neophyte’s serendipity”

“Beginner’s luck”

Three Latin Invaders

in: not: as in, indisposed; indispensable

inter: between: as in, intercultural; interchange

intra and **intro:** within: as in, intravenous; intracoastal; introverted

Three Little Words

ado: busy activity; fuss; excitement; Shakespeare wrote a charming play called, *Much Ado About Nothing*.

ilk: class; kind; type (a pejorative term); Al Capone, and his ilk, spent a great deal of time in Miami.

wen: a skin growth; a bump; Have the wen looked at.

Three Greek Gifts

nym: name: as in, homonym; synonym; antonym

phon: sound: as in, homophone; microphone

graph: write: as in, homograph; autograph

Lollapalooza

contumacious: obstinately disobedient or rebellious; insubordinate; Many teenagers seem to go out of their way to be stubborn and contumacious.

to, of course; the latter less so. But are these things the message? Of course not!

The characteristics of the speaker, whether pleasing or unpleasing, shouldn’t interfere with listening. If you make up your mind to be a good listener, you can overcome the distractions created by an off-putting speaker as successfully, and in the same way, as you overcome distractions caused by the environment around you. Just turn a “blind eye” and a “deaf ear” to them, and keep on keeping on.

Know that the cardinal idea of listening and reading instruction is that the adult listener—and the adult reader—must assume at least 51 percent of the responsibility for the transfer of knowledge and information from one human mind to another. Believe that the speakers and the writers have done their very best, and the rest is up to you. The buck stops with you! This creates a focused mind.

As always, if you don’t have a specific purpose, your mind will wander almost immediately after the speaker begins. Decide on your purpose for hearing the talk, and remind and re-remind yourself from time to time just why you are there, and what you want from the speaker.

Good listening is challenging, but so is almost everything of real value, such as maintaining a classic car, or a good relationship. Good athletic performance doesn’t come easily, and neither do good grades in school. Looking your best every day becomes a chore, and so is looking for a job. So why do we do these things? Because the reward is great. So it is with effective listening. Giving yourself the power of effective listening will be a wonderful little handsel, or gift, you give yourself, and you will be well remunerated—in this vocabulary personal learning course, and in each and every critical listening situation you find yourself in.

Push yourself to be an active participant in a listening environment. It helps to push yourself to pay close attention, stay in the room (mentally), and capitalize on your listening speed.

Listening speed is thought speed, and it averages about 500 words per minute (WPM) for most people, most of the time (there are times though, when we are frightened or excited, for instance, when thought speed may go up as high as 5,000 WPM). In contrast, speaking speed averages only about 150 WPM.

What this means is that at least 40 seconds of every minute—over two-thirds—is available for some mental activity other than listening. The important consideration will be what you should do with the “bonus time” provided by your listening speed. You can squander it in daydreaming or flights of fancy; or you can put it to very good use by helping yourself to excel by participating with the speaker—that is, by thinking with, and ahead of, the speaker’s words.

4 ways to improve listening

You can efficaciously utilize your thought speed by employing four fructuous mental gymnastics:

1. Try to anticipate the speaker’s words.
2. Keep summarizing in your own mind.
3. Question the speaker’s point.
4. Listen between the lines.

gaffes: are clumsy social errors

truism: an obvious truth; cliché

stultifying: to cause to appear stupid or ridiculous

ameliorate: to make better; to improve

substantive: the essence of something

debilitate: to make feeble, enervate

discourse: a formal discussion

screed: a diatribe; long monotonous language

audition: the act or sense of hearing

acquiesce: to comply without protest

nascent: in the process of emerging

obstreperous: noisily defiant; boisterous; unruly

handsel: chiefly British—a gift to express good wishes at the beginning of an enterprise or new year

fructuous: fruitful; productive

foudroyant: dazzling; stunning

manumit: liberate; release; emancipate

beleaguered: besieged; beset; harassed

bestead: to be of service to; avail; aid

teratogenies: little monsters

conundrum: a problem admitting of no satisfactory solution

6 ways to improve vocabulary

1. Take a vocabulary course such as this one. (True, but not a shocking or foudroyant suggestion, I guess.)
2. Read widely and often, and take notice of new and important words.
3. Listen, and note the pronunciation and usage of words.
4. Read and study a good vocabulary book, or a good book with a broad word base.
5. Learn some important English source words—especially Latin and Greek.
6. Use them, or lose them. Mastery learning is not possible without using the knowledge exposed to you.

Homonyms, homophones, and/or homographs

Homonyms sound the same, and are sometimes spelled the same, but have different meanings—e.g. till (to plow) and till (a cash register) and till (meaning “until”). Homophones are words that sound the same, but have different spellings—as in, sum and some; or son and sun. Homographs are words that are spelled the same, but which differ in meaning and may differ in pronunciation and syllabication—as in, read and read. Therefore, only the context the word is used and may manumit the beleaguered listener. Alas and alack, even the context can’t bestead your ailing audition unless you know all the possibilities of meaning a particular set of sounds will allow. The words on the following page, then, are the best, or perhaps the worst, of these little teratogenies (monsters).

Bennettdiction

“One should every day at least,
hear a little song,
read a good poem,
see a fine picture, and, if possible,
speak a few reasonable words.” Goethe

Godspeed

raise: to lift up; The Quakers had a barn raising.

raze: to tear down; The bulldozer razed the shed.

complement: something that completes; My life is complemented by your presence.

compliment: words of praise; Thank you for the nice compliment.

lode: streak or strain; The miners discovered the mother lode of gold.

load: burden; it also means to pack or prepare; This is a heavy load.

accept: to take or receive; I accept your job offer.

except: all but, excluding; Except for the pay, it's a great job.

immigrate: to move in; The Walstads immigrated to America.

emigrate: to move out; The Walstads emigrated from Sweden.

dual: double or two-fold; My car has dual exhausts.

duel: a combat between two antagonists; The outlaws fought a duel.

foreword: a preface to a book; the front of a book; It's important to read the foreword of any book.

forward: onward; ahead; Forward! Shouted the excited general.

affect is a process—a verb; Your comments don't affect me.

effect is a product—a noun; The sushi had the effect of making me ill.

allusion is a casual reference; She resented his allusion to her age.

illusion is a misconception; a delusion; A mirage is an optical illusion.

naval: things pertaining to a navy; He attended the Naval academy.

navel: the umbilicus or belly button; She had a ring through her navel.

there: a location; It's over there.

their: possessive; Their cayman is not housebroken.

they're: a contraction for "they are" "They're coming to get us."

moral: as a noun, the lesson in a story; as an adjective, virtuous; good character; What a moral man.

morel: an especially delicious mushroom; Morels are very expensive.

morale: state of mind as to confidence and enthusiasm; Her morale is very high now.

vein: blood vessel; lode; streak; Don't strain a vein, Dad.

vane: weathercock; stabilizing fin; The air conditioner vanes are squashed together.

vain: conceited; it also means futile; He loved in vain.

counsel: advice; The counselor said, "Stop wasting your talent."

council: a governing body; The student council is in session.

console: noun—a cabinet for an electronic device; We had a wonderful old Silvertone console TV.

console: verb—to comfort; to solace; Nothing could console her in her grief.

metal: a substance such as gold, iron, or lead; He preferred metal over plastic.

mettle: intestinal fortitude; guts; The Marine showed his mettle in combat.

medal: a decorative award for a distinguished act; He won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

meddle: interfere; nose into someone else's affairs; My Auntie Dee Cassamer was always meddling in my affairs.

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

ad hoc: "with respect to this" (particular thing); for a specific purpose, case, or situation; We formed an *ad hoc* committee.

ad hominem: to the man; appealing to one's personal interests or emotions, rather than to reason or logic; The lawyer's appeals were essentially *ad hominem* trickery.

ad infinitum: to infinity; and **ad nauseam:** to nausea; usually used together, and often in reference to a painfully long screed by a excruciatingly boring speaker; Harlo droned on and on - *ad infinitum, ad nauseum*.



Play crossword puzzles to improve your vocabulary.

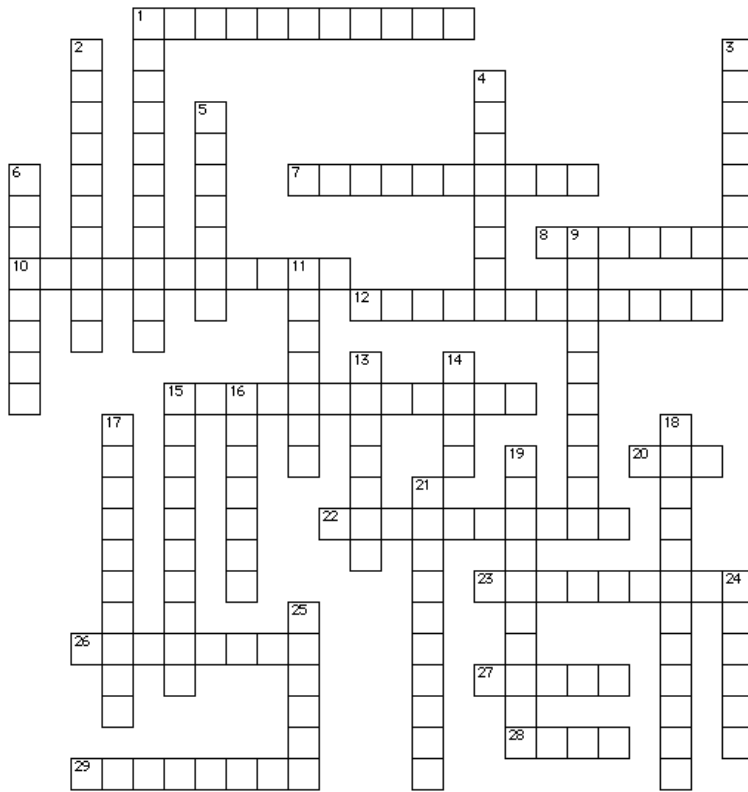
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. Phenomenon of finding valuable things by accident
7. To cause fear
8. To free
10. Enlightenment
12. Stubbornly defiant; wild
15. Marked by defiance
20. Benign cyst
22. Harrassed; plagued
23. Fruitful
26. Abusive denunciation
27. A social blunder
28. Until
29. Unimportant matters

Down

1. Real; concrete
2. Reduce to state of little worth
3. Novice
4. Spend foolishly
5. Help (in old English)
6. Obviously
9. Improve state; make better
11. Ambiguous
13. A token of good wishes
14. Rich source or supply
15. Complete or perfect
16. Emerging
17. Intending to belittle
18. Little monsters
19. Dazzling
21. To give compensation to
24. Monotonous harangue
25. Bravery; fortitude



Matching Challenge

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. ado: _____ | a. the act or sense of hearing |
| 2. ilk: _____ | b. obstinately disobedient or rebellious; insubordinate |
| 3. wen: _____ | c. besieged; beset; harassed |
| 4. <i>ad hoc</i> : _____ | d. to infinity |
| 5. <i>ad hominem</i> : _____ | e. a diatribe; a bitter, abusive, usually long speech or paper |
| 6. <i>ad infinitum</i> : _____ | f. a gift to express good wishes at the beginning of an enterprise or new year |
| 7. contumacious: _____ | g. to comply without protest |
| 8. stultifying: _____ | h. a formal discussion |
| 9. ameliorate: _____ | i. dazzling; stunning |
| 10. substantive: _____ | j. fruitful; productive |
| 11. foudroyant: _____ | k. a problem admitting of no satisfactory solution |
| 12. debilitate: _____ | l. liberate; release; emancipate |
| 13. screed: _____ | m. with respect to this (particular thing) |
| 14. audition: _____ | n. to cause to appear stupid or ridiculous |
| 15. acquiesce: _____ | o. class; kind; type |
| 16. obstreperous: _____ | p. to be of service to; avail; aid |
| 17. handsel: _____ | q. "to the man," meaning appealing to one's personal interests or emotions, rather than to reason or logic |
| 18. fructuous: _____ | r. enlightenment |
| 19. discourse: _____ | s. busy activity; fuss; excitement |
| 20. manumit: _____ | t. little monsters |
| 21. beleaguered: _____ | u. noisy, obnoxious |
| 22. bestead: _____ | v. to make feeble; enervate |
| 23. teratogenies: _____ | w. to make better; to improve |
| 24. conundrum: _____ | x. the essence of something |
| 25. edification: _____ | y. a skin growth; a bump |

8

hail,
 scintillate,
 asteroid, minim, penitent,
 punitive,
 suppress,
 veracious,
 verisimilitude,
 -ana, tor,
 qua,
 peripatetic, minutiae,
 moue,
 roue,
 grimace,
 Mrs. Malaprop,
 allegory,
 progeny,
 reprehend, oracular,
 derangement,
 epitaphs,
 vernacular,
 epithets,
 Freudian,
 caustically,
 aspiring,
 hustings,
 thespian,
 masticate,
 besmirch,
 avid,
 bask,
 cloy, daft,
 ecru,
 flux,
 grig, hasp,
 icon,
 jape,
 knur, lank,
 moot,
 node,
 ogle,
 pate,
 quip,
 rasp,
 seep,
 tarn,
 vale, waif,
 Xeno,
 yeon,
 zeal,
 transpose,
 ciao

“WORD PLAY”

Expanded Consciousness of Wit, Humor, and Satire

Hail. Few things can subject a person to ridicule more than accidentally butchering the language. So much so, that accidental puns and verbal faux pas have been known to destroy all vestiges of dignity a person may have had. For instance, Boston’s Mayor Menino saying of the parking-space problem in the city, “It’s like an Alcatraz around my neck,” or Chicago’s Mayor Daley, “The police are not here to create disorder. They are here to preserve disorder,” and D. C.’s Mayor Barry, “The contagious people of Washington have stood firm against diversity during this long period of increment weather.” That about says it all, doesn’t it?

A related language confusion is the spoonerism, an accidental interchange of initial sounds made famous by an Oxford don (that’s a professor), Dr. W. A. Spooner. “Blushing crow” for “crushing blow,” and “a well-boiled icicle” for “a well-oiled bicycle” are examples of spoonerisms, as are longer and more complex complete sentences. Two wonderful instances are his admonishment of a lazy student; “You’ve hissed all your mystery lectures and tasted two whole worms”—he meant to say, “You’ve missed all your history lectures and wasted two whole terms”; and his request to his butler, “Hush my brat please; it’s roaring with pain.” Give up? “Brush my hat, please; it’s pouring with rain.”

Puns of a sexy or sexual nature, which are often dubbed “Freudian slips,” can create much merriment at the speaker’s expense. Some Freudian slips are not sexual, but they certainly are Freudian, in that they are very revealing of the speaker’s secret thoughts. For instance, Hillary Clinton’s now famous, “I’m not going to have some reporters pawing through *our* papers. *We* are the president!”

The deliberate pun is a form of word-play and, as such, is meant to elicit the mock-disapproval of groans and moues. An example is the transposing, by us stout persons, of the United Negro College Fund in quipping, “The waist is a terrible thing to mind.” One of the most famous and amusing language butchers is one Mrs. Malaprop, a literary character in Richard Sheridan’s play, *The Rivals*. Her colorful phrasing was amusingly “mal-” or “in-” appropriate.

For instance, Mrs. Malaprop once considered another person, “as head-strong as an allegory (parable) on the banks of the Nile” (kind of a double malapropism in that there are no alligators in the Nile, only crocodiles). She considered another person as “a progeny (instead of prodigy) of learning.” One of the longer malapropisms is, “If I reprehend anything in this world it is the use of my oracular tongue and a nice derangement of epitaphs.” She meant to say, “If I comprehend anything in this world it is the use of my vernacular tongue and a nice arrangement of epithets.” Sheridan’s wit and wordsmithery is certainly show-cased by the verbal gaffes of his character, Mrs. Malaprop.

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb

“Scintillate, scintillate,
asteroid minim.”

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star.”

Three Latin Invaders

pen or **pun**: to pay or
compensate: as in, penitent;
penalty; punitive

sub or **sup**: below: as in,
submarine; suppress

ver: truth: as in, verdict;
veracious; verisimilitude

Three Little Words

-ana: a collection of materials
that reflect a person or place;
Rockwell's Americana.

tar: a high rock; a pile of rocks;
Lars has climbed the tars.

qua: in the capacity of: as in,
her lawyer qua accountant

Three Greek Gifts

peri: around: as in,
peripatetic; perimeter;
periscope

scop: see or watch: as in,
periscope; microscopic;
(equivalent of Latin *spec*: as in,
spectator)

micro: small: as in,
microscope; microbe; micro-
management; (equivalent of
Latin *min*: as in minute or
minute; minimum; minutiae)

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

vini; vidi; vici: He came, he
saw, he conquered (said of
Caesar).

bon vivant (bone veevan): a
person who enjoys good food,
drink, and luxury; La Mar is a
bon vivant wannabe.

fait accompli (fe-ta-kon-
plee): an accomplished fact;
Libby's painting is now a *fait
accompli*.

Here are three deliberate (anonymous) puns I find smart and amusing:

“Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused his dentist's Xylocaine during root canal work? He wanted to transcend dental medication.”

Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to California and became very successful. The other stayed in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.”

A doctor made it his regular habit to stop off at a bar for a hazelnut daiquiri on his way home. The bartender knew of his custom, and would always have the drink waiting at precisely 5:03 p.m. One afternoon, as the end of the work day approached, the bartender was dismayed to find that he was out of hazelnut extract. Thinking quickly, he threw together a daiquiri with hickory nut extract and placed it on the bar. The doctor came in at his regular time, took one sip of the drink, and exclaimed, “This isn't a hazelnut daiquiri!” “No, I'm sorry,” replied the bartender, “it's a hickory daiquiri, doc.”

There is another category of deliberate word confusion which is not the product of a speaker's or writer's ignorance but, rather, a mean-spirited (although sometimes caustically amusing) analysis of the audience's ignorance of word meanings and uses. Here's how one aspiring politician did it:

During my high school days in Florida, there was a very close gubernatorial race between Claude Pepper, who was supported primarily by the small town and rural electorate, and George Smathers, a strikingly handsome and witty candidate, with a strong base in the big cities of Miami, Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa.

Pepper was generally considered to be the more sincere and more qualified of the two old-Florida-family hopefuls, and Pepper was going to win—a narrow margin was predicted, but he would win.

So, the clever Smathers went out to the hustings to campaign by stump speeches and church suppers—to meet the people where they lived, and to capitalize on their naivete and their lack of vocabulary sophistication. One of his most effective statements went something like this: “It grieves me to report to you some little-known facts about my opponent in this election which might possibly bring dishonor to our proud state, but I must share the truth. My friends, Mr. Pepper has admitted that his very own sister is a practicing thespian in wicked New York City. She and her kind are well-known to gather in restaurants and masticate in plain sight of good people. If I am elected to this exalted post, I promise never to besmirch the office of Governor of the great state of Florida.”

Smathers won big. I guess he had the last word, so to speak.

Frequently misinterpreted four-letter words

avid: eager; greedy; Craig is an avid golfer.

bask: exposed to pleasant warmth or favorable treatment; Jim will bask in reflected glory.

clloy: to weary with too much sweetness, richness, pleasure; This tiramisu is rather cloying.

daft: crazy; goofy; simple-minded; Mickey said Goofy was daft.

espy: to glimpse; descry; I barely espied the mugger.

flux: continual change; Some people live their lives in a state of constant flux.

Lollapalooza

moue (moo): a playful pout; a mild grimace; Here little moue is quite charming.

roue' (roo a): a lecher; a rake; They say Andre is a roue'.

engender: give rise to; produce; The national anthem will engender pride in anyone.

uninitiated: unexposed and/or untutored; naïve; The uninitiated are usually happy.

neophyte: beginner; novice; tyro; Everyone loves a neophyte.

Alcatraz: a defunct California penitentiary; Menino meant albatross—a reference to Coleridge's famous poem, *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*.

increment: increase; growth; enlargement; Barry meant inclement—no one knows what he meant by contagious or diversity.

hustings: any place where political speeches are made; especially rural

naivete: unawareness; ignorance

thespian: actor; actress

masticate: chew; chomp

besmirch: slander; denigrate

grig: a lively person; Old Bill is a true grig.

hasp: a metal fastener or lock; Dave broke the hasp with a sledge hammer.

icon: an image; a symbol; a representation; Our governor is a true icon.

jape: to joke or quip; Don't jape me Patrick.

knur: a bump or knot; Dana has a small knur on his noggin.

lank: lean; long; slender; Paul is a lanky boy.

mien: bearing; demeanor; Lynette has a regal mien, don't you think?

node: a knob, knot, or protuberance; Nathan has a node on his nose.

ogle: to stare impertinently with fondness or desire; It's against the law to ogle.

pate: the head; top of the head; reference to baldness; Nate's pate is showing.

quip: a witty, sometimes sarcastic remark; Kathy's quips are like whips.

rasp: to speak hoarsely; Recording three lessons a day leaves your voice raspy.

seep: to ooze; leak; My car is seeping oil and transmission fluid.

tarn: a mountain lake or swampy pond; Bud camped on the shores of the tarn.

Urdu: the Hindustani language—used to indicate an extremely difficult and remote language; Professor Johnson might as well lecture in Urdu.

vale: a valley; The little brown church is in the vale.

waif: a forsaken or orphaned child; The poor little waif.

Xeno: a Greek prefix indicating strange, foreign, or different as in xenophobe, one who fears and hates strangers, or xenophile, one who loves or is attracted to them.

yeen: to give birth; Trixie yeened again—two little lambs.

zeal: ardor; fervor; Connie was filled with a missionary zeal.

Bennettdiction

"In my belief, you cannot deal with the most serious things in the world unless you also understand the most amusing." Winston Churchill

Ciao

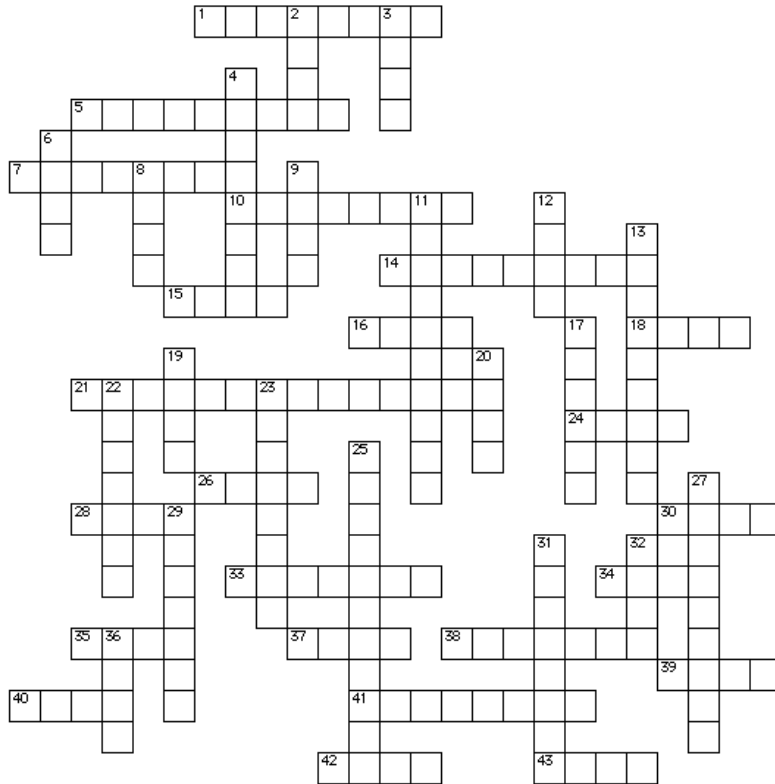
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. Where political speeches are made
5. Censure; condemn
7. To hold in check; curtail
10. Inflicting punishment
14. Interchange
15. Long and lean
16. To give birth
18. Keen interest in something
21. Appearance of truth or authenticity
24. Something devotedly admired
26. Something suggestive of running water; flow
28. Utter in grating voice
30. Wallow in; indulge
33. Acerbic; bitter wit
34. In doubt or dispute; arguable
35. A small grimace; pout
37. A valley
38. Facial expression of pain or disgust
39. Homeless person
40. Passionate devotion
41. A symbolic narrative
42. Leak slowly
43. A salutation

Down

2. Lake formed by glaciers
3. A lively person
4. A theatrical performer
6. Flippant or sarcastic remark
8. Rake; lecher
9. A knot
11. Lingo; jargon
12. To joke
13. Truthful
17. To strive toward a goal; aim
19. Greeting or farewell
20. Presence of something odd
22. Inscription on tombstone
23. Unimportant matters or concerns
25. Twinkle and flash
27. To bite and grind
29. Descendants
31. Smear; tarnish
32. Protuberance; knob
36. To look intently; gape



Matching Challenge

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. scintillate: _____ | a. beginner; novice; tyro |
| 2. -ana: _____ | b. increase; growth; enlargement |
| 3. tarn: _____ | c. actor; actress |
| 4. qua: _____ | d. the head; top of the head; reference to baldness |
| 5. vini; vidi; vici; _____ | e. mountain lake; swampy pond |
| 6. bon vivante: _____ | f. slander; denigrate |
| 7. fait accompli: _____ | g. bearing; demeanor |
| 8. moue: _____ | h. to joke or quip |
| 9. roue: _____ | i. to weary with too much sweetness, richness, or pleasure |
| 10. vestiges: _____ | j. a high rock; a pile of rocks |
| 11. engender: _____ | k. twinkle; gleam; sparkle |
| 12. neophyte: _____ | l. an accomplished fact |
| 13. increment: _____ | m. a lecher; a rake |
| 14. thespian: _____ | n. to give birth |
| 15. masticate: _____ | o. he came; he saw; he conquered |
| 16. besmirch: _____ | p. a collection of materials that reflect a person or place |
| 17. cloy: _____ | q. a forsaken or orphaned child |
| 18. espy: _____ | r. in the capacity of |
| 19. grig: _____ | s. give rise to; produce |
| 20. jape: _____ | t. to glimpse; descry |
| 21. mien: _____ | u. traces; marks; tracks; minute amounts |
| 22. pate: _____ | v. a playful pout; a mild grimace |
| 23. tarn: _____ | w. chew; chomp |
| 24. waif: _____ | x. a person who enjoys good food, drink, and luxury |
| 25. yeon: _____ | y. a lively person |

9

namaste,
reconnaissance,
antedate,
saltation,
anterior, antebellum,
impetuous,
propitious,
apocryphal,
apogee, affaire de coeur,
bibliophile,
philharmonic,
par excellence,
Gesundheit,
tour de force, epitome,
penultimate, incipient,
buckaroo,
dispelling, angst,
odious,
noisome, repugnant,
disquietude,
circumspect,
erudite,
prudent,
cognizant,
transmissive,
demographic,
situational, attribute,
paramount,
ascertain,
rationale,
unequivocally,
vacillation,
cogitate,
deliberate,
precisely,
trenchant,
mundane, font,
dictum, scope,
incomparable,
Gettysburg Address,
qua, concise,
gaffes,
colloquial,
discourse, cliché,
analogy,
metaphor,
simile, idiom,
euphemism,
non sequitur,
trite, ascribing,
sayonara

“SAIL ON THE SEVEN C’S”

Getting Your Message Through to Others

Namaste. Let’s concern ourselves with the fine arts of articulate, professional-level, writing and speaking.

In preparation, or, rather, the lack of it, lies the principal source of fear and loathing many persons suffer when it’s time to write. And, brother, do most people dodge writing, and run full-tilt from public speaking. For most of us, following the wisdom of the Boy Scout motto, “Be prepared,” is the most propitious method of dispelling fear of failure—which is the source of our communication angst.

Writing and speaking need not be the odious, noisome, repugnant tasks they often seem to be. The key to liberation from such disquietude, and to excellence of speaking and writing performance, is preparation—circumspect, erudite, prudent preparation. I’d like now to teach you how to prepare.

Before you write a word of your speech or paper, honor these prerequisites:

Prerequisite 1. Decide who the piece is being written for—i.e. analyze your intended audience. Carefully determining, before you begin, the demographic and situational attributes of the person or persons reading or hearing your words is of paramount importance.

Prerequisite 2. Why are you taking pen in hand? Ascertain the true reason for your efforts—your personal and professional rationale, or rationales, need to be carefully and unequivocally known to you. Avoid any and all vacillation or self-deception—it’s just too important to be totally and completely aware of why you’re writing.

Prerequisite 3. Cogitate, investigate, deliberate as to your true intentions. What exactly, do you want from your audience? Do you want to be forgiven, chosen, hired, selected, learned from, inspired by, heard out? Knowing precisely what you want to achieve, what you want from your readers or listeners, positively stimulates and influences your conscious thinking, and your sub-conscious sense of appropriateness. What do you want to accomplish with your work?

Prerequisite 4. First aspect: How do you present yourself? How do you wish to sound. What will be your voice and tone; the relative difficulty-level of the words you choose; your specificity and trenchancy? And, of course there are the more mundane considerations of length, font, paper, and so on.

Second aspect: Do you need to do a little research, make a few calls, gather some material, interview an expert, find some reference materials? Make sure you not only

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb

“Reconnaissance antedates saltation.”

“Look before you leap.”

Three Latin Invaders

ante: before; as in, anterior; antebellum; antedate

pet or **pit:** to go, to seek, to strive; as in, compete; impetuous; propitious

ben or **bon:** good; as in, benefit; benevolent; bonus

Three Little Words

don: to put or dress in; a Spanish gentleman; an Oxford or Cambridge fellow; The judge donned his robes.

bob: a quick movement; a fishing float; a short haircut on a woman or child; to curtsy or bow; a shilling; and others; Ali could really bob and weave.

joe: coffee; an American soldier; guy; fellow; Bill is a regular joe, isn't he?

Three Greek Gifts

apo: away; as in, apostle; apocryphal; apogee

card or **cord** or **cour:** heart; as in, cardiac; cordial; *affaire de coeur*

phil: love; as in, philosophy; bibliophile; philharmonic

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

par excellence: excellent beyond comparison; epitome; The steak was *par excellence*

Gesundheit: means: good health; When a person sneezes, it's good luck for them if you say, *Gesundheit!*

tour de force: a remarkable achievement; a feat; Our governor's election was a *tour de force*.

sound, but actually are, well-informed, genuine, and sincere.

Let's turn to the specific subject of oral presentations, especially speech-making. There are the three phases of speech preparation:

- 1) Ideas/information Gathering
- 2) Planning/organization
- 3) Writing

The last phase of writing is final word processing and delivery. The last phase of public speaking is the oral presentation itself. There are two major things you need to know or do in order to present an effective and interesting speech, role, lesson, lecture, sermon, talk, presentation, defense, or interview. The first requirement is to be prepared—occasionally even over-prepared. True confidence is made possible only by truly preparing for the task.

The second requirement is to be natural; be yourself. True oral competence, which requires that you be credible and convincing, is made possible only by naturalness.

I'd like now to conclude the writing and speaking part of our lesson with the “Seven C's” of articulate human communication. These are seven easily accessible and absolutely essential recommendations, each of which begins with the letter “C.” When you write, and when you speak, do whatever is necessary when preparing, and when presenting, to be:

correct clear complete concise courteous credible convincing

A lesson regarding effective formal communication should include a few examples of faulty diction and usage. Let me acquaint you with a few of the more important and more noticeable verbal gaffes. I do want to note here that colloquialisms are “incorrect,” but are usually acceptable at the conversation level. However, colloquialisms are only rarely, and outright-incorrect words and terms are never, appropriate in formal discourse.

Now for six pairs of words, often used as synonyms, but which are not.

aggravate: means to make worse;

irritate: means to annoy; An annoying person is irritating.

nauseous: means sickening; disgusting; causing to vomit.

nauseated: means sickened or disgusted or ill at the stomach; Ernst makes Jackie nauseated.

quote: a verb meaning to cite or refer to another's work.

quotation: a noun meaning a passage or proverb that is quoted.

famous: means renowned; publicly acclaimed; celebrated.

notorious: means known widely and regarded unfavorably; infamous; Terrorists are notorious.

criteria: means standards of judgment; rules for testing.

criterion: one criteria.

media: all means of mass communication.

medium: one means of mass communication; Radio is a mass communication medium.

Lolapalooza

penultimate: next to last
(like this chapter)

angst: anxiety; A call from the boss filled me up with angst.

odious: abhorrent or offensive; Cleaning up after Spot is an odious task, isn't it?

noisome: disgusting or dangerous; Spot is noisome.

repugnant: repulsive or contradictory; Spot is repugnant.

disquietude: uneasiness; My boss fills me with disquietude.

propitious: favorable or auspicious; It is a propitious time to build a power vocabulary.

circumspect: heedful of circumstances or consequences; The shy old fox was most circumspect.

erudite: learned and wise; Professor Umlaut is erudite.

prudent: careful in regard to one's own interests; George Bush was prudent.

cognizant: fully informed; conscious; Successful counter-intelligence agents are always cognizant of enemy activities.

paramount: means chief concerns; primary; foremost; The paramount objective is votes.

trenchant, here
trenchancy: force and vigor; The sailor demonstrated a strong trenchancy.

mundane: ordinary; earthly; Money is so mundane.

font: type size and face (also fount); This font is Lapidary333.

dictum: an authoritative pronouncement; The dictator dictated a dire dictum.

non sequitur: a statement to which no answer or response seems appropriate; e.g. while talking about drought, someone says, "I have small feet."

And, finally, six usage considerations:

1) **which:** is a reference to something previously mentioned or understood; never for referring to a person—use **who** or **that** for people. e.g. "The love of archery which we have been discussing," or, "That which is beautiful is a joy forever."

"**That** brilliant and loving Rhetoric professor," or "He **who** hesitates is lost."

2) **unique:** means peerless, or one of a kind. However, one may never correctly use a modifier or intensifier with unique. Avoid "more unique," "most unique," "quite unique," "very unique," "really unique," "totally unique," and so on, before the word unique.

3) **regardless:** means heedless; unmindful; or, in spite of everything, anyway.

irregardless is colloquial—it doesn't mean anything.

4) avoid "**that**" for "**very**" in sentences such as, "He was not that talented."

5) avoid "**ain't**" for "**is not**" and "**don't got**" for "**don't have**"—yes, there are dictionary entries for them, but they make you sound unlettered and careless.

6) "**a lot**" is two words; "**alot**" is not actually a word—it's a misspelling.

Bennettdictions

"The pen is mightier than the sword," Bulwer Lytton

"Speech is a mirror of the soul: as a person speaks, so is that person." Tibullus

"If you would be pungent, be brief; it is with words as with sunbeams. The more they are condensed, the deeper they burn." Southey

Sayonara

cliché: overused expression; a trite phrase; e.g. mean as a snake

analogy: a logical inference that if two things are alike in some respects, they are alike in others; e.g. the old saw, about fathers and sons: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

idiom: an accepted phrase contrary to the usual language pattern; e.g. Keep your shirt on!

metaphor: a comparison by describing one thing by ascribing characteristics of another; e.g. That guy's a horse!

simile: a comparison using "like" or "as"; e.g. He fights like a tiger.

euphemism: an inoffensive term substituted for a harsher one; e.g. funeral home

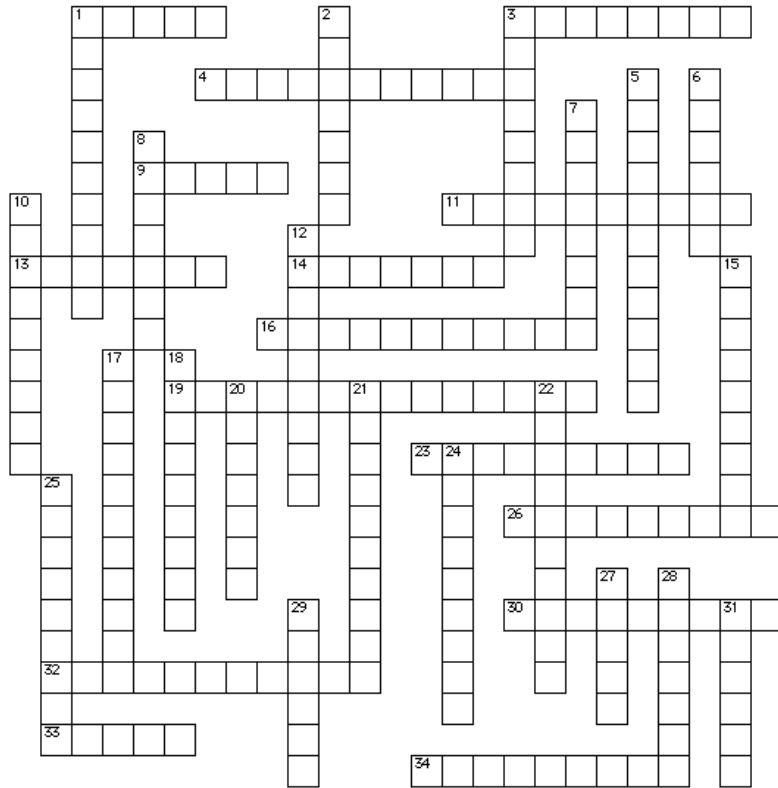
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

1. Feeling of dread; worry
3. Occur prior to in time; precede
4. Trying to avoid danger or risk
9. Specialized expressions; jargon
11. Fortunate; promising
13. Exhibiting good judgment
14. Comparison based on resemblance
16. Worried unease
19. A close examination or survey
23. To swing indecisively
26. Mindful
30. A formal lengthy discussion
32. Clearly defined; not ambiguous
33. Hackneyed; overused
34. Emblem, symbol

Down

1. Period before the Civil War
2. Wise; learned
3. Going before
5. A lover of books
6. Eliciting or deserving hate
7. To consider carefully
8. To drive off
10. Distasteful or offensive
12. What is sound or reasonable
15. Act of leaping
17. Next to last
18. Keen; incisive; sharp
20. Clear and succinct
21. Of doubtful sanction
22. Conversational
24. Discover with certainty
25. Above all others
27. Extent of opportunity
28. Pertaining to this world; secular
29. Authoritative pronouncement
31. Unlike things compared



Matching Challenge

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. reconnaissance: _____ | a. careful in regard to one's own interests; provident |
| 2. antedate: _____ | b. to put or dress in |
| 3. saltation: _____ | c. good health to you |
| 4. don: _____ | d. leaping or jumping |
| 5. bob: _____ | e. disgusting or dangerous |
| 6. joe: _____ | f. an authoritative pronouncement |
| 7. <i>par excellence</i> : _____ | g. abhorrent or offensive |
| 8. <i>Gesundheit</i> : _____ | h. force and vigor |
| 9. <i>Tour de force</i> : _____ | i. excellent beyond comparison; epitome |
| 10. penultimate: _____ | j. to precede in time |
| 11. angst: _____ | k. an exploratory military or engineering survey |
| 12. odious: _____ | l. human population characteristics, such as average age |
| 13. noisome: _____ | m. learned and wise |
| 14. disquietude: _____ | n. a quick movement; a fishing float |
| 15. propitious: _____ | o. coffee; an American soldier; guy; fellow |
| 16. circumspect: _____ | p. a remarkable achievement; a feat |
| 17. erudite: _____ | q. an inoffensive term substituted for a harsher one |
| 18. prudent: _____ | r. uneasiness |
| 19. cognizant: _____ | s. anxiety |
| 20. demographic: _____ | t. next to last |
| 21. trenchant: _____ | u. favorable or auspicious |
| 22. dictum: _____ | v. heedful of circumstances or consequences |
| 23. idiom: _____ | w. a statement to which no response seems appropriate |
| 24. euphemism: _____ | x. fully informed; conscious |
| 25. non sequitur: _____ | y. an accepted phrase that is contrary to the usual language pattern |

10

entities, vitreous,
 forbear, petrious,
 antebellum,
 bellicose, carnal, doctrine,
 den, squalid,
 fen, tarn, wry, pen,
 paradox, dogma,
 pandemic, amorphous,
 endomorph, ectomorph,
 mesomorph, pandemic,
piece de resistance,
magnum opus,
in absentia,
 sesquipedalian, squib,
 incipient, scintillate,
 percolate, ululate,
 persnickety,
 quintessential,
 exponential, mellifluous,
 stolid, stodgy,
 prattle,
 Magna Carta,
 Gettysburg Address,
 eke, bog, mired,
 muck, hovel,
 penicillin, orthodox,
 pedestrian,
 raconteur, pedant,
 ostentatious,
 sycophant, savant,
 martinet,
 caparison, excoriate,
 abrade, censure,
 vitiate, transmogrify,
 vituperate, rail,
 particolored, nonpareil,
 salacious, erubescant,
 florid, nonplused,
 encomium, calumny,
 approbation, fulmination,
 panegyric, vivacious,
 abrogate, vouchsafe,
 deign, deracinate,
 proselytize, elucidate,
 Machiavellian,
 machinations,
 temerarious,
 quotidian, sequacious,
 fawning,
 gongoristic, esculent
 goodbye

“I LOVE WORDS”

Gaining Respect and Admiration—from Self and Others

I love words that sparkle and shine and scintillate
 I love words that agitate and percolate and ululate
 I love words that illustrate and adumbrate and pontificate
 I love bellowing, bawdy, bodacious words
 I love slimy, slippery, salacious words
 I love prim, pristine, persnickety words
 I love words that are clear and crisp and quintessential
 I love words that are tiny, and those exponential
 I love words that are mellow, mellifluous, and musical
 I love words that are stolid, or stodgy, or whimsical
 I love words that prattle or battle, that teach and that preach
 I love words that hold you, and scold you, and mold you, and told you
 We are our words, and our words are us
 I love words.

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and maybe it can be. But, the Lord's Prayer, the Magna Carta, and the Gettysburg Address all together are less than a thousand words. I don't believe a thousand pictures could replicate or replace the power and influence of those words; do you?

I wish to share with you now a wonderful story. The story employs a half-dozen words of interest to us here, and it also provides a powerful and inspiring thought for those of us who have sought, and for those of you who are seeking, the key to success and fulfillment in our lives.

What Goes Around, Comes Around

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer.

One day, while trying to eke out a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer

Polysyllabic Profundity Proverb

“Entities abiding in vitreous domiciles must forbear catapulting petrious projectiles.”

“Those who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw rocks.”

Three Latin Invaders

am or **amat**: love; as in, amateur; amorous; amity; amiable

bel: war; as in, antebellum; rebel; belligerent; bellicose

carn: flesh; meat; as in, carnivorous; carnal; chili con carne

Three Little Words

den: lair; cave; squalid abode; a unit of 8 to 10 Boy Scouts; a room to relax or study in; The hermit rarely left his den.

fen: a bog; swamp; Ten entered the fen, five came out!

pen: to write; writer; a style of writing, as in, “a witty pen.” James Thurber was a witty pen.

Three Greek Gifts

dox or **dog**: opinion; as in, orthodox; paradox; dogma; dogmatic

morph: shape; as in, amorphous; metamorphosis; or the body types, endomorph; ectomorph; mesomorph

pan: all; as in, everyone; panorama; pandemic; pandemonium

Fleming had saved. “I want to repay you,” said the nobleman. “You saved my son’s life.”

“No, I can’t accept payment for what I did,” the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer’s own son came to the door of the family hovel.

“Is that your son?” the nobleman asked. “Yes,” the farmer replied proudly.

“I’ll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he’ll grow to a man you can be proud of.”

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming’s son graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman’s son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son’s name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Love over 30

Right now, I wish to isolate for you 30 of the 30,000 words I love. These 30 words are a small but important segment of the vocabulary which helped me to open the door of opportunity, and to make the most of my life. I call these “karate words,” because you don’t need to use them very often, but, when you do, they’re worth their weight in gold.

My first five words are nimble nouns:

raconteur: story teller; especially anecdotes

pedant: a doctrinaire; undue attention to book learning; ostentatiously scholarly

sycophant: a servile self-seeker; a toady; an apple polisher

savant: a learned scholar; a wise man

martinet: a rigid military disciplinarian

As in, Philip the pedant and Sam the savant could not agree on the intended message of a story told by a traveling raconteur who depicted Quixote as a no-brain martinet and Panza as a sniveling sycophant.

The next five words are vital verbs:

caparison: to outfit with richly ornamented clothes or finery

excoriate: to tear off the skin; abrade—also, to answer strongly; upbraid

vitiate: to spoil something; to corrupt something or someone; debase; pervert; to invalidate

transmogrify: to change into a different shape or form, especially one that is fantastic or bizarre

vituperate: to rail against severely or abusively; berate; revile

As in, The brightly caparisoned raconteur was unanimously excoriated by the pedants

Three Purloined Foreign-language Expressions

piece de resistance (pyes duh ray zee stahns): the principal work of a group; The Empire State Building was the *piece de resistance* of New York's architects.

magnum opus: a writer's greatest work; *The Old Man and the Sea* is considered by many to be Hemingway's *magnum opus*.

in absentia: in absence; although not present; The firm's founder was *in absentia*, but they all felt his presence.

Lollapalooza

sesquipedalian: a very long word—such as *sesquipedalian* “Hit me with another *sesquipedalian*, Petey—any *sesquipedalian*!”

eke: to make a living with great effort and strain

bog: a marsh or swamp

mired: trapped or entangled in *mire*, which is deep, slimy mud

muck: a moist, sticky mixture of mud and filth

hovel: a small, miserable dwelling

penicillin: an antibiotic compound obtained from *penicillium* molds. Penicillin is said to have stopped more suffering, and saved more lives, than all the world's other drugs put together.

present for vitiating the respected old allegory with vituperative suggestions that Sancho could transmogrify himself into a hideous gargoyle anytime he wished.

Here are five artful adjectives:

particolored: having different parts or sections colored differently; pied (as in, *Pied Piper* of Hamelin)

nonpareil: without rival; matchless; peerless; unequalled

salacious: stimulating to the sexual imagination; lusty; lecherous; bawdy

erubescence: with red skin; flushed; florid

nonplused: a state of perplexity or bafflement prohibiting action, speech, or thought

As in, The parents of the teenager were totally nonplused by the obvious fact that their daughters considered the aging actor a sex symbol nonpareil when he flashed a salacious smile from his erubescence and particolored face.

Here are five more noble nouns:

encomium: a formal expression of lofty praise; tribute; eulogy

calumny: a false statement; maliciously or knowingly made to harm someone

approbation: praise; commendation; official approval

fulmination: a thunderous denunciation or censure

panegyric: a public compliment; elaborate praise or laudation

For instance, The fulmination of the young professor planned by the vituperative old Dean became instead an encomium, indeed a panegyric filled with approbation when he learned that a small group of jealous plotters had engaged in base calumny against their younger colleague.

And, five vivacious verbs:

abrogate: to abolish or annul

vouchsafe: to condescend to grant or bestow; to deign

deracinate: to uproot; displace; dislocate

proselytize: to make, or attempt to make, converts

elucidate: to make clear or plain

As in, The Dean made no effort to proselytize the old schemers, but he publicly elucidated his plan to abrogate their tenure, and deracinate them from their posh offices, though he did vouchsafe to forgive their Machiavellian machinations if they would publicly apologize.

And, just for fun and further growth, these five awesome adjectives:

temerarious: reckless, daring; rash

quotidian: commonplace; everyday occurrence

sequacious: slavish; obsequious; fawning

gongoristic: flowery; cluttered literary style

esculent: edible; suitable for eating

As in, When he returned from his quest, Sancho quickly tired of his old quotidian lifestyle, so he made the temerarious mistake of penning a Gongoristic letter with sequacious undertones to the local Don suggesting that the average peasant's daily fare was not even remotely esculent, and that lobster thermidor for all would be the wise course of action.

Final words...

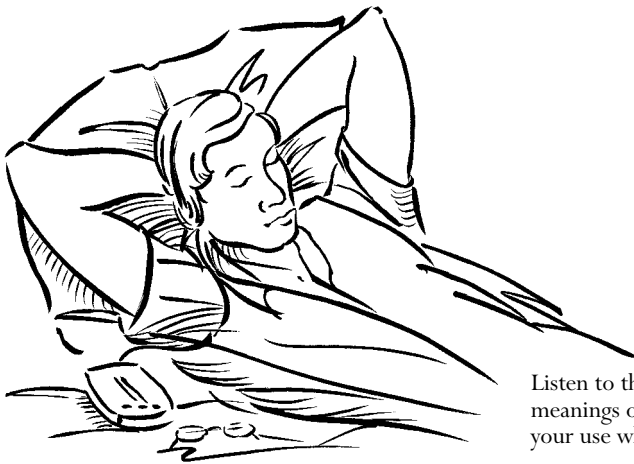
There you have it—a thousand words to help you make a million dollars. Figuratively, and perhaps, literally. You're already much richer than you were before we connected; *n'est-ce pas?*

I wish for you a vital life of personal growth and rich fulfillment. I trust my work will have been a part of them both. I urge you to listen to these recordings at least twice. I beseech you to make full use of the mastery learning your playbook makes possible. I advise you to keep your eyes on the prize that a powerful vocabulary creates. I thank you for your trust in me and in Learning Strategies Corporation. And, I hope you make a million dollars!

Bennettdiction

"I am a bear of very little brain, and long words bother me." A. A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*

Goodbye



Listen to the Paraliminal learning sessions so that the words and meanings of your *Million Dollar Vocabulary* become available for your use when you want or need them.

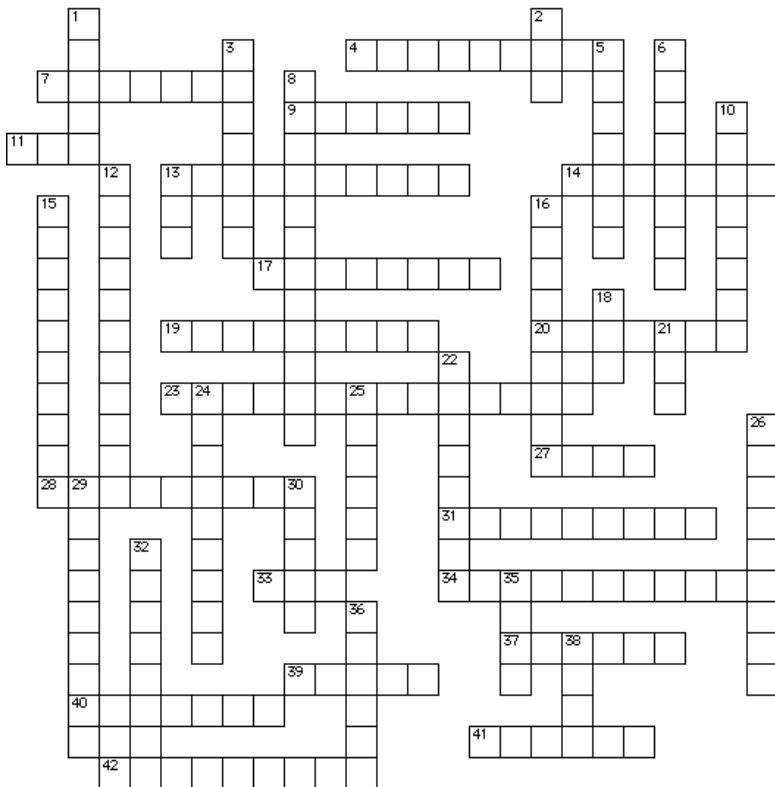
Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

4. Having no distinct shape
7. Corrupt morally
9. A learned person
11. A bog or marsh
13. Red skinned; blushed
14. Lament loudly
17. Widespread
19. A verbal attack or denunciation
20. True but contradictory
23. Polysyllabic
27. Small mountain lake
28. Average body
31. Without equal or rival
33. Author
34. Reckless; brash
37. Relating to the desires and appetites of the body
39. Boggled down
40. Chatter idly
41. Without emotion or interest
42. Warlike; combative

Down

1. Condescend
2. Soft ground
3. Finding fault; blame
5. Filthy and repulsive
6. Suitable for eating
8. Flamboyant; showy
10. Customary or traditional
12. Flowing smooth and sweet
13. Supplement with great effort
15. Prior to the Civil War
16. Servile self seeker
18. Dryly humorous, cynical
21. A hiding place; lair
22. One who imposes absolute obedience
24. Short, broad and stocky
25. Ostentatious academic
26. Deign, stoop, condescend
29. Lean, muscular person
30. An ugly squalid dwelling
32. To put an end to formally
35. Muddy
36. Wear down
38. Revile; scold



Matching Challenge

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. vitreous: _____ | a. a short humorous writing |
| 2. petrious: _____ | b. a rigid military disciplinarian |
| 3. den: _____ | c. to tear off the skin; abrade—also, to answer strongly |
| 4. fen: _____ | d. a very long word |
| 5. pen: _____ | e. a small miserable dwelling |
| 6. <i>piece de resistance</i> : _____ | f. a servile self-seeker; a toady; an apple polisher |
| 7. <i>magnum opus</i> : _____ | g. story teller; especially anecdotes |
| 8. <i>in absentia</i> : _____ | h. to make a living with great effort and strain |
| 9. sesquipedalian: _____ | i. having different parts or sections colored differently, pied |
| 10. squib: _____ | j. to write; writer; a style of writing, a writing implement |
| 11. eke: _____ | k. the principal work of a person or group |
| 12. muck: _____ | l. rock-like |
| 13. hovel: _____ | m. to outfit with richly ornamented clothes or finery |
| 14. raconteur: _____ | n. glass |
| 15. pedant: _____ | o. without rival; matchless; peerless; unequalled |
| 16. sycophant: _____ | p. to rail against severely or abusively; berate; revile |
| 17. savant: _____ | q. a moist, sticky mixture of mud and filth |
| 18. martinet: _____ | r. a writer's greatest work |
| 19. caparison: _____ | s. a bog; swamp |
| 20. excoriate: _____ | t. a doctrinaire; undue attention to book learning; ostentatiously scholarly |
| 21. vitiate: _____ | u. to change into a different shape or form, especially one that is fantastic or bizarre |
| 22. ransmoglify: _____ | v. lair; cave; squalid abode; a room to relax or study in |
| 23. vituperate: _____ | w. a learned scholar; a wise man |
| 24. particolored: _____ | x. in absence; although not present |
| 25. nonpareil: _____ | y. to spoil something; to corrupt something or someone; |
- debase; pervert; to invalidate



ANSWERS TO MATCHING CHALLENGES

Chapter 1: 1.f 2. d 3.c 4.t 5.a 6.v 7.i 8.s 9.g 10.l 11.h 12.q 13.r 14.b 15.u 16.j 17.x 18.w 19.n 20.e 21.y 22.p 23.o 24.k 25.m

Chapter 2: 1.m 2.w 3.j 4.f 5.h 6.n 7.t 8.g 9.a 10.e 11.s 12.p 13.b 14.u 15.y 16.k 17.o 18.c 19.x 20.r 21.v 22.d 23.i 24.l 25.q

Chapter 3: 1.t 2.e 3.h 4.f 5.g 6.l 7.b 8.q 9.v 10.y 11.a 12.r 13.c 14.j 15.d 16.x 17.n 18.u 19.w 20.m 21.i 22.o 23.k 24.p 25.s

Chapter 4: 1.l 2.j 3.n 4.c 5.a 6.u 7.g 8.d 9.m 10.q 11.e 12.r 13.f 14.x 15.t 16.i 17.w 18.y 19.v 20.b 21.p 22.s 23.o 24.h 25.k

Chapter 5: 1.o 2.l 3.i 4.k 5.d 6.g 7.m 8.q 9.b 10.t 11.v 12.w 13.c 14.j 15.u 16.y 17.a 18.e 19.f 20.x 21.p 22.r 23.s 24.n 25.h

Chapter 6: 1.n 2.h 3.m 4.y 5.r 6.o 7.x 8.t 9.s 10.b 11.q 12.u 13.v 14.d 15.c 16.i 17.f 18.l 19.a 20.j 21.w 22.k 23.e 24.g 25.p

Chapter 7: 1.s 2.o 3.y 4.m 5.q 6.d 7.b 8.n 9.w 10.x 11.i 12.v 13.e 14.a 15.g 16.u 17.f 18.j 19.h 20.l 21.c 22.p 23.t 24.k 25.r

Chapter 8: 1.k 2.p 3.j 4.r 5.o 6.x 7.l 8.v 9.m 10.u 11.s 12.a 13.b 14.c 15.w 16.f 17.i 18.t 19.y 20.h 21.g 22.d 23.e 24.q 25.n

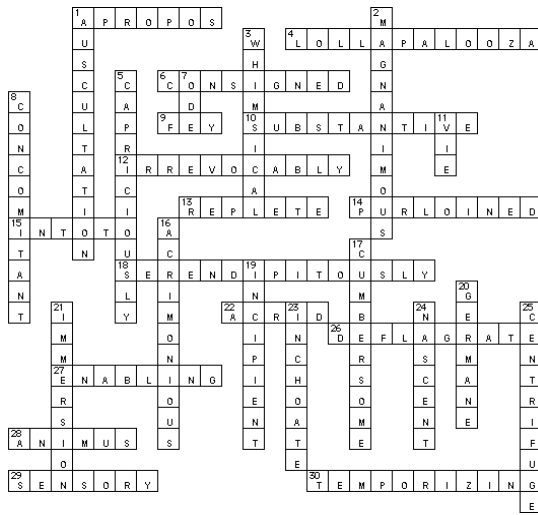
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Chapter 10: 1.n 2.l 3.v 4.s 5.j 6.k 7.r 8.x 9.d 10.a 11.h 12.q 13.e 14.g 15.t 16.f 17.w 18.b 19.m 20.c 21.y 22.u 23.p 24.i 25.o

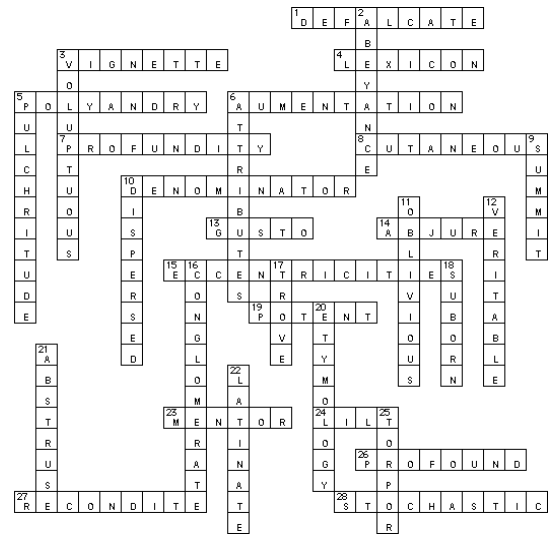


ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLES

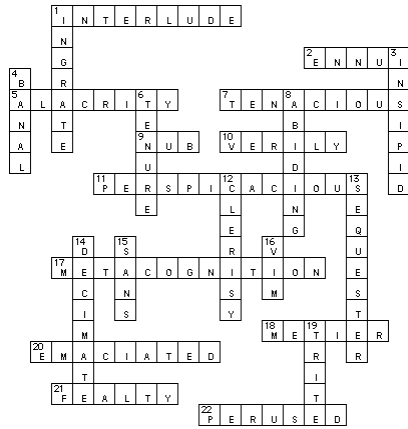
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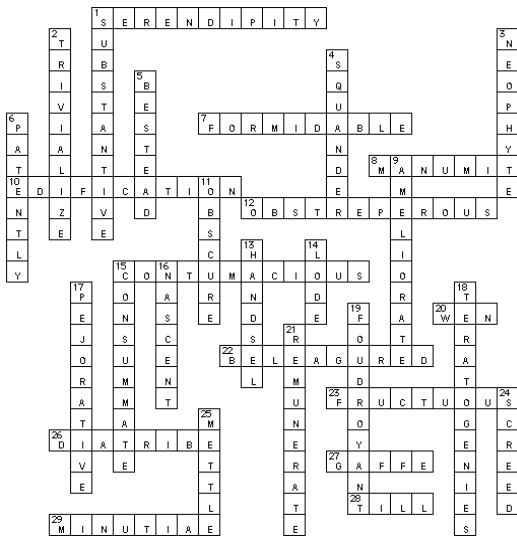
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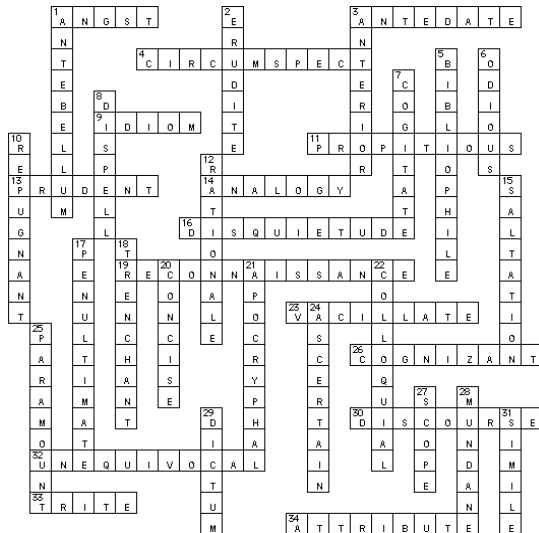
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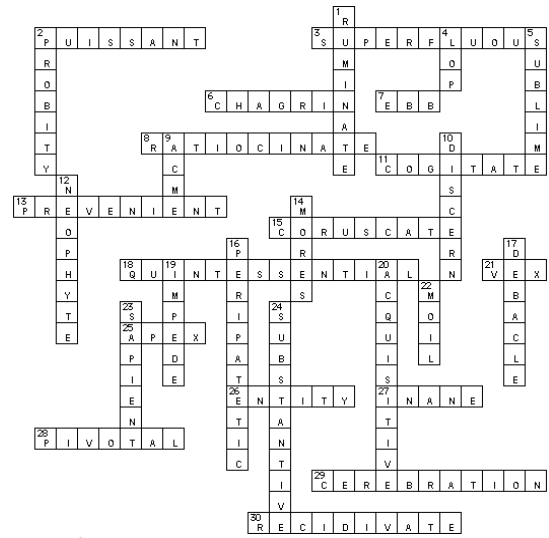
Chapter 7



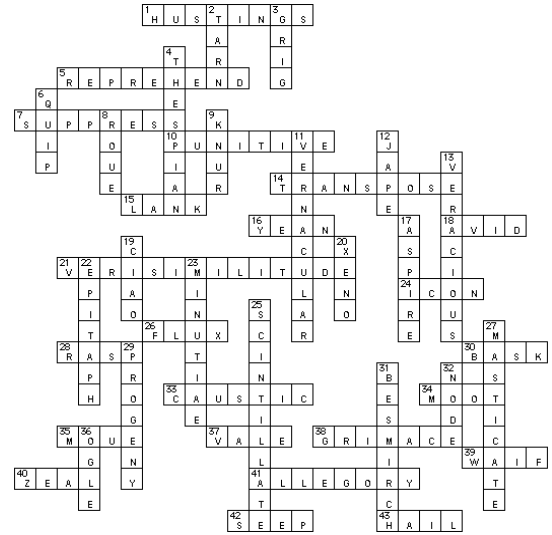
Chapter 9



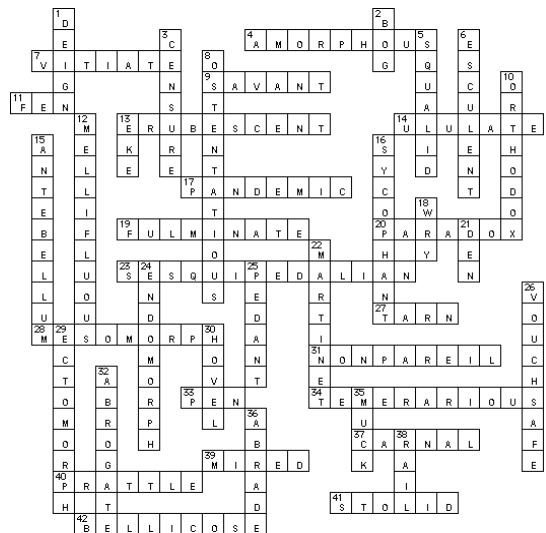
Chapter 6



Chapter 8



Chapter 10





GLOSSARY

abbreviate

To make shorter by removing or leaving out parts.

abeyance (uh BAY untz)

1. Temporarily set aside; suspended.
2. Law. A condition of undetermined ownership, as of an estate that has not yet been assigned.

abiding

Lasting for a long time; enduring.

abjure (ab JOOR)

To reject or recant solemnly.

abrade

1. To make weary through constant irritation.
2. To wear down or rub away by friction; erode.

abrogate

To abolish, do away with, or annul, especially by authority.

abscond (ab SKOND)

To leave quickly and secretly and hide oneself, often to avoid arrest or prosecution.

abstruse (ab STROOS)

Difficult to understand or comprehend.

acme (AK mee)

The highest point; perfection.

acquisitive (ak KWIZ uh tive)

1. Tending to acquire and retain ideas or information.
2. Characterized by a strong desire to gain and possess.

acrid (AK rid)

1. Bitter in language or tone; rancorous.
2. Unpleasantly sharp, pungent, or bitter to the taste or smell.

ad hoc (ADD HOK)

Latin. 1. For the specific purpose,

case, or situation at hand.

2. Improvised and often impromptu.

ad hominem

(add HOM ih nem)

Latin. Appealing to personal considerations, emotions, or prejudices, rather than to logic or reason.

ad infinitum

(ad in fin EYE tum)

Latin. To infinity; having no end or limit.

ad nauseam (ad NAW zee um)

Latin. To a sickening or excessive degree.

addressograph

A hand and foot operated addressing machine.

adios

Farewell or goodbye.

adjacent (uh JAY sunt)

Close to; lying nearby.

ado (uh DOO)

Bustle; fuss; trouble; bother; especially over trivial details.

advocate (AD voh kate)

To speak, plead, or argue in favor of some person or cause. (AD voh kit): one that defends a person, proposal, or cause.

affaire de coeur

(uh FAYUR duh koor)

French. An affair of the heart; romance.

alack

Used to express sorrow, regret, or reproach; often, *alas and alack*.

alacrity (ah LACK ruh tee)

1. Speed or quickness; celerity; briskness.
2. Cheerful willingness; eagerness.

alas

Used to express unhappiness, pity or concern; often as *alas and alack*.

albeit (al BEE utt)

Even though; although; notwithstanding.

allegory (AL luh goree)

1. A symbolic representation.
2. A literary, dramatic, or pictorial device in which characters and events stand for abstract ideas, principles, or forces, so that the literal sense has or suggests a parallel, deeper symbolic sense.

alliteration

(uh lit uh RAY shun)

The repetition of initial consonant sounds of two or more neighboring words or syllables.

aloha

Love. Used in Hawaii as a traditional greeting or farewell.

ambivalence

Simultaneous attraction toward and repulsion from an object, person, or action.

ameliorate

(uh MEEL yuh rate)

To make better or more tolerable.

amorphous (uh MORE fus)

Lacking definite form, shape, or organization.

-ana

A collection of the memorable sayings, curiosities, pictures or works of a person or place or group. e.g. Americana

analogy

An inference that if two or more things agree with one another in some respects they will probably agree in other respects.

Angles

Members of a Germanic tribe that conquered England in the 5th century A.D.

angst (ank st/uh)

A feeling of dread, anxiety, apprehension, or insecurity.

animus (AN uh muss)

A feeling of animosity, ill will, or hatred.

antebellum (ant ih BELL um)

Belonging to the period before a war, especially the U.S. Civil War.

antecedent

1. Prior in time or order.
2. Going before; preceding.
3. Antecedents. One's ancestors.
4. Grammar. The word, phrase, or clause to which a pronoun refers.
5. Logic. The conditional member of a hypothetical proposition.

antedate

1. To be of an earlier date than; precede in time.
2. To assign to a date earlier than that of the actual execution.

anthropocentric

1. Considering human beings as the most significant entity of the universe.
2. Interpreting or regarding the world in terms of human values and experiences.

antipathy (an TIP uh thee)

A strong feeling of aversion or repugnance; opposition in feeling; distaste; enmity.

apex

The highest point; the vertex; the summit; the uppermost point.

apical (AP ih kull)

Of, relating to, or situated at an apex.

apocryphal

(uh POCK ruh ful)

Spurious; of questionable authorship or authenticity; erroneous; fictitious.

apogee (AP uh jee)

The point in the orbit of the moon or of an artificial satellite most distant from the center of the earth.

approbation

1. Official approval.
2. An expression of warm approval; praise.

apropos (AP ruh po)

1. Pertinent; relevant.
2. Being at once opportune and to the point.

arbitrary

1. Based on or subject to individual judgment or preference.
2. Determined by chance, whim, or impulse, and not by necessity, reason, or principle.

arrivederci

Italian. Till we meet again: farewell.

ascertain

To discover with certainty, as through examination or experimentation.

ascribe

1. To assign as a quality or characteristic.
2. To attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin.

aspire (uh SPY ur)

1. To desire a lofty object.
2. Ascend.

assure

1. To make safe.
2. Made certain; guarantee.
3. Convince.

asteroid

Astronomy. Any of numerous small celestial bodies that revolve around the sun; planetoid.

attribute

1. To relate to a particular cause or source; ascribe.
2. A positive quality or characteristic ascribed to someone or something.

au revoir (or uv WAHR)

French. Goodbye.

audition (aw DISH un)

1. The sense or power of hearing.
2. A trial performance to demonstrate suitability or skill, as by an actor, dancer, or musician.

auditory

To experience by hearing.

auf Wiedersehen

(owf VEDE ur zay un)

German. Farewell; till we see each other again.

augment

1. To make something already developed greater, as in size, extent, quantity, or scope.
2. To add.

auriferous (aw RIFF uh russ)

Containing gold; gold-bearing.

auscultation

(aw skul TAY shun)

1. The act of listening.
2. Medicine. The act of listening for sounds made by internal organs, as the heart and lungs, to aid in the diagnosis of certain disorders.

avid

1. Marked by keen interest and enthusiasm.
2. Having an ardent desire or limitless craving.

B**banal** (buh NAHL)

Ordinary; commonplace; predictable; trite.

bask

1. To take great pleasure or satisfaction.
2. To expose oneself to pleasant warmth.

beau geste (bow ZHEST)

- French. 1. A gracious gesture.
2. A gesture noble in form but meaningless in substance.

beleaguered

Harassed; plagued; beset.

bellicose

Warlike in manner or temperament; pugnacious.

bereft (buh REFT)

1. A past tense and a past participle of bereave, to leave desolate, especially by death.
2. Deprived of something, as hope or cheer.

besmirch (bih SMURCH)

1. To make dirty; soil; dishonor.
2. To stain; sully; tarnish.

bestead (bih STED)

Help; avail; aid.

bibliophile

1. A lover of books.
2. A collector of books.

biophytes

Living plants.

boatswain's chair (BO sun's)

A short board secured by ropes and used as a seat by sailors and steeplejacks.

bodacious

Awesome; a combination of bold and audacious.

bog

1. An area of soft, naturally waterlogged ground, such as a peat bog.
2. A swampy, spongy area such as a fen.

3. To cause to sink in or as if in a bog.
4. To be hindered and slowed; to bog down.

bonjour (bahn ZHOOR)

French. Good day; hello.

buckaroo

A cowboy.

buffoon

1. A ludicrous or bumbling person; a fool.
2. A clown; a jester.

C**c'est la guerre** (say luh gehre)

French. Such is war.

c'est la vie (say luh VEE)

French. Such is life.

cacophony (ka KOF uh nee)

Harsh, jarring, discordant sound; dissonance.

calumny (KAL um nee)

A false or slanderous statement maliciously made to injure another's reputation.

capricious (ka PREE shus)

Impetuous, impulsive and unpredictable; characterized by or subject to whim.

caparison (kuh PARE uh sun)

Richly ornamented human clothing or horse trappings.

cardinal

Of paramount importance.

carnal (KAR null)

1. Relating to the physical and especially sexual appetites.
2. Worldly or earthly; temporal.

carpe diem (car pay DEE em)

Latin. Enjoy the day. The enjoyment of pleasures of the moment without concern for the future.

cataclysm (KAT uh kliz um)

1. A devastating natural disaster such as a flood or earthquake.
2. A violent upheaval that causes great destruction or brings about a fundamental change.

categorical

Being without exception or qualification; absolute.

caustic (KAWS tick)

1. Marked by sharp and bitter wit.
2. Capable of burning, corroding, dissolving, or eating away by chemical action.

3. Corrosive and biting
trenchant; cutting.

cauterize (KAW tuh ryze)
To burn or sear.

caveat emptor
(KAV ee at EMP tohr)
Latin. Let the buyer beware.

Celts (kelts or selts)
One of an Indo-European people originally of central Europe and spreading to western Europe and the British Isles.

censure (SEN shure)
1. An expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism.
2. An official rebuke, as by a legislature of one of its members.
3. To criticize severely; blame.

centrifuge
To rotate (something) in a spinning apparatus or to separate, dehydrate, or test by means of this apparatus.

cerebral hemispheres
The two halves of the human brain.

cerebrate (SARE uh brate)
To think; ponder.

chagrin (sha GRIN)
A keen feeling of mental unease, as of annoyance or embarrassment, caused by failure, disappointment, or a disconcerting event.

cheeky
Impertinently bold; impudent and saucy.

cheerio
A British term; used in greeting or parting.

ciao
Italian. Used to express greeting or farewell.

circumspect
Heedful of circumstances and potential consequences; prudent.

civil
1. Sufficiently observing or befitting accepted social usages; not rude.
2. Of or in accordance with organized society; civilized.

clairvoyance (klare VOY unts)
1. The supposed power to see objects or events that cannot be perceived by the senses.
2. Acute intuitive insight or perceptiveness.

clerisy (KLARE uh see)
The educational elite; intelligentsia, literati.

cliché (klee SHAY)
A trite or overused expression or idea.

cloy
To cause distaste or disgust by supplying with too much of something originally pleasant, especially something rich or sweet; surfeit.

cogitate (KOJ uh tate)
To take careful thought or think carefully about; ponder, meditate.

cognition
The mental process or faculty by which knowledge is acquired.

cognizant (KOG nah zant)
Fully informed; conscious.

colloquial (kuh LO kwee ul)
1. Informal in diction or style of expression.
2. Relating to conversation; conversational.
3. Characteristic of or appropriate to the spoken language or to writing that seeks the effect of speech; informal.

compensation
Behavior designed to make up for real or imagined defects.

complicity (kuhm PLIS uh tee)
Involvement as an accomplice in a questionable act or a crime.

concise
Expressing much in few words; clear and succinct.

concomitant
1. Occurring or existing concurrently; attendant.
2. One that occurs or exists concurrently with another.

congeries (KAHN jir ees)
A collection; an aggregation; a heap.

conglomerate
1. To form or cause to form into an adhering or rounded mass.
2. A corporation made up of a number of different companies that operate in diversified fields.

consideration
1. a. Careful thought; deliberation. b. A result of considering; an opinion or a judgment.

2. A factor to be considered in forming a judgment or decision.

consigned (kun SINED)
1. To turn over permanently to another's charge; commit irrevocably.
2. To give over to the care of another; entrust.

consummate
1. Complete or perfect in every respect.
2. Supremely accomplished or skilled.

contemplation
(kon tem PLAY shun)
Thoughtful observation or meditation.

contemplative
(kon TEM play tiv)
Disposed to or characteristic of thoughtful observation.

contiguous (kun TIG yoo uhs)
1. Sharing an edge or boundary; touching.
2. Neighboring; adjacent.
Connected in time; uninterrupted.

contumacious
(kon too MAY shus)
Obstinately disobedient or rebellious; insubordinate.

conundrum (kuh NUN drum)
1. A riddle in which a fanciful question is answered by a pun.
2. A paradoxical, insoluble, or difficult problem; a dilemma.

coquette (koh KET)
A woman who makes teasing sexual or romantic overtures; a flirt.

correlative (kuh REL uh tiv)
Related; corresponding.

coruscate (KOR us kate)
To give forth flashes of light; sparkle and glitter; scintillate.

coy
1. Affectedly and usually flirtatiously shy or modest.
2. Annoyingly unwilling to make a commitment.

cronies
Long-time close friends or companions.

cumbersome
1. Troublesome or onerous.
2. Difficult to handle because of weight or bulk.

cutaneous (kyoo TAY nee us)
Of, relating to, or affecting the skin.

D

daft
1. Mad; crazy.
2. Foolish; stupid.

de jure (dee JOOR ee)
Latin. According to law; by right.

debacle (dih BAK ul)
1. A sudden, disastrous collapse, downfall, or defeat; a rout.
2. A total, often ludicrous failure.

decimate (DESS ih mate)
1. To select by lot and kill one in every ten of.
2. To destroy or kill a large part of (a group).

decipher (dih SYE fur)
To read or interpret ambiguous, obscure, or illegible matter; decode.

defalcate (dih FALL kate)
To misuse funds; embezzle.

deflagrate (DEF lah grate)
To cause to burn with great heat and light.

deflections
Grammatical procedures.

deify (DAY uh fye)
1. To idealize; exalt.
2. To make a god of; raise to the condition of a god.

deign (dane)
1. To think it appropriate to one's dignity; condescend.
2. To condescend to give or grant; vouchsafe.

deja vu (DAY zha voo)
French. The illusion of having already experienced something actually being experienced for the first time.

deliberate (dih LIB ur it)
1. Premeditated.
2. Arising from or marked by careful consideration.
3. Done with or marked by full consciousness of the nature and effects; intentional.
4. Unhurried in action, movement, or manner, as if trying to avoid error.
(dih LIB uh rate)
1. To think carefully and often slowly, as about a choice to be made.
2. To consider (a matter) carefully and often slowly, as by weighing alternatives.

demography
(dih MOG ruh fee)
The study of characteristics of

human populations, such as size, growth, and density.

den

1. The shelter or retreat of a wild animal; a lair.
2. A cave or hollow used as a refuge or hiding place.
3. A hidden or squalid dwelling place.
4. A secluded room for study or relaxation.
5. A unit of about eight to ten Cub Scouts.

dendrites

A branched protoplasmic extension of a nerve cell that conducts impulses from adjacent cells inward toward the cell body.

denigrate (DEN ih grate)

1. To attack the character or reputation of; speak ill of; defame.
2. To disparage; belittle.

denominator

1. A common trait or characteristic.
2. An average level or standard.

deracinate (dih RASS uh nate)

To pull out by the roots; dislocate.

derangement

1. Severe mental disorder; insanity.
2. Disarrangement; confusion; disorder.

destitute

1. Utterly lacking; devoid.
2. Lacking resources or the means of subsistence; completely impoverished.

Deweyan

From the "Learn by Doing" educational tenets of John Dewey.

diatribe (dye uh tribe)

A bitter, abusive denunciation.

dictum

An authoritative, often formal, pronouncement.

diminutive (dih MIN yuh tive)

1. Extremely small in size; tiny.
2. A very small person or thing.

din

A jumble of loud, usually discordant sounds. To make a loud noise.

discerning (dih SURN ing)

Exhibiting keen insight and good judgment; perceptive.

disconcert

1. To upset the self-possession of; ruffle.
2. To frustrate (plans, for example) by throwing into disorder; disarrange.

discount

1. The interest deducted prior to purchasing, selling, or lending a commercial paper; the discount rate.
2. A reduction from the full or standard amount of a price or debt.

discourse

1. A formal, lengthy discussion of a subject, either written or spoken.
2. Verbal expression in speech or writing.
3. Verbal exchange; conversation.

dispelling

1. To rid one's mind of.
2. To drive away or off by or as if by scattering.

disperse (dis PURS)

1. a. To drive off or scatter in different directions. b. To strew or distribute widely.
2. To cause to vanish or disappear.
3. To disseminate (knowledge, for example).

disquietude

(dis KWY uh tyood)
Worried unease; anxiety.

doctrine

A principle or body of principles presented for acceptance or belief, as by a religious, political, scientific, or philosophic group; dogma.

dogma

1. Theology. A doctrine or a corpus of doctrines relating to matters such as morality and faith, set forth in an authoritative manner by a church.
2. An authoritative principle, belief, or statement of ideas or opinion, especially one considered to be absolutely true.

du jour (doo ZHOOR)

French. Of the Day.

E

ebb

To fall away or back; decline or recede.

ebullient (ih BULL yunt)

Zestfully enthusiastic.

eccentric (ek SEN trik)

1. One that deviates markedly from an established norm, especially a person of odd or unconventional behavior.
2. Departing from a recognized, conventional, or established norm or pattern.

ecru (ek ROO)

A grayish to pale yellow or light grayish-yellowish brown color.

ectomorph

A lean and slightly muscular person.

edification

Enlightenment; intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement.

efficacious (eff uh KAY shus)

Producing or capable of producing a desired effect.

eke (eek)

1. To make a living with great effort or strain.
2. To supplement with great effort.
3. To make something last by practicing strict economy.

elision (ih LIZH un)

The removal or omission of a vowel or syllable, such as in forming contractions of words.

elucidate (ih LOO suh date)

To make clear or plain, especially by explanation; clarify.

emaciated (ih MAY she ated)

To make or become extremely thin, especially as a result of starvation.

empirical

1. a. Relying on or derived from observation or experiment. b. Verifiable or provable by means of observation or experiment.

enabling

1. a. To supply with the means, knowledge, or opportunity; make able. b. To make feasible or possible.
2. To give legal power, capacity, or sanction to.

encomium (en KO mee um)

1. Warm, glowing praise.
2. A formal expression of praise; a tribute.

encrustations

That which covers or surmounts with a crust or layer.

endomorph

A person with shortness of stature and broadness of girth with powerful muscularity.

ennui (on WEE or EN wee)

Listlessness and dissatisfaction resulting from lack of interest; boredom.

enterprise

1. An undertaking, especially one of some scope, complication, and risk.
2. A business organization.
3. Willingness to undertake new ventures; initiative.

entities

1. Something that exists as a particular and discrete unit.
2. The existence of something considered apart from its properties.

epitaph (EP uh taf)

1. An inscription on a tombstone in memory of the one buried there.
2. A brief literary piece commemorating a deceased person.

epitome (ih PIT uh mee)

1. A representative or an example of a class or type.
2. A brief summary, as of a book or an article; an abstract.

erubescence (er oo BES unt)

Red-skinned; blushed; flushed.

erudite (ER yoo dite)

Deeply learned.

escrow (ES kro)

Money, property, a deed, or a bond put into the custody of a third party for delivery to a grantee only after the fulfillment of the conditions specified.

esculent (ES kyuh lent)

Suitable for eating; edible.

esurient (ih SYUR ee unt)

Hungry; greedy.

et al

Latin. And other.

et cetera

Latin. And other unspecified things of the same class; and so forth.

et tu Brute?

(et TOO broo TAY?)
Latin. And you Brutus? Said of or to traitors.

ethnocentrism

1. Belief in the superiority of one's own ethnic group.
2. Overriding concern with race.

etymology (et uh MOL uh jee)

1. The branch of linguistics that deals with etymologies.
2. The origin and historical development of a linguistic form as shown by determining its basic elements, earliest known use, and changes in form and meaning, tracing its transmission from one language to another, identifying its cognates in other languages, and reconstructing its ancestral form where possible.

eulogy (yoo luh jee)

A laudatory speech or written tribute, especially one praising someone who has died.

euphemism

(YOO fuh miz um)

The act or an example of substituting a mild, indirect, or vague term for one considered harsh, blunt, or offensive.

euphoria (yoo FOR ee uh)

A feeling of great happiness or well-being.

euthanasia

(yoo thuh NAY zhuh)

The act or practice of ending the life of an individual suffering from a terminal illness or an incurable condition, as by lethal injection or the suspension of extraordinary medical treatment.

exacerbate (ig ZAS ur bate)

To make more violent, bitter, or severe.

exacting

1. Making severe demands; rigorous.
2. Requiring great care, effort, or attention.

excoriate (ek SKORE ee ate)

1. To tear or wear off the skin of; abrade.
2. To censure strongly and scathingly; denounce.

expedite (EK spuh dite)

1. To execute promptly.
2. To accelerate the progress of; facilitate.
3. To perform quickly and efficiently; dispatch.

exponential

(ek spoh NEN shel)

Growing or increasing at an alarming or impressive rate.

expunge (ik SPUNJ)

1. To erase; strike out; obliterate.

2. To eliminate completely; annihilate.

expurgate (EK spur gate)

1. To cleanse of something morally harmful.
2. To expunge erroneous, vulgar, obscene, or otherwise objectionable material (from a book, for example) before publication.

extol (ik STOLE)

To praise highly; exalt.

F**Falstaff**

A lovable and interesting buffoon of Shakespeare's creation.

fawning

To ingratiate and seek favor or attention by flattery and obsequious behavior.

fealty (FEEL tee)

1. a. The fidelity owed by a vassal to his feudal lord. b. The oath of such fidelity.
2. Faithfulness; allegiance.

fecund (FEE cund)

1. Marked by intellectual productivity.
2. Capable of producing offspring or vegetation; fruitful.

fen

Low, flat, swampy land; a bog or marsh.

fey

1. a. Having or displaying an otherworldly aspect or quality.
- b. Having visionary power; clairvoyant. c. Appearing touched or crazy, as if under a spell.

filched

To take something (especially something of little value) in a furtive manner; snitch.

finagle (fuh NAY gul)

1. To obtain or achieve by indirect, usually deceitful methods.
2. To cheat; swindle. To use crafty, deceitful methods.

flatulent (FLAT yoo lunt)

1. Pompous; bloated.
2. Afflicted with intestinal gas.

florid (FLOR ud)

Flushed with rosy color; ruddy.

flux

1. a. A flow or flowing. b. A continued flow; a flood.
2. To flow; stream.
3. Change; fluctuation.

fold

1. a. A group of people or institutions bound together by common beliefs and aims. b. A religious congregation.
2. A flock.

font

A complete set of type of one size and face.

forbear

1. To refrain from; resist.
2. To desist from; cease.
3. To hold back; refrain.
4. To be tolerant or patient in the face of provocation.

formidable

(FOR muh duh bul)

1. Arousing fear, dread, or alarm.
2. Inspiring awe, admiration, or wonder.
3. Difficult to undertake, surmount, or defeat.

foudroyant (foo DROY unt)

Thundering; dazzling.

franchise

1. The granting of certain rights and powers to a corporation.
2. a. Authorization granted to someone to sell or distribute a company's goods or services in a certain area. b. A business or group of businesses established or operated under such authorization.
3. A professional sports team.

Freudian (FROYD ee un)

Relating to the psychoanalytic theories or practices of Sigmund Freud.

fructuous (FRUK chuh wus)

Fruitful.

fulminate (FULL mih nate)

1. To issue a thunderous verbal attack or denunciation.

G**gaffe** (gaf)

1. A clumsy social blunder; a *faux pas*.
2. A blatant mistake or misjudgment.

gash

Knowing; witty.

germane (jer MAYNE)

Being both pertinent and fitting.

Gesundheit (guh ZUNT hite)

German. Used to wish good health to a person who has just sneezed.

Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln's famous speech at the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Cemetery in 1863.

Godspeed

A farewell meaning God speed you; God prosper you.

Gongoristic

A literary style characterized by studied obscurity and by use of various ornate devices.

Goodbye

Used to express good wishes when parting or at the end of a conversation.

gravity

1. Grave consequence; seriousness or importance.
2. Solemnity or dignity of manner.

grig

A lively person.

grimace (GRIM us)

A sharp contortion of the face expressive of pain, contempt, disgust, or disapproval.

gusto

Vigorous enjoyment; zest.

guten Tag

German. Good Day.

H**hail**

1. a. To salute or greet.
- b. To greet or acclaim enthusiastically.
2. To call out to in order to catch the attention of.

handset

A small gift to inaugurate an enterprise with good luck.

hasp

A metal fastener with a hinged, slotted part that fits over a staple and is secured by a pin, bolt, or padlock.

hebetudinous

(heb uh TYOOD ih nus)
Dull; lethargic.

hedonism (HEED un izum)

1. The ethical doctrine holding that only what is pleasant or has pleasant consequences is intrinsically good.
2. Pursuit of or devotion to pleasure, especially to the pleasures of the senses.

heuristic (hyoo RIS tik)

1. Of or relating to a usually speculative formulation serving as a guide in the investigation

- or solution of a problem.
2. Of, relating to, or constituting an educational method in which learning takes place through discoveries that result from investigations made by the student.
- hiatus** (hye ATE us)
A gap or an interruption in space, time, or continuity; a break.
- hobble** (HOB bul)
To hamper the action or progress of; impede.
- hobbledehoy** (HOB ble dee hoy)
An awkward, gawky youth; a young clumsy boy.
- hola**
Spanish. Hello.
- hominines** (HOM uh nines)
Human beings.
- Homo sapiens** (ho mo SAY pee enz)
Latin. The modern species of human beings; the only extant species of the primate family Hominidae.
- homograph**
One of two or more words that have the same spelling but differ in origin, meaning, and sometimes pronunciation.
- homonym**
One of two or more words that have the same sound and often the same spelling but differ in meaning.
- homophone**
One of two or more words, such as censer and censor, that are pronounced the same but differ in meaning, origin, and sometimes spelling.
- Horatio Alger** (AL jer)
An influential writer of success stories for boys.
- hovel** (HAWV ul)
A small, miserable dwelling.
- Humpty Dumpty**
A personified egg in Lewis Carroll's *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.
- hustings**
A place where political campaign speeches are made.
- I**
- icon** (EYE kon)
1. An image; a representation.
2. One who is the object of great attention and devotion; an idol.
- idiom** (ID ee um)
1. A speech form or an expression of a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements, as in "keep your shirt on."
2. a. A specialized vocabulary used by a group of people; jargon. b. A style or manner of expression peculiar to a given people.
- idiosyncratic**
1. A physiological or temperamental peculiarity.
2. A structural or behavioral characteristic peculiar to an individual or a group.
- ilk**
Type or kind; usually pejorative.
- immersion** (um UIR zhun)
The act of being totally absorbed, engrossed, or covered with water or interest.
- impede**
To retard or obstruct the progress of.
- impetuous** (im PECH uh wus)
Marked by sudden and forceful energy or emotion; impulsive and passionate.
- in absentia** (in ab sen SHE uh)
Latin. In absence.
- in toto**
Latin. In total; all.
- inane**
Lacking sense or substance; empty; insipid.
- inchoate** (in CHO it)
In an initial or early stage; incipient.
- incidental**
1. Occurring or likely to occur as an unpredictable or minor accompaniment.
2. Of a minor, casual, or subordinate nature.
- incipient** (in SIP ee unt)
Beginning to exist or appear.
- incomparable** (in KOM puh ruh bul)
1. Being such that comparison is impossible; matchless.
2. So outstanding as to be beyond comparison; eminent.
- indubitable** (in DYOO but uh bul)
Too apparent to be doubted; unquestionable.
- inept**
1. Not apt or fitting; inappropriate.
2. a. Displaying a lack of judgment, sense, or reason; foolish. b. Bungling or clumsy; generally incompetent.
- infallible**
Incapable of erring or failing.
- ingrate**
An ungrateful person.
- inherent** (in HIR unt)
Existing as an essential constituent or characteristic; intrinsic.
- insipid**
Lacking excitement, stimulation, or interest; dull.
- interlude** (IN ter lood)
1. An intervening episode, feature, or period of time.
2. An entertainment between the acts of a play.
3. A short piece inserted between the parts of a longer composition.
- intermediary**
1. One that acts as an agent between persons or things; a mediator.
2. Existing or occurring between; intermediate.
3. An intermediate state or stage.
- irrevocable**
Impossible to retract or revoke.
- J**
- jape**
To joke or quip.
- jeune** (jih JOON)
Lacking maturity; childish.
- joie de vivre** (zhwad uh VEEVRUH)
French. Joy of living; keen enjoyment of life.
- juncture**
1. A point in time, especially a critical point.
2. The transition or mode of transition from one sound to another in speech.
- Jutes**
Members of a Germanic tribe who invaded and conquered England in the fifth century A.D.
- juxtaposition** (JUK stuh puh zish un)
An instance of placing two or more objects side by side.
- K**
- karma**
1. Hinduism & Buddhism. The total effect of a person's actions and conduct during the successive phases of the person's existence, regarded as determining the person's destiny.
2. Fate; destiny.
3. A distinctive aura, atmosphere, or feeling.
- ken**
Perception; understanding.
- knur** (nur)
A hard excrescence; a knot.
- L**
- labyrinth** (LAB uh rinth)
An intricate structure of interconnecting passages through which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze.
- lachrymose** (LACK ruh mose)
Mournful; weeping or inclined to weep; tearful.
- laissez faire** (LES a fayre)
French. A doctrine opposing governmental interference in economic affairs. A market-based economy.
- lank**
Long and lean.
- Latinate**
Of, resembling, relating to, or derived from Latin; from the Latin.
- legacy** (LEG uh see)
1. Money or property bequeathed to another by will; bequest.
2. Something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor or from the past.
- lexicon**
1. A dictionary.
2. A stock of terms used in a particular profession, subject, or style; a vocabulary.
- lilt**
1. A cheerful or lively manner of speaking, in which the pitch of the voice varies pleasantly.
2. A light, happy tune or song.
3. A light or resilient manner of moving or walking.
- lingua franca**
1. Language of the Franks.
2. Something resembling a common language.

listlessness

Lacking energy or disinclined to exert effort; lethargic.

lithic (LITH ik)

Relating to stone.

lode

1. A rich source or supply.
2. a. The metalliferous ore that fills a fissure in a rock formation. b. A vein of mineral ore deposited between clearly demarcated layers of rock.

lollapalooza

A whopper; wild and unbridled; the biggest and the best.

lop

1. To cut off (a part) from; trim.
2. To eliminate or excise as superfluous.

lucrative (LOOK ruh tiv)

Producing wealth; profitable.

M**Machiavellianism**

(mok ee uh VEL ee un iz um)
The political doctrine of Machiavelli which denies the relevance of morality in political affairs.

machinations

(mok ih NAY shuns)
Plots and hostile intrigues.

Magna Carta

(MAG nuh KAR tuh)
The great charter of English political and civil liberties granted in 1215 A.D.

magnanimous

(mag NAN uh mus)
1. Courageously noble in mind and heart.
2. Generous in forgiving; eschewing resentment or revenge; unselfish.

magnum opus

(MAG nuh MOH pus)
Latin. The great work of an artist or writer.

manumit (man yoo MIT)

To free from slavery or bondage; emancipate.

martinet (mart un ET)

1. A rigid military disciplinarian.
2. One who demands absolute adherence to forms and rules.

masticate

To chew.

maze

1. Something made up of

many confused or conflicting elements; a tangle.

2. A graphic puzzle, the solution of which is an uninterrupted path through an intricate pattern of line segments from a starting point to a goal.

measured

Music. The metric unit between two bars on the staff; a bar.

mellifluous (me LIF luh wus)

Flowing smoothly and sweetly.

mentor

A wise and trusted counselor or teacher.

mesmerize (MEZ mur iz)

1. To spellbind; enthrall.
2. To hypnotize.

mesomorph (MEZ uh morf)

An intermediate or average type of human body.

metacognition

Thinking about thinking; Learning to learn.

metaphor (MET uh for)

One thing conceived as representing another; a symbol; as in "he is a tiger."

metier (MAY tyay)

Work; vocation; trade; forte.

mettle

1. Courage and fortitude; spirit.
2. Inherent quality of character and temperament.

mewling

To cry weakly like a baby; whimper.

minim

An insignificantly small portion or thing.

minute (my NYOOT)

Exceptionally small; tiny.

minutiae

(muh NYOO shee uh)
Small or trivial details.

mired

1. To cause to sink or become stuck in or as if in mire.
2. To hinder, entrap, or entangle as if in mire.

modus operandi

(MODE uh sapuh RAN dee)
Latin. A method of procedure.

moil

Toil; drudgery.

moolah

Money.

moot

1. Subject to debate; arguable.
2. a. Law. Without legal significance, through having been previously decided or settled. b. Of no practical importance; irrelevant.

mores (MORE ayes)

1. The accepted traditional customs and usages of a particular social group.
2. Moral attitudes.
3. Manners; ways.

moue (moo)

A small grimace; a pout.

muck

1. A moist, sticky mixture, especially of mud and filth.
2. Moist farmyard dung; manure.

multisyllabic

(multi syl LA bik)
Many syllables.

mundane

1. Of, relating to, or typical of this world; secular.
2. Relating to, characteristic of, or concerned with commonplaces; ordinary.

N

n'est-ce pas (nay say pah)
French. Is it not so?

namaste

Hindi. A warm respectful greeting.

nascent (nay sent)

Coming into existence; emerging.

neophyte (NEE oh fyt)

1. A recent convert to a belief; a proselyte.
2. A beginner or novice.

neuronal

Pertaining to any of the impulse-conducting cells that constitute the brain, spinal column, and nerves.

neurotic (nyur OT ik)

1. Overanxious and overemotional.
2. Of, relating to, derived from, or affected with a nervous disorder.

nihilistic (nye ul ISS tik)

The belief that the destruction of existing political or social institutions is necessary for future improvement.

node

A knob, knot, protuberance, or swelling.

noisome (NOY sum)

1. Offensive to the point of arousing disgust; foul.
2. Harmful or dangerous.

non sequitur

(nahn SEK wuh tur)
An inference that does not follow from the premise; an irrelevant comment.

nonpareil (non puh RELL)

Having no equal; peerless; a paragon.

nonplused (non PLUSSED)

1. To put at a loss as to what to think, say, or do; bewilder.
2. A state of perplexity, confusion, or bewilderment.

Normans

1. The Scandinavian conquerors of Normandy in the 10th Century A.D.
2. The Norman/French conquerors of England in 1066 A.D.

nub

1. A protuberance or knob.
2. A small lump.
3. The essence; the core.

O**oblivion** (uh BLIV ee un)

The condition or quality of being completely forgotten.

oblivious

Lacking conscious awareness; unmindful.

obscure (ob SKYOO UR)

1. Not readily noticed or seen; inconspicuous.
2. Of undistinguished or humble station or reputation.
3. Not clearly understood or expressed; ambiguous or vague.

obstreperous

(ob STREP uh rus)

1. Noisily and stubbornly defiant.
2. Aggressively boisterous.

ode

A lyric poem of some length, usually of a serious or meditative nature.

odious (OH dee us)

Arousing or meriting strong dislike, aversion, or intense displeasure.

ogle (OHG ul)

To stare in an impertinent, flirtatious, or amorous manner.

open sesame

(open SES uh mee)
Something that unfailingly brings about a desired end.

opine (oh PYNE)

To hold or state as an opinion.

oracular (oh RACK yuh lur)

Relating to the wise sayings of an oracle or prophet.

orthodox

Adhering to what is commonly accepted, customary, or traditional.

ostentation

Pretentious display meant to impress others; boastful showiness.

otiose (OH shee ose)

1. Lazy; indolent.
2. Ineffective; futile.

P**paleolithic**

(pay lee uh LITH ik)
Of, belonging to, or designating the cultural period beginning with the earliest chipped stone tools, about 750,000 years ago.

pandemic (pan DEM ik)

Widespread; general.

panegyric (pan uh JIRE ik)

1. Elaborate praise or laudation; an encomium.
2. A formal eulogistic composition intended as a public compliment.

par excellence

(par ek suh LONS)
French. The best or truest of a kind; quintessential.

paradox

1. A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true.
2. One exhibiting inexplicable or contradictory aspects.

paragon

A model of excellence or perfection of a kind; a peerless example.

paramount

1. Above all others.
2. Of chief concern or importance.
3. Supreme in rank, power, or authority.

parenthetical

Set off within or as if within parentheses; qualifying or explanatory.

parti-colored (PAR tee)

Showing different colors or tints; pied.

pate

The human head, especially the top of the head; reference to baldness.

patently (PAYT unt lee)

Obviously; evidently; plainly.

pedant (PED unt)

1. One who pays undue attention to book learning and formal rules.
2. One who exhibits one's learning or scholarship ostentatiously.

pedestrian

1. Undistinguished; ordinary.
2. A person traveling on foot; a walker.

peevish

1. a. Querulous or discontented. b. Ill-tempered.
2. Contrary; fractious.

pejorative (pih JORE ut iv)

1. Disparaging; belittling.
2. A disparaging or belittling word or expression.

pen

1. A writer or an author.
2. A style of writing.
3. A writing implement.

penchant (PEN chunt)

A definite liking; a strong inclination.

penicillin

Any of a group of broad-spectrum antibiotic drugs obtained from penicillium molds or produced synthetically.

penitent (PEN uh tunt)

1. Feeling or expressing remorse for one's misdeeds or sins.
2. One who is penitent.

penultimate (pen UIL tih mut)

Next to last.

per se (per SAY)

Latin. Of, in, or by itself or oneself; intrinsically.

perception

1. a. Insight, intuition, or knowledge gained by perceiving. b. The capacity for such insight.
2. The process, act, or faculty of perceiving.
3. The effect or product of perceiving.

percolate (PUR ko late)

1. To become lively or

effervescent.

2. Penetrate.

3. To make (coffee) in a percolator.

peripatetic

(pare uh puh TET ik)

1. Upper case "P"; Relating to the philosophy or teaching methods of Aristotle, who conducted discussions while walking about in the Lyceum of ancient Athens.
2. Lower case "p"; Walking about or from place to place; traveling on foot.

perseverance

(pur suh VIR unt)

Steady persistence in adhering to a course of action, a belief, or a purpose; steadfastness.

persnickety (pur SNIK uh tee)

1. a. Overparticular about trivial details; fastidious. b. Snobbish; pretentious.
2. Requiring strict attention to detail; demanding.

perspicuous

(pur SPIK yuh wus)

Clearly expressed or presented; easy to understand.

peruse (pur OOZE)

To read or examine, typically with great care.

petrified

Rock-like.

petulant (PECH yoo lunt)

1. Unreasonably irritable or ill-tempered; peevish.
2. Contemptuous in speech or behavior.

philharmonic

A symphony orchestra or the group that supports it.

pickings

1. Leftovers.
2. A share of spoils.

piece de resistance

(pee US duh ruh zee STAUNTS)

French. An outstanding item.

pinnacle (PIN nuh cul)

The highest point; the culmination.

pivotal (PIV uh tul)

Being of vital or central importance; crucial.

polyandry (POL ee ann dree)

The condition or practice of having more than one husband at one time.

polyglot (POL ee glot)

1. A mixture or confusion of languages.

2. A person having a speaking, reading, or writing knowledge of several languages.

potent (POTE unt)

Possessing inner or physical strength; powerful.

prattle

To talk or chatter idly or meaninglessly; babble or prate.

precedent (PRESS uh dunt)

1. Convention or custom arising from long practice.
2. An act or instance that may be used as an example in dealing with subsequent similar instances.

precisely

1. In a precise manner.
2. Used as an intensive.

pretentious (prih TEN shus)

1. Claiming or demanding a position of distinction or merit, especially when unjustified.
2. Making or marked by an extravagant outward show; ostentatious.

prevenient (prih VEE nyunt)

Coming before; antecedent.

probity (PRO buh tee)

Complete and confirmed integrity; uprightness.

procured (pro KYOORD)

1. To get by special effort; obtain or acquire.
2. To bring about; effect.

prodigy (PROD uh jee)

A person with exceptional talents or powers.

profound

1. Coming as if from the depths of one's being.
2. Thoroughgoing; far-reaching.
3. Penetrating beyond what is superficial or obvious.

profundity

(pruh FUN duh tee)

1. Depth of intellect, feeling, or meaning.
2. Something abstruse or recondite.

progeny (PROJ uh nee)

1. Descendants; children; offspring.
2. Outcome; product.

prognosticate

(prog NOS tuh kate)

To predict according to present indications or signs; foretell.

propitious (pruh PISH us)
Presenting favorable circumstances; auspicious.

proselytize (PROS uh luh tyze)
To induce someone to convert to one's own organization or enterprise.

prudent (PROOD unt)
1. Wise in handling practical matters; exercising good judgment or common sense.
2. Careful in regard to one's own interests; provident.
3. Careful about one's conduct; circumspect.

puerile (PYOOR ile)
Immature; childish; juvenile.

puissant (PWEE sunt)
Strong; powerful; mighty; adept.

pulchritude (PUL kruh tyood)
Great physical beauty and appeal; gorgeous.

punitive (PYOO nuh tiv)
Inflicting or aiming to inflict punishment; punishing.

purloine
1. To steal, often in a violation of trust; filch.
2. To commit theft.

Q

qua (kwah)
Italian. In the capacity or character of.

quest (kwest)
The act or instance of seeking or pursuing something; a search.

quintessential
(kwin tuh SEN shal)
The essence of a thing in its purest and most concentrated form.

quip (kwip)
1. A clever, witty remark often prompted by the occasion.
2. A clever, often sarcastic remark; a gibe.
3. To make a quip.

quirk (kwurk)
A peculiarity of behavior; an idiosyncrasy; an eccentricity.

quitclaim
To renounce all claim to a possession or right.

quixotic (kwix SAH tik)
1. From Cervantes' character Don Quixote, caught up in the romance of noble deeds and the pursuit of unreachable goals; idealistic without regard to practicality.

2. Capricious; impulsive; extravagantly chivalrous.

quotidian (kwo TID ee un)
Everyday; commonplace.

R

raconteur (rack on TUR)
One who tells stories and anecdotes with skill and wit.

rail
To revile, scold, or castigate in harsh, insolent, or abusive language.

rapacious (ruh PAY shus)
Greedy; ravenous; voracious; grasping.

rasp
1. To utter in a grating voice.
2. To file or scrape with a coarse file having sharp projections.

ratiocinate
(rash ee OH sun ate)
To reason methodically and logically.

rational (rash uh NAL)
1. Fundamental reasons; the basis.
2. An exposition of principles or reasons.

rationalize
To attribute (one's actions) to rational and creditable motives without analysis of true, especially unconscious motives.

recidivate; [from recidivism]
(rih SID uh vate)
A tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior.

reciprocal (rih SIP ruh kul)
1. Mutually corresponding.
2. Interchangeable; complementary.
3. Performed, experienced, or felt by both sides.

recondite (REK un dite)
1. Concealed; hidden.
2. Not easily understood; abstruse.

reconnaissance
(rih KON uh suns)
An inspection or exploration of an area, especially one made to gather military information.

rectitude (REK tuh tyood)
1. Moral uprightness; righteousness.
2. The quality or condition of being correct in judgment.

remunerate
(rih MYOO nuh rate)
1. To pay (a person) a suitable equivalent in return for goods provided, services rendered, or losses incurred; recompense; render.
2. To give in return or retribution.
3. To give what is due or owed.

replete (rih PLEET)
1. Abundantly supplied; abounding.
2. Fat; stout.
3. Filled to satiation; gorged.

repondez s'il vous plait
(ree pon dez see voo play)
French. Please reply.

reprehend
To reprove; censure.

repugnant (rih PUG nunt)
Arousing disgust or aversion; offensive or repulsive.

requisite (REK wuh zut)
Required; essential. Something that is indispensable; a requirement.

retention
1. To keep in possession or use.
2. An ability to recall or recognize what has been learned or experienced; memory.

rife (ryf)
1. In widespread existence, practice, or use; increasingly prevalent.
2. Abundant or numerous.

ritzy
Elegant; fancy.

roue (roo A)
A rake; a womanizer.

ruminate (ROO muh nate)
1. To muse upon; contemplate.
2. To reflect on over and over again.

S

salaam (suh LAHM)
A respectful ceremonial greeting performed especially in Islamic countries.

salacious (suh LAY shus)
Appealing to or stimulating sexual desire; lascivious; lustful.

saltation
In the act of leaping or bounding.

sans souci
(SAHN soosee)
French. Without care.

sans (sanz)
Without.

sapid (SAP ud)
Agreeable to the mind; pleasant; inspiring.

sapient (SAP ee unt)
Having great wisdom and discernment.

savant (suh VONT)
A learned person; a scholar; a sage.

saw
A familiar saying; a bromide.

Saxons
A member of a West Germanic tribal group that inhabited northern Germany and invaded Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. with the Angles and Jutes.

sayonara
Japanese. Goodbye.

Scaramouch
(skar uh MOOSH)
A stock character in Italian comedy who is a buffoon and a rascal; a scamp.

scintillate (SIN tul layt)
1. Twinkle and flash.
2. To throw off sparks.
3. To sparkle or shine.
4. To be animated and brilliant.

scope
1. Extent of treatment or opportunity.
2. The range of one's perceptions, thoughts, or actions.
3. Breadth or opportunity to function.
4. The area covered by a given activity or subject.

screed
A long monotonous harangue or piece of writing.

seep
1. To pass slowly through small openings or fine pores; ooze.
2. To enter, depart, or become diffused gradually.

seminal
1. Highly influential in an original way; constituting or providing a basis for further development.
2. Of, relating to, or having the power to originate; creative.

sensory
1. Afferent.
2. Transmitting impulses from sense organs to nerve centers;
3. Of or relating to the senses or sensation.

sententious

1. Terse and energetic in expression; pithy.
2. a. Abounding in pompous moralizing. b. Given to pompous moralizing and aphorisms.

sequacious (sih KWAY shus)
Intellectually servile; subservient.

sequester (sih KWES tur)
1. To remove or set apart; segregate.
2. To cause to withdraw into seclusion or isolation.

serendipity

The faculty of making fortunate discoveries by accident.

sesquipedalian

(ses kwuh puh DAYL yun)
A long word; polysyllabic.

shalom (shah LOME)

Used as a traditional Jewish greeting or farewell.

Siam (sy AM)

Former name for Thailand.

simile (SIM uh lee)

A figure of speech in which two essentially unlike things are compared, often in a phrase introduced by like or as, as in *cheeks like roses*.

sine qua non

(sin ee kwa NOHN)
Latin. An absolutely essential and indispensable thing.

situational

1. The combination of circumstances at a given moment; a state of affairs.
2. a. The way in which something is positioned vis-à-vis its surroundings. b. The place in which something is situated; a location.
3. Position or status with regard to conditions and circumstances.

skitter

To move rapidly along a surface, usually with frequent light contacts or changes of direction; skip or glide quickly.

sobriquet (SOH brih kay)

1. A fanciful name or nickname.
2. An affectionate or humorous nickname.
3. An assumed name.

sociolinguists

Those who study a language in the context of a given society or culture.

squalid (SKWAL ud)

1. Marked by filthiness and degradation.
2. Dirty and wretched, as from poverty or lack of care.
3. Morally repulsive; sordid.

squander (SKWAN dur)

1. To spend wastefully or extravagantly; dissipate.
2. Extravagant expenditure; prodigality.

squib (skwib)

1. A brief satirical or witty writing or speech, such as a lampoon.
2. A short, sometimes humorous piece in a newspaper or magazine, often used as a filler.

status quo (state uh SKWO)

Latin. The existing condition or state of affairs.

steeplejack

One who builds or maintains very high structures, such as steeples.

stick-shift

An automotive transmission with a shift lever operated by hand.

stochastic (stow KAS tick)

1. Of, relating to, or characterized by conjecture; conjectural.
2. Statistics: a. Involving a random variable or variables. b. Involving probability.

stodgy (STOD jee)

1. Dull, unimaginative, and commonplace.
2. Prim or pompous; stuffy.

stolid

Having or revealing little emotion or sensibility; impassive.

strenuous

1. Requiring great effort, energy, or exertion.
2. Vigorously active; energetic or zealous.

strife

1. Heated, often violent dissension; bitter conflict.
2. Contention or competition between rivals.

stultify

1. To cause to appear stupid, inconsistent, or ridiculous.
2. To render useless or ineffectual; cripple.

stylus

A sharp, pointed instrument used for writing, marking, or engraving.

sublime

1. a. Of high spiritual, moral, or intellectual worth. b. Not to be excelled; supreme.
2. Inspiring awe; impressive; an ultimate example.
3. Characterized by nobility; majestic.

suborn (suh BORN)

To induce secretly to commit an unlawful or evil act; to commit perjury.

substantive

(sub STUN tiv)

1. Of or relating to the essence or substance; essential.
2. Independent in existence or function; not subordinate.
3. Substantial; considerable.

summit

1. The highest point or part; the top.
2. The highest level or degree that can be attained.

summum bonum

(sum um BO num)

Latin. The highest or supreme good.

superfluous

(soo PUR fluh wus)

Being beyond what is required or sufficient.

supersede

1. To take the place of; replace.
2. To cause to be set aside, especially to displace as inferior or antiquated.

suppress

1. To keep from being revealed, published, or circulated.
2. To deliberately exclude (unacceptable desires or thoughts) from the mind.
3. To curtail or prohibit the activities of.
4. To put an end to forcibly; subdue.

surveillance (sur VAY lunts)

1. Close observation or supervision of a person or group, especially one under suspicion.
2. The act of observing or the condition of being observed.

sycophant (SIK uh funt)

A servile self-seeker who attempts to win favor by flattering influential people.

synchronize (SIN krun ize)

1. To operate in unison.
2. To cause to occur or operate at the same time as something else.

syncretism (SIN kruh tiz um)

1. To attempt reconciliation of differing beliefs.
2. To operate in unison.

synergize

To control discrete agencies such that the total effect is greater than the sum of the effects taken independently.

T**tabula rasa**

(TAB yuh luh rahz uh)

Latin. Blank slate; empty mind.

tarn

1. A small mountain lake, especially one formed by glaciers.
2. Southern U.S.: A swampy pond.

temerarious

(tem uh RARE ee us)

Marked by temerity; reckless; brash.

temporize

1. To engage in discussions or negotiations, especially so as to achieve a compromise or gain time.
2. To act evasively in order to gain time, avoid argument, or postpone a decision.
3. To yield to current circumstances or necessities; act to suit the time.

tenacious

1. Clinging to another object or surface; adhesive.
2. Holding together firmly; cohesive.
3. Holding or tending to hold persistently to something, such as a point of view.

tenure (TEN yoor)

1. The status of holding one's position on a permanent basis without periodic contract renewals.
2. a. The act, fact, or condition of holding something in one's possession, as real estate or an office; occupation. b. A period during which something is held.

teratogenies

Little monsters.

thespian

An actor or actress.

Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau; Influential American writer and philosopher.

till

1. Variation of until.
2. A drawer, small chest, or compartment for money, as in a store.
3. To prepare (land) for the raising of crops, as by plowing and harrowing; cultivate.

timorous

Full of apprehensiveness; timid.

tor

1. A high rock or pile of rocks on the top of a hill.
2. A high craggy hill.

torpor

1. Lethargy; apathy; sluggishness.
2. A state of mental or physical inactivity or insensibility.

touchstone

1. A hard black stone, such as jasper or basalt, formerly used to test the quality of gold or silver by comparing the streak left on the stone by one of these metals with that of a standard alloy.
2. An excellent quality or example that is used to test the excellence or genuineness of others.

tour de force

(too duh FORS)

- French. 1. A feat of strength, skill, or ingenuity.
2. A feat requiring great virtuosity or strength, often deliberately undertaken for its difficulty.

tout de suite (toot sweet)

French. Immediately; right away.

transmission

1. a. The act or process of transmitting. b. The fact of being transmitted.
2. Something, such as a message, that is transmitted.
3. The sending of a signal, picture, or other information from a transmitter.
4. A gearbox.

transmogrify

To change into a different shape or form, especially one that is fantastic or bizarre.

transpose

1. To reverse or transfer the order or place of; interchange.
2. To alter in form or nature; transform.

traverse

1. To travel or pass across, over, or through.

2. To move to and fro over; cross and recross.
3. To extend across; cross.

trenchant (TREN chunt)

1. Keen; incisive; sharp.
2. Forceful, effective, and vigorously effective and forceful.
3. Caustic; cutting.

trite

Hackneyed; overused.

trivialize

To reduce to a state of little worth.

trove

A collection of valuable items discovered or found; a treasure-trove.

truism

A self-evident truth.

truncate (TRUN kate)

To shorten by or as if by cutting off.

tumid (TYOO mud)

1. Bombastic; inflated.
2. Swollen; distended. Used of a body part or organ.

turbid (TUR bud)

1. Heavy, dark, or dense.
2. In a state of turmoil; muddled.
3. Having sediment or foreign particles stirred up or suspended; muddy.

turgidity (tur JID uh tee)

1. Excessively ornate or complex in style or language; grandiloquent.
2. Swollen or distended, as from a fluid; bloated.

U**ululate** (UL yuh late)

To howl, wail, or lament loudly.

umbrage (UM brij)

Offense; resentment.

unequivocal

Admitting of no doubt or misunderstanding; clear and unambiguous.

unremitting

Never slackening; persistent.

usufruct (YOO zuh frukt)

Law: The right to use and enjoy the profits and advantages of something belonging to another as long as the property is not damaged or altered in any way.

usurp (yoo SURP)

1. To seize and hold by force

and without legal authority.

2. To wrongfully seize another's place, authority, or possession.

V**vacillate** (VAS uh late)

To swing indecisively from one course of action or opinion to another.

vacuous (VAK yuh wus)

1. a. Lacking intelligence; stupid. b. Devoid of substance or meaning; inane.
2. Devoid of expression; vacant.
3. Lacking serious purpose or occupation; idle.
4. Devoid of matter; empty.

vagabond

A vagrant; a tramp; a wanderer; a rover.

vale

A valley, often coursed by a stream; a dale.

veracious (vuh RAY shus)

Honest; truthful; accurate; precise.

veracity

1. Adherence to the truth; truthfulness.
2. Conformity to fact or truth; accuracy or precision.

verily (VARE uh lee)

1. In truth; in fact.
2. With confidence; assuredly.

verisimilitude

(vare uh suh MI li tyood)

The quality of appearing to be true or real.

veritable (VARE ut uh bul)

Actual; true; authentic; genuine.

vernacular

1. The everyday language spoken by a people as distinguished from the literary language.
2. The idiom of a particular trade or profession.
3. The standard native language of a country or locality.

versatile (VUR sut ul)

1. Having varied uses or serving many functions.
2. Capable of doing many things competently.
3. Variable or inconstant; changeable.

vertex (VUR teks)

The highest point; the apex or summit.

vex

1. To cause perplexity in; puzzle.
2. To bring distress or suffering to; plague or afflict.
3. To annoy, as with petty importunities; bother.

vie

To strive for victory or superiority; contend.

vignette (vin YET)

A short, usually descriptive literary sketch.

vim

Ebullient vitality and energy.

viridescent (vere uh DES sent)

Green or slightly green.

vitiate (VISH ee ate)

1. To reduce the value or impair the quality of; contaminate.
2. To corrupt morally; debase.
3. To make ineffective; invalidate; weaken.

vitreous (VIH tree us)

Of, relating to, resembling, or having the nature of glass; glassy.

vituperate

(vye TYOO puh rate)

To rebuke or criticize harshly or abusively; berate; rail.

vivacious (vuh VAY shus)

Full of animation and spirit; lively.

voluptuous

(vuh LUP chuh wus)

Suggesting sensual pleasure by fullness and beauty of form.

vouchsafe

To condescend to grant or bestow (a privilege, for example); to deign.

vow

1. An earnest promise to perform a specified act or behave in a certain manner.
2. To promise or threat solemnly; pledge.

W**waif** (wafe)

1. a. A homeless person, especially a forsaken or orphaned child. b. An abandoned young animal.
2. Something found and unclaimed, as an object cast up by the sea.

Walden (WAL den)

Walden Pond in Northeast Massachusetts, south of Concord, where Thoreau

sequestered himself to observe, ruminate, and write.

wen

A harmless cyst, especially on the scalp or face.

whimsical

1. Erratic in behavior or degree of unpredictability.
2. Determined by, arising from, or marked by whim or caprice.

wont (wahnt)

1. Accustomed or used to; likely.
2. Customary practice; usage.

wry (ry)

Dryly humorous, often with a touch of irony.

wunderkind (VUN dur kint)

German. A child prodigy; a wonder kid.

X

xeno (ZEE no)

Indicates the presence of something that is strange, foreign, different, or threatening – a xenophobe is afraid of strangers.

Y

yeen (yeen)

To give birth.

yen

A strong desire or inclination; a yearning or craving.

yokefellow

A work companion; comrade.

Z

zeal

1. Enthusiastic devotion to a cause, an ideal, or a goal and tireless diligence in its furtherance.
2. A fanatically committed person.

zen

Zen Buddhism, which proclaims that enlightenment is possible through meditation and self-contemplation.

zenith (ZEE nith)

1. The point on the celestial sphere that is directly above the observer.
2. The upper region of the sky.
3. The point of culmination; the peak.

zymurgy (ZY mur jee)

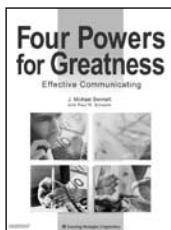
The branch of chemistry that deals with fermentation processes, as in brewing.





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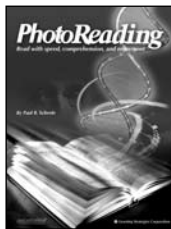
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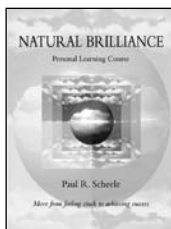
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by Paul R. Scheele, Hale Dwoskin, D. Trinidad Hunt, Chunyi Lin, Bill Harris, and Rex Stevens Sikes & Carolyn Sikes

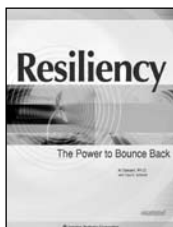
Seven experts come together to help you experience a natural, euphoric high. Learn to enter, at will, a sense of inner calm. Experience joyful flowing with the events around you. Feel blissful happiness, love, rapture, and peace of mind.



Spring Forest Qigong Personal Learning Course

by Chunyi Lin

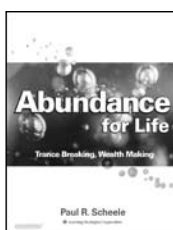
For thousands of years, the Chinese elite have known that controlled breathing techniques combined with focused concentration and simple movements can significantly improve one's health. They have called this practice Qigong. Master Chunyi Lin has demystified this ancient practice to make it practical for today. His *Spring Forest Qigong Personal Learning Course* guides you through learning simple, easy-to-follow exercises for a vibrant sense of energy and well-being.



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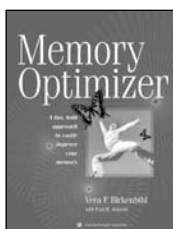


Paraliminals: Stimulate your mind for passion, powerful action, and new results

by Paul R. Scheele

Paul Scheele created 26 individual Paraliminal recordings similar in nature to the two Paraliminal learning sessions in your *Million Dollar Vocabulary* course. With the Paraliminals you can make most any change or adjustment in your life.

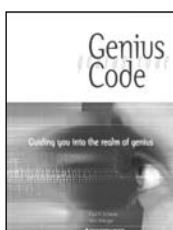
Titles include *Personal Genius*, *Memory Supercharger*, *Talking to Win*, *Creating Sparks*, *Break the Habit*, *Peak Performance*, *New Behavior Generator*, *New History Generator*, *New Option Generator*, *Anxiety-Free*, *Automatic Pilot*, *Belief*, *Dream Play*, *Get Around To It*, *Ideal Weight*, *Prosperity*, *Positive Relationships*, *Sales Leap*, *Smoke-Free*, *Deep Relaxation*, *Holiday Cheer*, *Instantaneous Personal Magnetism*, *Perfect Health*, *Self-Esteem Supercharger*, *10-Minute Supercharger*, and *Youthful Vitality*.



Memory Optimizer

by Vera F. Birkenbihl and Paul R. Scheele

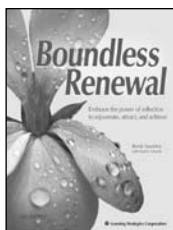
Improve your memory with a unique, new approach using "The Birkenbihl Method" and "Paraliminal Learning." Concepts and practical processes such as Intelligent Gap Management, the Inner Archive, Memory Pyramid, and the Anchorman List coupled with 57 memory tricks will give strength to your memory and ability to learn.



Genius Code: Guiding you into the realm of genius

by Paul R. Scheele and Win Wenger

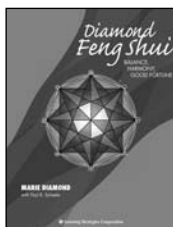
Tune into those secret messages that your brain automatically sends you to boost your IQ, solve any problem, accelerate learning, recognize golden opportunities, and supercharge your intuition. Paul Scheele and Win Wenger created a fascinating exploration into the human mind with useful and practical applications that can benefit you immediately.



Boundless Renewal: Embrace the Power of Reflection to Rejuvenate, Attract, and Achieve

by Bernie Saunders and Paul R. Scheele

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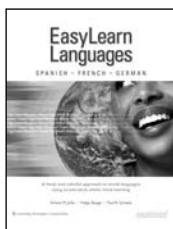
Diamond Feng Shui: Balance, Harmony, Good Fortune

by Marie Diamond with Paul R. Scheele

Universal energy continuously flows in and around our homes and workplaces. Learn to attract positive energy and deflect negative energy so that you experience fortune and happiness in the four main areas of living: success, health, relationships, and spiritual growth.

Feng Shui master Marie Diamond shows how universal energy responds to you personally, including how a room with good Feng Shui actually stimulates your brain to access desirable alpha brainwaves. You also learn how to energize your home and workplace, reduce stagnant energy, and harness a type of dynamic energy that ebbs and flows over time.

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Grab a book, play the recording, and watch your reading speed increase immediately. Even your concentration improves with this single audio session. Paul Scheele worked with several techniques from the PhotoReading Whole Mind System to give you this reading boost whenever you need it.



J. MICHAEL BENNETT

For over two decades Dr. J. Michael Bennett served as a rhetoric professor at the University of Minnesota. His award-winning teaching and research in human communication focuses primarily on listening, reading, speaking, and writing. His doctorate is in Reading Education.

As an author and researcher, Professor Bennett has published many journal articles in various areas of communication, including the College Reading/Speed Reading entry in the *World Book Encyclopedia*. He is co-author of the nationally standardized *Nelson-Denny Reading Test, Forms E and F* (Riverside Press), and author of three important books—*Efficient Reading for Managers* and *How to Build a Power Vocabulary* for the American Management Association, and *Four Powers of Communication—Skills for Effective Learning* for McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

Dr. Bennett has been active in The International Reading Association, The National Council of Teachers of English, The American Reading Forum, The National Reading Conference, The Speech Communication Association, and the North Central Reading Association, of which he is past President and former Editor-in-Chief of their publication, *The Journal of College and Adult Reading and Learning*.

Your *Million Dollar Vocabulary* course is the second personal learning course authored by Dr. Bennett for Learning Strategies Corporation. The first is *Four Powers For Greatness: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing*.

Michael, his wife Nancy, son Peter, and daughter Jacquelyn live in Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

This publication is dedicated to my charming and wondrous children, Peter Michael and Jacquelyn May, and to their loving and talented mother, Nancy Ann. You are three very special people, and a blessing to all those around you—especially me.

JMB



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