Lesson 29  Word Usage
The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s was an era of extraordinary achievement by writers, artists, and musicians. Political and social, as well as artistic, the movement symbolized a national mood of increased optimism and pride among African Americans. The words in this lesson will help you to talk and write about the people and their works that became famous during this period.

**Word List**

- adage
- brazen
- exclusive
- exalt
- affectation
- didactic
- enlighten
- paradigm

**EXERCISE A  Word Meanings**

Circle the letter for the correct definition of the boldfaced vocabulary word.

1. Although the Cotton Club was exclusive in its admittance of only white patrons, all of its entertainers were black.
   a. rejecting some or most
   b. conforming to the current style
   c. worthy of imitation
   d. showing an unyielding spirit

2. Zora Neale Hurston died alienated from the literary community that thought her autobiography was fictional rather than realistic.
   a. loud and flashy
   b. broken down and useless
   c. remarkable
   d. isolated

3. Many considered Wallace Thurman brazen when he became the first African American magazine publisher.
   a. having a hidden meaning
   b. displaying strong attachment for
   c. bold and shameless
   d. silently ill-humored

4. The poignant scene at the end of the movie left the audience speechless.
   a. confusing
   b. deeply touching
   c. surprising
   d. fast-paced

5. My grandmother’s adage, “It is better to marry a rich man than a poor man,” doesn’t appeal to me.
   a. a word accidentally introduced to the language
   b. a traditional saying
   c. an assemblage of ideas
   d. a memory device

6. A didactic writer, Jean Toomer combines elements of poetry, drama, and fiction to depict African American life in the rural South and the urban North.
   a. intending to instruct
   b. integrated in nature
   c. done too quickly to be accurate
   d. containing humor
7. Rosemarie grew up in Ohio and New Jersey, so her British accent seems like an affectation.
   a. a productive or prosperous activity  
   b. a trick of the sound waves  
   c. a discontented facial expression  
   d. artificial behavior adopted to impress others

8. Claude McKay's poem "If We Must Die" was a paradigm for all the protest literature that followed.
   a. bet made at great odds  
   b. highly dangerous condition  
   c. pattern or model  
   d. position or quality that falls between extremes

9. An activist for African American civil rights, actor Paul Robeson tried to enlighten the world about racism.
   a. release from punishment  
   b. inform or instruct  
   c. begin and carry through to completion  
   d. cut short

10. In songs like “Sophisticated Lady” and “Mood Indigo,” orchestra leader and songwriter Duke Ellington exalted the African American experience.
    a. praised or honored  
    b. united so as to be continuous  
    c. reduced the effect of  
    d. made secure

**EXERCISE B** Antonyms
Circle the letter of the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning.

1. brazen
   a. humble  
   b. memorable  
   c. productive  
   d. playful

2. affectation
   a. naturalness  
   b. involvement  
   c. hatred  
   d. chance

3. exalt
   a. possess  
   b. degrade  
   c. control  
   d. lose

4. alienated
   a. shy  
   b. uninformed  
   c. welcomed  
   d. lazy

**EXERCISE C** Multiple-Meaning Words
Many English adjectives take their meaning from substances like metals. Use a dictionary or an encyclopedia of word origins to find the derivations of the following words and connect these derivations with each word’s current meaning. Check your definition in the dictionary; then, on a separate sheet of paper, write a sentence that illustrates its current usage.

1. brazen
2. sterling
3. flinty
4. chastened
Lesson 30  Suffixes That Form Adjectives
Adding a suffix to a word can change its part of speech. In this lesson, you will learn how the Latin suffixes -ive, -al, -ial, and the Greek suffix -ish change nouns and verbs into adjectives, thus increasing the expressive power of the language and of your vocabulary.

**Suffixes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Root Word</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>tending to perform an action</td>
<td>addict</td>
<td>addictive</td>
<td>causing a habit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-al/-ial</td>
<td>relating to; characterized by</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>autumnal</td>
<td>like or relating to the fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ish</td>
<td>characteristic of</td>
<td>sheep</td>
<td>sheepish</td>
<td>somewhat like a sheep; shy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXERCISE A  Suffixes**

Choose the word from the list that best matches each clue and write it on the line provided.

1. This suffix and root unite to produce an adjective that means “mischievous.” ________________

2. This adjective, which makes use of the suffix -ive, is a synonym for emotional. ________________

3. The suffix -ish, when added to a particular root, produces another word for abnormal or unusual. ________________

4. The combination of this suffix and root produces an adjective that means “imaginative”. ________________

5. The suffix and root describe stubborn behavior. ________________

6. This adjective might be applied to someone who thinks a great deal or to a shiny surface that bounces light off it. ________________

7. The combination of this suffix and root provides a word that describes a performance that might be given by an inexperienced cast. ________________

8. This adjective is a synonym for powerful or important. ________________

9. The base word and the suffix -al combine to form a word that means “reasonable” or “a type of number.” ________________

10. The -ial ending added to its base word produces an adjective meaning “large and grand.” ________________
### EXERCISE B  Usage

Circle the word in parentheses that best completes the sentence.

1. Randall has a(n) (freakish, impish, reflective) charm; the twinkle in his eyes suggests an impending practical joke.

2. The master bath was (creative, amateurish, palatial); this room alone could accommodate three ordinary-sized bathrooms.

3. Because of the (amateurish, mulish, reflective) use of color and the faulty perspective, the painting was detected as a forgery almost immediately.

4. Once a little-known painter from New Orleans, Ida Kohlmeyer has become one of the most (amateurish, influential, palatial) modern artists in this country.

5. Being (mulish, creative, rational) was nothing new to Jerry; he was used to refusing requests and doing what he wanted to do.

6. The position of advertising and marketing director requires someone who is both (demonstrative, freakish, creative) and analytical, a free thinker and a problem solver.

7. Jeanine was in a(n) (reflective, freakish, impish) mood; the rain and the fog made her think of San Francisco and Dave.

8. Sandy’s mother is not a(n) (freakish, impish, demonstrative) woman; instead of giving hugs and kisses, she shows her affection in other ways.

9. Adele had a reputation as a solid, (impish, rational, palatial) thinker.

10. Two tornadoes hitting a single mobile home park in one day has to be a(n) (demonstrative, influential, freakish) occurrence.

### EXERCISE C  Usage

In addition to mulish and sheepish, many other adjectives derived from animal names describe human behavior. Match the adjectives in Column A with their appropriate animals in Column B. Then, use each word in Column A in a sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
<th>Sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____ 1. leonine</td>
<td>a. ape or monkey</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ 2. aquiline</td>
<td>b. pig</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ 3. bovine</td>
<td>c. eagle</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ 4. elephantine</td>
<td>d. lion</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ 5. simian</td>
<td>e. cow</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ 6. porcine</td>
<td>f. elephant</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____ 7. viperous</td>
<td>g. snake</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 31 The Greek Roots *polis* and *polit*
The root *polis* and its related form *polit* derive from an ancient word for “city.” *Polis* was the Greek word for “city-state,” a self-governing city such as Athens or Sparta. *Polis* is the source of many words in English, ten of which are featured in this lesson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cosmopolitan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geopolitics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impolitic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXERCISE A  Word Roots**
Choose the word from the word list that best matches each clue. On the lines provided, write your own definition of the word. Then, look the word up in a dictionary and write its definition.

1. This adjective comes from the prefix *meter-*, meaning “mother,” and the root word *polis*. It refers to a large area such as that which includes and surrounds New York City or Houston, Texas. ________________
   My definition ________________
   Dictionary definition ________________

2. This word comes from the Greek word *polis* and refers to the government department of a city or state that keeps order and detects crime. ________________
   My definition ________________
   Dictionary definition ________________

3. This noun comes from the Greek word *polis* and names the science of government. Sometimes it refers to the scheming for power that takes place between factions. ________________
   My definition ________________
   Dictionary definition ________________

4. This word comes from the Greek word *kosmos*, meaning “universe,” and *polis*. It refers to someone who is worldly. ________________
   My definition ________________
   Dictionary definition ________________

5. This noun comes from the Greek prefix *geo*, meaning “earth,” and *polis*. Someone in this field would study both geography and political science. ________________
   My definition ________________
   Dictionary definition ________________
6. This adjective comes from the Latin prefix *im-* , meaning “not,” and *polis*. It refers to ideas that are neither wise nor appropriate. ________________
   My definition _______________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary definition __________________________________________________________________

7. The Greek prefix *megalo*, meaning “great” or “large,” and *polis* combine to produce a word for a vast continuously urban area that includes numerous cities. ________________
   My definition _______________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary definition __________________________________________________________________

8. This word comes from the Greek word *polis* and is a noun that refers to the form of government of a nation, state, church, or organization. ________________
   My definition _______________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary definition __________________________________________________________________

9. This noun comes from the Greek word *polis* and names the course of action followed by an organization or individual. ________________
   My definition _______________________________________________________________________
   Dictionary definition __________________________________________________________________

10. This noun comes from the Greek word *polis* and indicates a person who is skilled or experienced in some aspect of government management. ________________
    My definition _______________________________________________________________________
    Dictionary definition __________________________________________________________________

**EXERCISE B  Synonyms**

Draw a line through the italicized word or phrase and, above it, write the vocabulary word that best replaces the word or phrase.

1. The New Haven *city-and-its-surroundings* area does not cover much ground, but the population is dense and the area crowded.

2. *People actively engaged in the administration of government* are not very popular in my neighborhood because they are viewed as more interested in power than in public service.

3. This year’s conference on the study of the relationship between geography and politics will deal with fishing rights and the international law of the sea.


5. Because many stores lose money on checks written without sufficient funds, many businesses have instituted a cash-only general *plan*.
Lesson 32 Using Test-Taking Skills

Antonyms

Antonym questions are a common feature of many standardized tests. Antonyms are words with opposite or nearly opposite meanings, such as good and evil, small and large, or slow and fast. Antonym tests can be much more challenging than these simple examples, though, because they generally require the reader to distinguish slight differences in the meanings of words. These steps will help you answer antonym test items:

1. Read all the answer choices and eliminate those that are incorrect.
2. Eliminate synonym choices; that is, words that are similar in meaning to the given word.
3. Watch for other misleading choices, such as words that look or sound like the given word.
4. Use your knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and roots to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words.
5. Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the given word. Sometimes test items may include more than one possible antonym. It is your job to select the better of the two.

EXERCISE

Circle the letter of the correct antonym.

1. solve
   a. puzzle    b. concern    c. baffle    d. decide
2. trivial
   a. extraneous  b. smart    c. accomplished d. significant
3. award
   a. forfeiture  b. allegiance c. penalty   d. gift
4. clear
   a. obscure    b. doubtful  c. trusting   d. alien
5. doubt
   a. lie       b. convict   c. believe   d. subside
6. adhere
   a. support   b. surround  c. bind      d. sever
7. discontinue
   a. energize  b. kindle    c. activate   d. anticipate
8. random
   a. systematic b. permanent c. public    d. tidy
9. jaunty
   a. bored     b. sedate    c. quiet     d. erratic
10. frantic
    a. humorous  b. inescapable c. merciless d. imperturbable
Review: Unit 8

**EXERCISE**

Circle the letter of the word or phrase that best explains the boldfaced vocabulary word.

1. The ideals of democracy are a **paradigm** for developing nations.
   a. the historical foundation
   b. an example that serves as a pattern or model
   c. the product of a gradual process of unfolding
   d. something that improves the distinctive characteristics of another

2. A **demonstrative** relative is likely to ______.
   a. show you that he or she is happy to see you
   b. want to teach you several skills
   c. be a positive role model
   d. protect family secrets

3. Feedback about an **impolitic** decision would be ______.
   a. unfair and one-sided
   b. the result of the majority opinion
   c. constructive yet supportive
   d. critical about not exhibiting good judgment

4. A **poignant** tale would ______.
   a. be told only to a member of the clergy
   b. make an impression
   c. cause excessive confusion and embarrassment
   d. be frightening due to the storyline

5. A **mulish** person would be ______.
   a. cooperative and helpful
   b. supportive though not friendly
   c. obstinate and difficult to get along with
   d. self-centered and proud

6. If the **polity** of a town council is being restructured, its ______.
   a. government is under revision
   b. schedule of meetings is being re-evaluated
   c. members are receiving training
   d. leader is being publicly criticized

7. If you are told that you are too **brazen** for your own good, someone is saying that you are ______.
   a. too generous
   b. overly concerned about time
   c. recklessly daring
   d. wayward and uncontrollable

8. A **palatial** home will probably ______.
   a. look like a prison
   b. be located in a rural area
   c. resemble a castle in its grandness
   d. be financed by multiple banks

9. An example of a **megalopolis** would be ______.
   a. Sanville, IL
   b. Dublin, ND
   c. Northwood, KS
   d. New York City, NY

10. A piece of **creative** artwork would be a(n) ______.
    a. painting
    b. cup of tea
    c. uniform
    d. colored pencil