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Dr. Wilfred Funk and Norman Lewis have both been deeply concerned with the history and use of the English language for many years. As editors, lexicographers, teachers, and authors, they have each contributed extensively to this important field. But successful as they each have been individually, their success as collaborators in producing 30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary has been even greater. In various editions, at various prices, this book has sold nearly 4,000,000 copies. It is the most popular and most widely used manual of its kind produced in the twentieth century.

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30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary

By Wilfred Funk and Norman Lewis

30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary

By Wilfred Funk
Six Weeks to Words of Power

By Norman Lewis
Word Power Made Easy

Published by POCKET BOOKS

WILFRED FUNK & NORMAN LEWIS
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30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary
Pronunciation Key

The phonetic transcription of most words in the following pages will be self-explanatory and completely clear and obvious. Only a very few symbols have to be practiced and understood before you start.

1. ø: *This is the phonetic symbol (called schwa) which indicates "a weak, neutral vowel sound occurring in most of the unstressed syllables in English speech, as the a in alone, the e in happen, the u in circus."*

2. ə The vowel sound in go, no, low, so, etc.
3. ō The vowel sound in fool, soon, noon, etc.
4. zh The sound of the s in occasion, treasure, measure, leisure, etc.
5. ö The vowel sound of book, look, etc.

Many words are stressed on more than one syllable, although only one syllable may receive the primary or strongest accent. When you say pyromaniac, for example, you place the strongest stress on the third syllable (ma)—that is, you say the third syllable with the greatest loudness. But the first syllable, py, also receives some stress; that is,

you say it louder than ro, t, or ac. To show these distinctions, we will capitalize and accent the strongest syllable (MAY'), and only accent the second strongest (py'). Pyromaniac is thus phonetically rewritten as py'-ro-MAY'-nee-ak. Further examples:

satiated: SAY'-shee-ay'-tad
archaeology: ahr'-kee-OL'-ee-je
opinionated: o-PIN'-ye-nay'-tad
braggadocio: brag'-e-DU'-shee-0

Give Us Fifteen Minutes a Day

Your boss has a bigger vocabulary than you have.
That's one good reason why he's your boss.
This discovery has been made in the word laboratories of the world. Not by theoretical English professors, but by practical, hard-headed scientists who have been searching for the secrets of success.
After a host of experiments and years of testing they have found out:

That if your vocabulary is limited your chances of success are limited.
That one of the easiest and quickest ways to get ahead is by consciously building up your knowledge of words.
That the vocabulary of the average person almost stops growing by the middle twenties.
And that from then on it is necessary to have an intelligent plan if progress is to be made. No hit-or-miss methods will do.
FIRST DAY

It has long since been satisfactorily established that a high executive does not have a large vocabulary merely because of the opportunities of his position. That would be putting the cart before the horse. Quite the reverse is true. His skill in words was a tremendous help in getting him his job.

Dr. Johnson O'Connor of the Human Engineering Laboratory of Boston and of the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, gave a vocabulary test to one hundred young men who were studying to be industrial executives.

Five years later, all, without exception, of those who had passed in the upper 10 per cent had executive positions, while not a single young man of the lower 25 per cent had become an executive.

Some of the factors that lead to success can be measured as scientifically as the contents of a test tube, and it has been discovered that the one and only common characteristic of outstandingly successful people is "an extensive knowledge of the exact meaning of English words."

Vocabulary is one indication of intelligence. Learning power measurably sharpens when vocabulary increases. Here's the proof.

Two classes in a high school were selected for an experiment. The ages and background of the members of both groups were the same, and each group represented a similar cross-section of the community. One, the control class, took the normal course; the other class had, in addition, special and rigorous vocabulary training. At the end of the period the grades of the students in the vocabulary class surpassed the grades of the members of the control group, not only in English, but in every other subject including mathematics and the sciences.

Similarly Professor Lewis M. Terman of Stanford University, has found that a vocabulary test is as accurate a measure of intelligence as any three units of the standard and accepted Stanford-Binet I. Q. tests.

Words are the tools of thinking. It naturally follows, then, that the more words you have at your command, the clearer and more accurate your thinking will be.

Give Us Fifteen Minutes a Day

Words are your medium of exchange, the coin with which you do business with all those around you. With words you relate to people, communicate your feelings and thoughts to them, influence them, persuade them, control them. In short, through words you shape your own destiny. For your words are your personality; your vocabulary is you.

Words are explosive. Phrases are packed with TNT. A single word can destroy a friendship, can start or end a marital battle, can land a large order. The right phrases in the mouths of clerks have quadrupled the sales of a department store. The wrong words used by a campaign orator have lost an election. Four unfortunate words—"Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion"—used in a Republican campaign speech threw the Catholic vote and the Presidential victory to Grover Cleveland.

Armies fight for phrases: "Make the world safe for Democracy"; "V for Victory"; "Remember Pearl Harbor."

Words have changed the direction of history. Words can also change the direction of your life. They can raise a man from mediocrity to success.

We submit that if you methodically increase your vocabulary you will improve your chances for success.

This book enlists active cooperation, continuous written and oral response. It will test you every step of the way, it will demand unceasing feedback from you, and thus it will make words your friends and allies.

We expect to prove to you that developing a rich and robust vocabulary can be both fun and challenging.

Give us fifteen minutes a day, and we will guarantee that at the end of a month, when you have turned over the last page of this book, your words, your reading, your conversation, and your life will all have a new and deeper meaning for you.

For words can make you great!
Take This Twelve-Minute Test of Your Verbal Power

First, we will take your word portrait.
When the picture is finished, you will know how you look to others as a conversationalist and how you may appear when you write a simple social note or a business letter.

The lines of your likeness that are to be drawn here will indicate the extent of your vocabulary, the facility with which you can recall and use words, and the knowledge that you have of their precise meanings. There will also be brief spelling and pronunciation tests so that we can get a complete picture.

You will find the tests in this chapter simple and entertaining. They will take exactly twelve minutes, and when you are through and have checked your score, you will know what's wrong, if anything, with your vocabulary and your use of words. You will, in short, have painted your own word portrait. Then, in the chapters that follow, we

Take This Twelve-Minute Test

will show you how to strengthen any weak points that may have appeared.

How do words treat you? Are you comfortable with them? Do they come easily to you? When you write and speak, do your words paint the sort of picture of you that will do you the most good in this highly competitive world? Does your language usually present a true reflection of your mind, your emotions, and your personality? Or does it sometimes betray you and blur your thoughts? Do people occasionally misunderstand you? Or can you compel them to listen, react, obey?

Like everyone else, you want certain things from life. No matter what those benefits are, or what particular way you have chosen to go about getting them, you know that your first and most effective means will be the words you use.

In short, the satisfaction and the success you get out of life depend very greatly on the skill with which you communicate your needs, your desires, your opinions to others.

Ready to discover what your command of language says about you?

TEST 1

Verbal Speed (Elementary)

DIRECTIONS: Write in the blank space next to each of the words in the following list another word that begins with S and has a meaning directly opposite to the given word. Time: 60 seconds

EXAMPLE: fast slow
sweet sour
buy sell

START TIMING:

1. tall
2. north
3. happy
4. different
5. dangerous

S.............
S.............
S.............
S.............
S.............
SECOND DAY

6. big S.........
7. dull S.........
8. noisy S.........
9. sit S.........
10. receive S.........

End Timing

(Answers for all tests will be found at the end of the chapter.)

You have just been tested for fluency.

You should have breezed through this test at high speed in less than sixty seconds with no hesitancy and no mistakes. If you had to think for more than an instant to recall the proper word, it is likely that you experience some difficulty in expressing your thoughts. You are probably seeing men who are not as bright as you getting ahead of you. You may often wonder: "What have they got that I haven't got?"

Your lack of an adequate word arsenal may have seriously handicapped you. If so, this book is designed for you. It will give you the chance to go to work and overcome your obstacle.

TEST II
Verbal Speed [Advanced]

DIRECTIONS: As in the previous test, write a word beginning with S which is opposite in meaning to each of the following.

Time: 90 seconds

START TIMING: 1. generous S.........
2. meaningless S.........
3. believing S.........
4. complicated S.........
5. doubtful S.........
6. careful S.........
7. wakefulness S.........

Take This Twelve-Minute Test

8. rough S.........
9. objective S.........
10. laugh S.........

End Timing

Speed and accuracy are again of great importance. If you completed this test in ninety seconds and got eight out of ten correct, you are far above the average and you doubtless show unusual skill and ease in translating your thoughts into the proper words; you are going to make swift progress in the lessons that are ahead.

If, on the other hand, you exceeded your time limit, or if you were wrong in five or more words, it is critically necessary that you start today to improve your vocabulary. We are dealing in this book with one of the richest languages in the world, and with a little practice and patience you can easily make its great wealth your own.

TEST III
Synonym Recall

Here is a test of your skill from another point of view. You have been working with antonyms, or words of opposite meanings. How will you do with synonyms, or words of the same, or almost the same, meanings? It is highly important that you have a wealth of synonyms, which are analogous to the many colors on an artist's palette, at your command. Synonyms within easy reach help you paint for your listener the many shades of your thoughts; they lend variety and interest to your conversation and writing.

DIRECTIONS: In the spaces given below write two words that are synonymous with the given word.

Time: 2 minutes

EXAMPLE: beautiful lovely, pretty
          strong rugged, powerful
          short brief, concise

This test should be finished within the time limit, as
there are many more than two synonyms for each of these words. Check with a dictionary if your answers are not found in the list at the end of the chapter.

START TIMING:
1. defects (noun) ........................................
2. desires (noun) ........................................
3. true ...................................................
4. suitable ............................................... 2
5. luminous ..............................................
6. loathing (noun) ....................................... 3
7. doubtful ............................................... 3
8. vulgar ...................................................
9. admiration ...........................................
10. very ...................................................

End Timing

TEST IV
Synonym Recognition

We have tested your ability to recall the synonyms for a given word. We are now going to test your ability to recognize synonyms when you see them.

DIRECTIONS: In the following list there are sixteen words. Start with infidel and put a small figure 1 above it. Run through the list until you find another word that has the same or similar meaning. Put a 1 above that one. Then try the second word on the list, large, putting a figure 2 above it, and search for a word of similar meaning and mark it 2. And so on until you have eight pairs of synonyms or words of similar meaning.

Time: 90 seconds

START TIMING:
infidel  ingenious  occur  aberration
large  happen  persuade  kidnap
bulky  eccentricity  clever  unbeliever
abduct  unsophisticated  induce  ingenious

End Timing

Take This Twelve-Minute Test

TEST V
Homonyms

DIRECTIONS: Homonyms are words that are pronounced almost exactly alike but that differ considerably in meaning. Check the homonym that makes sense in each of the following sentences.

Time: 90 seconds

START TIMING:
1. Why does modern music have such a strange [(a) affect, (b) effect] on you?
2. Most buildings have [(a) stationery, (b) stationary] walls.
3. The [(a) principal, (b) principle] features of Southern California are sunshine and smog.
4. Sitting contentedly by the fire, the cat licked [(a) it's, (b) its] paws.
5. His vocal [(a) cords, (b) chords] are inflamed.
6. He sat for hours [(a) poring, (b) pouring] over the dictionary.
7. He listened with [(a) baited, (b) bated] breath for the second shoe to fall.
8. Admiral Nelson is famous for one of the most important [(a) navel, (b) naval] encounters in British history.
9. The scene of the accident was lighted by a huge [(a) flare, (b) flair].
10. The boxer made a [(a) feint, (b) faint] with his left.

End Timing

TEST VI
Understanding Words

DIRECTIONS: Check the definition that properly explains the italicized word in each phrase.

Time: 2 minutes
START TIMING:

1. An *acrimonious* argument
   (a) long-winded
   (b) sharp, biting, sarcastic
   (c) dull, pointless, and incoherent

2. A *soporific* lecture
   (a) so boring as to put one to sleep
   (b) brilliant and informative
   (c) well-attended

3. *Panacea* for social ills
   (a) direct cause
   (b) cure-all
   (c) condition encouraging continuation

4. An *evanescent* feeling
   (a) fading away quickly
   (b) composed of both dread and desire
   (c) so unique that it is experienced by very few people

5. Overwhelmed by *ennui*
   (a) fear
   (b) dissatisfaction and boredom resulting from inactivity
   (c) a sudden awareness of one's unconscious motivation

6. A *facetious* remark
   (a) witty or joking at an inappropriate time
   (b) tending to make peace between people in conflict
   (c) totally irrelevant to the situation

7. A *maelstrom* of emotions
   (a) complete lack
   (b) catalogue in chronological order
   (c) violent, stormy confusion

8. *Maudlin* attitudes
   (a) self-destructive
   (b) tearfully and excessively sentimental
   (c) showing great maturity at a surprisingly early age

---

**Take This Twelve-Minute Test**

9. Drove *adroitly*
   (a) skillfully
   (b) nervously
   (c) inattentively

10. A *sardonic* smile
    (a) empty, meaningless
    (b) open and trusting
    (c) bitter and scornful

   **End Timing**

---

**TEST VII**

**Spelling Without Error**

Here are ten common words frequently misspelled by those whose linguistic ability needs sharpening. Check the form that looks right to you.

*Time: 60 seconds*

START TIMING:

1. (a) occurrence, (b) occurrence, (c) occurrence
2. (a) ecstasy, (b) ecstatic, (c) ecstasy
3. (a) drunkenness, (b) drunkenness, (c) drunkedness
4. (a) embarrassing, (b) embarrassing, (c) embarrassing
5. (a) irresistible, (b) irresistible, (c) irresistible
6. (a) supersede, (b) supercede, (c) superceed
7. (a) disappoint, (b) dissapoint, (c) disappoint
8. (a) occasional, (b) occasional, (c) ocassional
9. (a) indispensible, (b) indispensible, (c) indespensible
10. (a) perseverance, (b) perseverance, (c) perserverance

   **End Timing**
SECOND DAY

TEST VIII
Pronouncing in the Educated Manner

The pronunciation of American English is, admittedly, unstable: the sound of words changes according to geographical area, ethnic background, economic and social levels, etc. Mary, marry, and merry, for example, are pronounced almost identically in the Midwest and along much of the Pacific coastal regions; whereas in the East and South they sound very different. The first syllable of orange is pronounced or in California and are in New York. The vowel sound of talk and walk is uttered one way by a native of Brooklyn and quite another way by someone born in Los Angeles. Words like either, tomato, tune, adult, licorice, strength, and many others can often show the age, income, background, and sophistication of the speaker.

Nevertheless, one kind of pronunciation test will be useful in completing your verbal portrait. The following ten words, among many others, have been an illiterate or dialectal and an educated pronunciation. Say each one carefully according to its phonetic respelling, then check the form that sounds most nearly like what you ordinarily use in conversation.

The symbol ə is the sound of the 'a' in about or in Linda.

Time: 90 seconds

START TIMING:

1. genuine (a) JEN'-ya-win (b) JEN'-ya-wyne
2. athlete (a) ATH'-ə-leet (b) ATH'-leet
3. film (a) FILM (b) FIL'-əm
4. modern (a) MAHR'-dən (b) MOD'-ən (c) MOD'-ərn
5. accept (a) ək-SEPT' (b) ə-SEPT'
6. drowned (a) DROWN'-dən (b) DROWND
7. wrestle (a) RESS'-əl (b) RASS'-əl
8. pattern (a) PAT'-ərn (b) PAT'-ərn
9. figure (a) FIG'-ər (b) FIG'-ər
10. attacked (a) ə-TAK'-təd (b) ə-TAK'T'

End Timing

Now you may relax. Your test of verbal power is concluded; your word portrait is finished. What you will see on the canvas—pleasant or unpleasant, encouraging or discouraging—is what the world sees when you write or speak. At this point, before you check your score, we offer you one important thought: No matter how good or bad your word power is today, it can be immeasurably better, more useful, more potent, in just thirty days.

Scoring and Interpretation

Determine your score for each test by comparing your answers with those given below:

TEST I:

(1) short; (2) south; (3) sad; (4) same, similar; (5) safe; (6) small; (7) sharp, sparkling; (8) silent, still; (9) stand; (10) send

Scoring: 2 points for each correct answer

Maximum score: 20 points

Your Score: ..............

TEST II:

(1) selfish, stingy; (2) sensible, significant; (3) skeptical, suspicious; (4) simple; (5)
Take This Twelve-Minute Test

(3) occur
(4) aberration
(5) large
(6) persuade
(7) kidnap
(8) unsophisticated

Take This Twelve-Minute Test

(3) happen
(4) eccentricity
(5) bulky
(6) induce
(7) abduct
(8) ingenuous

Scoring: 2 points for each correct answer
Maximum score: 20 points

Your Score: ..................

TEST III:
(1) shortcomings, imperfections, faults, weaknesses, deficiencies, blemishes
(2) wishes, wants, longings, cravings, appetites
(3) right, correct, truthful, genuine, straight, honest, faithful, veracious, pure
(4) appropriate, consistent, fitting, fit, applicable
(5) bright, lustrous, radiant, brilliant, vivid, gleaming, shining, glowing, lucid
(6) disgust, aversion, detestation, antipathy, repugnance, abhorrence
(7) ambiguous, vague, obscure, indefinite, loose, uncertain, dubious, questionable, dubitable
(8) rude, common, coarse, gross, ill-bred, low, obscene, ill-mannered, crass
(9) praise, approval, commendation, esteem, veneration, approbation
(10) extremely, exceedingly, highly, enormously, immensely, abundantly, terribly, quite

Scoring: 2 points for each pair
Maximum score: 16 points

Your Score: ..................

TEST IV:
(1) infidel
(2) ingenious

Take This Twelve-Minute Test

(1) unbeliever
(2) clever

Take This Twelve-Minute Test

Your Score: ..................

TEST V:
(1) b; (2) b; (3) a; (4) b; (5) a; (6) a;
(7) b; (8) b; (9) a; (10) a

Scoring: 1 point for each correct choice
Maximum score: 10 points

Your Score: ..................

TEST VI:
(1) b; (2) a; (3) b; (4) a; (5) b; (6) a;
(7) c; (8) b; (9) a; (10) c

Scoring: 2 points for each correct choice
Maximum score: 20 points

Your Score: ..................

TEST VII:
(1) b; (2) a; (3) b; (4) b; (5) a; (6) a;
(7) a; (8) b; (9) a; (10) a

Scoring: 2 points for each correct choice
Maximum score: 20 points

Your Score: ..................

TEST VIII:
(1) a; (2) b; (3) a; (4) c; (5) a; (6) b;
(7) a; (8) b; (9) a; (10) b

Scoring: 2 points for each correct choice
Maximum score: 20 points

Your Score: ..................

Now add your scores in the 8 tests to arrive at Your Total Score: .......... out of a maximum of 146.
SECOND DAY

Interpretation

YOUR TOTAL SCORE:
120-146 You belong in the top 10 per cent of the literate population of this country and you should be on the way to a high position in your vocational, intellectual, and social life. You will get a special pleasure out of this book as you perfect a vocabulary that is already sound.

99-119 Your vocabulary is about average and is therefore not helping you gain success as fast as you might otherwise be able to. Why not begin today to overcome an unnecessary handicap? Start building your vocabulary now and make this interesting work a daily habit. The new words you learn will acquaint you with new fields of knowledge, and there will be many additional subtle and indirect rewards. Remember: There is no easier way to achieve success than by adding to your vocabulary.

98 and below This score shows a definitely impoverished vocabulary; your weakness in words may be holding you back. It would be a foolish and fatal mistake not to do something immediately about it. Here are two don'ts for you: Don't let your low score unduly disturb you. And don't feel that only a university graduate can be an expert user of words. Shakespeare attended school for ten years all told. Robert Burns, the Scottish poet, was a day laborer without education. Neither Charles Lamb nor Charles Dickens had enough formal schooling to talk about. And Abraham Lincoln didn't know what the inside of a school looked like. They and many others like them became masters of speech. They achieved their effectiveness by industry and practice. So can you. And when you do, your reward will be great.

The beauty of this book is that you start to benefit—not after months of trial—but from the first day and with the first chapter.
The Romance of Words

Words, like living trees, have roots, branches, and leaves.

Shall we stay with this analogy for a few moments, and see how perfect it is?

The story of the root of a word is the story of its origin. The study of origins is called etymology, which in turn has its roots in the Greek word etymon, meaning “true or original meaning,” and the Greek ending -logia, meaning “science or study.” So etymology means the science or study of true or original meanings.

Every word in our language is a frozen metaphor, a frozen picture. It is this poetry behind words that gives language its overwhelming power. And the more intimately we know the romance that lies within each word, the better understanding we will have of its meaning.

For instance, on certain occasions you will probably say that you have “calculated” the cost of something or other. What does the term calculate really mean? Here is the story. Years ago, ancient Romans had an instrument called a hodometer, or “road measurer,” which corresponded to our modern taxi meter. If you had hired a two-wheeled Roman vehicle to ride, say, to the Forum, you might have found in the back a tin can with a revolving cover that held a quantity of pebbles. This can was so contrived that each time the wheel turned, the metal cover also revolved, and a pebble dropped through a hole into the receptacle below. At the end of your trip you counted the pebbles and calculated your bill. You see, the Latin word for pebble was calculus, and that’s where our word “calculate” comes from.

There are, of course, many words with much simpler histories than this. When you speak of a surplus, for instance, you are merely saying that you have a sur (French for “over”) plus (French for “more”) or a sur-plus. That is, you have an “over-more” than you need.

Should you be in a snobby mood for the nonce, and happen to look at someone rather haughtily, your friend might call you supercilious, a word that comes from the Latin supercilium, meaning that “eyebrow” you just raised.

From now on we want you to look at words intently, to be inordinately curious about them and to examine them syllable by syllable, letter by letter. They are your tools of understanding and self-expression. Collect them. Keep them in condition. Learn how to handle them. Develop a fastidious but not a fussy, choice. Work always toward good taste in their use. Train your ear for their harmonies.

We urge you not to take words for granted just because they have been part of your daily speech since childhood. You must examine them. Turn them over and over as though you were handling a coin, and see the seal and superscription on each one. We would like you actually to fall in love with words.

Words are not dead things. They are fairly wriggling with life. They are the exciting and mysterious tokens of our thoughts, and like human beings, they are born, come to maturity, grow old, and die, and sometimes they are even reborn in a new age. A word, from its birth to its death, is a process, not a static thing.
THIRD DAY

That person you are so fond of, who has become your companion, is simply one who eats bread with you—from Latin cum, “with,” and panis, “bread.” Trumps in bridge is from the French triomphé or triumph, an old-time game of cards. In modern cards, one suit is allowed to triumph over, or to “trump” the other suits. And still again, in the army, the lieutenant is literally one who takes the place of the captain when the latter is not around—from the French lieu (we use it in “in lieu of”) and tenir, “to hold.” The captain, in turn, derives from the Latin word caput (“head”). Colonel comes from columna (the “column” that he leads).

If, by any chance, you would like to twit your friend, the Wall Street broker, just tell him that his professional title came from the Middle English word brocoursr, a “broacher,” or one who opens, or broaches, a cask to draw off the wine or liquor. We still employ the same word in the original sense when we say “He broached [or opened up] the subject.” The broacher, or broker, became in time a salesman of wine, then of other things, such as stocks and bonds. These are the roots of words. We next come to the branches. The branches of our language tree are those many groups of words that have grown out from one original root.

Let’s take an example. From the Latin root spectare, which means “to look,” more than 240 English words have sprouted. We find the root in such words as spectacle (those things you look through), spectator (one who looks or watches), respect (the tribute you give to a person you care to look at again), and inspect (to look into). When you treat someone with disrespect, you make it plain that you do not care to look at him again (dis, “not”—re, “again”—spect, “look”). Introspection is a looking within.

Turning to the Greek language, which has so greatly enriched our own, we discover graphein, “to write,” another prolific source of English words. We have telegraph (writing from a distance), phonograph (writing by sound), photograph (writing by means of light), stenographer (one

The Romance of Words

who does condensed writing), and mimeograph (to write a copy or imitation).

We have in our language a host of roots such as these. There is the Latin spirare, meaning “to blow or breathe,” from which we get such English words as inspire (breathe into), expire (breathe out), perspire (breathe through), respiration (breathing again or often).

Our word “fiable” comes from the Latin ligare, “to bind.” This fascinating root has branched out into oblige and obligate (to bind to do something), ligature (bandage or binding), ligament (something that ties two things together), and, with the root no longer so obvious, league (those nations or other organizations that are bound together), and even the word ally (to bind to one another), which is from ad and ligare.

These, then, are the branches. We turn now to the leaves. If the roots are the origins of words and the branches are the word families that stem out of them, the leaves of this language tree would be the words themselves and their meanings.

Each given word, in its beginning, had, no doubt, only one meaning. But words are so full of life that they are continually sprouting the green shoots of new meanings.

Shall we choose just one word as an instance of the amazing vitality of language? The simple three-letter word run, up to this moment of writing, has more than ninety dictionary definitions. There are the run in your stocking, the run on the bank, and a run in baseball. The clock may run down, but you run up a bill. Colors run. You may run a race or run a business. You may have the run of the mill, or, quite different, the run of the house when you get the run of things. And this dynamic little word, we can assure you, has just begun its varied career with these examples.

Is it any wonder that our unabridged dictionaries contain hundreds of thousands of living and usable words, words sparkling with life, prolific in their breeding, luxuriant in their growth, continually shifting and changing in their meanings?

Words even have definite personalities and characters.
They can be sweet, sour, discordant, musical. They can be sugary or acrid, soft or sharp, hostile or friendly.

From this time on, as we enter our word studies, try to become keenly aware of words. Look at them, if possible, with the fresh eyes of one who is seeing them for the first time. If we have persuaded you to do this, you will then be on the way to the success that can be won with a more powerful vocabulary.

Words for Mature Minds

There are words in English that can be understood only by those who have lived and become mature. No explanation, no definitions could make them clear to a child.

Here are ten such words. Pronounce each one aloud several times, following carefully the phonetic respelling. (Recall that the symbol o has the sound of the a in about or in Linda.)

1. vicarious (vy-KAIR-ee-əs)
2. rationalize (RASH-on-ə-līz)
3. gregarious (grə-GAIR-ə-əs)
4. obsequious (əb-SEE-kwē-əs)
5. maudlin (MAWĐ-līn)
6. ascetic (ə-SET-ik)
7. pander (PAN-der)
8. sublimate (SUB-lā-māt)
9. wanton (WAHN-tən)
10. effete (ə-FEET)
II

You might find it hard, perhaps absolutely impossible, to explain these terms to a nine-year-old boy or girl.

But you, an adult, will be able to comprehend them and to make them your property.

Let us discuss them, one by one. Here and there we will give you the etymology of the word, if its history is interesting and happens to throw any light on its present-day meaning.

1. Vicarious. This is an abstract word, but it is one that is easy for the grown-up mind to grasp. For example, there are two ways to travel: one by buying a steamship ticket and going to your destination, say Paris; the other by reading travel stories or travel circulars about Paris. In the first instance you have enjoyed your travel experience directly. In the second instance you have enjoyed it vicariously.

A child is learning about life when he “pretends,” when he plays “store,” or “house,” or “doctor.” Of course he is fully living the life that children do, but he is also living adult life, not directly, but vicariously. And owing to his emotional immaturity, he is not ready, at his age, to grasp the difference, in thought and effect, between actual living and vicarious living. When he is older and more mature he will live less vicariously and more actually, and then he will be able to appreciate the significance of the word.

You, as an older person, will recognize that you are escaping from the real world and are living for the moment a vicarious existence and are having vicarious joys and sorrows when you are reading a book. You are living, not your own life, but the lives of the characters of the story. The lonely, friendless woman living a life of suffocating routine or hopeless boredom can sit glued, hour after hour, to the television set. She then becomes the lovely young girl to whom a virile male makes passionate love; she can experience vicariously all the excitement, romance, thrills, exotic adventure that her real life is so empty of. She can

Words for Mature Minds

be a spy, a murderer, a figure of international intrigue, a visitor from another planet. She has only to twist the dial and change her drab existence into an abundant, fulfilling, and electric (but vicarious) reality.

2. Rationalize. You, as a human being, tend to rationalize. So do all of us. There are selfish men, for instance, who will never give anything to charity. They don’t wish to regard themselves as selfish, however. They prefer to think that charity is harmful to the poor and demoralizes those who receive it. In this way the miser can save his money and his face at the same time. He is rationalizing his selfish act and the rationalization makes him feel better.

In similar fashion, a father who is angry may spank his boy merely to relieve his own personal feelings. But in self-defense he will rationalize his action by making himself believe that the spanking has been done for the good of the child.

The term rationalize has a number of meanings, but the most common one refers to the unconscious process of thought by which one justifies a discreditable act, and by which one offers to oneself and the world a better motive for one’s action than the true motive.

3. Gregarious. This term comes from the Latin word gregis, “a flock,” as of sheep, and you know sheep like to stay together. If you are a gregarious type, you are a friendly person, a good mixer; you like to be with other people. That is, you are the extremely sociable kind. Because you are gregarious you enjoy parties, crowded theaters and dance floors; you like to be where folks flock in small or large numbers. Because people are gregarious, they get married, have families, live in thronging cities, sing and play together. A hunger for love or friendship and a feeling of kinship with other human beings are normal and common human traits. It is the herd instinct that makes people, to a greater or lesser degree, gregarious.

4. Obsequious. The beggar, the underling, the lackey, and the flunkey all tend to be obsequious. Those who wait
on others in an inferior capacity and whose lives and jobs depend on the whims of their masters are apt to be cringing and fawning. They are often excessively, sickeningly, and insincerely polite. If your waiter in a restaurant believes that you are the type who will tip him well, watch how obsequious he will be, how he will bow to you and attend on your slightest wish. If you don't leave the expected tip, however, his obsequiousness will quickly vanish and he will not (ob, “upon,” sequor, “follow”) follow submissively upon your wishes.

5. Maudlin. A maudlin person is one who is super-sentimental and gushing, who cries easily and without much cause. People who are maudlin in their affections usually overdo the act, and their love becomes tiresome and offensive. The word maudlin can also be applied to those who have been made foolish and silly by too much drinking.

Here, incidentally, is an odd word history. Mary Magdalene, who washed the feet of Christ, has often been pictured with her eyes red from weeping. In time, the name Magdalene was contracted into the adjective maudlin.

6. Ascetic. The ascetic is one who is given to severe self-denial and austerity, one who practices rigid abstinence, often for religious reasons. When you say that a man is an ascetic, you mean that he is one who shuns all the luxuries and physical pleasures of life. Anyone who eats and drinks heartily or who otherwise dissipates is the precise opposite of an ascetic, and does not believe in asceticism (a-SET’-ik-siz-im).

7. Pander. This verb literally means to minister to the gratification of the passions and prejudices of others, usually to one’s own profit. Novels that give blow-by-blow descriptions of bedroom intimacies, and motion pictures and TV shows that omit none of the gory details of violence, torture, and murder have been accused of pandering to the so-called base instincts and morbid curiosity of their readers and audience. Ruthless dictators of the past are said to have pandered to the lowest instincts of the mobs, to self-

ishness, cruelty, and greed, in order to gain power. Pandaner, therefore, is an unpleasant word with an unpleasant meaning. The noun panderer has a still more restricted meaning and frequently signifies a man who procures women for others, just as Pandarus, the leader of the Lyceans in the Trojan war, is said to have procured the lovely lady Cressida for Troilus.

8. Sublimate. This word originally came from the Latin sublimateus, “raised on high,” and is closely related to “sublime.” When the energies of a potential hoodlum or gangster are channeled into athletic games, into a business career, or into some other useful endeavor, his former destructive activities are said to have been sublimated. Psychologists tell us that unfulfilled sexual needs are often sublimated into creative activities in art or poetry, that the surgeon or butcher may be a sublimated sadist, that the psychopathic exhibitionist becomes an actor. To sublimate, then, is to express primitive and socially unacceptable drives in constructive ways, usually through completely unconscious processes. A female whose unconscious desire it is to enslave men, to dominate and destroy all males, becomes the energetic and successful business executive or the president of a college with a largely male faculty, and only her psychiatrist knows that she is sublimating.

9. Wanton. Call a woman wanton and you are saying that she indulges every passion, that she is lewd and lascivious—in short that she believes in living it up, with no thought of consequences or of the morrow’s hangover. She never expects to be sorry in the morning, and she never is.

10. Effete. When animals, plants, or soil are worn out and incapable of producing, they are called effete (Latin ex, “out,” fetus, “having produced”). More commonly, though, this adjective is applied to humans or their institutions, and when you refer to ancient Rome at the time of its fall as an effete civilization, you mean that it was degenerate, worn out, sterile, devoid of vigor, weakened by luxury, self-indulgence, and soft living.
Now we want to help you make these ten words your own possession, your private property. Below, in the column on the right, are the definitions of the ten terms we are studying in this chapter. Take your pencil and write each word next to its definition.

1. M .......... tearfully or excessively sentimental
2. P .......... to cater to base desires
3. G .......... preferring the company of others to solitude
4. E .......... spent; exhausted; barren of energy; worn out by rich or effortless existence
5. A .......... practicing extreme self-denial
6. V .......... enjoyed by one person through his sympathetic but indirect participation in the experience of another (real or fictional) person; substitutional
7. R .......... to attribute one's actions to rational and creditable motives, without an adequate analysis of the true and usually unconscious motives
8. O .......... servilely attentive; fawning
9. S .......... to direct energy from its primitive and destructive aim to one that is culturally or ethically higher and therefore socially acceptable
10. W .......... unchaste; lewd; licentious; marked by arrogant recklessness of justice, of the feelings of others, or the like; also, having no just provocation; wilfully malicious

**Answers:** (1) maudlin; (2) pander; (3) gregarious; (4) effete; (5) ascetic; (6) vicarious; (7)

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**IV**

Keep your pencil always ready. This is a workbook, a self-teaching manual, and we want you to write in it continually. The only way you can feel at home with new words is by saying them, writing them, using them.

Now take the following eight words and change them into other parts of speech according to the instructions. Be sure in each case that the resulting sentence or phrase makes sense.

1. Change *vicarious* to an adverb, as, *He traveled* .......... 
2. Change *rationalize* to a noun, as, *You are guilty of* .......... 
3. Change *gregarious* to a noun, as *No one doubts* the .......... of human beings.
4. Change *obsequious* to an adverb, as, *He obeyed* .......... 
5. Change *ascetic* to a noun referring to the philosophy or practice, as, *He is a believer in* .......... 
6. Change *pander* to a noun, as, *He is a* .......... to the greed of others.
7. Change *sublime* to an adjective, as, *His* .......... passion gives power to his poetry.
8. Change *wanton* to a noun, as, *Hers was a life characterized by* .......... 

**Answers:** (1) vicariously; (2) rationalization; (3) gregariousness; (4) obsequiously; (5) asceticism; (6) panderer; (7) sublimed; (8) wantonness

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**V**

From your work so far with these ten words, you should now have a fairly good idea of how they may be used in
sentences, even if you may have met some of them for the first time. Test yourself. Without referring to the list on the previous page, try to fill in the required word in the sentences that follow. Note that any one of the several forms of each word may be needed. Use your pencil: the mere physical act of writing a word will help to fix it in your mind.

1. Marie is too ............... to be happy without friends.
2. The waiter bowed ............... to every wealthy customer who came in the restaurant.
3. His dissipated life has sapped his ambition and health and made him ............... .
4. The motion picture was so sickeningly ............... that most of the audience left in disgust.
5. Mothers feel a ............... pleasure in their children's accomplishments.
6. Be honest with yourself. Don't try to ............... what you are doing.
7. He lived the life of an ............... , for he abhorred self-indulgence and luxury.
8. The dishonest politician ............... to the greed and thoughtlessness of the mob.
9. Some say that all great art is a ............... of primitive instincts.
10. She led a fruitless, ............... , uncontrolled life.

ANSWERS: (1) gregarious; (2) obsequiously; (3) effete; (4) maudlin; (5) vicarious; (6) rationalize; (7) ascetic; (8) panders; (9) sublimation; (10) wanton

VII

True or False?

Are you feeling more and more power and understanding? Try two more exercises to reinforce your learning. Check your reaction to each statement.

1. Psychoanalysts encourage their patients to rationalize. True...... False......
2. Gregarious people avoid social gatherings. True...... False......
3. A haughty person is necessarily obsequious. True...... False......
4. Vicarious experiences are naturally more satisfying than real ones. True...... False......
5. Intoxicated people often become maudlin. True...... False......
6. Asceticism is a popular practice among wealthy Americans. True...... False......
7. Men of strong ethics and integrity usually pander to the desires of others. True...... False......
8. Sublimation is a self-destructive practice. True...... False......
9. During its latter period, Ancient Rome was noted for wanton excesses. True...... False......
10. One becomes effete through self-discipline and careful restraint. True...... False......

ANSWERS: All false except 5 and 9.

Same or Opposite?

Is each pair of words essentially the same or more nearly opposite in meaning? Check your quick reaction.

1. vicarious—actual Same .... Opposite ....
2. rationalization—justification Same .... Opposite ....
3. gregarious—solitary Same .... Opposite ....
4. obsequious—rude Same .... Opposite ....
5. maudlin—unsentimental Same .... Opposite ....
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6. asceticism—luxury
7. pander—cater
8. wanton—restrained
9. effete—vigorous
10. sublimated—detoured

Same .... Opposite ....
Same .... Opposite ....
Same .... Opposite ....
Same .... Opposite ....
Same .... Opposite ....

ANSWERS: (1) opposite; (2) same; (3) opposite;
(4) opposite; (5) opposite; (6) opposite;
(7) same; (8) opposite; (9) opposite;
(10) same

VIII

Remember this: Once an adult has finished his schooling, he rarely adds more than twenty-five new words to his vocabulary each year thereafter. Already, in one session, you have at least increased your knowledge of these ten words, even though you may have met them before. Therefore, whenever you add ten new words to your vocabulary you have done almost as much as most people do in six months.

Be sure, though, that you keep these words. Can you recall all ten of them now without referring to the text? Here they are in random order, with only the initial letters to prod your memory. When you have them all down, check your spelling against the list on pages 24–25 and pronounce them aloud.

1. E ------------ 6. W ------------
2. A ------------ 7. O ------------
5. P ------------ 10. G ------------

Words About Doctors and Specialists

Of course you know that you have two different kinds of vocabulary, and that one is much larger than the other.

Your recognition vocabulary is made up of the words that you can "recognize" and understand when you read them or hear them spoken.

Your functional vocabulary includes the words that you recall and use when you yourself speak.

Your recognition vocabulary is about three times as large as your functional vocabulary.

If, as an example, you study French and you learn merely to read that language, you will find that you will be unable to speak it because you are practiced only in recognizing the words in print, but not in recalling them when you don't see them.

Or, conversely, if you are taught only to speak French, you will fail when it comes to reading the language because you have not had any practice in understanding or "recognizing" the printed words.

In order to develop both types of vocabulary it is there-
fore important that you not only read the words that are new to you in this book and write them down, but that you say them aloud many times, pronouncing them according to the phonetic respelling following each word.

In this chapter we discuss the terms for various specialists in the healing professions.

1. The obstetrician (ob'-stet-TRISH'-on) provides care for pregnant women, delivers babies, and gives post-natal attention to mothers. He practices obstetrics (ob-STET'-riks). (Almost all obstetricians are also gynecologists—see word 8, below.)

2. The pediatrician (pee'-de-a-TRISH'-on) takes over after the obstetrician. He specializes in the treatment of infants and very young children; he practices pediatrics (pee'-de-a-AT'-riks).

3. The podiatrist (poe-DY'-a-trist) treats the minor ailments of your feet. More popularly, he is called a chiropodist (ke-ROP'-a-dist). The practice or profession is podiatry (po-DY'-a-tree) or chiropody (ke-ROP'-a-dee).

4. The osteopath (OSS'-tee-o-path') works on the theory that diseases arise chiefly from the displacement of bones, with resultant pressure on nerve centers and blood vessels. Hence, his treatment is manipulation of the affected parts. (However, some osteopaths also practice general medicine, obstetrics, pediatrics, etc.) He practices osteopathy (oss'-tee-OP'-a-thee).

5. The ophthalmologist (off'-thal-MOL'-a-jist) is a medical doctor and often a trained surgeon who treats the troubles and the diseases of the eyes. Popularly he is called an oculist (OK'-ye-list), or, even more popularly, an eye doctor.

6. The optometrist (op-TOM'-a-trist) checks and corrects vision, usually by prescribing and fitting eyeglasses. He practices optometry (op-TOM'-a-tree).

7. The optician (op-TISH'-on) is a technician who grinds lenses to an ophthalmologist's or optometrist's prescription or who makes or sells eyeglasses, binoculars, and other optical instruments.

8. The gynecologist (guy'-na-KOL'-a-jist; the first syllable may also be pronounced jine or jinn) specializes in the diseases that are peculiar to women. His profession is gynecology (guy'-na-KOL'-o-je). (Almost all gynecologists also practice obstetrics, as noted above.)

9. The dermatologist (dur'-ma-TOL'-a-jist) specializes in diseases of the skin—rash, acne, allergies, lesions, psoriasis, eczema, etc. His specialty is dermatology (dur'-ma-TOL'-o-je).

10. The psychiatrist (sy-KY'-a-trist; the first syllable may also be pronounced so) is a medical specialist in mental ailments, emotional problems, psychoses, neuroses, etc. He practices psychiatry (sy-KY'-a-tree).

11. The orthodontist (or'-the-DON'-ist) specializes in straightening crooked teeth and in correcting bad "bites," or, as they are called in the vocabulary of orthodontia (or'-the-DON'-shah), "malocclusions."

II

Which Specialist Would You Visit?

Write the title of the specialist you would suggest for each of the following ailments.

1. You have a painful corn.
2. You need eyeglasses.
3. Your baby has the colic.
4. You need a doctor to deliver your baby.
5. A friend of yours has had a complete mental collapse.
6. A child you know has crooked teeth.
7. A woman is suffering from female disorders.
8. You are troubled with a skin rash.
9. You have an eye disease that needs expert attention.
10. You have an illness which you believe can be cured by bone manipulation.

11. You want new frames for your glasses.

**ANSWERS:**
1. podiatrist or chiropodist
2. optometrist
3. pediatrician
4. obstetrician
5. psychiatrist
6. orthodontist
7. gynecologist
8. dermatologist
9. oculist or ophthalmologist
10. osteopath
11. optician

**III**
Test Your Linguistic Instinct

You have studied the titles of eleven specialists and the form that designates the profession or practice of each one. (An obstetrician practices obstetrics, a pediatrician is involved in pediatrics, etc.) Can you, now, figure out the adjective form of each word that would describe the practitioner or his work? For example, the obstetrician has obstetrical patients.

1. The pediatrician has _____________ patients.
2. The podiatrist has _____________ patients.
3. The osteopath engages in _____________ healing.
4. The orthodontist does _____________ work.
5. The optometrist has an _____________ practice.
6. The gynecologist treats _____________ cases.
7. The dermatologist treats _____________ conditions.
8. The psychiatrist handles _____________ problems.
9. The orthodontist handles _____________ problems.
10. The optician makes or sells _____________ goods.

**ANSWERS:**
1. pediat'ric
2. podiat'ric
3. osteo PATH'ic
4. ophthalmo LOG'ical
5. optomet'ric
6. gynecol'ical

**IV**
Is There a Doctor in the House?

In a professional building in a large city, you see a number of medical titles on the doors as you go down the halls.

In each case, check the definition or description that fits each title. Before you look at the answers, see if you can name the professions of the two that are left.

**Room One:** The shingle says “Join Doc, Podiatrist.”

a. He treats diseases of the skin.
   b. He’s the man to see when you have an aching corn.
   c. He practices general medicine.

**Room Two:** The office of Richard Roe, Psychiatrist.

a. He treats diseases of the skin.
   b. He corrects malocclusions.
   c. People who have emotional problems visit him.

**Room Three:** The office of George Jones, Ophthalmologist.

a. He knows all about diseases of the eye and refractive errors, and may resort to surgery, if necessary, to correct eye ailments.
   b. He’ll check your vision and prescribe glasses if you need them.
   c. He’ll be happy to sell you any sort of optical instruments—binoculars, telescopes, microscopes.

**Room Four:** The office of James Brown, Osteopath.

a. His specialty is the treatment of corns and bunions.
   b. Holding that diseases arise chiefly from displacement of the bones, with resultant pressure on nerves and blood vessels, he remedies
FIFTH DAY

an ailment by manipulation of the affected parts.

c. He fills and extracts teeth.

Room Five: The name on this door is John Smith, Obstetrician.

a. He treats diseases and ailments peculiar to old age.
b. He specializes in the ills of infancy and childhood.
c. He delivers babies.

ANSWERS: (1) b; (a) is a dermatologist, (c) a doctor, physician, or general practitioner; (2) c; (a) is a dermatologist, (b) an orthodontist; (3) a; (b) is an optometrist, (c) an optician; (4) b; (a) is a podiatrist or chiropodist, (c) a dentist; (5) c; (a) is a geriatrician, (b) a pediatrician.

Verbs Give You Power

Do you remember your old schoolbook definition of a verb? It went something like this: “A verb is that part of speech which asserts, declares or predicates.”

But a dynamic verb is more than this. It is the catalyst of the sentence. It is the word that brings the sentence to life.

Choose your verbs with care.

If you pick a dull verb, your speech will be dull, barely serving its primary purpose of communication, making little impression on the mind of your reader or listener.

A choice of powerful verbs, on the other hand, will make your speech electric, galvanic. Like a powder charge, it can give the impact of bullets to all the other words in your sentence.

A single illustration of this statement will be enough. Which of the two following sentences has the greater force?

1. He is a moral leper; let us keep away from him and have nothing to do with him.
2. He is a moral leper; let us ostracize him.
The answer is obvious, isn't it? One word has expressed the meaning of ten. So watch your verbs. They are packed with power.

Here are ten dynamic verbs that belong in a rich vocabulary. We are not going to give you their precise definitions. Just read the sentences in which they occur and see if you can guess the meanings of the others you don't already know. Pronounce them aloud.

What are some of the things people do?

1. They expiate (EK'S'-pee-ate) their sins, crimes, blunders, or errors.
2. They importune (im-por-TOON') God for divine favors.
3. They impute (im-PUUT') unworthy motives to their enemies.
4. They scintillate (SIN'-to-late), the dittier ones, at cocktail parties.
5. They mulct (MULKT) the unwary or gullible public.
6. They ostracize (OS'-tro-size) members of religious, political, or racial minorities.
7. They deprecate (DEP'-to-kate) the foibles of others.
8. They procrastinate (pro-KRAS'-to-nate) and then vow to be more punctual in the future.
9. They rusticate (RUSS'-to-kate) in the summer time, if finances permit.
10. They vegetate (VEJ'-to-tate) all year, if they are lacking in imagination, initiative, or energy.

Verbs Give You Power

1. Live in a passive way
2. Deprive of a possession unjustly
3. Make amends for
4. Beg for ceaselessly; beseech; entreat
5. Exclude from public or private favor; ban
6. Put off until a future time; delay
7. Sparkle with wit or humor
8. Spend time in the country
9. Ascribe, attribute, or charge an act or thought (to someone), usually in a bad or accusatory sense.
10. Disapprove of (the actions of someone)

ANSWERS: (1) vegetate; (2) mulct; (3) expiate; (4) importune; (5) ostracize; (6) procrastinate; (7) scintillate; (8) rusticate; (9) impute; (10) deprecate

Which of the verbs most aptly describes the characteristic action of the following people?

1. He is too indolent to get his work done on time
2. He is accustomed to blaming others.
3. He is a sparkling and witty person.
4. He is remorseful and wishes to make amends.
5. He is a person who is in a rut and leads a monotonous life.
6. He is an exclusive individual, avoiding people who are different from himself.  
7. He cheats others.  
8. He’s an insistent beggar.  
9. He looks down on the acts of others.  
10. He is on a vacation in the country.  

ANSWERS: (1) procrastinates; (2) imputes; (3) scintillates; (4) expiates; (5) vegetates; (6) ostracizes; (7) mulcts; (8) importunes; (9) deprecates; (10) rusticates

IV

You will find, below, eleven pairs of sentences. The second sentence of each pair has a blank line that corresponds to an italicized phrase in the first sentence. Write, on this blank line, either another form of, or a noun or adjective derived from, one of the verbs we have studied in this chapter.

1. He has been spending his time in the country. He has been .....................
2. Why do you keep nagging me for favors? Why are you so .....................?
3. He took $1,000,000 from the public by dishonest methods. He ..................... the public of $1,000,000.
4. Excluding him from our group is our most potent weapon against someone who is disloyal. ..................... is our most potent weapon against someone who is disloyal.
5. For the past two years, I have been accomplishing nothing and getting nowhere. For the past two years, I have been .....................

Now for a change of pace, with a few verbal gymnastics for you. Can you think of five verbs ending in ate? They have not appeared in this chapter. The definitions and initial letters are offered to help you.

1. Have control over D .....................
2. Make easier F .....................
3. Follow the example of E .....................
4. Make gestures or motions to convey meanings G .....................
5. Get better R .....................

ANSWERS: (1) dominate (DOM'-ə-nate); (2) facilitate (fa-SIL'-ə-tate); (3) emulate (EM'-ə-late);
SIXTH DAY

(4) gesticulate (jess-TIK'-ya-late); (5) recuperate (ree-KOU'-pa-rate)

Now can you think of five verbs ending in ize?

1. Be condescending toward
2. Make pay a fine or suffer punishment
3. Make vivid or moving
4. Make live forever
5. Appropriate and claim as one's own the literary work of another

ANSWERS: (1) patronize (PAT'-ro-nize); (2) penalize (PEE'-na-lize); (3) dramatize (DRAM'-a-tize); (4) immortalize (i-MORE'-ta-lize); (5) plagiarize (PLAY-jee-o-rise)

VI

Can you make the verbs of Section V an active part of your speaking vocabulary? Fill the blanks of the following sentences. Some new form of the verb may be required, such as dominates, dominating, dominated.

1. Beethoven's compositions have always .......... the musical scene.
2. Carl Sandburg's biography vividly .......... the life of Lincoln as no other book has ever been able to.
3. I have never seen a sick man .......... so quickly.
4. Your friends think you are conceited because you seem to .......... them.
5. Nature will .......... you for your alcoholic excesses.
7. In her confusion, she .......... wildly.

Verbs Give You Power

8. He built an insecure and dishonest literary reputation by .......... the classics.
9. Let me pack for you; that will .......... your departure.
10. The "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" did much to .......... the poet Thomas Gray.

ANSWERS: (1) dominated; (2) dramatizes; (3) recuperate; (4) patronize; (5) penalize; (6) emulate; (7) gesticulated; (8) plagiarizing; (9) facilitate; (10) immortalize

VII

Twenty dynamic verbs, excellent additions to a powerful vocabulary, have been discussed in this chapter. How many of them can you call to mind? Let us put your learning and retention to a test.

In order to prompt your memory, the initial letters are given. Recall and write down as many as you can before referring to the preceding pages to check yourself. A score of twelve out of twenty is fair, fifteen good, eighteen or nineteen excellent, all twenty superb.


For the next few days keep your eyes and ears alert for verbs. Note them as you read, or as people speak to you. See whether they are effective and do their work. Billboards, car-cards, and other advertisements will be par-
particularly helpful, for advertising space costs money and the publicity men have to pick their verbs with care. As you read your newspaper, watch for examples of well-chosen, dynamic verbs.

Take care of your verbs. They will add power, color, and punch to your speech and writing.

Words About Theories

The mentally alert person is not content to live merely from day to day, completely circumscribed by such things as food, money, clothing, and entertainment. Occasionally he is tempted to speculate on why he is living and what the controlling forces of his life are. This chapter deals with a few of the terms that are applied to these motivating forces by different people who have varying points of view.

1. Is there a God? Nothing so closely approaches the outer limits of abstraction as theorizing about a supernatural and supreme being. Many of us worship, most of us at least accept, some form of deity. Do you belong to the minority who insist, often belligerently, that man makes God in his own image, that God is a figment of the imagination and hence completely, irrevocably nonexistent? Then you are an atheist (AY'-thee-ist; th as in think) and your philosophy is called atheism (AY'-thee-iz-om).
SEVENTH DAY

The word is from the Greek ἄ, “without,” and theos, “god.”

2. To many other thinkers it seems more reasonable to say that the existence or nonexistence of a supreme being is one mystery the human mind will never fathorn. How did the world come into being? How did life begin? Is there a father who looks after his children, or are we the products of purposeless chance? Do you answer these questions by saying that no one knows and no one can ever hope to know? Then you are an agnostic (ag-NOS'-tik), and your doctrine is called agnosticism (ag-NOS'-tiz-äm). This word, too, is from the Greek, derived from ἀγνωστός, “not knowing.”

3. Why did that young child dart across the roadway just as a huge truck rounded the bend? How do you explain the needless snuffing out of an innocent life? Is it due to blind chance? To cause and effect? Why should some great benefactor of humanity be cut off in his prime? Are such events controlled by accident? Or are they determined by fate? (Fate, incidentally, is derived from the Latin fatus, “spoken” or “predicted.”)

If you believe that everything that happens is predetermined, foreordained, written down, as it were, on the far-off pages of some mighty volume, you are a fatalist (FA-TAL-ist) and your theory is called fatalism (FA-tal'-iz-äm).

4. In this world of ours you will find some people who think only of themselves and of their own selfish advantage, and who actually maintain that all virtue consists in the pursuit of self-interest. Completely indifferent to the needs, feelings, or wishes of others, they base their actions on personal gain and direct benefit. They believe in, and are motivated by, egoism (EE'-goz-äm); a member of such a cult is an egoist (EE'-goz-ist). (These words, characteristically, derive from the Latin ego, “I.”)

5. If your characteristics are opposite to those of an egoist, if you have an unselfish regard for, and devotion to, the interests and needs of others, then you are an altruist (AL'-tral'-ist) and you practice altruism (AL'-tral'-iz-äm).

Words About Theories

The relationship of this word to the Latin alter, “other,” is clear.

6. Can you rise above petty considerations of pleasure and pain, joy and grief? Can you meet adversity with indifference and submit to the arrows and slings of misfortune with a dignified resignation? Can you give up envy, greed, jealousy, hatred, and other human passions? Can you suffer mental and physical pain without complaint? If you can honestly say “yes” to these questions, and if you sincerely believe that such self-control makes for a better way of life, then you are a stoic (STÖ'-ik), a practitioner of stoicism (STÖ'-siz-äm). The founder of stoicism was the Greek philosopher Zeno, who lived about three hundred years before Christ. Stoic is from the Greek stoíkos, which, in turn, is from stoa, “porch.” Zeno taught in the Stoa Poikile, or “Painted Porch,” in Athens.

7. Are you apt to say: “No other nation can hold a candle to my country. We are the supermen, the chosen people. Every other race is inferior to mine and they are all destined to be our slaves when the day comes”? This is not patriotism. Or, rather, it is patriotism carried to an illogical and ludicrous extreme. If you happen to talk this way, you are a chauvinist (SHÖ'-və-nist); you are addicted to chauvinism (SHÖ'-və-niz-äm). These terms come from the name of a real man, Nicolas Chauvin of Rochefort, who was so demonstrative in his devotion to Napoleon and to the imperial cause that he was ridiculed on the French stage at the time.

8. Are you a braggart about your country’s power? Do you always want your nation to use force? Do you want to call out the Army, Navy, and Air Force on the slightest provocation, and send our soldiers and sailors around the world to show those “damn foreigners” who’s the boss? “Do the other nations want war?” you ask. “We’ll give it to them. And if they don’t want it, we’ll give it to them anyway.” If this is a description of your philosophy, you are a jingoist (JING'-goz-ist), and your heart beats in tune with the martial music of jingoism (JING'-goz-äm). (The “Jingoes” were originally a section of the Conservative.
SEVENTH DAY

party in England in 1877 who were eager to have their nation support the Turks in the Russo-Turkish war.)

9. Is it best that our government follow the political faith, methods, and tenets of our fathers and grandfathers, or shall we move rapidly ahead, change constantly, explore and experiment? Those who believe in liberalism follow the latter philosophy. They owe allegiance to no party, are independent in thought and action, and are always anathema to those who wish the government to pursue the well-trod paths. Liberals prefer a changing, dynamic, experimenting government. They vote for progress, sometimes in the sense that anything new and different, and previously untried is progressive. The Romans gave us the word liber, “free.”

10. The conservative, on the other hand, is opposed to change. He believes that what is, is best. He prefers that his government follow familiar, tried, tested, and safe policies. “We’re content with what we have,” he says. “Why take the risk of sailing into uncharted waters?” The word derives from Latin conservare, “to preserve.” (An extreme liberal is a radical; an extreme conservative is a reactionary.)

11. What type of life is best? To one group of thinkers, such a question has a simple answer. That life is the most successful, says the epicurean (ep’-ə-kyūr-ən), which brings to each person the maximum of pleasure and the minimum of pain. The doctrine of epicureanism (ep’-ə-kyūr-ə-niz-əm) teaches that pleasure is the chief good. (Epicurean should not be confused with epicure, one who enjoys the delights of the table and who is expert and fastidious in his choice of food.)

Ready for a check on your learning and retention?

What philosophy is expressed by each of the statements below?

Words About Theories

1. “I’m interested in the welfare of the other fellow, not in my own.”

2. “Let the other fellow take care of himself. My interests come first, last, and always.”

3. “Mine is the superior race. Have we not the monopoly on beauty, strength, brains, creativeness, honesty, virtue, and bravery?”

4. “Let’s not stand still in politics. Progress, change, experimentation—that’s what we need!”

5. “Happiness, pleasure, fun, revelry: these are the most important things in life.”

6. “There’s a God? Don’t be silly. Only stupid people believe in God.”

7. “Maybe there is a God. Maybe there isn’t. I don’t know, and I don’t believe anybody else does or ever will.”

8. “The wise and brave man is indifferent to both pain and pleasure.”

9. “We’ll build up our nuclear power, our troops, and our navy; we’ll arm to the hilt. Then we’ll dare any nation in the world to knock the chip off our shoulder!”

10. “You can’t change the future. It’s all planned and written down.”

11. “Let’s keep things just as they are. We’re getting along all right, so why fool around with any dangerous half-baked, new-fangled theories?”

ANSWERS: (1) altruist; (2) egolst; (3) chauvinist; (4) liberal; (5) epicurean; (6) atheist; (7) agnostic; (8) stoic; (9) jingoist; (10) fatalist; (11) conservative
SEVENTH DAY

II

Adjective forms of these nouns are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN</th>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>altruism</td>
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<td>epicureanism</td>
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</table>

Can you fit the correct adjective in each of the following phrases or sentences?

1. The ................ attitude of the ungodly.
2. The ................ doubts of the skeptical.
3. Age tends to bring a ................ tinge to one's politics.
4. Politically, youth is inclined to be ................
5. The ................ flavor of oriental religions.
6. The narrow, ................ desires of the conceited.
7. The ................ resignation of those who have suffered much.
8. The ................ blatancy of professional "flag-wavers."
10. Threats, "siren-sounding," and a call-up of the reserves have often been the ................ means by which strong nations have imposed their will on their weaker neighbors.
11. The ................ attitudes of most parents to their children.

III

Words About Theories

Answers: (1) atheistic; (2) agnostic; (3) conservative; (4) liberal; (5) fatalistic; (6) egoistic; (7) stoical; (8) chauvinistic; (9) epicurean; (10) jingoistic; (11) altruistic

Finally, to make these words an integral part of your thinking and speaking vocabulary, try this exercise. Can you react immediately to each statement as either essentially true or generally false? Read each statement quickly, once only, then check at once the answer you trust.

1. The altruist hates people. True...... False......
2. An atheist is a steady church-goer. True...... False......
3. The agnostic is deeply religious. True...... False......
4. A fatalist never takes chances. True...... False......
5. An egoist wants to help his fellow-man. True...... False......
6. The stoic becomes hysterical under the stress of tragedy or disaster. True...... False......
7. Chauvinists often switch their allegiance to other nations. True...... False......
8. A jingoist is interested in peace at any cost. True...... False......
9. A political liberal shies away from innovation. True...... False......
10. A political conservative believes in greatly enhanced Federal power. True...... False......
11. An epicurean pursues a life of austerity and self-denial. True...... False......

Answers: All statements, of course, are outrageously false.
Quick Vocabulary Builder

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Quick Vocabulary Builder

English is a reservoir of the classical languages. It has taken over to itself and has absorbed for its own use more than 25 per cent of the Greek language and more than 50 per cent of the Latin language. It is obvious, then, that a knowledge of Greek and Latin roots is invaluable in any program of vocabulary building.

In the exercises ahead we will take English words apart and will show how you can easily identify and understand scores of words that you may never have seen before.

I

1. **Monogamy** (mə-NOG'-ə-mee). A one-to-one system of marriage; a man or woman has only one current spouse at any time. From Greek *monos*, "one," *gamos*, "marriage."
2. **Bigamy** (BIG'-ə-mee). Illegal involvement by one

III

Let us take a quick review of the roots we've discovered so far. Can you remember the meaning of each word using these roots?
1. **Monos** (Greek), "one," as in monogamy and monotheism
2. **Gamos** (Greek), "marriage," as in monogamy, bigamy, misogamy, and polygamy
Eighth Day

3. Bis (Latin), "twice" or "two," as in bigamy and bicuspid
4. Polys (Greek), "many," as in polygamy and polyglot
5. Misein (Greek), "to hate," as in misogamy and misanthropy
6. Theos (Greek), "god," as in monotheism, bitheism, and polytheism
7. Cuspis (Latin), "point," as in bicuspid
8. Glotta (Greek), "tongue," as in polyglot
9. Anthropos (Greek), "man," as in misanthropy

IV

Now on to further explorations into roots:

1. Theology (thee-OL'-ə-je). The study of God and religion. To theos we add the Greek root logos, "knowledge," "study," or "word."

2. Philanthropy (fi-LAN'-thrə-pē). Love of mankind. The root anthropos is combined with the Greek philein, "to love." A philanthropist (fi-LAN'-thrə-pist), then, who gives money to the poor, is literally a "lover of his fellows."

3. Anthropology (an'-thrō-POL'-ə-je). Study of man, i.e., science of human development and history—a combination of anthropos and logos.

4. Philology (fi-LOL'-ə-je). Study of language, i.e., science of linguistics—literally, a love of words, from philein combined with logos.

V

Ready for a test of your knowledge of Greek and Latin roots? Write the meaning of each root in the appropriate blank below, then give one example of an English word based on this root.

Quick Vocabulary Builder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. bis</td>
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<td>2. theos</td>
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<td>3. philein</td>
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<td>4. misein</td>
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<td>5. gamos</td>
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<td>7. monos</td>
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<td>8. cuspis</td>
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<td>9. polys</td>
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<td>10. anthropos</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. logos</td>
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</table>

Answers: (1) twice, two; (2) god; (3) love; (4) hate; (5) marriage; (6) tongue; (7) one; (8) point; (9) many; (10) man, mankind; (11) study, knowledge, word.

To check your examples, refer to previous pages.

VI

Can you qualify as a word detective? Keep in mind the eleven roots we have discussed and try to arrive at the meanings of the italicized words. Guess intelligently, referring to previous explanations as often as you wish to. Write your meaning in the blank line following each sentence.

1. Some Englishmen wear a monocle (MON'-ə-kal).

2. He delivered an interesting monologue (MON'-ə-log').

3. He has a monopoly of the coffee market (ma-NOP'-ə-lee).
4. He lives in a monastery (MON'-ə-stair'-ee).

5. He is riding a bicycle (BY'-ə-kol).

6. Man is a biped (BY'-ped).

7. France and England made a bilateral (by-LAT'-ə-rəl) agreement.

8. A rectangle is a polygon (POL'-ee-gon').

9. A misogynist (mə-SAΗ'-ə-nist) shuns the company of women.

10. Romans practiced polytheism (POL'-ee-thee-iz'-əm).

11. This tooth is a tricuspid (try-KUS'-pid).

12. The President's wonderful stamp collection is the envy of philatelists (fe-LAT'-ə-lists).

13. The anthropoid (AN'-thra-poid') apes are similar in appearance to humans.

14. Biology (by-OL'-ə-je) is a fascinating science.

Quick Vocabulary Builder

15. England is a monarchy (MON'-ər-kee).

ANSWERS: (1) lens for one eye; (2) speech by one person; (3) control by one person (of the market); (4) place where people live alone; (5) vehicle of two wheels; (6) creature with two feet; (7) two-sided; (8) many-sided figure; (9) hater of women; (10) belief in many gods; (11) tooth with three points; (12) lovers, hence collectors, of stamps; (13) man-like; (14) study of life; (15) country where one person rules

VII

Consider, perhaps with amazement, how many new words you have learned in a very short time by tracing them back to their Latin or Greek derivation. Pronounce each aloud as you come to it, and review briefly its meaning as reflected by the root structure.

1. gamos, marriage
   monogamy (mə-NOG'-ə-mee)
   bigamy (BIG'-ə-mee)
   polygamy (pə-LIG'-ə-mee)
   misogamy (mə-SOG'-ə-mee)

2. monos, one
   monotheism (MON'-ə-thee-iz'-əm)
   monogamy (mə-NOG'-ə-mee)
   monologue (MON'-ə-log')
   monopoly (mə-NOP'-ə-lee)
   monastery (MON'-ə-stair'-ee)
   monarchy (MON'-ər-kee)
EIGHTH DAY

3. bis, twice, two
   bicuspid (by-KUS'-pid)
   bicycle (BY'-sa-kol)
   biped (BY'-ped)
   bilateral (by-LAT'-a-ral)
   bigamous (BIG'-o-mas)

4. polys, many
   polygamy (pa-LIG'-o-mee)
   polyglot (POL'-ee-glot'
   polygon (POL'-ee-gon')
   polytheism (POL'-ee-thee-iz'-ee)
   theos, god
   theology (thee-OL'-a-jee)
   monotheist (MON'-o-thee-ist)

5. misein, to hate
   misogamy (mə-SOG'-o-mee)
   misogynist (mə-SAHJ'-o-nist)
   misanthropy (mə-SAN'-thra-ppee)

6. philein, to love
   philologist (fa-LOL'-o-jist)
   philatelist (fa-LAT'-o-list)
   philanthropy (fa-LAN'-thra-ppee)

7. logos, word, study, knowledge
   biology (by-OL'-a-jee)
   theology (thee-OL'-a-jee)
   philology (fa-LOL'-a-jee)
   anthropology (an'-thra-POL'-a-jee)

8. anthropos, man, mankind
   anthropoid (AN'-thra-poid)
   anthropologist (an-thra-POL'-o-jist)
   philanthropist (fa-LAN'-thra-pist)
   misanthrope (MISS'-o-nthrope)
   misanthropist (mis-AN'-thra-pist)

9. cuspis, point
   bicuspid (by-KUS'-pid)
   tricuspid (try-KUS'-pid)

10. glotta, tongue
    polyglot (POL'-ee-glot')

Quick Vocabulary Builder

VIII

Final review time! If you feel a happy and secure control of the material of this chapter, try this simple test, in which you have to fill in one or more blanks in each sentence. Can you make a perfect score without referring to previous information?

1. One who practices monogamy has only one ________________________.

2. A misogamist ________________________ marriage.

3. Theology is the study of ________________________ or ________________________.

4. Biology is the ________________________ of life.

5. A philatelist collects ________________________.

6. A misanthropist ________________________ mankind.

7. Anthropology is the science of ________________________ development.

8. A bicuspid has ________________________ points.

9. A tricuspid has ________________________ points.

10. Anthropoid means “similar to, or in the form of, a ________________________.”

11. A polyglot speaks ________________________ languages.

12. A polygon has ________________________ sides.

13. Under polygamy, a man may have ________________________ wives.

14. In America, a bigamous marriage is ________________________.

15. In a monotheistic religion, there is only one ________________________.

16. A biped has two ________________________.

17. A two-wheeled vehicle is a ________________________.

18. An agreement endorsed by two sides is called ________________________.

19. A lens for only one eye is called a ________________________.

20. A speech by one person is a ________________________.

21. Control of the market by one person or group is a ________________________.

22. A place where men live in seclusion is a ________________________.
23. A nation which has one, usually hereditary, ruler is a

24. Belief in many gods is called

25. A misogynist hates

ANSWERS: (1) spouse, wife, husband; (2) hates; (3) God, religion; (4) study, science; (5) stamps; (6) hates; (7) human, man's, mankind's; (8) two; (9) three; (10) human, human being, man, person, etc.; (11) many; (12) many; (13) many; (14) illegal, unlawful, etc.; (15) God; (16) legs, feet; (17) bicycle; (18) bilateral; (19) monocle; (20) monologue; (21) monopoly; (22) monastery; (23) monarchy; (24) polytheism; (25) women, females, etc.

A Quick Test
of Your Progress
to Date

You are of course aware that you will never add very rapidly to your vocabulary by merely being exposed to words, or by reading, or by talking. You must have a plan.

Here is one way to get ahead with words in everyday life. It's the simplest thing in the world.

Buy a small pocket notebook. When you read a newspaper, a magazine, or a book, or listen to TV or the radio, and come upon a strange word, enter it in your notebook. Then look it up in the dictionary. If you find that it's some abstruse or highly technical term, such as, say, syzygy, "an immovable union between two brachials of a crinoid," just pass it by. You won't be using it unless you are studying to be a professor of biology. But if it sounds like a word that will be helpful to you, take possession of it, make it your own personal property. Say it aloud many times. Study its definition, note its derivation. Be sure,
also, to copy from the dictionary the sample sentence in which it is used, if such is given. Then write your own sentence along the lines of the example in the dictionary. All this will take only a few minutes or so, but it is necessary to make the practice a daily habit. Then the list in your notebook will grow and grow, as will your command of English.

We want, at this point, to help you gain complete possession of any of the words in the first eight chapters that may have once been unfamiliar to you.

In this review, you have, as usual, the responsibility of grading yourself. After you have compared your answers with those given at the end of the chapter, we will give you an interpretation of your score and you can then see what progress you have made.

I

1. The study of the origins of words or of word histories is called (a) philology; (b) verbology; (c) etymology
2. The "taxicabs" in Ancient Rome gave rise to our word (a) calculate; (b) supercilious; (c) captain
3. The Greek syllable graph means (a) seeing; (b) writing; (c) speaking
4. The word run has approximately .................. different dictionary meanings. (a) 3; (b) 20; (c) 90
5. Some words require emotional maturity to be understood. (a) True? or (b) False?

II

Each phrase in column B defines a word in column A. Match the two columns.

A Quick Test of Your Progress to Date

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<td>vicarious</td>
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<td>rationalize</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>wanton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>effete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>appeal to the baser emotions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>tearfully sentimental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>company-loving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>second-hand or substitutional in experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>fawning and servile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>justify, usually unconsciously (an unworthy act)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g.</td>
<td>severely self-denying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h.</td>
<td>refine; turn into higher or socially acceptable channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>worn out; sterile; exhausted from rich or overindulgent living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j.</td>
<td>unrestrained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Check the correct forms:

1. The obstetrician:
   (a) delivers babies; (b) treats babies; (c) treats women's diseases
2. The osteopath:
   (a) straightens teeth; (b) specializes in skin diseases; (c) treats diseases by manipulating the bones
3. The optometrist:
   (a) sells lenses; (b) measures your eyes for glasses; (c) operates on your eyes
4. The podiatrist:
   (a) treats foot ailments; (b) treats mental ailments; (c) treats nerve ailments
5. The psychiatrist is interested in:
   (a) your stomach; (b) your mind; (c) your eyes
IV

Write the required verb:

1. To stagnate
2. To postpone
3. To cheat; to deprive fraudulently
4. To exclude; to ban
5. To atone for
6. To entreat
7. To sparkle
8. To disapprove of
9. To spend time in the country
10. To charge (someone with)

V

Fill in each blank space with the type of person who would be most apt to make such a statement.

1. "I have good taste in foods and wines."  
2. "Government should experiment."  
3. "Government must not experiment."  
4. "If they don't want war, give it to them anyway."  
5. "My country is the only one worth anything."  
6. "Pain will never make me wince."  
7. "The other fellow comes first."  
8. "I come first above all."  
9. "There is no God."  
10. "I don't know whether or not there is a God."  
11. "Everything will happen as it will, no matter what we do."

VI

Give the meaning of each of the following Greek or Latin roots:

1. logos
2. theos
3. bis
4. philein
5. misein
6. monos
7. anthropos
8. polys
9. gamos
10. cusps
11. glotta

ANSWERS:  
I: (1) c; (2) a; (3) b; (4) c; (5) a

Scoring: Two points each

Your Score:..............

II: (1) d; (2) f; (3) c; (4) e; (5) b; (6) g; (7) a; (8) h; (9) j; (10) i

Scoring: Two points each

Your Score:..............

III: (1) a; (2) c; (3) b; (4) a; (5) b

Scoring: Two points each

Your Score:..............

IV: (1) vegetate; (2) procrastinate; (3) mulct; (4) ostracize; (5) expiate; (6) importune; (7) scintillate; (8) depurate; (9) rusticate; (10) impute

Scoring: Two points each

Your Score:..............

V: (1) epicure; (2) liberal; (3) conservative; (4) jingoist; (5)
NINTH DAY

- chauvinist; (6) stoic; (7) altruist; (8) egoist; (9) atheist;
(10) agnostic; (11) fatalist
Scoring: Two points each

Your Score: ..........

VI: (1) word, knowledge, study;
(2) god; (3) twice, two; (4)
love; (5) hate; (6) one; (7)
man, mankind; (8) many; (9)
majesty; (10) point; (11)
tongue
Scoring: Two points each

Your Score: ..........

Maximum Score: 104

Your Total Score: ..........

What Your Score Means

58 or under suggests the possibility that you may not be thorough enough as you go along. Work harder; review more frequently! Try to improve your score on the next general test of your progress.

60-70 is an average and acceptable score. Can you do still better next time?

72-86 shows better-than-average learning. Continue building your word power and no doors will ever be closed to you. Can you, nevertheless, improve your score next time?

88-104 indicates remarkable progress. Your interest and self-motivation are high, and your rewards from this work will therefore be great.

Words About Your Fellow Men

We have now a wide and most important group of words to consider. These are the words that describe and catalog a few of the various classes of our fellowmen and that identify some of their activities. And here is a helpful game that you might like to try. Just jot down on the margin of these pages, opposite each of the twenty-five words that follow, the name of a friend of yours or a well-known actor or public character who, you believe, would best personify the particular word under discussion. Dramatizing the word in this fashion will help fix its meaning in your mind.

You will meet some familiar words in this list, words that we have introduced in previous chapters. But repetition is a part of learning, and very often, when a word appears a second time, it will be presented in another form and with a considerably enriched meaning.

Let us look over a few of the words that characterize the varied types of personalities who inhabit our interesting world.
1. The *coquette* (kō-KET'). This girl promises much, flirts egregiously, and delivers very little.

2. The *circum* (SUR'-see). Her greatest pleasure comes from luring men to their destruction.

3. The *amazon* (AM'-ə-zon'). She's the tall, strapping, masculine kind of woman.

4. The *virago* (və-RAY'-gō). She is the loud-mouthed, turbulent, battle-axe type; a vicious nag and scold.

5. The *adonis* (ə-DON'-əs). He's the handsome, Greek-god type who makes the hearts of young girls flutter.

---

**Words About Your Fellowmen**

---

III

1. The *demagogue* (DEM'-ə-gog'). By appealing to the prejudices and hatreds of the population, he foments social discontent in order to further his own political ambitions.

2. The *martinet* (MAR'-te-NEET'). He's fanatic in his insistence on blind discipline from his subordinates, and a tiresome stickler for form and etiquette.

3. The *sympathizer* (SIP'-ə-fant). By insincere flattery and pretended servility, he hopes to make rich or influential people think of him kindly, especially when they have some crumbs to throw.

---

IV

1. The *atheist* (AY'-thee-ist). He's sure God is nonexistent.

2. The *agnostic* (ag-NOSS'-tik). He maintains that the human mind is incapable of penetrating the mystery of divine existence. Perhaps there is a God, perhaps not. No man knows.

---

V

1. The *tyro* (TY'-rō). He's a beginner in some profession, occupation, or art.

2. The *virtuoso* (vur'-chōS'-ō). He is the antithesis of the tyro, having reached the greatest heights of skill and competence in music, painting, or any one of the fine arts.

3. The *philologist* (fa-LOL'-ə-jist). He's a scholar of language and speech.

4. The *clairvoyant* (klair-VOY'-ənt). He claims the ability to see things not visible to those with normal
TENTH DAY

sight. Hence, he often makes prophecies about the future.

VI

1. The *philatelist* (fɪ-lətɛlɪst). He's the stamp collector.
2. The *numismatist* (njuːzɪsˈmeɪtɪst). He's the coin collector.

VII

1. The *gourmet* (gʊərˈmeɪt). He is knowledgeable and fastidious about eating and drinking, devoting himself to excellent food, special wines, exotic seasonings, etc.
2. The *connoisseur* (kɒnˈseɪsər). He is a critical judge of excellence in the arts, food, drink, women, etc.

VIII

Test Your Learning

Can you fill the blank line with the word that fits each description?

1. He does not believe in God. A ..................
2. He is a skillful practitioner of some art. V ..................
3. He collects rare coins. N ..................
4. He has an unusual appreciation of beauty. E ..................
5. He is ostentatious about his learning. P ..................
6. He will betray a friend. J ..................
7. She is a flirt. C ..................
8. She is a destructive siren. C ..................

Answers:
1. (1) atheist; (2) virtuoso; (3) numismatist; (4) esthete; (5) pedant; (6) judas; (7) coquette; (8) circe; (9) martinet; (10) egoist; (11) ascetic; (12) sycophant; (13) demagogue; (14) agnostic; (15) futilitarian; (16) amazon; (17) virago; (18) gourmet; (19) adonis; (20) vulgarian; (21) tyro; (22) philologist; (23) clairvoyant; (24) connoisseur; (25) philatelist.
IX
Reinforce Your Knowledge

Ready for another try at the same words? Check the one adjective out of three offered that most nearly fits each noun.

1. coquette  sincere, flirtatious, talkative
2. circe  untrustworthy, unapproachable, nagging
3. amazon  feminine, alluring, big
4. virago  fierce, docile, feminine
5. adonis  feminine, good-looking, wasteful
6. judas  untrustworthy, unapproachable, unassuming
7. futilitarian  optimistic, pessimistic, indifferent
8. vulgarian  courteous, crude, clever
9. pedant  corrective, sentimental, soft-hearted
10. egoist  ambitious, boring, self-centered
11. ascetic  puny, puerile, puritanical
12. esthete  talkative, tasteful, triumphant
13. demagogue  traitorous, troublemaking, temperate
14. martinet  reckless, easygoing, demanding
15. sycophant  sincere, hypocritical, handsome
16. atheist  irreligious, youthful, flattering
17. agnostic  god-fearing, skeptical, ambitious
18. tyro  expert, uncouth, unskillful
19. virtuoso  skilled, indifferent, alluring
20. philologist  selfish, ill-mannered, scholarly
21. clairvoyant  prophetic, protesting, fearful
22. philatelist  stamp-involved, coin-involved, book-involved
23. numismatist  stamp-involved, coin-involved, book-involved
24. gourmet  fastidious, vulgar, piggish
25. connoisseur  discriminating, ignorant, ambitious

ANSWERS: (1) flirtatious; (2) untrustworthy; (3) big; (4) fierce; (5) good-looking; (6) untrustworthy; (7) pessimistic; (8) crude; (9) corrective; (10) self-centered; (11) puritanical; (12) tasteful; (13) troublemaking; (14) demanding; (15) hypocritical; (16) irreligious; (17) skeptical; (18) unskillful; (19) skilled; (20) scholarly; (21) prophetic; (22) stamp-involved; (23) coin-involved; (24) fastidious; (25) discriminative

X
Further Reinforcement

Every time you test your learning and correct your errors or misconceptions you nail down a little more securely your familiarity with these colorful words. In this final test, therefore, you should be so nearly expert that you can make a perfect, or nearly perfect, score. Can you meet the challenge?

Choose the letter of the area from Column II that each person in Column I is involved in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. coquette</td>
<td>a. strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. circe</td>
<td>b. uselessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. amazon</td>
<td>c. obedience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. virago</td>
<td>d. austere existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. adonis</td>
<td>e. preciseness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. judas</td>
<td>f. skepticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. futilitarian</td>
<td>g. gaining experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. vulgarian</td>
<td>h. all beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. pedant</td>
<td>i. stamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. egoist</td>
<td>j. language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. ascetic</td>
<td>k. destruction of males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. esthete</td>
<td>l. insincere flattery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. demagogue</td>
<td>m. political power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. martinet</td>
<td>n. marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. sycophant</td>
<td>o. flirting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TENTH DAY

16. atheist  p. coarseness
17. agnostic q. top performance
18. tyro r. self-interest
19. virtuoso s. extrasensory perception
20. philologist t. food
21. clairvoyant u. betrayal
22. philatelist v. high quality
23. numismatist w. male beauty
24. gourmet x. coins
25. connoisseur y. godlessness
z. nagging

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

We have discussed with you, and thoroughly tested you on, twenty-five intensely human words about human characteristics, professions, avocations, philosophies, and attitudes. These words are dynamic, meaningful, warm to the touch, pulsating with life. They describe your friends and enemies, your acquaintances and colleagues—perhaps yourself on occasion?

These words are valuable. Watch for them in your reading; listen for them in conversation. Use them yourself in your speech and writing—you will be delighted to discover how compactly and forcefully they express precisely what you want to say.

Words for Phobias and Manias

We touched on a number of normal human characteristics in the last chapter. Now we turn to a few of the abnormalities of the human mind, to the words that particularize mental peculiarities, neuroses, phobias, and mild or violent personality disorders.

1. Let us discuss, first, five of the most common manias: kleptomania, pyromania, dipsomania, megalomania, and monomania.

1. The pyromaniac (py'ro-MAY'-nee-ak) has a strange and morbid passion for fire. He will burn down a house with no slightest sense of malice, but merely because he is fascinated by the flames.
2. The dipsomaniac (dip'-so-MAY'-nee-ak) has an uncontrollable compulsion to drink. His vice is a good deal
more than a socially pleasant habit, of course. It is an emotional problem, and he must drink and get drunk whether he really wants to or not.

3. The megalomaniac (meg-ə-lō-MAY'-nee-ak) has a conviction that he is Napoleon or Caesar, that he has enormous wealth, or, even, sometimes, that he is God. He is continually obsessed by delusions of grandeur.

4. The monomaniac (mon'-ə-MAY'-nee-ak) is unbalanced in just one area; on everything else except his own pet and particular delusion he may be completely normal.

5. The kleptomaniac (klep'-tə-MAY'-nee-ak) has a compulsion to steal. The victim of this aberration may be wealthy, and the object stolen may be worthless; moreover, the kleptomaniac never has any use for the lifted trinkets, nor any plans for their disposal. He just can’t help taking them.

II

Write in the blank lines the “maniac” described by each of the following sentences:

1. He can’t take one drink and then stop. ..........  

2. He is mentally deranged on one subject. ..........  

3. She is apt to steal any little object that she sees. ..........  

4. He imagines he is God. ..........  

5. It is dangerous to leave him alone with matches. ..........  

ANSWERS: (1) dipsomaniac; (2) monomaniac; (3) kleptomaniac; (4) megalomaniac; (5) pyromaniac

III

What’s your pet phobia? You haven’t any? Don’t be too sure. How about your startled-turtle habit of ducking under

the bedclothes when the lightning crackles? Or your shudders when a snake crosses your path? Or possibly you edge away from the tops of tall buildings because height makes you feel funny?

If you are an average man you have, not one, but 2.21 phobias.

If you are an average woman you have 3.55 phobias.

Here is a list of the twelve most common phobias. You need not try to remember them, as they will hardly ever be useful to you unless you are a psychiatrist, in which case you already know them.

ceraunophobia  morbid dread of thunder
astraphobia  morbid dread of lightning
ophidiophobia  morbid dread of snakes
nyctophobia  morbid dread of darkness
acrophobia  morbid dread of heights
pyrophobia  morbid dread of fire
aquaphobia  morbid dread of water
ailurophobia  morbid dread of cats
cynophobia  morbid dread of dogs
agoraphobia  morbid dread of open spaces
triskaidekaphobia  morbid dread of the number thirteen
claustrophobia  morbid dread of close spaces

Three of these phobias are particularly common:

1. Claustrophobia (klawss'-tra-FÖ-bee-ə). The victim feels choked by small rooms or crowded or confined places. If there is not plenty of open space around him, his discomfort is acute; he may even go into a panic.

2. Agoraphobia (ag'-ə-ra-FÖ-bee-ə). Contrarily, someone suffering from this problem cannot stand open spaces—very large rooms, public areas that have few people (empty theaters, for example), etc. He finds it painful, if not impossible, to walk across a deserted ball field. He is terrified, in short, by limitless horizons.

3. Acrophobia (ak'-ra-FÖ-bee-ə). The person burdened with this fear is panic-stricken by heights. He cannot mount higher than the third or fourth step of a ladder, cannot look out of the top windows of a tall building, is
ELEVENTH DAY

terrified of rapidly ascending elevators, would rather die than take a plane trip.

IV

Four more people with emotional or mental problems:
1. The *hypochondriac* (hi'uh-kon-dri-ak) continually complains about imaginary ills. A heart flutter means heart failure. A headache is a brain tumor. An upset stomach indicates gastric ulcers or cancer. The only real problem is, of course, a morbid imagination.

   The ailment: *hypochondria* (hi'uh-kon-dri-a)

2. The *amnesiac* (am-nez-ak) suffers from loss of memory. The cause is often a blow on the head or some sudden emotional shock, after which the victim's past becomes a complete blank. He cannot even recognize his family and closest friends. In time, with treatment, there is usually a recovery.

   The ailment: *amnesia* (am-nez-ee-ah)

3. The *somnambulist* (sohm-nam-buhl-ist) walks in his sleep.

   The ailment: *somnambulism* (sohm-nam-buhl-iz-am)

4. The *insomniac* (in-sohm-ni-ak) is habitually afflicted with wakefulness at times when he wishes to sleep.

   The ailment: *insomnia* (in-sohm-ni-ah)

V

Who would be most likely to say the following?

1. "What a night. I didn't sleep a wink!"
2. "I walked around the room last night. Why, I was fast asleep."
3. "Who am I? I've completely forgotten my name."
4. "I don't care what the doctor says. I know I've got heart trouble."

VI

Words for Phobias and Manias

5. "I can't live in an apartment on the fifth floor. Isn't there anything vacant lower down?"
6. "I'm getting out of here. This place is so small I think the walls are going to crush me!"
7. "No thanks, I can't go fishing with you on that enormous lake. It goes on forever!"

ANSWERS: (1) insomniac; (2) somnambulist; (3) amnesiac; (4) hypochondriac; (5) acrophobe; (6) claustrophobe; (7) agoraphobe

Four victims of very serious mental illness:

1. The *manic-depressive* (man'ik-de-pres'iv) has alternating moods of black depression and wild, uncontrollable exaltation or excitability. Changes are unpredictable and come without warning.

   The illness: *manic-depression* (man'ik-de-pres'ion)

2. The *schizophrenic* (skiz'ho-fren'ik) is a split or divided personality. He loses contact with his environment, lives in an unreal world of his own making, and often imagines he is someone else.

   The illness: *schizophrenia* (skiz'ho-fren'ee-ah)

3. The *melancholic* (mel'ahn-koh-lik) has fallen into a fixed condition of despondency. He often thinks of, or attempts, suicide.

   The illness: *melancholia* (mel'ahn-koh-lee-ah)

4. The *paranoiac* (pair'ah-noi'ak) has delusions of persecution. He imagines that people are trying to poison him, that he is being pursued by enemies, that everyone is against him.

   The illness: *paranoia* (pair'ah-noi'ah)
According to Freudian psychology, the person who has grown up without successfully adjusting to the parent-child relationship or to his own place in the family constellation may develop either of the following:

1. An *Oedipus* (o-ED’-i-pus) complex. The male so burdened is the typical “mama’s boy” who has been overprotected and overbabied and prevented from maturing emotionally. Unconsciously, according to the Freudians, he has a repressed desire to kill his father and marry his mother.

2. An *Electra* (o-LEK’-tra) complex. This is the female version of the Oedipal problem—the girl is hostile to her mother, in love with her father.

---

### VIII

Can you match the problem area with the name of the disturbance?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTURBANCE</th>
<th>PROBLEM AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. pyromania</td>
<td>a. grandeur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. dipsomania</td>
<td>b. illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. megalomania</td>
<td>c. sleepwalking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. monomania</td>
<td>d. one single obsession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. kleptomania</td>
<td>e. hilarity followed by gloom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. hypochondria</td>
<td>f. fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. amnesia</td>
<td>g. no contact with reality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. somnambulism</td>
<td>h. persecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. insomniac</td>
<td>i. attachment to mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. manic-depression</td>
<td>j. thievery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. schizophrenia</td>
<td>k. open areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. melancholia</td>
<td>l. high places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. paranoia</td>
<td>m. confined areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Oedipus complex</td>
<td>n. memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Electra complex</td>
<td>o. liquor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. claustrophobia</td>
<td>p. attachment to father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. agoraphobia</td>
<td>q. overwhelming sadness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. acrophobia</td>
<td>r. sleeplessness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANSWERS: (1) f; (2) o; (3) a; (4) d; (5) i; (6) b; (7) n; (8) c; (9) r; (10) e; (11) g; (12) q; (13) h; (14) i; (15) p; (16) m; (17) k; (18) l.

---

### IX

Write the word that fits each definition. Initial letters are offered to prod your memory.

1. M .................. Continued gloom and depression

2. M .................. Moods of violent excitement alternating with black depression

3. A .................. Loss of memory

4. S .................. Walking and performing other actions during sleep

5. D .................. Uncontrollable craving for alcoholic liquor

6. H .................. Morbid anxiety about one’s health

7. P .................. Delusions of persecution

8. E .................. Early and abnormal attachment of a girl for her father, with hostility to her mother

9. K .................. Uncontrollable propensity to steal articles of little value

10. M .................. Delusions of grandeur

11. I .................. Chronic inability to fall asleep

12. M .................. Obsession in a single area

13. P .................. Uncontrollable need to set fires

14. S .................. Mental derangement characterized by loss of contact with reality; split personality

15. C .................. Morbid dread of confined places

16. A .................. Morbid dread of open spaces

17. O .................. Unresolved attachment to mother with accompanying hatred of father

18. A .................. Morbid dread of heights
ELEVENTH DAY.

Answers: (1) melancholia; (2) manic-depression; (3) amnesia; (4) somnambulism; (5) dysomania; (6) hypochondria; (7) paranoia; (8) Electra complex; (9) kleptomania; (10) megalomania; (11) insomnia; (12) monomania; (13) pyromania; (14) schizophrenia; (15) claustrophobia; (16) agoraphobia; (17) Oedipus complex; (18) acrophobia.

After such a chapter as this, you may think that we are advocating the use of long and difficult words. But the words we have discussed here are the only ones that accurately describe the troubles and disorders that afflict many people. There are no substitutes for most of them.

But let this rule generally hold. Never, or at least almost never, use a long word where a short one will do. Words, as you well know, are to express your thoughts, not to conceal them. The greatest poems and the greatest speeches, whether it is Robert Burns’s “My love is like a red, red rose” or Patrick Henry’s “Give me liberty or give me death” all have the power and charm of simplicity. Try to avoid the too frequent use of such Latin words as *juxtaposition, animadvert, salutation, recapitulate*. They tend to make your style heavy, dry, and pedantic. Short Anglo-Saxon words have force—_gift_ instead of _donation_, _poor_ instead of _impecunious_. There is a simple beauty in _ship_, _shop_, _walk_, _free_, _earth_, _mate_, _man_, _friend_. The Latin and Greek words are important to know, but should be used with discretion, and never to overwhelm a reader or listener.

Simplicity and directness in language are always effective.

Words About Your Feelings

During the last few chapters we have been dealing with all kinds of people—with their peculiarities, their mental quirks, their philosophies, their ideas. Now let us deal with ideas alone. Or shall we get more personal, and consider the terms that describe _your_ thoughts, _your_ feelings, _your_ attitudes and emotions?

- Consider these five words:
  - _nostalgia_ (nos-TAL’-jo)
  - _satiated_ (SAY’-shee-aY’-ted)
  - _benevolence_ (ba-NEV’-u-lence)
  - _frustration_ (frus-TRAY’-shun)
  - _lethargy_ (LETH’-ar-je)

Are any of these strange to you? Consider them in sentences that give a hint to their meanings:

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TWELFTH DAY

1. He was overcome with a wave of *nostalgia* whenever he thought of his boyhood years in Scotland.
2. The huge dinner left him *satiated*.
3. That morning he was at peace with the world; his attitude toward all mankind was one of *benevolence*.
4. All life, he claims, is *frustration*. The gods seem bent on mischievously thwarting his hopes and plans.
5. His illness left him in a state of *lethargy*; all ambition, interest, desire were gone.

II

Take the italicized words in Section I and write each one next to its definition.

1. ................. State of apathy or indifference
2. ................. Severe homesickness; a longing for the pleasant past
3. ................. Desire for the welfare of others; charitableness
4. ................. Filled beyond natural desire; glutted
5. ................. Failure or inability to attain something desired

**ANSWERS:** (1) *lethargy*; (2) *nostalgia*; (3) *benevolence*; (4) *satiated*; (5) *frustration*

III

Five more words will now be treated in the same way. Again, try to figure out their meanings from the context of the sentences in which they appear.

*enervated* (EN'-ər-və-təd)
*weltschmerz* (VELT'-shmairts)
*ennui* (AHN'-wē)
*compunction* (kom-PUNK'-shən)
*antipathy* (an-TIP'-ə-thee)

---

**Words About Your Feelings**

1. His all-night vigil completely *enervated* him.
2. Adolescents are often rather pessimistic about the future of humanity. This *weltschmerz* is a natural result of their maturing minds and bodies.
3. Never had her life been so stagnant and empty. Never had she been so filled with *ennui*.
4. He had no *compunctions* about cheating his fellowman.
5. He had a violent *antipathy* to all political theories smacking, however faintly, of communism.

IV

Can you pair off each of our new words with its definition below?

1. ................. Literally, world pain; sadness from a gloomy world philosophy
2. .................. An instinctive feeling of aversion or dislike
3. .................. Self-reproach for wrongdoing; slight regret
4. .................. Deprived of physical, nervous, and emotional energy
5. .................. A feeling of listless weariness resulting from satiety, boredom, or inactivity

**ANSWERS:** (1) *weltschmerz*; (2) *antipathy*; (3) *compunction*; (4) *enervated*; (5) *ennui*

V

Here is a third group for study in the same way.

*supercilious* (sōō'-pa-sil'-ee-əs)
*vindicative* (vin-DIK'-tiv)
*misogynist* (mə-SAHJ'-ə-nist)
*misanthrope* (MISS'-ən-thrōp)
*vicariously* (vy-KAIR'-ee-əs-lee)
TWELFTH DAY

1. You are too **supercilious**; what makes you think you're so superior?
2. Be careful not to hurt her feelings, for she'll never forgive you. You know how **vindictive** some women are.
3. Queer chap—I think he's a **misogynist**. That's probably why he's never had a girl friend.
4. At heart, he's a **misanthrope**. No wonder he has no friends.
5. Since his accident he has been unable to take part in the sports that he used to love. Now he reads the sports page and enjoys tennis, golf, and baseball **vicariously**.

VI

Again, match each word to its definition.

1. .......... Manner of experiencing something indirectly instead of directly
2. .......... A hater of mankind
3. .......... A hater of women
4. .......... Disposed to revenge; retaliatory
5. .......... Lofty with pride; haughtily contemptuous

**ANSWERS:** (1) vicariously; (2) misanthrope; (3) misogynist; (4) vindictive; (5) supercilious

VII

Now let's try a reinforcing exercise with all fifteen words. Check your response to each question.

1. When you have a feeling of lethargy, are you full of bounce, pep, and ambition? **Yes... No**
2. Is nostalgia a yearning for the past? **Yes... No**

**ANSWERS:** (1) No; (2) Yes; (3) Yes; (4) No; (5) Yes; (6) Yes; (7) No; (8) No; (9) No; (10) Yes; (11) Yes; (12) Yes; (13) No; (14) No; (15) Yes

VIII

Ready for more reinforcement? Write S if a pair of words are essentially the same in meaning, O if they are more or less opposed.
TWELFTH DAY

1. lethargy .......... energy
2. nostalgia .......... homesickness
3. benevolence .......... ill will
4. satiated .......... full
5. frustration .......... satisfaction
6. weltschermer .......... happiness
7. antipathy .......... affection
8. compunctions .......... scruples
9. enervated .......... tired
10. ennui .......... boredom
11. vicariously .......... actually
12. misanthrope .......... philanthropist
13. misogynist .......... Don Juan
14. vindictive .......... forgiving
15. supercilious .......... humble

ANSWERS: (1) o; (2) s; (3) o; (4) s; (5) o; (6) o; (7) o; (8) s; (9) s; (10) s; (11) o; (12) o; (13) o; (14) o; (15) o

IX

A very useful exercise, one that helps you use words in a variety of ways, requires you to experiment with different parts of speech—noun, adjective, adverb, verb. Can you make the proper changes asked for below? An illustrative phrase or sentence and, where possible, an analogy are offered to help you.

1. Change lethargy to an adjective to fit into the following phrase: A ........... attitude.
   (neuralgia—neuralgic)
2. Nostalgia to an adjective: A ........... feeling.
   (claustrophobia—claustrophobic)
3. Benevolence to an adverb: He beamed ...........
   (impotence—impotently)
4. Satiated to a negative adjective ending in -ble: He is an ........... reader.
   (estimated—inestimable)

Words About Your Feelings

5. Satiated to a noun ending in -ty: I've had a .......... of motion pictures.
   (anxious—anxiety)
6. Frustration to a verb: Why do you try to .......... me?
   (appreciation—appreciate)
7. Antipathy to an adjective: I am .......... to such ideas.
   (sympathy—sympathetic)
8. Enervated to a noun: The cause of his .......... (saturated—saturation)
   (famously—famous)
10. Misanthrope to another noun denoting the person: He is a .......... (ends in -ist)
11. Misanthrope to a noun denoting the philosophy: What is the cause of his ..........?
    (philanthropist—philanthropy)
12. Misogynist to a noun denoting the philosophy: What is the cause of his ..........?
    (botanist—botany)
13. Vindictive to a noun: I dislike him mainly for his .......... (active—activeness)
14. Supercilious to a noun: Your .......... will make you lose many friends.
    (fastidious—fastidiousness)

ANSWERS: (1) lethargic (lo-THAHR'-jik); (2) nostalgic (na-STAL'-jik); (3) benevolently (bo-NEV'-o-lent-lee); (4) insatiable (in-SAY'-shoo-ble); (5) satiety (sa-TY'-a-tee); (6) frustrate (FRUSS'-trate); (7) antipathetic (an'-tee-po-THET'-ik); (8) enervation (en'-er-VAY'-shun); (9) vicarious (vy-KAIR'-ee-ou-s); (10) misanthropist (ma-SAN'-thra-pist);
(11) misanthropy (mæ-SAN'-thra-pee); (12) misogyny (mæ-SAHI'-ə-nee); (13) vindictiveness (vin-DIK'-tiv-ness); (14) superciliousness (sú-pər-SIL'-ee-as-ness)

X

Now let’ssock it home. If all your work with, and exposure to, the words in this chapter have finally made you master of them, you will be able, without doubt or hesitation, to match the statement of feeling to each noun below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUNS</th>
<th>STATEMENT OF FEELING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. lethargy</td>
<td>a. “I can’t do it!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. nostalgia</td>
<td>b. “You do it, I’ll watch.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. benevolence</td>
<td>c. “All is boredom.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. satiety</td>
<td>d. “I hate everyone!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. frustration</td>
<td>e. “I’m exhausted, worn out.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. antipathy</td>
<td>g. “I wish I were home.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. compunction</td>
<td>h. “I can’t stand it!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. ennui</td>
<td>i. “I’ll get even!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. enervation</td>
<td>j. “I can’t move, can’t respond.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. vicariousness</td>
<td>k. “You’re dirl!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. misanthropy</td>
<td>l. “The world is a sad place.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. misogyny</td>
<td>m. “No more, please.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. vindictiveness</td>
<td>n. “I’d better not.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. superciliousness</td>
<td>o. “I wish the best for you.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANSWERS: (1) j; (2) g; (3) o; (4) m; (5) a; (6) l; (7) h; (8) n; (9) c; (10) e; (11) b; (12) d; (13) f; (14) i; (15) k.

Compactly, richly, effectively—and as no others can—these words express deep, living, glowing ideas. Without them you might have to fumble to express what you mean.

Words About Your Feelings

Once you know the exact word, your ideas come across in simple and immediately understandable clarity.

With a well-stocked arsenal of words at your command, you can become a more powerful, more influential thinker, writer, and speaker.
Words That End in "Ology"

1. **Anthropology** (an'-thrō-POL'-ə-jee). This word we have had before and you will recognize it as "the science of mankind" in general, his habits, history, distribution, culture.

2. **Geology** (jee-OL'-ə-jee). The meaning of this word is crystal clear when we know that the "geo" comes from the Greek geos, "earth," plus logos, "study" or "science." Geology, then, is the science of the structure, forces, and history of that whirling planet we call earth.

3. **Archaeology** (ahr'-kee-OL'-ə-jee). This is the science of antiquities. It deals with the old records that man leaves in such forms as buildings and pottery and in the physical remains of his industries. The key to the language of the Aztecs of ancient Mexico, for example, has not been fully discovered, but archaeologists can learn much of the story of these people from the ruins they left. (Greek archaios, "ancient," and therefore "the study of ancient things.")

4. **Embryology** (em'-bree-OL'-ə-gee). In the early stages of pre-natal development, the unborn child is called an embryo. Once more the Greeks have helped us, for en in their language means "in," and bryein, "swell"; so, literally, the word means "to swell inside," which is just what happens in pregnancy. An embryologist, then, deals with the beginnings of life.

5. **Entomology** (en'-tə-MOL'-ə-gee). When you know that entomon is Greek for "insect," the rest is easy to guess. The entomologists have given us a wealth of knowledge about the home life, sex habits, and social customs of bees, ants, butterflies, and other members of the species.

Traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, a ray of light started toward the earth with the message that a star had exploded somewhere in space. Thirteen centuries passed by before it arrived. Goethe, Shakespeare, Galileo, and King Arthur's Court all came and went. Napoleon strode over Europe like a colossus, lost his kingdom and died. America was discovered. Great wars began and ceased and began again, while this glimmer of light was racing on to tell our astronomers of a world-shaking catastrophe that had happened in the constellation of Hercules.

This message was read and understood. And that is the triumph of the mind of man.

His intellect can weigh the sun and measure the heat from the farthest star. His eyes can see a billion miles into space and they can also explore the infinitesimal world of electrons. Man has struggled for his knowledge of medicine and archaeology and geology and the multitude of sciences. We, by the miracle of words, can open some of these doors, and if they are so much as barely open, we may be tempted to walk in.
6. Ethnology (eth-nol'-o-jee). White men, brown men, black men, yellow men. What is their history? Where did they come from? Where do they live? How do they differ in mind, culture, characteristics? These are problems for the ethnologist to solve. From Greek, ethnos, "race."

7. Etymology (et'-o-MOL'-o-jee). You will recall that this is the study of the history and origin of words.

8. Ornithology (awr'-thol'-o-jee). If you are told that ornis is Greek for "bird," you can find your own meaning. The lives and habits of eagles and whippoorwills, tanagers and sparrows, hawks and seagulls—all such are the province of the ornithologist.

9. Philology (fi-lo-lol'-o-jee). This word we are already familiar with. The philologist covers the entire field of words and language, the whole area of linguistics.

10. Psychology (sy-KOL'-o-jee). Once more let's leaf over the pages of our Greek lexicon, and we find psyche, "soul," "mind." So the psychologist is a student of, and an authority on, the human mind, and human behavior in all of its aspects.

II

Review Your Learning

Here are the ten fields of human knowledge once again, in simple chart form, with the scientist in parentheses next to each one. Can you review in your mind the area of interest of each scientist in preparation for a reinforcing test?

THE FIELD

1. anthropology (anthropologist)
2. geology (geologist)
3. archaeology (archaeologist)
4. embryology (embryologist)
5. entomology (entomologist)
6. ethnology (ethnologist)
7. etymology (etymologist)

THE AREA

8. ornithology (ornithologist)
9. philology (philologist)
10. psychology (psychologist)

III

Where Does One Turn?

If you wished the answer to each of the following questions, to which of the specialists in Section II would you turn for your information?

1. What does the unborn baby look like during the third week of its development?
2. How many Mayan ruins are there in Central America?
3. What makes human beings behave the way they do?
4. What kind of rock is found in Tennessee?
5. Is it true that the owl is wiser than other birds?
6. What did the men of the Stone Age look like?
7. What is the life span of an ant?
8. What is the derivation or origin of the word boycott?
9. How many different languages are spoken in Europe?
10. Where are the yellow races found in greatest abundance?

ANSWERS: (1) embryologist; (2) archaeologist; (3) psychologist; (4) geologist; (5) ornithologist; (6) anthropologist; (7) entomologist; (8) etymologist; (9) philologist; (10) ethnologist.
IV
Don't Stop Now!

There are still many things you can do with these words. Say them aloud, many times. That is the first step toward making them your own. If you aren't perfectly comfortable with their pronunciation, you won't dare to use them.

Try spelling them. Get a friend or a member of your family to help you by dictating the words while you write them. Each step is a clincher that helps hold the words more firmly in your mind, helps you feel more at home with them.

Experiment with the etymologies. Greek geos means "earth." How easy it is then to read the meaning of geography, geopolitics, geometry.

Anthropos is "mankind"; thus misanthropy, philanthropy, and anthropoid (similar to man) fall right in place.

Archais, "ancient," gives us archaic (ancient, no longer used, old-fashioned), and archetype (the ancient, or original model), as well as archaeology.

Psyche, "soul" or "mind," produces words like psychic, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, psychotic, as well as psychology. Once you recognize the root, the word itself can no longer be a complete mystery to you.

The philologist loves words—from philein, "to love," and logos, one of whose meanings is "word" (the other is "study of"). Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love; a philatelist loves stamps; a bibliophile loves books; a philanthropist loves mankind; a philosopher loves wisdom; a philitire is a love potion. We repeat: Know the root, and the word is no longer a mystery.

So let's end the chapter by giving you a chance to fix the roots and meanings in your mind. Can you match the two columns below?

1. anthropos (anthropology)  a. earth
2. archais (archaeology) b. race
3. geos (geology) c. insect
4. philein (embryology) d. bird
5. entomon (entomology) e. mind, soul
6. ethnos (ethnology) f. mankind
7. ornis (ornithology) g. word, study of
8. philar (philology) h. to love
9. psyche (psychology) i. to swell
10. logos (etymology) j. ancient

ANSWERS: (1) f; (2) j; (3) a; (4) i; (5) e; (6) b; (7) d; (8) h; (9) e; (10) g
Words for Human Traits

Men and women have so many forms of behavior, and such a multitude of varied characteristics and points of view, that they have inspired a host of descriptive adjectives. We will introduce the new words first in a series of simple sentences to give at least a hint to their meanings.

6. The taciturn (TAS'-ə-turn) husband answers his wife in grunts and monosyllables, if at all.
7. The opinionated (ə-PIN'-ə-nay'-təd) fool has a mind so finally made up that neither hell nor high water can make him change it.
8. The phlegmatic (fleg-MAT'-ik) person can't get excited over anything.
9. The erudite (AIR'-ə-dite) man is full of book learning.
10. The complacent (kəm-PLAY'-sant) fellow is sure that everything is going to come out all right.
11. The punctilious (punk-TILL'-ee-əs) hostess worries so much as one fork is out of place on her perfectly set table.
12. The indefatigable (in'-de-FAT'-ə-gə-bal) worker seems capable of getting along on four hours' sleep a day.
13. The rapid (VAP'-id) talker's conversation is completely boring.
14. The iconoclastic (eye-kon'-ə-KLASS'-tik) critic carps at such institutions as government, marriage, and religion.
15. The misanthropic (mis'-ən-THROP'-ik) cynic hates the world and everybody in it.
16. The puerile (PYOO'-ə-əl) practical joker may have grown up physically, but is still a child emotionally.
17. The ascetic (ə-SET'-ik) person lives in a hut and likes it.

These words have been used in sentences that aim at giving you enough of a clue to spark your interest in figuring out the possible meanings. How successfully can you find the italicized word in Section I that best fits each of the following definitions?
1. Completely self-satisfied; smug
2. Smooth and pleasant in manner; bland; gracious; smoothly ingratiating
FOURTEENTH DAY

3. By temperament, not easily perturbed; calm; emotionally sluggish or unresponsive

4. One who assails or mocks traditional or cherished beliefs

5. Simple; credulous; easily deceived

6. Marked by assumed self-importance; pretentious

7. Appreciating or loving the beautiful; artistic

8. Characteristic of childhood; juvenile; immature and silly or trivial

9. Very learned; scholarly

10. Practicing extreme abstinence; austere and rigorous in self-denial or self-discipline

11. Extremely talkative

12. Habitually silent or unwilling to engage in conversation

13. Unduly attached to one's own opinions; obstinate in holding on to beliefs

14. Not exhausted by labor or exercise; never tiring

15. Hating mankind

16. Very exact or scrupulous in the observance of forms of etiquette, ceremony, or behavior

17. Utterly lacking in sparkle, flavor, or interest; empty and flat

Words for Human Traits

III

Our theory throughout this book, as you have no doubt already observed, is that the best way to learn new words effectively is the way that everyone, from infancy on, learns them—namely, by gradual, step-by-step increasing of understanding. It is the repeated contact with a word in many different contexts that finally makes you so familiar and comfortable with it that you eventually feel it was always in your vocabulary. It is at this point that you begin using the word in your thinking, speaking, and writing—and you do so unself-consciously, without effort, and so unexpectedly that sometimes you even surprise yourself.

You have now had two exposures to the seventeen words that comprise this chapter—one in a sentence, once in matching them to their definitions. Here is your third exposure: a series of phrases, each of which should produce a flash of recognition in you that helps you react with one of the seventeen words. Do not look back as you do this exercise—the initial letter of the word is a sufficient prod to your power to recall. Several of the adjectives will be required more than once.

In this exercise you should begin to feel the first surges of power and self-confidence as you zip through, writing each word as it is called for.

1. Emotionally sluggish
2. Practicing self-denial
3. Disinclined to conversation
4. Having an antipathy for mankind
5. Easily duped
6. Insipid
7. Scholarly
8. Talkative
9. Precise in the observance of forms
10. Ostentatiously self-important
11. Inane
12. Responsive to beauty

ANSWERS: (1) complacent; (2) suave; (3) phlegmatic; (4) iconoclastic; (5) gullible; (6) pompous; (7) esthetic; (8) puerile; (9) erudite; (10) ascetic; (11) loquacious; (12) taciturn; (13) opinionated; (14) indefatigable; (15) misanthropic; (16) punctilious; (17) vapid
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13. Descriptive of the attitude of one who attacks cherished beliefs as
shams
14. Childish
15. Polished in manner
16. Stubbornly set in opinions
17. Self-satisfied
18. Attacking established traditions
19. Having an aversion for the human race
20. Tireless
21. Urbanely smooth and ingratiating
22. Contented with oneself and with things as they are

ANSWERS: (1) phlegmatic; (2) ascetic; (3) taciturn;
(4) misanthropic; (5) gullible; (6) vapid;
(7) erudite; (8) loquacious; (9) punctilious;
(10) pompous; (11) vapid; (12)
esthetic; (13) iconoclastic; (14) puerile;
(15) suave; (16) opinionated; (17) complacent;
(18) iconoclast; (19) misanthropic; (20) indefatigable; (21) suave;
(22) complacent

IV

Now test your increasing understanding of these seventeen words by marking each of the following statements "true" or "false":

1. Talkative women are called loquacious.
2. Country yokels are as a rule suave.
3. The stereotype of the truckdriver is usually esthetic.
4. Enthusiastic people are usually taciturn.

5. The more impartial a man is, the more opinionated he sounds. True...... False......
6. Phlegmatic people usually become panicky in an emergency. True...... False......
7. Pomposity is usually amusing. True...... False......
8. College professors are often erudite. True...... False......
9. Smug people are never complacent. True...... False......
10. Punctilious people are sticklers for form. True...... False......
11. The beaver is an indefatigable worker. True...... False......
12. The conversation of a conceited bore is usually vapid. True...... False......
13. The attitude of young people is usually iconoclastic. True...... False......
14. Misanthropic remarks show a feeling of love and trust for people. True...... False......
15. Puerile behavior indicates maturity. True...... False......
16. An ascetic existence is given over to sensuality. True...... False......
17. A young child is apt to be gullible. True...... False......

ANSWERS: (1) true; (2) false; (3) false; (4) false;
(5) false; (6) false; (7) true; (8) true;
(9) false; (10) true; (11) true; (12)
true; (13) true; (14) false; (15) false;
(16) false; (17) true

Continuing your gradual reinforcement of understanding through stimulus and response, try a different type of
FOURTEENTH DAY

Words for Human Traits

10. People who are complacent about their jobs will:
   a. take it easy
   b. worry about their future
   c. keep an eye on the help-wanted ads

11. A punctilious person is a stickler for:
   a. originality
   b. courage
   c. proper etiquette

12. To be indefatigable, one usually needs a great amount of:
   a. money
   b. energy
   c. education

13. Vapid people are:
   a. boring
   b. successful
   c. quarrelsome

14. Iconoclasts are opposed to:
   a. change
   b. tradition
   c. reform

15. A misanthrope dislikes:
   a. people
   b. good food
   c. literature

16. Men are most likely to be puerile when:
   a. they don't get their own way
   b. they are reading
   c. they are eating

17. Most ascetics prefer to:
   a. drink excessively
   b. eat sparingly
   c. participate in orgies

ANSWERS: (1) c; (2) b; (3) c; (4) c; (5) c; (6) c; (7) b; (8) c; (9) a; (10) a; (11) c; (12) b; (13) a; (14) b; (15) a; (16) a; (17) b
VI

Ready for a final, and considerably harder, challenge? Write the adjective we have studied that is essentially opposed in meaning to each of the following words or phrases. Do you now feel sufficiently self-confident not to look back at previous pages as you search your mind for the answers?

1. taciturn
2. easily swayed to change one's mind
3. ignorant
4. philanthropic
5. blind to beauty
6. lazy
7. dissatisfied
8. conservative
9. mature
10. careless of etiquette; informal
11. voluptuous; pleasure-loving
12. boorish
13. modest, humble
14. loquacious
15. high-strung
16. skeptical
17. clever and interesting

Answers: (1) loquacious; (2) opinionated; (3) erudite; (4) misanthropic; (5) esthetic; (6) indefatigable; (7) complacent; (8) iconoclastic; (9) puerile; (10) punctilious; (11) ascetic; (12) suave; (13) pompous; (14) taciturn; (15) phlegmatic; (16) gullible; (17) vapid

VII

There are interesting etymologies behind many of the words in this chapter.

Suave: Latin suavis, "sweet" or "smooth."
Iconoclastic: Greek eikon, "idol"; klawin, "to break."
An iconoclast, then, is a breaker of idols, or, in the modern sense, a breaker of traditions.
Pompous: Latin pompa, "parade" or "solemn procession."
Esthetic: Greek aesthetikos, "perceptive," became refined in our language until it referred to the finer feelings and perceptions in the field of art and culture.
Puerile: Latin puer, "boy." When a man is puerile he is acting like an ungrown boy.
Ascetic: Greek asketikos, "self-denying or self-disciplined for purposes of gymnastic excellence." Eventually, our English word took on a more general, all-inclusive meaning.

Loquacious: Latin loquor, "speak." Eloquent and colloquial come from the same root.
Taciturn: Latin tacere, "be silent."
Opinionated: Latin opinio, "thought" or "opinion." Opinionated came to mean too well provided with opinions, and, finally, stubborn or set in opinions.
Indefatigable: Latin in, "not," and defatigare, "to tire out."
Punctilious: Latin punctum, "point." Punctilious is used in our language to refer to someone who is very attentive to fine points. Punctual and puncture derive from the same root.
Vapid: Latin vapidus, "flavorless"—and vapidus itself is from Latin vappa, a wine that has lost its life or savor.
Have you ever met the carefree young bachelor whose life seems to be one *peccadillo* after another? Does such a one have to be a man of some wealth, or can he follow his manner of life in the midst of *penury*? Do his successes with the opposite sex tend to give him a touch of *megalomania*? His life is certainly an interesting one: that is, if you consider that one *imbroglio* after another makes for interest. Just listen to him talk. His *braggadocio* may entertain his younger acquaintances, but it certainly becomes tiresome to his older friends.

**Pronounce each word carefully:**
1. *peccadillo* (pek'-ə-DIL'-o)
2. *penury* (PEN'-ə-ree)
3. *megalomania* (meg'-ə-la-MAY'-nee-ə)
4. *imbroglio* (im-BRŌ'-lyo)
5. *braggadocio* (brag'-ə-DŌ'-shee-o)
FIFTEENTH DAY

3. A miserable and ridiculous failure
4. To react unconsciously with a worthy motive for a discreditable act
5. A characteristic peculiarity

ANSWERS: (1) anomaly; (2) panacea; (3) fiasco; (4) rationalize; (5) idiosyncrasy.

VI

Do you by chance have a neurotic friend who is so lazy that he tends to malingering? Or one who belongs to the élite and looks down his social nose at the parvenus? The conversation of such a person is apt to be banal, certainly not as interesting as that of the intelligentsia. Or have you ever been up against a politician who resorts to jingoism and chicanery because he cannot gain his end by honest means?

VII

1. malingering (mäl-LING-gor)
2. élite (ay'-LEEET')
3. parvenu (par-va-noo)
4. jingoism (JING'-go-iz-em)
5. intelligentsia (in-tell-ə-JEN'-see-a)
6. chicanery (she-KEE-ner-ee)
7. banal (BA'nal)

IX

You have had your first involvement with seventeen new words. Remember, your aim is to become more and more comfortable with new words by meeting them in different situations, working with them in different ways. So now let's try this: Review the preceding pages of this chapter, pronouncing the seventeen words aloud often enough to feel quite at home with them. Then, without further reference, write each one next to the phrase below that is closest in meaning to it. The initial letter is offered as a guide.

1. Extreme poverty or want
2. The best
3. A complete or humiliating failure
4. Trickery
5. To feign illness in order to escape work
6. To find a worthier motive for
7. A deviation from type; an irregularity
8. Remedy for all diseases
9. A bellicose foreign policy
10. Educated and intellectual people
11. Ordinary; dull
12. Delusions of grandeur
13. Pretentious boasting
14. A slight or trifling sin

ANSWERS: (1) élite; (2) parvenu; (3) malingering; (4) jingoism; (5) intelligentsia; (6) chicanery; (7) banal
15. A confused and complicated situation

16. A characteristic peculiarity

17. A nouveau riche; a newly wealthy person

ANSWERS: (1) penury; (2) élite; (3) fiasco; (4) chicanery; (5) malingering; (6) rationalize; (7) anomaly; (8) panacea; (9) jingoism; (10) intelligentsia; (11) banal; (12) megalomania; (13) braggadocio; (14) peccadillo; (15) imbroglio; (16) idiosyncrasy; (17) parvenu

Here's another exercise for still further reinforcement and continuing success. Check whether each pair below is nearly the same or opposite in meaning.

1. peccadillo slight sin Same.... Opposite....
2. penury wealth Same.... Opposite....
3. megalomania humility Same.... Opposite....
4. imbroglio confusion Same.... Opposite....
5. braggadocio boasting Same.... Opposite....
6. panacea cure-all Same.... Opposite....
7. fiasco success Same.... Opposite....
8. idiosyncrasy peculiarity Same.... Opposite....
9. rationalize justify Same.... Opposite....
10. anomaly irregularity Same.... Opposite....
11. malingering pretend illness Same.... Opposite....
12. élite the worst Same.... Opposite....
13. parvenu nouveau riche Same.... Opposite....
14. jingoism pacifism Same.... Opposite....
15. intelligentsia the feeble-minded Same.... Opposite....
16. chicanery honesty Same.... Opposite....
17. banal original Same.... Opposite....

Note how other people have used some of these words:

1. As Professor Owen has remarked, there is no greater anomaly in nature than a bird that cannot fly.
   (DARWIN)

2. Owing to the disunion of the Fenians themselves, the rigor of the administration, and the treachery of informers, the (Irish) rebellion was a fiasco.
   (The Encyclopedia Britannica)

3. Idiosyncrasies are, however, frequent; thus we find that one person has an exceptional memory for sounds, another for colors, another for forms.
   (The Encyclopedia Britannica)

4. The chemists pretended it was the philosopher's stone, the physicians that it was an infallible panacea.
   (WHARTON)

5. The Koran attaches much importance to prayer—a fact which is somewhat anomalous in a system of religion so essentially fatalistic.
   (SPENCER)

6. Men who by legal chicanery cheat others out of their property.
   (SPENCER)

7. Who doesn't forgive? The virtuous Mrs. Grundy. She remembers her neighbors' peccadilloes to the third and fourth generations.
   (THACKERAY)

8. I have always observed through life that your parvenu it is who stickles for what he calls the genteel, and has the most squeamish abhorrence for what is frank and natural.
   (THACKERAY)
FIFTEENTH DAY

9. 'Tis low ebb with his accusers when such peccadilloes as these are put in to swell the charge.
   (BISHOP OF ATVTERBURY)

XII

You are now halfway through this book.
How is your work going? Do you feel you are making progress? Here are a few suggestions that may increase the speed of your achievement.

Try laying out a simple, definite but not overambitious plan for your daily study, if you haven't already done so. Choosing a fixed time each day for this work will be helpful. But if that should be impractical, then learn the fine art of using your spare moments. John Erskine, the famous author, trained himself to use all those minutes of the day that other people waste, and during these periods of salvaged time he wrote most of his novels.

Above all, make this present study a habit, like getting dressed or undressed, combing your hair or brushing your teeth, so that it will become a part of your life and you will turn to it as naturally as you have breakfast in the morning.

And here is a rule that busy men have found invaluable. Always plan your next day's work the night before.

You Help to Create the American Language

We have now come to an interval, a halfway mark, in our consideration of words.

We can take a little time out to discuss the matter of who owns this language that we have been studying.

Well, you own it. And you. And you. The English language belongs to you. You made it. You are making it every day. You have invented upward of 600,000 usable English words, minus those that have been taken over from other languages. But even these were adopted by you. You have devised the queer spellings of English words. You have determined their pronunciations.

In English, we are dealing with an inexact art, not an exact science. Even the mistakes of English are human. Some of our fantastic spellings in this book that you hold in your hand are due merely to the errors of ignorant typesetters who lived centuries ago. We have merely preserved
and honored their misspellings. Pronunciations and meanings are frequently modified with just as little reason.

How then, specifically, do you control the language?

In this way: During this present year about five thousand new words will come into our language. Intense and dramatic times such as these are always prolific in breeding new words. The scholars won’t mind or invent these new words. They will just pop up. The scholars will have nothing whatsoever to say about how they shall be pronounced or spelled, or what they shall mean. They will be pronounced and spelled and defined pretty much as the public pleases. If you were to ask the editor of the Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary or of Webster’s or the Oxford or of any other, “Who decides about these new words?” this editor would answer, “You do,” meaning, of course, the many millions of “you” who use our language.

Let’s take a case in point. Television was invented, and one of you thought up the word telecast as a parallel term to broadcast. Scholars called it a bastard type of word, half from the Greek tele, “far away,” and half from the English word cast, but telecast it was just the same, thanks to the common people who included it in the current coin of their conversation.

In similar fashion—that is, by usage—old words completely change their meanings, nice words become coarse, and coarse words become respectable.

Slang, for instance, is a good example of the latter move on the part of words.

A great mass of our language was once the slang of the various gas house districts of the world. A large part of it came from over the railroad tracks. Purists and highbrows protested and fumigated against it, but little by little common usage made many of these words so respectable that the scholars were willing to use them and were forced to include them in the dictionaries.

Around 230 years ago, for example, Dean Swift was kicking (slang) at the then current use of such slang words as bubble, sham, buddy, and hips as “a disgrace to our language.” Now you and I use them very happily. Let us recite a few more that were once slang: gin, boycott, cab, greenhorn, hoax, jingoist.

You see, the masses kept on using these words until they had to be included in our lexicons. And conversely, when these or any other words such as those that are included in this volume stop being commonly used, they will die and drop out of our dictionary. You will determine this, and our lexicographers will have nothing to do with it.

Now by just what methods did such words, for instance, as you have been working with in this book ever get into the dictionary?

This is the way. The technique may be interesting to you.

Somebody writes in and asks the dictionary publisher about an apparently new word, or a staff reader discovers it among the Niagara of words pouring out from the presses of the world. So they first check it to find if it really is new. They look for it in all the standard English reference works that have come out during the last two centuries. If they don’t find it there, and since it might be foreign, they leaf through glossaries of Sanskrit, Maori, Hansa, Urdh, Hebrew, Afrikaans, and all the languages, ancient and modern, that were spawned by the Tower of Babel. If it still evades them, they take a look at the trade and professional dictionaries, say those of lace-making, politics, petroleum, draperies, botany, and others too numerous to count.

By this time it’s a foxy word that’s going to fool them!

If the term proves itself as new, they put it on file for about five years.

Now how does it get in?

They watch its use by the people during the probationary period. Authors may take it up. Inquiries may come to the office about its meaning. At the end of the interval the record of the neophyte is added up, and if its score shows a sufficient popular demand, the word goes in the dictionary. Thus and no otherwise.

Now, how is it defined? To be concrete, how were the
definitions of the words in the last chapter originally determined upon?

As the researchers watch a new word in use they copy the actual sentences in which the word appears. When a given dictionary editor finally sits down to make up his definition, he will have in front of him a stack of cards containing sentences that give the word and the context. The meaning, or the meanings, that he gives the word will be based, not in any way on his own opinion, but upon the sheaf of popular quotations he finds in front of him. His authority, and the authority of the dictionary, then, lie, not in this editor's particular scholarship, but in your whim and in the whim of the other millions who have invented, pronounced, spelled, and defined the word for him.

And so when we study the English language we are studying our own handiwork. It is as democratic as our national institutions, and the so-called "common people" are its inexhaustible source. The final authority for English rests, not with some dictionary House of Lords, but with the House of Commons, and this is what gives our language its vitality, force and rich humanity, and is what helps to make it such a thrilling study.

A "Pop Quiz"

At this point, we are going to challenge you with a surprise test that will give you a yardstick by which you can measure the success you are having in keeping new words in your mind.

We are going to take a single past chapter and see how successfully you've mastered it.

Here are the fifteen words from Chapter XII:

lethargy
nostalgia
benevolence
satiated
frustration
weltschmerz
antipathy
compunction
enervated
ennui
vicariously
misanthropic
misogynistic
vindicating
supercilious
Write each word next to its synonym or synonymous phrase. Some words may be required more than once.

1. Aversion ........................................
2. Exhausted ........................................
3. Indirect or second-hand .........................
4. Sluggishness ......................................
5. Tedium ...........................................
6. Weariness of life; sadness for the world
7. Remorseful feeling ..............................
8. Revengeful .......................................  
9. Dislike ...........................................
10. Deprived of vitality .............................
11. Longing for the past ...........................
12. Woman-hater ...................................
13. Condescending ................................
14. Inability to succeed or achieve ..........
15. Philosophical and emotional world-sorrow
16. Kindheartedness ............................... 
17. Regret for wrongdoing ....................... 
18. Filled full ......................................

ANSWERS: (1) antipathy; (2) enervated; (3) vicarious; (4) lethargy; (5) ennui; (6) weltschmerz; (7) compunction; (8) vindictiveness; (9) antipathy; (10) enervated; (11) nostalgia; (12) misogynist; (13) supercilious; (14) frustration; (15) weltschmerz; (16) benevolence; (17) compunction; (18) satiated

A “Pop Quiz”

Some of the following statements are false, others are true. Check the correct response.

1. Misanthropes have an antipathy toward their fellow men. True...... False......
2. Staying up all night is enervating. True...... False......
3. One can get a vicarious thrill from the movies. True...... False......
4. People full of energy are usually lethargic. True...... False......
5. Young girls are filled with ennui at their first party. True...... False......
6. Optimistic people are weighed down with weltschmerz. True...... False......
7. A military conqueror has strong compunctions about taking other people’s land. True...... False......
8. Vindictiveness is an exceedingly attractive trait. True...... False......
9. Nostalgia is a prevalent ill among young people who are away from home for the first time. True...... False......
10. Haters of women are called misogynists. True...... False......
11. The intelligent members of motion-picture audiences have had a satiety of bad pictures. True...... False......
12. The depression generation of the 1930’s experienced poignant frustration. True...... False......
13. Adolf Hitler was famous for his great benevolence. True...... False......
14. Modest people are supercilious. True...... False......
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ANSWERS: (1) true; (2) true; (3) true; (4) false; (5) false; (6) false; (7) false; (8) false; (9) true; (10) true; (11) true; (12) true; (13) false; (14) false

Here are twelve words and phrases, each one opposed in meaning to one of our fifteen words. Can you summon from your mind the word that is antonymous to each of the following?

1. Joy in living
   ANSWERS: ...
2. Exhilaration
   ANSWERS: ...
3. Chivalry
   ANSWERS: ...
4. Forgivingness
   ANSWERS: ...
5. Sympathy
   ANSWERS: ...
6. First-hand experience
   ANSWERS: ...
7. Keen interest
   ANSWERS: ...
8. Heartlessness
   ANSWERS: ...
9. Hunger
   ANSWERS: ...
10. Feeling of inferiority
    ANSWERS: ...
11. Success
    ANSWERS: ...
12. Malice
    ANSWERS: ...

ANSWERS: (1) weltschmerz; (2) enervation; (3) misogyny; (4) vindictiveness; (5) antipathy; (6) vicariousness; (7) ennui; (8) compunction; (9) satiety; (10) superciliousness; (11) frustration; (12) benevolence

V

Complete each of the following sentences by one of our fifteen words, or by some form of that word. Not all the words may be required, and some words may be asked for more than once.

4 "Pop Quiz"

1. When I reflect on the pleasant memories of my childhood, I am overcome by a wave of ...........
2. Nothing I do is successful; all, all is ...............
3. I would have too many ............... to deprive him of his one chance of happiness.
4. What is life? What is to be the future of humanity? Shall we all finally destroy one another? I am weighed down with ...............
5. No, I don't care to meet that beautiful actress. You forget that I am ...............
6. No wonder you are bored and blasé. You are suffering from a ...............
7. Oh, I think I shall die if something doesn't happen to relieve my ...............
8. You show your superiority too openly. No wonder your friends dislike you and call you ...............
9. I have been unable to accomplish anything for the past two years. I seem to have sunk into a state of ...............
10. ............... have an ............... for women.
11. You treat your employees with a pretended generosity and ...............; but they see through you and know that you actually have an ............... for the working classes.
12. Staying up all night has reduced me to a state of ...............
13. I bear you no grudge for what you have done. I am not ...............
14. I see the motion pictures ............... even though I am blind, for my friends come home and tell me all about them.

ANSWERS: (1) nostalgia; (2) frustration; (3) compunctions; (4) weltschmerz; (5) misogynous or misogynistic; (6) satiety; (7) én-nui; (8) supercilious; (9) lethargy; (10) misogynists, antipathy; (11) benevolence, antipathy; (12) enervation; (13) vindictive; (14) vicariously
Words About Personalities

Language, most naturally, is an intensely human subject, and all words lead finally to man.

We will turn to terms that deal directly with your friends and with you. Here are twelve words that describe different kinds of personalities.

What Kind of Personality Do You Happen to Have?

1. Are you moody, quiet, happy to be alone? Do you spend much of your time thinking of yourself? You are probably an introvert.

2. Are you a good mixer? Do you prefer the company of others to solitude? Are you rarely self-conscious and usually more interested in the outside world and in the other fellow than you are in yourself? Would you be apt to make a good salesman? You are probably an extrovert.

3. Do you feel that you have some of the qualities listed in (1) combined with some of those listed in (2)? In common with most people, few of whom are pure introverts or extroverts, you are most likely an ambivert.

4. Is your mind so selfishly occupied with your own thoughts, desires, opinions, and needs as to make you indifferent to the interests of other folks? You are egocentric.

5. Do you often wish to do perfectly innocent, or perhaps not so innocent, things which your Puritan conscience, or your fear of ridicule, or your conservative upbringing, prevents you from doing? You are inhibited.

6. Are you so completely lacking in modesty and self-consciousness that you delight in making a spectacle of yourself? Do you make a play for the spotlight and are you eager to put on a one-man show at every gathering? You are an exhibitionist.

7. Do you always think of that witty remark after you get home? Do you feel that your opinions are not worth expressing? Are you so completely lacking in self-confidence that you rarely achieve the success or recognition that your talents and ability seem to deserve? You are diffident.

8. Are you generally sparkling, happy, bubbling over with zest and high spirits? You are effervescent.

9. Are you happiest when you are with a crowd? Do you prefer people to solitude and do you feel emotionally most content in the company of friends? You are gregarious.

10. Do you walk around with a chip on your shoulder? Are you always ready to do battle? Are you savage, fierce, ruthless, unyielding in your manner and in your arguments? You are truculent.

11. Are you grave, gloomy, heavy, foreboding? Do you rarely smile? You are saturnine.

12. Are you chivalrous, romantic and idealistic almost to a ridiculous extreme? Are you the opposite of practical? Do you place woman on so high a pedestal that she is unapproachable? Are you always chasing rainbows? You are quixotic.
Words About Personalities

9. Morose, gloomy, heavy, dull
10. Savage and pugnacious in character
11. One who finds his satisfactions both within and in the outside world
12. Held back by conscience, early training, fear, feelings of shyness, etc.

ANSWERS: (1) diffident; (2) effervescent; (3) egocentric; (4) exhibitionist; (5) extrovert; (6) gregarious; (7) introvert; (8) quixotic; (9) saturnine; (10) truculent; (11) ambivert; (12) inhibited

Try once again, without initial letters,

1. Cruel, ferocious
2. Shy and timid
3. Bubbling over
4. Considering self the center of everything
5. Psychically restrained
6. One who loves to be the center of attention
7. One whose interests are directed outward
8. Liking to be with other people
9. One whose interest is directed inward
10. Idealistic but impractical
11. Gloomy and morose
12. One who finds his satisfactions both inside and outside himself

ANSWERS: (1) truculent; (2) diffident; (3) effervescent; (4) egocentric; (5) inhibited; (6) exhibitionist; (7) extrovert; (8) gregarious; (9) introvert; (10) quixotic; (11) saturnine; (12) ambivert
Nouns often end in such characteristic suffixes as -tion or -sion, -ism, -ence, -ness, and -ity. Can you figure out the noun form of each adjective?

1. introverted (as in: characterized by .................)
2. extroverted (as in: known for his .................)
3. ambiverted (as in: most people tend toward .................)
4. egocentric (as in: hated for his annoying .................)
5. inhibited (as in: a prey to oppressive .................)
6. exhibitionistic (as in: accused of .................)
7. diffident (as in: projects a poor image because of his .................)
8. effervescent (as in: delighted with his charm and .................)
9. gregarious (as in: a slave to his unending .................)
10. truculent (as in: cowed everyone with his .................)
11. quixotic (as in: such ridiculous .................)
12. saturnine (as in: oppressed by .................)

**ANSWERS:** (1) introversion; (2) extroversion; (3) ambiversion; (4) egocentricity or egocentrism; (5) inhibitedness or inhibition; (6) exhibitionism; (7) diffidence; (8) effervescence; (9) gregariousness; (10) truculence; (11) quixoticism; (12) saturninity (sat'-or NIN'-a-tee)

With each chapter, your power over words is growing. And yet you are doing much more than merely learning lists of words. In addition to the new words you have learned, you have also opened up new avenues of thought for yourself. An improved vocabulary leads to enlarged horizons, new vistas, experience with ideas not previously experienced. It is no accident that successful and intelligent people have the largest vocabularies. Their competence with words is a token, a result, of their breadth of thinking and experience.
Adjectives Give You Power

A vocabulary of power gives you the ability to condense a highly involved thought into a single word. Thus, if you wish to describe an action that is so ordinary and undistinguished and common that it immediately marks its perpetrator as a person completely lacking in imagination (notice how many words we have used to express this thought), you will use the word plebeian. On the other hand, an act that indicates excessive desire to be overattentive, with attendant evidence of insincerity and a suspicion of ulterior motives, might be characterized as obsequious. Again, an action that is sickeningly sentimental and indicative of emotional immaturity, and one that is often accompanied by tears, could be called maudlin.

There are many such words that compress a wealth of meaning and emotion into a few syllables. Note how expressive the following phrases are:

1. A plebeian (ple-BEE-on) outlook on life
2. Obsequious (ob-SEE-kwee-as) attentions of the headwaiter
3. A maudlin (MAWD-lin) motion picture
4. A perfunctory (par-FUNK-to-rec) examination by a busy doctor who has very little time for you
5. An abortive (a-BAWR-tiv) attempt to gain his ends
6. A surreptitious (sur-rep-TISH-as) movement on the part of the thief
7. A presumptuous (pr-e-ZUMP-choo-as) question to put to the Governor
8. The sadistic (sad-DISS-tik) treatment of the prisoner by ruthless guards
9. A flagrant (FLAY-grant) misuse of company funds
10. An inane (in-AYN) remark

From an analysis of the phrases you have just studied, write each word next to its definition:

1. Openly, glaringly wrong or scandalous
2. Senseless; silly; empty
3. Made foolish by liquor; tearfully affectionate or sentimental
4. Overcourteous and servile in manner
5. Done mechanically and without interest; superficial and careless
6. Unduly confident or bold; audacious; arrogant; taking too much for granted
7. Inclined to cruelty; getting pleasure out of hurting others
8. By secret or stealthy means
9. Common; coarse; vulgarly ordinary, mediocre, or commonplace
10. Coming to naught; failing

Answers: (1) flagrant; (2) inane; (3) maudlin;
NINETEENTH-DAY

(4) obsequious; (5) perfunctory; (6) presumptuous; (7) sadistic; (8) surreptitious; (9) plebeian; (10) abortive

III

Try the same method with another list of valuable and expressive adjectives.

1. Wanton (WAHN'-tan) cruelty
2. Crass (KRASS') behavior
3. Macabre (mə-KAHR'-bar) mystery
4. Dogmatic (dog-MAT'-ik) assertion
5. Vitriolic (vit'-ree-OL'-ik) satire
6. Intermittent (in-ter-MIT'-ent) ringing of the telephone
7. Subversive (sub-VUR'-siv) activities of people who wish to overthrow the government
8. Desultory (DESS'-əl-taw'-ree) flitting from one subject to another
9. A sardonic (sahr-DON'-ik) smile

IV

Again, from an analysis of the phrases in Section III, write each word next to its definition.

1. Passing irregularly from one thing to another; changeable; without method or plan
2. Descriptive of an opinion stated in an overpositive and arrogant manner
3. Recklessly inconsiderate or heartless; unrestrained; extravagant
4. Stupid in a grossly inconsiderate way
5. Ceasing and starting again
6. Bitter, scornful, and sneering
7. Pertaining to, indicative of, or suggest-

Adjectives Give You Power

ing death; hence, gruesome, grim, ghastly, horrible
8. Extremely biting or sarcastic; figuratively caustic or bitter
9. Tending to overthrow from the very foundations, as of a moral or political force; aiming to destroy

ANSWERS: (1) desultory; (2) dogmatic; (3) wanton; (4) crass; (5) intermittent; (6) sardonic; (7) macabre; (8) vitriolic; (9) subversive

V

You will recall from the previous chapter that a noun often and characteristically ends in such suffixes as -ity (saturninity), -ness (gregariousness), -ion (inhibition), -ism (asceticism), -ence (diffidence), -ance (circumstance), -ency or -ancy (potency, occupancy), etc.

Adverbs end in -ly, as diffidently, gregariously, etc.

Can you change each adjective as required below?

1. Obsequious to a noun: “His ............... was annoying.”
2. Perfunctory to an adverb: “He did his work ...............”
3. Surreptitious to an adverb: “He crept through the house ...............”
4. Presumptuous to a noun: “Your ............... will be punished.”
5. Sadistic to a noun denoting the person: “He is a ...............”
6. Sadistic to a noun denoting the philosophy: “He was a victim of his wife’s ...............”
7. Flagrant to a noun: “I cannot understand how you can break the law with such ...............”
8. Inane to a plural noun: “His speech is full of ...............”
NINETEENTH DAY

9. Wanton to an adverb: “................, she broke her husband’s heart.”
10. Crass to a noun: “His ................ makes it impossible for him to be accepted by refined people.”
11. Dogmatic to a noun: “Why do you always speak with such ................?”
12. Intermittent to an adverb: “The rain came down .................”
13. Desultory to an adverb: “He works .................”

ANSWERS: (1) obsequiousness; (2) perfunctorily; (3) surreptitiously; (4) presumption or presumptuousness; (5) sadist; (6) sadism; (7) flagrancy; (8) inanities; (9) wantonly; (10) crassness or crassitude; (11) dogmatism or dogmaticness; (12) intermittently; (13) desultorily

VI

First, review all nineteen words carefully (including their noun and adverb forms), pronouncing them aloud once again to fix them in your mind. Then complete each of the following sentences with one of the words or forms that you think will fit best.

1. He made an ................ attempt to regain the governorship; his defeat left him a sad and bitter man who thereafter spoke ................ of his political past.
2. Can you think of anything quite so ................ cruel as war?
3. Pompous people delight in ................ attendance on their every wish.
4. Thievery will out, and anything you do ................ will some day be found out.
5. Please don’t state so ................ that democracy is a fiasco. Time will show the stupidity of such a statement.

Adjectives Give You Power

6. He disliked his job heartily, and therefore it was no surprise that he discharged his duties so .................
7. With what malicious and ................ satisfaction the prosecutor made the witness reveal his past!
8. Read with a purpose; ................ reading is neither satisfactory nor sensible.
9. During a political campaign, candidates often descend to making ................ attacks on their opponents.
10. It was an overcast day, with only ................ sunshine.
11. This error is so glaring and ................ that I’m amazed you didn’t catch it.
12. Isn’t it rather ................ for a person of your reputation to ask to be my friend?
13. He has a ................ tongue; his biting sarcasm has alienated everyone who knows him.
14. Peaceful people are aghast at the ................ destruction of life and property that occurs during wars and riots.
15. He made a futile, ................ attempt at rescue.
16. Such ................ materialism will never lead to real happiness.

ANSWERS: (1) abortive, sardonically; (2) wantonly; (3) obsequious; (4) surreptitiously; (5) dogmatically; (6) perfunctorily; (7) sadistic; (8) desultory; (9) flagrant, inane, wanton, crass, or vitriolic; (10) intermittently; (11) flagrant; (12) presumptuous; (13) vitriolic; (14) wanton; (15) abortive; (16) crass

The answers given above are not necessarily the only possible ones. In some of the sentences several of the words will fit. As a person whose vocabulary is becoming daily larger and larger, you realize that there are a multitude of ways of saying the same thing. But the particular word you choose will determine the flavor of your thought. This is the priceless value of a large vocabulary. Out of
NINETEENTH DAY

your wide range of words you can pick and choose the exact term that will best express each subtle nuance in your mind.

VII

Now a quick and final run-through to reinforce your learning. Is each pair of words nearly the same or more nearly opposed in meaning?

1. plebeian unusual
   Same... Opposed...
2. obsequious brusque
   Same... Opposed...
3. maudlin sentimental
   Same... Opposed...
4. perfunctory superficial
   Same... Opposed...
5. abortive successful
   Same... Opposed...
6. surreptitious aboveboard
   Same... Opposed...
7. presumptuous humble
   Same... Opposed...
8. sadistic cruel
   Same... Opposed...
9. grant flagrant
   Same... Opposed...
10. inane meaningful
    Same... Opposed...
11. wanton restrained
    Same... Opposed...
12. crass refined
    Same... Opposed...
13. macabre eerie
    Same... Opposed...
14. dogmatic opinionated
    Same... Opposed...
15. vitriolic sarcastic
    Same... Opposed...
16. intermittent continuous
    Same... Opposed...
17. subversive protective
    Same... Opposed...
18. desultory aimless
    Same... Opposed...
19. sardonic bitter
    Same... Opposed...

ANSWERS: (1) opposed; (2) opposed; (3) same; (4) same; (5) opposed; (6) opposed; (7) opposed; (8) same; (9) opposed; (10) opposed; (11) opposed; (12) opposed; (13) same; (14) same; (15) same; (16) opposed; (17) opposed; (18) same; (19) same

Learning Words
the Modern Way

This book is not a memory course.
Merely memorizing lists of words by rote happens to be the slowest and most difficult way to remember them. If you follow such a routine you will find that you have forgotten most of the list by the next day.

What, then, is the correct procedure?
Just this.

Look at the word first, if you can, in its context: in the paragraph where it appears. The very sense of the paragraph will give you an inkling of the significance of the word—even if you have never seen it before. You naturally become eager to know the definition of the word in order to understand the sentence pattern in which you have seen it. Your approach, then, is indirect and psychological, because you wish the information, not as an end in itself, but as a means to an end. You realize that if you learn the meaning of the word you will comprehend the meaning of the sentence. You are using what is called the modern inductive method, in that you first discover the word at.
work, you are challenged by it, you guess at its meaning, and you then confirm or correct your guess by referring to the dictionary.

When you use this method, the words are no longer so much dead wood, to be piled up in your mind, but are living entities, charged with action and emotion. They then become hard to forget.

Let's be specific and illustrate our point.

We will discuss thirteen adverbs and two adverbial phrases and try to prove how much easier it is to learn by the indirect, inductive, and psychological route.

Give your careful attention to the following sentences in Groups A, B, C, D, and E. In each sentence you will find an adverb in italics. If the word is new to you, try to guess at its meaning.

GROUP A
1. He complained acrimoniously.
2. We argued acrimoniously.
3. They mocked each other acrimoniously.
   (You can feel the unpleasant overtone of this word, can't you?)

GROUP B
1. He completed the operation adroitly.
2. He drove adroitly through the maze of traffic.
3. Adroitly she knitted the complicated stitch.
   (This word obviously applies to some manual action.)

GROUP C
1. He moved slowly and circumspectly through the range of fire.
2. Fearing a trick, he answered all questions circumspectly.

GROUP D
1. These two building leases run concomitantly.
2. Living and learning go on concomitantly.
3. Rain, snow, and sleet, all came down concomitantly.
   (You probably know why two or more things must be involved in these actions, even if you happen never to have seen the word before.)

GROUP E
1. He examined the plans cursorily.
2. He ran through the pages cursorily, then threw the novel down in disgust.
3. He did his homework so cursorily that he flunked his examination.
   (This word should carry an impression of superficial haste.)

Now pronounce the words aloud.
1. acrimoniously (ak'-rə-MÖ'-nee-os-lee)
2. adroitly (ə-DROYT'-lee)
3. circumspectly (sur'-kəm-SPEKT'-lee)
4. concomitantly (kon-KOM'-ə-tənt-lee)
5. cursorily (KUR'-sə-ra-lee)

Let us try five more words, using the same intriguing and productive method. Again, try to figure out the probable meanings of the italicized words.
1. Teachers are apt to talk didactically.
2. Extremely modest persons usually speak of their own accomplishments disparagingly.
3. People with extremely facile and ready tongues can talk glibly.
4. The person who is looking for sympathy talks plaintively.
5. Pessimists usually speak ominously of the future.

IV

Pronounce them:
1. didactically (dy'-DAK'-tik-lee)
2. disparagingly (dis-PAIR'-o-jing-ly)
3. glibly (GLIB'-lee)
4. plaintively (PLAIN'-tiv-lee)
5. ominously (OM'-o-nos-lee)

V

And still another five, in the same way.
1. Man cannot break the laws of nature with impunity.
2. He placed his hand on the hot radiator inadvertently.
3. He was a disagreeable old man who answered every question irascibly.
4. Inasmuch as the plans were executed sub rosa, the stockholders realized too late how completely they had been defrauded.
5. He never gave up quietly. He always complained vociferously if he thought he had been treated unfairly.

VI

Pronounce them:
1. impunity (im-PYOO'-no-tee)
2. inadvertently (in-ad-VUR'-tant-lee)
3. irascibly (eye-RASS'-o-blee)

Learning Words the Modern Way

4. sub rosa (sub-RO'-za)
5. vociferously (vö-SIF'-o-ras-lee)

VII

O.K. You have looked at, thought about, and tried to understand fifteen useful adverbial expressions. Now take the next step in the learning process: write the word (or phrase) in the blank line next to its definition. Initial letters are offered as guides.

1. Expertly; dexterously; with skillful use of the hands or mind A ..............
2. Accompanying; occurring together C ..............
3. In the fashion of a teacher; as if teaching a lesson D ..............
4. In a manner of smooth ease and fluency; without hesitation G ..............
5. In a heedless manner; without care; inattentively I ..............
6. Forebodingly; in a way portending evil O ..............
7. In strict confidence; privately S ..............
8. In a loud-voiced manner; vehemently; noisily V ..............
9. Expressing sadness of melancholy P ..............
10. Angrily; irritably; in hot-tempered fashion I ..............
11. With freedom from punishment or injurious consequences with I ..............
12. Speaking slightingly of, in a way to undervalue and discredit D ..............
13. Hastily and superficially, without due care and attention C ..............
14. Cautiously with watchfulness in all directions C ..............
15. With sharpness and bitterness of speech or temper A ..............
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22. stingingly
23. thoughtlessly
24. deprecatingly
25. conjointly
26. without danger of punishment
27. bitterly
28. unhesitatingly
29. depreciatively
30. skillfully
31. irately
32. in a way expressing coming danger or misfortune
33. sorrowfully
34. without incurring penalty, harm, or loss
35. rapidly and hastily
36. like an instructor
37. mournfully
38. secretly
39. clamorously
40. in loud tones
41. noisily
42. instructively
43. confidentially
44. in a melancholy way
45. belittlingly
46. superficially

ANSWERS: (1) cursorily; (2) circumspectly; (3) didactically; (4) irascibly; (5) ominously; (6) plaintively; (7) sub rosa; (8) vociferously; (9) ominously; (10) irascibly; (11) adroitly; (12) circumspectly; (13) disparagingly; (14) glibly; (15) acrimoniously

Next, you reinforce your learning even more. Here are forty-six synonyms or synonymous phrases that fit the thirteen adverbs and two adverbial phrases you have been working on. Each adverb or adverbial phrase will be required two or more times. Can you go through this exercise happily, smoothly, and with an increasing sense of confidence and power? You are on your own, with no initial letters to help you.

1. hastily
2. warily
3. in a teacher-like manner
4. irritably
5. in a way foreboding evil
6. sadly
7. in a hidden manner
8. loudly
9. inauspiciously
10. angrily
11. dexterously
12. cautiously
13. slightingly
14. fluently
15. caustically
16. heedlessly
17. at the same time
18. with anger and annoyance
19. prudently
20. with exemption from punishment
21. smoothly

ANSWERS: (1) cursorily; (2) circumspectly; (3) didactically; (4) irascibly; (5) ominously; (6) plaintively; (7) sub rosa; (8) vociferously; (9) ominously; (10) irascibly; (11) adroitly; (12) circumspectly; (13) disparagingly; (14) glibly; (15) acrimoniously; (16) inadvertently; (17) concomitantly; (18) irascibly; (19) circumspectly; (20) with impunity; (21) glibly; (22) acrimoniously; (23) inadvertently; (24) disparagingly; (25) concomitantly; (26) with...
impunity; (27) acrimoniously; (28) glibly; (29) disparagingly; (30) adroitly; (31) irascibly; (32) ominously; (33) plaintively; (34) with impunity; (35) cursorily; (36) didactically; (37) plaintively; (38) sub rosa; (39) vociferously; (40) vociferously; (41) vociferously; (42) didactically; (43) sub rosa; (44) plaintively; (45) disparagingly; (46) cursorily

IX

Find an adverb or adverbial phrase that will best fit each of the seven situations described below.

1. You are a burglar. You have just entered a wealthy home through an unlocked window. All is dark, and alas, you have forgotten to bring your searchlight with you. To add to your troubles, you can’t find the electric switch. How will you move around in this room until you can get your bearings? ..................

2. You are an irritable, touchy old man, and as you walk along the street on this cold, raw morning you feel nothing but enmity toward the whole world. A beggar stops you for a coin. How do you refuse? ..................

3. A friend has been importuning you for weeks to look over a novel he is writing and give him your criticism. Knowing your friend you are certain that the novel is bad even before you read it; besides, you are a very busy man. Rather than give your friend a blunt refusal, however, you take the manuscript home one evening. How do you examine it? ..................

4. Your small son wishes to know why it snows. You are well versed in the natural sciences and have made it a habit to answer all your son’s questions as clearly and accurately as possible. How do you answer him? .................

5. You have influence with the chief of police, and furthermore, your wife is the mayor’s daughter. Consequently, you never trouble to obey traffic laws. In fact, you can break them ..................

6. A woman has broken your heart purposely, and with malice aforethought. She has left you a disillusioned man. It takes you years even to begin to get over it. And then one day you meet her again. She is gay, debonaire; she has obviously forgotten what she has done to you. This angers you and you intend to sting her when you remind her. In what fashion do you speak to her? ..................

7. You are a very modest person. Rather than praise anything you have done, you prefer to take as little credit as possible for your accomplishments. How do you usually speak of yourself? ..................

ANSWERS: (1) circumspectly; (2) irascibly; (3) cursorily; (4) didactically; (5) with impunity; (6) acrimoniously; (7) disparagingly

X

An important step in improving your vocabulary is to practice changing parts of speech. Drop the -ly of the thirteen adverbs and you have adjectives; choose the proper suffix (-ness, -ion, -ence, -ance, -ism, -ity) and you can form a noun from the adjective.

By the way, two noun endings we have not yet discussed will be required in this exercise, -ony (as in ceremony from the adjective ceremonious) and -ment (as in development from the adjective developing).

Ready to turn adverbs into nouns?

1. acrimoniously
2. adroitly
3. circumspectly
4. concomitantly
5. cursorily
6. didactically  
7. disparagingly  
8. glibly  
9. plaintively  
10. ominously  
11. inadvertently  
12. irascibly  
13. vociferously

**TWENTIETH DAY**

Answers: (1) acrimony; (2) adroitness; (3) circum-

Anprospection; (4) concomitance; (5) cursori-

ness; (6) didacticism; (7) disparagement;

(8) glibness; (9) plaintiveness; (10) omi-

nousness; (11) inadvertence; (12) irasci-

bility; (13) vociferousness

Most adjectives can be made into nouns by adding
-ness, although this is not always the most sophisticated

suffix. Therefore, alternate forms for 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, and

12 are: acrimoniousness, circumspectness, concomitantness

(not the happiest of choices), didacticness, disparagingness

(again, awkward), inadvertentness (awkward), and irasci-

bleness.

Occasionally, you may feel that these exercises are time-

consuming. But we urge you never to let the lack of time

stand as an obstacle to this work. Thomas Carlyle, the

great philosopher, claimed that there is time in every

man's life for a career within a career. Even so-called

geniuses are geniuses largely because they are willing to

use the time that others throw away. It was Michelangelo

who said: “If people only knew how hard I work to gain

my mastery it wouldn’t seem so wonderful at all.” And

Alexandre Dumas, the transcendent French novelist, con-

fessed: “Infatuated, half through conceit, half through love

of my art, I achieve the impossible working as none else

ever works...”

Careers are not had by wishing and hoping. They are

bought with work and enthusiasm.

**Words from Latin**

A large part of our English vocabulary, as we know,

derives from Latin. This language is no longer used except

in the somewhat modified form of “Church Latin.” Old

Latin was no longer a spoken tongue when modern English

began; yet English is such a vital and avid tongue that it

has steadily fed upon Latin, and even today this Roman

speech is constantly taken over into English by scholars,

philologists, and scientists.

Any time you run an inquisitive plow through our

language you turn up Latin roots everywhere.

There is the simple word animal. Why particularly do we

use the word animal instead of some other combination of

syllables?

Animal is from Latin anima, “mind,” “breath,” “soul,”
or “spirit,” and of course, animals, as opposed to minerals

or illuminate objects, do breathe and do possess that

mysterious something that gives them a life not found in
"inanimate" things. The root anima is found in a host of common English words:

animalcule—a tiny live thing
animate—to breathe life into
equanimity—equal or placid spirit or mind
magnanimous—of large, or noble, spirit
unanimous—of one mind
inanimate—without a soul; hence, not alive
animosity—vehement enmity: literally, with one's mind against
pusillanimous—fainthearted; cowardly: literally, of small mind
animadvert—to turn the mind to; to notice; to criticize

In many cases, English words are formed by combining parts of two or more Latin words. Thus "equanimity" is a fusion of aequus, "equal," and anima. You will recognize the root aequus (spelled equ or -equ in English) in such words as equation, equality, equity, iniquity. Magnanimous combines magnus, "large," with anima. Engage in a little etymological exploration, if you will, and see what other words you can turn up with the stem of magnus, "large."

1. .......... A person large in importance, as in an industry
2. .......... To make large
3. .......... Splendor; grandeur
4. .......... Speaking big or in pompous or flowery style
5. .......... Bigness or greatness
6. .......... A large bottle (two quarts) for champagne or other wine
7. .......... A great work; a literary or artistic work of importance

ANSWERS: (1) magnate; (2) magnify; (3) magnificence; (4) magniloquent; (5) magnitude; (6) magnum; (7) magnum opus

Words from Latin

Let us pronounce the words we have discovered so far. For best results, say them aloud several times.

1. animalcule (AN'-ə-məl-kyoo'l)  
2. animate, verb: (AN'-ə-maɪt')  
   adjective: (AN'-ə-met)
3. equanimity (ee'-kwə-nəm-ət-ə-tee)
4. magnanimous (mag-NA-nə-məs)
5. unanimous (yən-ə-nə-məs)
6. inanimate (in-AN'-ə-mət)
7. animosity (an'-ə-məs-ə-tee)
8. pusillanimous (pyoo'-ə-lə-nə-məs)
9. animadvert (AN'-ə-məd-vert)
10. magnate (MAG'-nət)
11. magnify (MAG'-na-fy)
12. magnificence (mag-NIF'-ə-sənse)
13. magniloquent (mag-NIL'-ə-kwənt)
14. magnitude (MAG'-na-tədʒ)
15. magnum (MAG'-nəm)
16. magnum opus (MAG-H'-nəm-ə-pəs)

Now, to give you practice in spelling these words and to reinforce your learning, we ask you to write the word that fits each definition.

1. Large-minded; not petty
2. Small-minded; cowardly
3. Strong hostility
4. To invest with life
5. Make larger
6. Without life
7. Turn one's mind to
8. Agreed to by everyone
9. Using flowery language

M
P
A
A
M
I
A
U
M
10. Placid, unruffled temperament

11. Great literary or artistic work

12. Two-quart bottle

13. Largeness; large size

14. Greatness; grandeur

15. Important person in industry

16. Very small creature

Answers: (1) magnanimous; (2) pusillanimous; (3) animosity; (4) animate; (5) magnify; (6) inanimate; (7) animadvert; (8) unanimous; (9) magniloquent; (10) equanimity; (11) magnum opus; (12) magnum; (13) magnitude; (14) magnificence; (15) magnate; (16) animalcule

Unanimous combines unus, “one,” with anima, “mind.” Can you think of some other English words which contain unus?

1. Make into one
2. A fabulous animal with a single, straight horn
3. Of one form or kind
4. The state of being united
5. Descriptive of the only one of its kind
6. Harmony; also, a joining together in sound
7. A single one

Answers: (1) unify or unite; (2) unicorn; (3) uniform; (4) union, unity, or unification; (5) unique; (6) unison; (7) unit

Words from Latin

VI

Pronounce the new words:

1. unify (YOO'-nə-fy')
2. unite (yoo'-NITE')
3. unicorn (YOO'-nə-kawrm)
4. uniform (YOO'-nə-fawrm)
5. union (YOO'-yan)
6. unity (YOO'-nə-tee)
7. unification (yoo'-nə-fə-KAY'-shan)
8. unique (yoo'-NEEK')
9. unison (YOO'-nə-sən)
10. unit (YOO'-nit)

VII

Continuing our etymological exploration, let us next consider the word benevolence. Its meaning—“a feeling of good will toward others” or “a charitable action for the benefit of others”—can be understood better when we analyze the two Latin roots that have been welded together to form the word: bene, “well,” and volens, “wishing.” Benevolence means, literally, “wishing others well.” Benevolence is found in other words. Here are a few:

benefit beneficiary benediction benefactor

The root volens, “wishing,” also appears frequently:

volition voluntary volunteer

If we now dissect two of the words containing bene, we will discover that new Latin roots can easily be added to our repertoire: benediction, “a blessing,” is, literally, a “saying well.” The root dic is from Latin dicere, “to say” or “to tell.” You can see it in the following words:

dictate dictaphone diction malediction indict predict

Again, benefactor, literally “well-doer,” contains the Latin facere, “to do” or “to make.” Watch how this root is employed in the following words.
TWENTY-FIRST DAY

factor factory manufacture fact factotum

VIII

Thus, the study of a few of these simple words brings to light eight new roots. Here are the Latin roots with their meanings. Can you recall an English word using each root?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOT</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anima</td>
<td>soul, spirit, mind</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aequus</td>
<td>even, equal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magnus</td>
<td>large, big, great</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unus</td>
<td>one, single</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bene</td>
<td>well</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volens</td>
<td>wishing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facere</td>
<td>to do, to make</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dicere</td>
<td>to say, to tell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IX

Can you recall the other Greek and Latin roots that you have learned in previous chapters? In the chart below you will find a list of them, each with an example. Can you fill in the English meaning of each root?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOT</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>monos</td>
<td>monocle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bis</td>
<td>bicycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>polys</td>
<td>polygamy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>missein</td>
<td>misogyny</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gamos</td>
<td>bigamy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>theos</td>
<td>monotheism</td>
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<td>anthropos</td>
<td>anthropology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philein</td>
<td>philatelist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logos</td>
<td>philology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cuspis</td>
<td>bicuspid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glotta</td>
<td>polyglot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Words from Latin

ANSWERS: (1) one; (2) twice, two; (3) many; (4) to hate; (5) marriage; (6) God; (7) man; (8) to love; (9) study of, word; (10) point; (11) tongue

You will find it excellent practice to keep a weather eye out for these roots and for their various and varied combinations in your daily reading. There are so many of them that it becomes a fascinating sport to try to trace them. There is the Latin word *signum*, or “sign,” which gives us *insignia*, the signs you wear; *signal*, a sign; *signify*, make a sign; and such others as *design*, *signature*, *insignificant*. We also have the Latin *portare*, “to carry,” which leads to *porter*, one who carries; *portable*, able to be carried; *reporter*, one who carries news back; *deport*, carry away; *import*, carry in; and *export*, carry out.

A knowledge of Latin and Greek roots is a splendid vocabulary stretcher.
Test Your Progress

There is one thing that we cannot overemphasize in this daily word study, and that is the high importance of continually reviewing the work that you have done. New words that come into your vocabulary are as elusive as little shining eels, and unless you rehearse them constantly you will find that they will wriggle out from between your mental fingers and slip back into the sea of language.

If you want to make swift progress, take each page of this book seriously, review your work as a matter of course, and so secure the ground as you proceed.

Here is another hint. Be sure to finish this book. Forty-nine out of fifty persons don't thoroughly finish what they begin. This is what will make success so easy for you. Use your will power. Will power is often just another name for courage. Perseverance is energy made habitual. And perseverance, continuously applied, may become genius. So don't just finish this book—or this chapter—and lay it aside. Put it to work. Too many people are forever learning and never doing.

Right now we are going to challenge you with a review of Chapters X to XXI. The tests that follow will not be

Test Your Progress

easy, for they are intended to show up any weak spots in your methods of study.

1

Match the descriptions in Column B to the words in Column A.

A.  B.
1. atheist  a. Loud-mouthed woman
2. virtuoso  b. Connoisseur of good food
3. virago  c. Disbeliever in God
4. gourmet  d. Beginner
5. tyro  e. One who leads an austere life
6. philatelist  f. Stamp-collector
7. ascetic  g. Traitor
8. pedant  h. Boast-licker
9. judas  i. Skilled practitioner of the arts
10. sycophant  j. One who is ostentatious about his learning

II

Write the word with the indicated initial letter that satisfies each definition.

1. Insane desire to set fires  P
2. Uncontrollable propensity to steal  K
3. Forgetfulness of the past  A
4. Sleepwalking  S
5. Alternating fits of despondency and hilarity  M
6. Split personality  S
7. Fear of closed spaces  C
8. Continuous drunkenness  D
9. Persecution complex  P
10. Fear of large spaces  A
TWENTY-SECOND DAY

III

Choose the word in group A that satisfies each of the definitions in Group B.

A  lethargy  weilschmerz  superciliousness
    nostalgia  antipathy  vindictiveness
    benevolence  compunction  misogyny
    satiety  enervation  misanthropy
    frustration  ennui  vicariousness


IV

Write in the science that deals with each of the following subjects. The initial letter is given.

1. Mankind  A  logy
2. Rocks  G  logy
3. Ancient relics  A  logy
4. Unborn babies  E  logy
5. Insects  E  logy
6. Distribution of races  E  logy
7. Derivation of words  E  logy
8. Birds  O  logy
9. Languages  P  logy
10. The human mind  P  logy

V

Here are two columns of ten words each. Where the words opposite each other are synonyms, write the letter “S” between the pair. Where they have opposite meanings, write “O.” Where the words have no relationship to each other, write “N.”

1. loquacious  talkative
2. gullible  shrewd
3. suave  happy
4. pompous  conceited
5. taciturn  silent
6. phlegmatic  excitable
7. erudite  ignorant
8. complacent  constant
9. punctilious  careless
10. indefatigable  tireless

VI

In column A are ten definitions; in column B are ten blanks, each with an initial and final letter. The definitions in column A and the words to be supplied in column B do not necessarily face each other. It is up to you to unscramble the columns and fill in the remaining letters of each word. For instance, start with number 1, “minor indiscretion.” Now run down column B and see if (with the initial and last letters to guide you) you can recall the word that the phrase “minor indiscretion” describes. When you succeed in remembering it, fill it in.

A.  B.
1. minor indiscretion  1. P  y
2. poverty  2. M  r
TWENTY-SECOND DAY

3. boastfulness
4. cure-all
5. failure
6. characteristic peculiarity
7. irregularity
8. warmongering
9. pretend illness
10. trickery

3. J ............ m
4. B ............ o
5. P ............ a
6. P ............ o
7. F ............ o
8. A ............ y
9. C ............ y
10. I ............ y

VII

Match the two columns.

A. B.

1. one whose mind is turned inward a. diffident
2. self-centered b. extrovert
3. restrained c. inhibited
4. modest d. saturnine
5. bubbling over with high spirits e. egocentric
6. company-loving f. quixotic
7. fierce; overbearing g. introvert
8. gloomy h. effervescent
9. extravagantly chivalrous i. truculent
10. one whose mind is turned outward j. gregarious

VIII

In each of the five lines below there is one word that correctly expresses the meaning given in the word or words in italics just ahead. Check a, b, or c.

1. common, ordinary: a. plebeian, b. obsequious, c. maudlin
2. miserably failing: a. perfunctory, b. abortive, c. surreptitious
3. cruel: a. presumptuous, b. sadistic, c. flagrant
4. vulgar: a. inane, b. wanton, c. crass
5. biting: a. macabre, b. dogmatic, c. vitriolic

ANSWERS: I: (1) c; (2) i; (3) a; (4) b; (5) d; (6) f; (7) e; (8) j; (9) g; (10) h
II: (1) pyromania; (2) kleptomania; (3) amnesia; (4) somnambulism; (5) mania-depression; (6) schizophrenia; (7) claustrophobia; (8) dipsomania; (9) paranoia; (10) agoraphobia

Test Your Progress

IX

Proceed as in Test VIII.
1. at the same time: a. acrimoniously, b. adroitly, c. concomitantly
2. carefully: a. circumspectly, b. cursorily, c. didactically
3. smoothly: a. disparagingly, b. glibly, c. plaintively
4. threateningly: a. ominously, b. with impunity, c. inadvertently
5. secretly: a. irascibly, b. sub rosa, c. vociferously

X

Write the English meaning of each italicized Greek or Latin root.
1. magnanimous
2. unique
3. unanimous
4. benefit
5. benevolence
6. dictaphone
7. manufacture
8. monogamy
9. theology
10. bicycle

Answers: I: (1) c; (2) i; (3) a; (4) b; (5) d; (6) f; (7) e; (8) j; (9) g; (10) h
II: (1) pyromania; (2) kleptomania; (3) amnesia; (4) somnambulism; (5) mania-depression; (6) schizophrenia; (7) claustrophobia; (8) dipsomania; (9) paranoia; (10) agoraphobia
III: (1) nostalgia; (2) benevolence; (3) satiety; (4) frustration; (5) antipathy; (6) weltschmerz; (7) misogyny; (8) compunction; (9) vindictiveness; (10) superciliousness; (11) lethargy; (12) enervation; (13) ennui; (14) misanthropy; (15) vicariousness

IV: (1) anthropology; (2) geology; (3) archaeology; (4) embryology; (5) entomology; (6) ethnology; (7) etymology; (8) ornithology; (9) philology; (10) psychology

V: (1) S; (2) O; (3) N; (4) S; (5) S; (6) O; (7) O; (8) N; (9) O; (10) S

VI: (1) penury; (2) malinger; (3) jingoism; (4) braggadocio; (5) panacea; (6) pecadillo; (7) fiasco; (8) anomaly; (9) chicanery; (10) idiosyncrasy

VII: (1) g; (2) e; (3) c; (4) a; (5) h; (6) j; (7) i; (8) d; (9) f; (10) b

VIII: (1) a; (2) b; (3) b; (4) c; (5) c

IX: (1) c; (2) a; (3) b; (4) a; (5) b

X: (1) large; (2) one; (3) mind or spirit; (4) well; (5) wish; (6) say; (7) make; (8) marriage; (9) God; (10) two, twice

Test Your Progress

Scoring: one point for each correct answer

Maximum score: 95

Your Score: ............

80-95 Excellent
70-79 Good
51-69 Passing
0-50 Poor

If your score isn't as creditable as you would like, don't feel the least bit discouraged. And whatever your age, don't use the excuse that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

This ancient belief has been entirely disproved by an exhaustive series of tests conducted under the direction of Dr. Irving Lorge, brilliant young psychologist of Columbia University. He established the fact that the human mind retains its full powers up to the most advanced age. The speed of thinking is usually a little less, but without exception, the power element shows no decline whatsoever with people even up to ninety years of age.

So Dr. Lorge has deprived us of the easy and comfortable alibi of age!
Can You Meet This Challenge?

Continuing the inductive, psychological, and indirect method of building vocabulary that we discussed in Chapter XX, we shall now throw you pell-mell into a quiz to test your understanding of a group of words before going on to consider them. In each of the fifteen sentences that follow you will find one or two words in italics. If the words are strange to you, read the sentence carefully. Then, in each case, put a check after the particular phrase—a, b, or c—that you think comes nearest the meaning.

1. If spelling is your bête noire,
   a. You love spelling.
   b. You are a good speller.
   c. You hate spelling.
2. If your friend looked cadaverous, you would say to him:

   a. When did you get up from sleep?
   b. Better stop eating so many sweets.
   c. What cemetery do you live in?
3. If the President wants carte blanche in allocating defense funds,
   a. He wishes no strings to be attached to the money.
   b. He does not want special funds earmarked.
   c. He wants instructions from Congress on how to spend.
4. Esoteric knowledge is
   a. Knowledge possessed by a few.
   b. Useless knowledge.
   c. Knowledge that was buried with the fall of ancient civilization.
5. The man who says that psychology is his forte means
   a. He hates the subject.
   b. He’s particularly good in the subject.
   c. He loves the subject.
6. When you come to an impasse,
   a. Stop, look, and listen!
   b. You find yourself completely blocked in a certain situation.
   c. Wait for a guide to show you the way out.
7. Incongruous means
   a. Out of place or character.
   b. Not honest.
   c. Not useful.
8. Docile people are
   a. Stupid.
   b. Lovable.
   c. Easily managed.
9. Miscegenation is marriage between
   a. A Presbyterian and an Episcopalian.
   b. An heiress and a pauper.
   c. People of different races.
10. Moribund institutions
    a. Are passing out of existence.
TWENTY-THIRD DAY

b. Are in charge of dishonest people.
c. Are undemocratic.
11. A nebulous idea is one that is
   a. Heaven-sent.
   b. Vague.
   c. As pure as clouds.
12. People who indulge in recriminations are probably
   a. Playing a game.
   b. Quarreling.
   c. Writing letters.
13. The repercussions of an event must happen
   a. Before.
   b. After.
   c. At the same time.
14. Scurrilous language would more than likely be heard
    in:
   a. The halls of Congress.
   b. A quarrel between two stevedores.
   c. A sermon.
15. Soporific speakers tend to
   a. Stimulate you to action.
   b. Appeal to your nobler instincts.
   c. Put you to sleep.

ANSWERS: (1) c; (2) c; (3) a; (4) a; (5) b; (6) b; (7) a; (8) c; (9) c; (10) a; (11) b; (12) b; (13) b; (14) b; (15) c

Can You Meet This Challenge?

5. forte (FORT' e)
6. impasse (IM’-pass)
7. incongruous (in-KONG’-grō əs) noun, incongruity: (in’-kong-GRÖ’-ə-tee)
8. docile (DOSS’-əl) noun, docility: (doss-SIL’-ə-tee)
9. miscegenation (miss’-ə-ja-NAY’-shan)
10. moribund (MAWR’-ə-bund’ or MAHR’-ə-bund’)
11. nebulous (NEB’-ə-ləs)
12. recrimination (ə-krim’-ə-NAY’-shan)
13. repercussion (rep’-ə-KUSH’-ən)
14. scurrilous (SKUR’-ə-ləs)
15. soporific (sop’-ə-RIF’-ik)

III

You've mulled the words and their meanings over in your mind. You've said them aloud. Now write them, one to each definition. (Some of the words may be required more than once.)

1. A particular object of hate or dread
2. Pale; ghastly
3. Unconditional permission or authority
4. Confined to a select circle
5. One's strong point
6. Corpeslike
7. A blind alley; an insurmountable obstacle
8. For the initiated few
9. Inadaptable; out of place
10. Tractable
11. Dead end
12. An object of dread
13. Marriage of mixed races
14. In a dying state
15. Hazy; indistinct
16. Charges retorted; abusive argument

II

Now pronounce the words—several times. Hear them in your own voice and you begin to feel more and more at home with them!

1. bête noire (bet-NWAHR’)
2. cadaverous (kə-DAV’-ə-rəs)
3. carte blanche (kart-BLAHNSH’)
4. esoteric (es’-ə-TAIR’-ik)
TWENTY-THIRD DAY

17. Reverberations
18. Grossly offensive or vulgar
19. Tending to produce sleep
20. Pale and gaunt

ANSWERS: (1) béte noire; (2) cadaverous; (3) carte blanche; (4) esoteric; (5) forte; (6) cadaverous; (7) impasse; (8) esoteric; (9) incongruous; (10) docile; (11) impasse; (12) béte noire; (13) miscégenation; (14) moribund; (15) nebulous; (16) repressions; (17) repercussions; (18) scurrilous; (19) soporific; (20) cadaverous

IV

Here is another list of twenty descriptive phrases. We have shuffled the words, and again have repeated several. Follow the same procedure as in Section III.

1. Intermarriage of races
2. Confined to a particular circle
3. Permisson without condition
4. Inextricable difficulty
5. Incompatible
6. On the point of dying
7. Confused and hazy
8. Vulgarly abusive
9. Black marries white
10. Dead end
11. Ghastly
12. Bugaboo
13. Something in which one excels
14. Manageable
15. Hazy
16. Echoes
17. Producing sleep
18. Occidental weds Oriental
19. For a few
20. Specialty

Can You Meet This Challenge?

ANSWERS: (1) miscégenation; (2) esoteric; (3) carte blanche; (4) impasse; (5) incongruous; (6) moribund; (7) nebulous; (8) scurrilous; (9) miscégenation; (10) impasse; (11) cadaverous; (12) béte noire; (13) forte; (14) docile; (15) nebulous; (16) repressions; (17) repercussions; (18) miscégenation; (19) esoteric; (20) forte

Let's try something new now, putting you more on your own. Write the word that best completes each sentence.
1. Some people think that fidelity in marriage is
2. Knowledge of Oriental magic is highly
3. If you hate cats with a purple passion, then cats are your
4. A man suffering from consumption may look
5. The facts behind a politician's statements are often
6. What is the one thing you hate or fear most? What is your particular?
7. After a dynamic Presidential speech one often hears abroad.
8. Marriage between people of different races is called
9. When a husband and wife quarrel they frequently indulge in bitter
10. A lecturer with a monotonous voice often produces a effect.
11. Angry truckdrivers frequently use language.
12. What are you most skilled at? What is your special?
13. The cow is a very animal.
TWENTY-THIRD DAY

15. She gave her husband ............... to invite anyone he wanted to the party.

ANSWERS: (1) moribund; (2) esoteric; (3) bête noire; (4) cadaverous; (5) nebulous; (6) bête noire; (7) repercussious; (8) miscegenation; (9) recriminations; (10) soporific; (11) scurrilous; (12) forte; (13) docile; (14) incongruous; (15) carte blanche

VI

Your tasks are becoming more challenging with each new exercise--and here is a particularly hard one. Write the word that is opposite in meaning to each of the following phrases. Note well: Opposite, not synonymous! Again, some will be required more than once.

1. Known to all
2. Caucasian marries Caucasian
3. In keeping with surroundings
4. Stimulating like coffee
5. Radiantly healthy
6. Limited power
7. Crystal clear
8. Easy sailing
9. One's weak suit
10. Restricted power
11. Mutual praise
12. The thing you love most
13. Decent in expression
14. Something in which one is unskilled
15. In a healthy state
16. Stubborn
17. Not the least bit hazy
18. Esoteric

VII

Can You Meet This Challenge?

19. Keeps you awake
20. Marriage of white to white

ANSWERS: (1) esoteric; (2) miscegenation; (3) incongruous; (4) soporific; (5) cadaverous; (6) carte blanche; (7) nebulous; (8) impasse; (9) forte; (10) carte blanche; (11) recriminations; (12) bête noire; (13) scurrilous; (14) forte; (15) moribund; (16) docile; (17) nebulous; (18) esoteric; (19) soporific; (20) miscegenation

It is extraordinarily difficult to write the definitions of a word. And yet your understanding of a word must be somewhat nebulous if you can't define it. Try your hand at writing brief definitions of the following words:

1. bête noire
2. cadaverous
3. carte blanche
4. esoteric
5. forte
6. impasse
7. incongruous
8. docile
9. miscegenation
10. moribund
Can You Meet This Challenge?

clears, and each time you see or hear it again, you find that your knowledge of it is becoming more secure. Finally you learn to know it so well that you dare to use it in your writing and speaking. You might even be able to define it, as you have done in this chapter, if you were called upon to do so, although this is the hardest challenge of all. That is, the methods we are using in this book are the methods by which you naturally and unself-consciously learned most of the words in your vocabulary before you picked up and started working with us.

You have learned the words in this chapter in the way that you normally learn words in your everyday life. That is, you first come across a new word in a book or in your newspaper, or you hear someone speak it. You wonder at its meaning. Your understanding of the word gradually

ANSWERS: 1. A person or object of fear or aversion; a bugbear
2. Pale, ghastly, corpse-like
3. An order signed in blank; unconditional authority
4. Adapted exclusively for the initiated and enlightened few
5. Your strong point; that skill in which you excel
6. An impassable road or way; a blind alley; an insurmountable situation
7. Out of place; inharmonious
8. Easily led and managed
9. Marriage between people of two different races; mixed marriage
10. In a dying state
11. Hazy; cloudy; amorphous
12. Accusations repelled by other accusations; abusive arguments
13. Reverberations; echoes
14. Coarse, opprobrious abuse
15. Tending to cause or to produce sleep
Words That Describe You

Keep in mind this important point in reference to your vocabulary improvement program. If you can personalize your new words, if you can make them bear some relationship to yourself and your way of living, you then materially increase your chances of making these words a permanent part of your vocabulary.

You cannot learn words in a vacuum. That is, if a word cannot be made to have a bearing on your life, if it cannot be brought within the circle of your own thoughts, if it cannot be made a part of your own personality or of your attitudes, then that word will remain useless to you.

The words in this chapter should, therefore, be thought of in reference to yourself. Let us, for the next few pages, consider your own attitudes toward life.

1. Do you view with a certain degree of tolerance the eccentricities and foibles of other humans? Are you broad-minded, sympathetic, inclined to see the other person's point of view? Do your tastes cover a wide range? For example, in your reading, can you be interested in everything from detective stories to Russian novels? In your eating, do your likes run the gamut from a New England dinner of boiled beef to a gourmet's delight of exotic seafood? Yes? Then we will characterize you as a person whose tastes, interests, desires, and sympathies are, in one word, catholic.

2. Do you make trouble by your unreasoning, irascible, and vainglorious patriotism? Do you carry your jealousy of your country's honor to an absurd and ridiculous extreme? You are chauvinistic.

3. Are you inclined to give up the struggle before the battle is lost? Are you all too ready to lay down your arms and admit defeat at a time when braver and more optimistic souls would see many reasons for carrying on? You are a d. fealist.

4. Do you like to dabble in the arts or the sciences? Fool a little bit with photography, only to abandon it, say, for stamp collecting? If you flit like a butterfly from interest to interest, never concentrating for any length of time on one, you are a dilettante.

5. Are you one whose main purpose in life seems to be the attainment of pleasure? Do you put too high a value on the luxuries of life? Are you fond of eating and drinking, and are you an expert in the choice of wines and foods? You are an epicurean.

6. Perhaps you find yourself in such a financial position that you must calculate closely the money costs of all your activities. Then, of course, you must practice economy. But are you too close-fisted with money? Do people call you stingy? You are parsimonious.

7. Do you look with contempt upon artists and those with an artistic temperament? Are you ignorant? Prejudiced? Blindly conventional? Narrow-minded? Do you tend to have low aims in life and are you inclined to be materialistic? You are a philistine.
TWENTY-FOURTH DAY

8. Are you wasteful, extravagant, inclined to spend your money, time, energy, and talent without care or thought? You are a profigate.

9. Do you meet the tragedies of life with a stiff upper lip? Do you conceal your emotions, no matter how great your mental or physical suffering may be? You are a stoic.

10. Finally, do you happen to know a man who is so absurdly and slavishly devoted to his wife that he is the joke of the neighborhood? He is uxorious.

Now that was a big order. Possibly many, or even all, of the words of this chapter are unfamiliar to you. If so, the exercises to come will make them your best friends. Or possibly you are well acquainted with most or all of them. In that case, the pages that follow will provide an opportunity for an even warmer and deeper intimacy.

First, of course, we pronounce them aloud—several times. As you say each one, think of, or check back on, the meaning, and decide whether the adjective or noun does, or does not, fit you, personally; then check the proper box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. catholic (KATH'-ə-lik)</th>
<th>Yes... No....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. chauvinistic (shō-və-NIS'-tik)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. defeatist (də-FEE'-tist)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. dilettante (DIL'-ə-tahn't; also, dil-ə-TAN'-tee)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. epicurean (ep'-ə-kyə-REE'-ən)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. parsimonious (pahr-sə-MO'-nee-əs)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. philistine (FI'-ə-steen' or fa-LISS'-tin)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. profigate (PROF'-ə-gat)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. stoic (STÖ'-ik)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. uxorious (uk-SAWR'-ee-əs)</td>
<td>Yes... No....</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Words That Describe You

To get on still better terms with these ten words, fill each one in next to its key phrase or statement. Initial letters are provided. Try not to look at Sections I or II except as a desperate last resort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>WORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-1</td>
<td>A dabbler in art matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Unduly sparing in money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Narrow-minded; uncultured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Always expecting failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>With liberal views and wide tastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-1</td>
<td>Niggardly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Exaggeratedly patriotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Foolishly devoted to one's wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Believes that pleasure is chief good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Recklessly extravagant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-1</td>
<td>Absurdly nationalistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Materialistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>&quot;Give up the ship!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Stingy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Superficial amateur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-1</td>
<td>Penny-pinching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Indifference to pleasure or pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>A severe ascetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Ignorant and narrow-minded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Given to dissipation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-1</td>
<td>Comprehensive in sympathies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Follows a branch of knowledge superficially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Loves the refinements of pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Excessively patriotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>&quot;Eat and be merry!&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-1</td>
<td>With exquisite taste in food and drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Abandoned in character and principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Insensible to virtue and decency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TWENTY-FOURTH DAY

4. Wasteful of money

5. Excessively fond of one's wife

ANSWERS: A. (1) dilettante; (2) parsimonious; (3) philistine; (4) defeatist; (5) catholic
B. (1) parsimonious; (2) chauvinistic; (3) uxorious; (4) epicurean; (5) profligate
C. (1) chauvinistic; (2) philistine; (3) defeatist; (4) parsimonious; (5) dilettante
D. (1) parsimonious; (2) stoic; (3) stoic; (4) philistine; (5) profligate
E. (1) catholic; (2) dilettante; (3) epicurean; (4) chauvinistic; (5) epicurean
F. (1) epicurean; (2) profligate; (3) profligate; (4) profligate; (5) uxorious

IV

Each of the nine paragraphs that follow describes one of the words that we have been talking about. Can you tell which one and write it in?

1. My taste is highly cultivated for all things. While I am not by any means promiscuous in my interests, still I can always see the other person's point of view. I am tolerant to a great degree, for my sympathies are comprehensive and all embracing. I am

2. Frugal! To the last ditch! People have even accused me of being tight-fisted and stingy, and I am afraid that if they are referring to my attitude toward spending money, they are correct. I am

3. I have been accused of being without emotions, but the fact is that I have merely trained myself to be indifferent alike to pain and pleasure. I am a

4. I am greatly interested in the fine arts, but being a person of independent means I don't have to really work hard at them, and it isn't necessary for me to

5. My country? The best, the finest, the truest, the richest, the bravest, and if you don't think so you had better keep away from me. Why, I can scarcely find adjectives to describe my pride in my birthplace or to show the utter contempt I feel for all other lands. I am

6. I don't think it's fair to call me a traitor to my ideals. It's just that I do not care to fight what I know to be a losing battle. I am

7. Other people can waste time pampering artists and poets if they want to, but give me a he-man every time—the kind who is interested in material things like making money. And while we're on the subject, those people who keep their noses buried in books all the time and who are always worrying about knowledge and progress and liberalism! Well, I can put them also on my list of people who won't be missed! I am

8. Laugh at me if you like and say that my wife uses me as a footstool. I don't care! Nothing I do will ever be good enough for her! I am

9. As for me, I like my pleasure. Other people can work and slave and worry about the future and save their money, but not I! Give me a good time any day! Let the little milquetoasts keep their noses to the grindstone and lead temperate lives. I figure money is made to spend, and I believe in the old proverb, "Eat, drink, and be merry." I am a

ANSWERS: (1) catholic; (2) parsimonious; (3) stoic; (4) dilettante; (5) chauvinistic; (6) defeatist; (7) philistine; (8) uxorious; (9) epicurean
By now you are developing real and assured control over these words. Therefore, you will be able to sail through the next exercise with the greatest of ease and a perfect or near-perfect score. Check a, b, or c.

1. A person of catholic tastes is
   a. religious.
   b. moral.
   c. sympathetic.

2. If you met an American chauvinist it would be safe to remark:
   a. "I would really rather live abroad."
   b. "I love my country and I despise all other nations."
   c. "Listen, America has plenty of black marks on her record! How about the Spanish-American war?"

3. The defeatist is a
   a. coward.
   b. pessimist.
   c. bully.

4. Anybody knows that a dilettante is
   a. a master of the arts.
   b. a struggling young artist.
   c. one who follows the arts as a pastime.

5. The epicurean's greatest delight comes from
   a. pleasure.
   b. cruelty.
   c. self-torture.

6. Parsimonious? He's a
   a. miser.
   b. spendthrift.
   c. philanthropist.

7. While the word philistine is of Biblical origin, it now merely refers to a person who is
   a. hypocritically pious.

8. Few people realize that a stoic doesn't mind
   a. pleasure and pain.
   b. spending money.
   c. getting drunk.

9. An uxorious man
   a. foolishly and fondly doles on his wife.
   b. is completely penniless.
   c. always complains of the way life treats him.

10. A profligate person is
    a. dishonest.
    b. insincere.
    c. wasteful.

ANSWERS: (1) c; (2) b; (3) b; (4) c; (5) a; (6) a; (7) b; (8) a; (9) a; (10) c

And now for the acid test of your learning. Without checking back to any previous material, can you write each word next to its definition?

1. Broad-minded in views
2. An exaggerated patriot
3. Follows the policy or practice of admitting defeat too quickly
4. One who dabbles in art and letters
5. One who makes a profession of pleasure. A connoisseur of food and wine
6. Unnecessarily frugal
7. A person with a plebeian type of mind. An individual of materialistic tastes who is interested neither in art nor letters
8. Completely given up to dissipation; dissolute; wasteful
TWENTY-FOURTH DAY

9. A person showing no emotion over pleasure or pain
10. Extravagantly submissive to, and doting upon, one's wife

ANSWERS: (1) catholic; (2) chauvinist; (3) defeatist;
(4) dilettante; (5) epicurean; (6) parsimonious;
(7) philistine; (8) profligate; (9)
stoic; (10) uxorious

In all likelihood this has not been an easy chapter. But it is true, isn't it, that all learning and all the skills are acquired only by dogged, systematic, and intensive work? After all, the greatest obstacle to anyone's getting ahead is just plain laziness. The average man makes a fair success with very ordinary effort, and conversely, most people lose out in life just because they won't take the trouble to win. That's why there's always so much room at the top.

If you will make use of the ideas in this book, they will open many doors to you. If you will make the precepts of this book a lifetime habit, the habit will take care of you, and lead you to greater success. Success itself is a habit. Life has many prizes waiting for the winner. And, after all, it's a lot less exhausting to win than to worry.

French Phrases You Can Use

The rivers of all languages have flowed into the vast reservoir of English.

The following paragraph will give you just a hint of its varied sources. Each of the italicized words came into English from a foreign language.

"The sky was teeming rain. The boss has a touch of influenza. He came up on the veranda, put down his mammoth umbrella, entered the comfortable oasis of his living room, and sat down. He filled his pipe with tobacco, warmed himself first with hot cocoa, then coffee, and listened to his pet canary sing."

Here are the parentages of these words:

sky ............. Old Norse boss ............. Dutch
oasis .......... Egyptian tobacco .......... West Indian
influenza ........ Italian cocoa ........ Mexican
veranda ........ Portuguese coffee .......... Arabic
mammoth ........ Russian canary .......... Spanish
umbrella ........ Italian
The main contributors to English, however, are not the languages from which the above examples have been taken. They are, rather, French, Latin, and Greek.

French, as would be understandable, has added a large number of delicate and graceful words and phrases to our speech. Many of these have been adopted so recently that they still retain their Gallic flavor.

I

Here are ten common French importations:

1. If a prisoner of war were being tortured and were on the point of death, the final stroke that killed him would be the coup de grâce. Any blow that puts a suffering and greatly weakened animal, person, or institution out of its misery is a coup de grâce. Thus, we will say, a conqueror has allowed a subject nation to continue for a time, with nominal independence. When and if that conqueror decides to overrun the vanquished nation and completely destroy its last vestige of freedom, he will be delivering the coup de grâce.

2. Anyone who is in the way, out of place, or not wanted is de trop. If little brother insists on sitting in the living room when his sister's beau comes a-calling he is considered de trop.

3. In a sophisticated conversation, slightly off-color or improper remarks are sometimes made in terms that seem innocent. Any word or phrase that has two meanings, one of them an indecent one, is called a double-entendre.

4. You are en rapport with someone when there is a perfect meeting of minds and a complete absence of friction.

5. A cooperative spirit on the part of a group, combined with an enthusiastic submergence of self-interest for the sake of the common good, is called esprit de corps. A crack regiment is sometimes famed for its esprit de corps.

6. Napoleon proved himself to be a leader par excellence. Escoffier, noted the world over for his cuisine, was

French Phrases You Can Use

a chef par excellence. Ralph Waldo Emerson, we might say, was the interpreter of Plato par excellence.

7. If your mind is perfectly attuned to your surroundings, if you are alive and alert to all that is going on around you, if you are on guard, wide awake, eager, expectant, you are on the qui vive.

8. A medley of things, an assorted and heterogeneous mixture of great variety, is called a potpourri.

9 and 10. Have you ever met a man or woman with perfect poise? Do you notice how he or she says exactly the correct and charming thing at the proper time? Never is such a person guilty of a faux pas, an embarrassing mistake; on the contrary, your perfectly poised, sophisticated, cosmopolitan friend is the possessor of savoir-faire.

II

The pronunciation of words from the French does not require a Gallic accent—all have been somewhat Anglicized. When you use such a word, and we expect that you occasionally will, don't pause significantly as if you were about to break into song. On the contrary, say the Parisian import as naturally as any other word—after all, thousands upon thousands of English words come from foreign tongues: from Greek, Latin, Old Norse, German, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, etc.

True, with French imports, Anglicization has not gone quite as far as with most others, so do not be surprised that the sounds you will be making will not account for all the letters in every word.

Here, then, is a close approximation of our terms from the French. Practice them carefully, aloud, and many times.

1. coup de grâce (koo'-da-GRAHSS')
2. de trop (do-TROH)
3. double-entendre (DOO'-bla-ahn-TAHN'-dre)
4. en rapport (ahn'-rah'-PAWR')
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5. esprit de corps (es-pray'-de-KAWR')
6. par excellence (par'-ek-seh-LAYNSH)
7. qui vive (kwah'-VAYV)
8. potpouri (poh'-poh'-REEV)
9. faux pas (fowz'-pah)
10. savoir-faire (sah-vahr'-FAIR')

(Incidentally, all ten phrases still maintain their foreign citizenship—therefore they are always underlined when written or italicized when printed.)

III

The literal translations of these ten French terms will help establish the meanings in your mind.

1. Coup de grâce ............... Blow of mercy
2. De trop ......................... Too much
3. Double-entendre .............. Double meaning
4. En rapport .................... In harmonious relation
5. Esprit de corps .............. Spirit of the body
6. Par excellence ............... By excellence
7. Qui vive ....................... Who lives
8. Potpouri ....................... Rotten pot
9. Faux pas ....................... False step
10. Savoir-faire ................. To know how to do

French Phrases You Can Use

3. Double meaning
4. Surpassingly good
5. On the alert on the
b 1. In the very choicest manner
2. in agreement
3. In the way
4. Mixture
5. Decisive blow

c 1. On your toes on the
2. Two's company
3. Finishing stroke
4. Preeminently.
5. Off-color ambiguity

d 1. In harmonious relationship
2. On guard
3. Jealous regard for the honor of the group
4. Medley
5. Embarrassing error

e 1. Polse
2. Little of everything
3. In accord
4. Knowing and doing the graceful thing
5. Embarrassing mistake

Answers: A. (1) de trop; (2) esprit de corps; (3) double-entendre; (4) par excellence; (5) on the qui vive
B. (1) par excellence; (2) en rapport; (3) de trop; (4) potpouri; (5) coup de grâce
C. (1) on the qui vive; (2) de trop; (3) coup de grâce; (4) par excellence; (5) double-entendre
D. (1) en rapport; (2) on the qui vive; (3) esprit de corps; (4) potpouri; (5) faux pas
E. (1) savoir-faire; (2) potpouri; (3) en rapport; (4) savoir-faire; (5) faux pas
Below you will find ten statements in which the French words and phrases we have been studying are used; some are true, others false. Write $T$ or $F$ next to each statement.

1. The divorce was granted to the wife, who also got custody of the children and the dog, and possession of the home, furniture, bank accounts, and both cars. On top of all this, as the coup de grâce, she was awarded 75 percent of her husband's salary as alimony.

2. Someone we enjoy being with is usually de trop.


4. A husband and wife should be en rapport.

5. A defeated army is full of esprit de corps.

6. Sarah Bernhardt was admitted to be an actress par excellence.

7. A book of famous quotations is a pot-pourri of literary gems.

8. A prize-fighter must be on the qui vive when he is in the ring.

9. A finishing school claims to give young girls savoir-faire.

10. A faux pas is generally embarrassing.

**French Phrases You Can Use**

Here, finally, is the last test of your familiarity with the French imports studied in this chapter. Without reference to previous material, fill in each term next to its definition. Can you spell them correctly?

1. The mortal stroke

2. Said of a person who is in the way, out of place, or not wanted

3. A word or phrase with double meaning

4. In harmonious relation one with the other

5. The common devotion of members to an organization

6. Preeminent; beyond comparison

7. A mixture; a medley; a mélange

8. The challenge of a French sentinel, meaning "Who goes there?" Hence, on the alert

9. The ability to say and do the right thing at the right time

10. A misstep; an embarrassing mistake

**ANSWERS:** (1) coup de grâce; (2) de trop; (3) double-entendre; (4) en rapport; (5) esprit de corps; (6) par excellence; (7) pot-pourri; (8) qui vive; (9) savoir-faire; (10) faux pas

These ten phrases are only a few of the thousands of French imports that have become the adopted children of our language. Used with discretion, they can take their places as the grace notes of cultured conversation and writing. You will be surprised how many you will hear and see if you start listening and watching for them.
Words About Words

Every specialty, naturally, has its own terminology. The lawyers, the preachers, the doctors, all speak their own language. The physician, for instance, has to know the names of 707 different arteries, 71 bones, 79 convolutions, 433 muscles, 230 nerves, 403 veins, 295 poisons, 109 tumors, and also about 10,000 drugs.

The philologist speaks his own language, too, and unless we were versed in his speech we would find it difficult to understand him when he talked of phonology, phonemics, and morphology.

We can, however, pick a few of the more popular words that lie in this field of language, ones that we can use in common conversation. For some of the most interesting words in our language are words about words. Here are ten such:

1. anticlimax (an'-tee-KLY'-max')
2. analogy (a-NAL'-e-jee)
3. ambiguity (am'-bo-GYO0'-a-tee)
4. cliché (klee-SHAY')
5. epigram (EP'-a-gram')
6. euphemism (YO0'-fə-miz'-əm)
7. redundancy (ree-DUN'-dan-see)
8. non sequitur (non-SEK'-wə-tər)
9. persiflage (PUR'-ə-fəlzh')
10. simile (SIM'-ə-lee)

Here is an example of each:

1. Anticlimax
   Dr. Jones and Dr. Smith will be guest speakers at the County Medical Society meeting Tuesday night at Mineola. Dr. Jones will take his topic from the psalm: "Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Dr. Smith will speak on flat feet.

2. Analogy
   Your body is like a machine. Put in the proper fuel and it will function efficiently.

3. Ambiguity
   The farmer's helper took his car out of the garage. (Whose car did he take?)

4. Cliché
   "It's a great life if you don't weaken."

5. Epigram
   It is more blessed to give than to receive.

6. Euphemism

7. Redundancy
   The biggest, the greatest, the most stupendous show on earth.
8. **Non Sequitur**

"Despite her age, her interest in music never flagged. During the past year she has crocheted a bedspread and a tablecloth."

9. **Persiflage**

"Man never knows precisely what is right. So, torn between a purpose and a doubt, he first makes windows to let in the light, and then hangs curtains up to shut it out."

10. **Simile**

As thick as seagulls on a rock.

II

We have spoken before of noun endings (-ity, -ence, -ance, -ion, etc.), and have changed adjectives into nouns. Now, in reverse, let us change nouns into adjectives.

Some common adjective endings are -ic (as in *dynamic*), -ical (as in *biological*), -ous (as in *marvelous*), -ant and -ent (as in *triumphant*, *persistent*), -al (as in *banal*), and -ive (as in *active*).

Use your innate sense of language to change the following nouns into their adjective forms. Note also the examples of other noun-adjective transformations presented as guides, and test the sound of the form you devise in the sentence offered.

1. Change **anticlimax** to an adjective.
   (Similar transformation: **climax**—**climactic**)
   After the great naval victory, the sinking of a single enemy trawler was ..........................

2. Change **analogy** to an adjective.
   (**bigamy**—**biganous**)
   Let us discuss an .......................... situation.

3. Change **ambiguity** to an adjective.
   (superfluity—superfluous)
   That is an .......................... statement.

4. Change **epigram** to an adjective.
   (**diagram**—**diagrammatic**)
   Oscar Wilde has an .......................... style.

5. Change **euphemism** to an adjective.
   (**antagonism**—**antagonistic**)
   Let us use a more .......................... term.

6. Change **redundancy** to an adjective.
   (**militancy**—**militant**)
   Your statement is ..........................

ANSWERS: (1) anticlimactic (an'-tee-kly-MAK'-tik); (2) analogous (a-NAL'-o-gas); (3) ambiguous (am-BIG'-yoo-o-as); (4) epigrammatic (ep'-a-gra-MAT'-ik); (5) euphemistic (yoo'-fa-MISS'-tik); (6) redundant (ree-DUN'-dent)

III

Can you write the proper term next to each definition? Initial letters are provided to insure your success.

1. A rhetorical figure expressing comparison or likeness .......................... S

2. Partial agreement or resemblance between things somewhat different; similarity in certain aspects .......................... A

3. A light, flippant style of conversation or writing; banter; raillery .......................... P

4. A stale, worn-out or stereotyped phrase, either written or spoken .......................... C

5. An inference, or conclusion, that does not follow from the facts as stated .......................... N

6. A gradual or sudden decrease in the importance or impressiveness of what is said; the opposite of climax; a ludicrous or ridiculous drop in thought and expression, sometimes from the sublime to the ridiculous .......................... A
TWENTY-SIXTH DAY

7. Vagueness; indefiniteness; uncertainty; an expression whose meaning can be taken in two or more ways

8. A pithy saying in prose or verse that crystallizes a wise or witty thought

9. A pleasing expression used in place of one which is plainer or more accurate but which might be offensive, embarrassing, or in bad taste

10. Unnecessary repetition or the employment of more words than are necessary

ANSWERS: (1) simile; (2) analogy; (3) perispastige; (4) cliché; (5) non sequitur; (6) anti-climax; (7) ambiguity; (8) epigram; (9) euphemism; (10) redundancy

IV

If we trace the ancestry of words, we can often throw a new light on their meanings; also, we dramatize them and make them vivid. Here are the sources, all but one of them Latin or Greek, of the ten "words about words."

1. Anticlimax. Greek anti, "opposite to," and klimax, "ladder." So an anticlimax is really the opposite of climbing up; that is, it is climbing down the ladder of importance.

2. Analogy. Greek ana, "according to," plus logos, which we have met before with the meaning of "word" or "study." In this context, logos means "proportion." Things analogous to each other, while different, are similar in proportion.

3. Ambiguity. Latin ambig, "around," plus agere, "to go." When you make an ambiguous statement you are going around the subject.

4. Cliché. A French word that means "an electrotyping or stereotype plate for printing." This is why a statement of yours that is stereotyped, fixed, and lacking in originality is called a cliché.

5. Epigram. Greek epi, "on," and graphein, "write."

6. Euphemism. Greek eu, "well," and phemi, "speak." So if you utter a euphemism, you are at least making an effort to give a nice turn to a subject that would otherwise be disagreeable.

7. Redundancy. From the Latin red, "back," and unda, "wave." The waves are driven back on the shore and repeat themselves like your words when you are redundant.

8. Non sequitur. The direct translation from the Latin literally means "it does not follow."

9. Persiflage. From the Latin per, meaning "through," and sibilare, "to hiss" or "to whistle." Possibly, since persiflage sometimes means banter, there may be a significance in the fact that whistling or hissing can be sounds of derision.

10. Simile. From the Latin similis, "similar."
Word Building by the "Unfolding Process"

Let us now approach the problem of word development from a slightly different direction. We will still rely on the indirect method—that is, the method that shows you a word first in its context, rather than flashing it on you alone and away from its meaning in a sentence.

The meanings and uses of the following group of difficult words will be revealed by what we might call, for want of a better name, the "unfolding process." As you meet each word, even though it is for the first time, its meaning will be partially shown to you by the context, and its full meaning will gradually unfold before the chapter is over.

Read each sentence, noting particularly the italicized word and attempting some judgment of its meaning.

1. He lives a severe and abstemious life.
2. That is a chimerical and wholly unfounded fear.
3. Hunger among millions is a strange facet of affluent America.
4. Honesty is a fetish with him.
5. The Machiavellian moves of the crime syndicate are astounding.
6. Ochlocracy is sometimes a result of war.
7. Only God is truly omniscient.
8. When John's treachery was discovered, he truly became a pariah.
9. The dishonest employee received a peremptory dismissal.
10. The prisoner painted a poignant picture of his suffering.
11. The wife of Socrates was sour and querulous.
12. That is the most ridiculous and specious argument I have ever heard.
13. Fear of riots and civil disorders was ubiquitous in the late 1960s.
14. He is so unctuous I cannot bear him.
15. That vainglorious and pompous senator annoys all who know him.

Now pronounce the words—aloud.
1. abstemious (ab-STEEM-ee-os)
2. chimerical (ki-MAIR-ee-keal)
3. facet (FASS-ee-at)
4. fetish (FEET-ee-sh or FEE-ee-tish)
5. Machiavellian (mak-ee-ee-VEL-ee-ee-an)
6. ochlocracy (ok-LOK-ee-see)
7. omniscient (om-NISH-ee-ent)
8. pariah (paw-RY-ee)
9. peremptory (paw-REMP-ee-to-ree)
10. poignant (POIN-ee-ont or POIN-ee-ont)
11. querulous (KAIR-ee-lee-ee)
12. *specious* (SPEE'-shōs)
13. *ubiquitous* (yōō-BIK'-wō-tōs)
14. *unctuous* (UNK'-chōō-əs)
15. *vainglorious* (vain-GLAW'-ree-əs)

III

Feel free to refer to the sentences in Section I as you check what you think is the correct synonym or synonymous phrase for each word.

1. *abstemious*
   a. licentious
   b. miserly
   c. sparing in the use of food and drink
2. *chimerical*
   a. foolish
   b. fanciful
   c. difficult
3. *facet*
   a. side; aspect
   b. tap
   c. failure
4. *fetish*
   a. shoe
   b. object of worship
   c. love
5. *Machiavellian*
   a. kingly
   b. politically cunning
   c. angelic
6. *ochlocracy*
   a. dictatorship
   b. mob rule
   c. democracy
7. *omniscient*
   a. omnipotent
   b. rare
   c. all-knowing

8. *pariah*
   a. outcast
   b. madman
   c. expatriate
9. *peremptory*
   a. tardy
   b. fearful
   c. decisive and final
10. *pognant*
    a. piquant
    b. painfully moving
    c. bitter
11. *querulous*
    a. questioning
    b. complaining; fretful
    c. angry
12. *specious*
    a. remarkable
    b. cunning
    c. subtly false
13. *ubiquitous*
    a. ecstatic
    b. found, or existing, everywhere
    c. pestiferous
14. *unctuous*
    a. dirty
    b. unconcerned
    c. bland and smooth in pretense of concern, sincerity, or spirituality
15. *vainglorious*
    a. silly
    b. boastful
    c. fastidious

**ANSWERS:** (1) c; (2) b; (3) a; (4) b; (5) b; (6) b; (7) c; (8) a; (9) c; (10) b; (11) b; (12) c; (13) b; (14) c; (15) b
IV

Gradually, as these words "unfold" for you, you will begin to feel more and more power over them. You met each word in context; next, you heard the word in your own voice and felt comfortable with the sound of it; then you picked a synonym out of three choices. With each exercise you gained a little more self-confidence.

The next step is to see if you can think of the word when the initial letter and a synonym or brief definition are given. This exercise checks your understanding, your power of recall and your spelling.

1. Final brooking no opposition or argument; hence, decisive to the point of being dictatorial
2. Mob rule
3. Outcast
4. Shrewdly cunning; politically devious
5. All-knowing
6. Object of worship
7. Sharply affecting the feelings; touching
8. Found everywhere
9. One side, face, or aspect of something
10. Complaining; whining; showing discontent
11. Very moderate, almost austere, in one's habits of eating and drinking
12. Seemingly true, but actually false
13. Boastfully conceited and self-important
14. Absurdly fanciful or unreal
15. Smooth and ingratiating, but obviously insincere, in one's pretense of piety, spirituality, concern, or earnestness

P
O
P
M
O
F
P
U
F
Q
A
S
V
C
U

Word Building by the "Unfolding Process"

ANSWERS: (1) peremptory; (2) ochlocracy; (3) pariah; (4) Machiavellian; (5) omniscient; (6) fetish; (7) poignant; (8) ubiquitous; (9) facet; (10) querulous; (11) abstemious; (12) specious; (13) vainglorious; (14) chimerical; (15) unctuous

V

Now, without an initial letter to guide your thinking, can you write the word that each phrase or sentence hints at?

1. Reign of terror during French Revolution
2. An object of worship among savages
3. An absurd creation of the imagination
4. A leper
5. Political maneuvers of dictators of the 1930s and 1940s
6. Arguments of a demagogue
7. The ice-cream vendor and his little truck on summer afternoons
8. The wisdom of unrequited love
9. Boastfulness was a characteristic of Napoleon
10. A complaining wife
11. Women who are on a reducing diet
12. A diamond
13. God
14. A martinet's order to an underling
15. A smooth appearance of sanctity

ANSWERS: (1) ochlocracy; (2) fetish; (3) chimerical; (4) pariah; (5) Machiavellian; (6) specious; (7) poignant; (8) ubiquitous; (9) vainglorious; (10) querulous; (11) abstemious; (12) facet; (13) omniscient; (14) peremptory; (15) unctuous
TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY

VI

"Toujours la pratique" say the French—"Always the practice." We enlarge your opportunities for practice by offering you four groups of five sentences. Each sentence to be completed by one of the fifteen words. Answers follow each group so you can check your results as you go along. Some of the words may be called for more than once.

GROUP 1

1. The speaker painted a ................. picture of hunger in America.
2. You may insist that everybody hates you and avoids you, but I assure you that's a ............... of your diseased imagination.
3. That teacher makes a ................. of discipline.
4. He is a glib, ................. person; I do not trust him.
5. Your ................. schemes to win the nomination will get you nowhere; already your name is anathema to most of your constituents.

ANSWERS: (1) poignant; (2) chimera; (3) fetish; (4) uñctuous; (5) Machiavellian

GROUP 2

1. At Christmas time the ................. Salvation Army lassie remind a selfish public of people for whom the season may not be merry.
2. That is a ................. argument, but possibly you may get a number of unthinking people to believe it.
3. No one can call you modest or diffident; indeed, on the contrary, you are the most ................. man I know.
4. Invalids discontented wives, rejected lovers, whiny children— all these tend to be .................
5. There are so many ................. to the international situation that it is difficult to guess what the future holds.

ANSWERS: (1) peremptory; (2) specious; (3) Machiavellian; (4) ubiquitous; (5) fetish

GROUP 3

1. No one knows what is going to happen in the world. Things are in such an imbroglio. One would have to be ................. to know.
2. Poor people, through lack of money, are forced to be .................
3. Lynching is an excellent example of .................
4. Sometimes it is necessary for an author to know what is going on in the minds of his characters. This is called .................
5. After murdering Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth became a .................

ANSWERS: (1) omniscient; (2) abstemious; (3) ochlocracy; (4) omniscience; (5) pariah

GROUP 4

1. Some mothers make their commands so ................. that they antagonize their children.
2. He is winning you over to his side with ................. reasoning.
3. His ................. machinations make him the most feared and the least trusted man in America.
4. In the spring the color green may be said to be almost .................
5. Some housewives make an absolute ................. out of neatness.

ANSWERS: (1) peremptory; (2) specious; (3) Machiavellian; (4) ubiquitous; (5) fetish

VII

Now we are going to ask you to think in reverse, for the more angle from which we approach these words, the more the words will become meaningful and useful to you.
TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY

Can you figure out which of the fifteen words is opposite in meaning to each of the following?

1. Gluttonish
2. Real; in actual existence
3. Object of hatred
4. Politically direct and honest
5. Control over the mob so that it is without power
6. Completely ignorant; knowing nothing
7. An idol, loved by all
8. Indecisive; wavering
9. Leaving the emotions unaffected
10. Satisfied; uncomplaining
11. Authentic; true in every way
12. Found nowhere; completely absent
13. Crude and boorish
14. Modest

ANSWERS: (1) abstemious; (2) chimerical; (3) fetish; (4) Machiavellian; (5) ochlocracy; (6) omniscient; (7) pariah; (8) peremptory; (9) poignant; (10) querulous; (11) specious; (12) ubiquitous; (13) unctuous; (14) vainglorious

VIII

The defining of any word is incredibly hard. Just think, for instance, of writing a definition of "blue" in such a way that a blind man will get a clear idea of what you mean. But your very attempt to define the fifteen words we have been working with will force you to think intensively about them and will clinch their meanings for you in a way that nothing else possibly could.

When you check with the answers, you cannot expect your language to be the same as that in the definitions given; but if you find that you have covered substantially

Word Building by the "Unfolding Process"

the same points, you will have proof that you have mastered the fifteen words of this chapter.

1. abstemious:

2. chimerical:

3. facet:

4. fetish:

5. Machiavellian:

6. ochlocracy:

7. omniscient:

8. pariah:

9. peremptory:

10. poignant:

11. querulous:

12. specious:
can't repeat too often. When we speak of the value of a large vocabulary, we don't mean a vocabulary of large words. A large word has its place. Sometimes it will crystallize a meaning that otherwise might require a whole phrase to express. Fine. Use such a word then. It will make for brevity and clarity. It is much simpler to describe a man as a "monogamist" than to have to say that "he is the type of man who believes in marrying only one wife." But never use a long word when a short one will do. Never try for fancy phrases. Persons who do that are not being "literary." They are merely being stuffy and are attempting to parade their knowledge. Don't say, "I reside in my domicile." Say, "I live in my house." You don't commence; you begin. You don't pass away, or go to your reward; you die. A conflagration is a fire. And you don't retire; you just plain go to bed.

The highest art is usually the simplest in form, be it sculpture or music or architecture or painting—or language.

This chapter has contained a few long and somewhat unusual words, and this leads us to a warning that we
Words from Classic Roots

We Americans are the most inventive people in the world, and we have been applying this genius continually to our language. We have been inventing words ever since the Pilgrims drew lots for land and began identifying a piece of ground as a "lot."

We have not only invented words, but, as has been indicated in this book, we have hungrily adopted them from other languages and have adapted the imported and foreign words to our own uses.

In this chapter we will explore several roads that branch off from the simple numbers one, two, and three. You may find that we will repeat some etymological roots that we have already had.

The Greek word monos, "one," appears in English words as mono or mon. Thus a monocle is a glass for one eye. Monogamy is one marriage. A monogram is a combination of two or more letters so arranged as to represent a single unit.

Can you think of some words beginning with mono or mon? The definitions should help you, but if you're stuck, check with the answers below.

1. A treatise on one subject
2. A speech uttered by one person
3. Mental derangement confined to one idea
4. An airplane with one pair of wings
5. Exclusive possession or control of any one thing
6. A word of one syllable
7. Belief in one god
8. One unvarying tone
9. Government in the hands of one ruler
10. Place in which a person lives alone (as one, by himself) under religious vows
11. The inhabitant of the place described in item 10
12. Continuing in one unvarying way or tone; hence, tiresome, dull

ANSWERS: (1) monograph; (2) monologue; (3) monomania; (4) monoplane; (5) monopoly; (6) monosyllable; (7) monotheism; (8) monotone; (9) monarchy; (10) monastery; (11) monk; (12) monotonous

If we analyze some of the words in the previous exercise, we discover a number of new roots.

1. In monograph we have Greek graphein, "to write," a root that appears in English words as graph or grain. For example:

   - graphic—written; hence, vivid
   - graphite—writing material
   - autograph—one's name written by oneself
Words from Classic Roots

9. Cut into two parts
10. A marine animal with two shells, as an oyster, clam, etc.

ANSWERS: (1) bicycle; (2) biennial; (3) bifocals; (4) bigamy; (5) bimonthly; (6) binoculars; (7) biped; (8) biscuit; (9) bisect; (10) bivalve

If we analyze the words in the previous exercise, we can find in them some useful roots.

1. The last part of bicycle is from Greek kyklos, "wheel" or "circle," a root found also in cyclic, unicycle, tricycle.

2. In bigamy, we have Greek gamos, a root we have already learned, and the ending of monogamy, polygamy, misogamy.

3. Binoculars contains Latin oculus, "eye," from which root we derive monocle, oculist, ocular.

4. In biped there is the Latin root pedis, "foot," also found in pedestrian, pedal, quadruped, impede, and expedition.

5. The second root in bisect is Latin sectus, "cut," from which we also derive section, sect, insect, intersect, trisect, etc.

Tri is a Latin or Greek prefix meaning "three." Thus, in music, a triad is a chord of three notes; a triangle is a figure of three angles; a tricolor is a flag of three colors.

Now fill in the twelve spaces with the proper words made up of tri:

1. A vehicle of three wheels
2. Having three sides
3. Made up of, or pertaining to, three languages
TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY

4. A series of three literary or musical compositions
5. Every three months
6. The union of three persons, as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost
7. Three people who sing a song
8. Consisting of three
9. Three children born simultaneously from the same mother
10. A three-legged stand, as for a camera

ANSWERS: (1) tricycle; (2) trilateral; (3) trilingual; (4) trilogy; (5) trimonthly; (6) trinity; (7) trio; (8) triple; (9) triplets; (10) tripod

Words from Classic Roots

5. theos, “god”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
6. bis, “twice,” “two”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
7. kyklos, “wheel”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
8. gamos, “marriage”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
9. oculus, “eye”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
10. pedis, “foot”
    a. ..................
    b. ..................
11. sectus, “cut”
    a. ..................
    b. ..................
12. tri, “three”
    a. ..................
    b. ..................
13. lateris, “side”
    a. ..................
    b. ..................
14. podos, “foot”
    a. ..................
    b. ..................

Trilateral contains Latin lateris, “side,” found also in bilateral, two-sided; quadrilateral, four-sided; unilateral, one-sided; and lateral, pertaining to a side.

Tripod combines tri- with Greek podos, “foot,” found also in podium, the small raised platform on which the conductor of an orchestra stands; chiropodist or podiatrist, foot doctor; and monopode, a mythical single-footed creature.

IV

Are your classical (i.e., Latin and Greek) roots under control? Then, without checking with previous material, fill in two English words based on each of the roots below.

1. monos, “one”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
2. graphein, “write”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
3. logos, “word,” “study,” etc.
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
4. mania, “derangement”
   a. ..................
   b. ..................
Words Change Their Meanings

You may remember the anecdote that was told of King George the First of England and Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. Upon the completion of the masterly edifice, the king told Wren that his work was “amusing, awful, and artificial.” Sir Christopher was delighted with the royal compliment, inasmuch as three hundred years ago amusing meant amazing, awful meant awe-inspiring, and artificial meant artistic.

That is a dramatic indication of how the meanings of words change over the years. Latin and Greek, of course, are dead languages and are therefore static, but a language as vital and alive as English is in a constant state of flux.

In very olden days, roses used to “stink.” This was not the fault of the flowers but of the word. In Old English “stink,” and “stench” too, referred to any odor at all, good or bad. But since unpleasant odors make a stronger impression on us than others, and are, therefore, more often commented upon, the meaning of the word gradually shifted, and came finally to have only an unpleasant significance.

Similar shifts in meaning are occurring right under our eyes today. The words “smell” and “odor,” when they are unqualified by adjectives, are beginning to gather about them disagreeable connotations. The phrases “what a smell!” or “what an odor” certainly no longer refer to anything pleasant. Nowadays when our noses are pleased we have to resort to such terms as “scent” and “aroma.” If these words become soiled someday, as they almost surely will, we may find ourselves resorting to “bouquet,” a word now largely restricted to the distinctive aroma of wine.

“Villain” is another once respectable word that degenerated. Originally a “villain” was a farm laborer, or one who worked in a villa. Some philologists think the word was helped in its downward path by its supposed connection with the unrelated word “vile.” Likewise, “hussy” is merely a contraction of the innocent word “housewife.”

“Starve” used to mean “die.” “Zest” was a piece of lemon peel. “Meat” in Anglo-Saxon was any food at all, as in the Biblical “If meat maketh my brother to offend. . . .” In the sixteenth century “specious” meant “beautiful,” “stupid” meant “amazed,” and “mortified” meant “deadened.” And when the American settlers founded Plymouth, “naughty” still meant just what it sounds like—“good for naught”—and in the records of the colony we find the odd phrase “small and naughty canoes.”

Change is of course one of the most reliable indications of a healthy and growing language. And no language has ever grown so luxuriantly or changed so radically as English, or its close cousin, our American language. It is changing day by day.

A few short years ago “broadcast” meant merely “to sow seed.” Now it refers to radio and television. “Exotic” meant “foreign or strange,” as “an exotic flower.” Now we speak of a motion picture actress as being “exotic” when
TWENTY-NINTH DAY

she is glamorous, and the use even of “glamour” in this sense is as new as motion pictures.

English, like time, marches on. What a word meant yesterday it no longer means today. The word “humor” formerly referred to one’s disposition or state of mind, and still more formerly, to one of the four fluids of the body, and still more formerly, to moisture or vapor. Now it identifies that sense by aid of which we can appreciate something funny; and “funny,” which once meant “laughable,” now often means “queer or odd.”

In the old days when we said a person was lying “prone,” we meant, quite correctly, that he was lying on his face. Today, judging by newspaper photographs, he is usually lying on his back. In our present times a “fight” is often simply an argument; a “celebrity” is anyone who was in yesterday’s gossip column. Today one can “climb up” as well as down; “lay” means “lie”; and “quite,” formerly meaning “wholly,” now, like “awfully,” often means only “very.” “Acclimate” has changed its pronunciation as well as its meaning, and is now usually used to show adjustment not only to weather or physical conditions, but even to one’s friends. “Asylum,” which comes from the Greek asylos, “no right of seizure,” meant originally “a place of refuge.” In modern times this word has been so corrupted that it has signified only “lunatic asylum.”

So our language shifts, changes, grows, and is alive to the fingertips. There are new words for new times. If conditions today were identical with those of one hundred years ago, a “cabriolet” would still mean a “light, one-horse, two-seated carriage” as it did to our great-grandfathers, and not, as it did in the 1940s, a convertible coupé. (And today, of course, since language always becomes simpler, we call it, compactly, a “convertible.”)

If civilization had not changed from Anglo-Saxon times, “curious” would still mean “careful,” and “silly” would still mean “blessed.”

Language changes, change is normal, and one hundred years from now many of the words whose meanings are suitable to the civilization of the twentieth century will probably undergo startling changes in order to adapt to the twenty-first.

You have come now to the end of your course. The next chapter will be a review test. You will have some idea of the progress you have made when we tell you that in these lessons you have added more words to your vocabulary than the average adult adds in ten to fifteen years. After the middle twenties, one’s vocabulary growth virtually ceases unless a planned effort is made.

Remember how limited most of us are as to words. Nine native words, such as “it” and “the” make up one-quarter of our conversation. Add thirty-four more and you have half the words of our daily speech. That is, forty-three words do fifty per cent of our conversational work. There is so little you have to do to beat this average.

Write it large in your mind that a mastery of words is one of the essentials for success in every sphere of life.
Your 30-Day Vocabulary Test

You have now added the greater part of five hundred usable and valuable words to your working vocabulary. It will be interesting to find out how many of them you are still sure of.

I

Check the word or phrase closest in meaning to each italicized word.

1. gregarious  a. home-loving  b. party-loving  c. food-loving
2. wanton  a. unrestrained  b. desirous  c. useful
3. pander  a. fry  b. cater to  c. raise
4. effete  a. worn out  b. strong  c. happy
5. vicarious  a. actual  b. second-hand  c. vicious

II

Write five words ending in -mania.
1. ........................................
2. ........................................
3. ........................................
4. ........................................
5. ........................................

III

Write the verb, beginning with the initial letter indicated, that suits each definition.
1. To spend time in the country  R ........................................
2. To delay  P ........................................
3. To show disapproval  D ........................................
4. To exclude from social privileges  O ........................................
5. To be bright and witty  S ........................................

IV

Write the title of the doctor you would see for each of these troubles.
1. Eye diseases  O ........................................
2. Children's disease  P ........................................
3. Mental disorder  P ........................................
4. Skin trouble  P ........................................
5. Crooked teeth  O ........................................

V

What is the specialty of each of the following?
1. Podiatrist ........................................
2. Gynecologist ........................................
3. Dermatologist ........................................
THIRTIETH DAY

4. Oculist .............................................
5. Obstetrician .......................................  

VI

Check the word or phrase closest in meaning to each italicized word.
1. panacea a. theory b. information c. cure-all
2. vindictive a. revengeful b. releasing c. wise
3. maudlin a. tearfully b. angry c. happy sentimental
4. misogynist a. man-hater b. marriage-hater c. woman-hater
5. vitriolic a. glassy b. caustic c. mild

VII

What philosophy is implied by each of the following:
1. “There is no God.” A .................
2. “No one knows whether God exists.” A .................
3. “All virtue consists in self-interest.” E .................
4. “Pleasure is the ultimate good.” E .................
5. “My country (religion, city, etc.) is superior to all others.” C .................

VIII

Name the field each scientist specializes in.
1. anthropologist .............................................
2. geologist .............................................
3. archaeologist .............................................
4. embryologist .............................................
5. entomologist .............................................
6. ethnologist .............................................
7. etymologist .............................................
8. ornithologist .............................................

Your 30-Day Vocabulary Test

9. philologist .............................................
10. psychologist .............................................  

IX

Write the verb, beginning with the letter indicated, that fits each definition.
1. charge to L ..........
2. atone for E ..........
3. stagnate V ..........
4. cheat M ..........
5. beg I ..........

X

Check the correct definition.
1. facilitate a. make better b. make easier c. make happier
2. emulate a. imitate b. deny c. question
3. gesticulate a. use gestures b. use words c. use sounds
4. plagiarize a. steal literary property b. torture c. attack
5. patronize a. cater to with condescension b. defer to respect with hesitation
c. cater to with hesitation

XI

Write the meaning of the root and one English word built on it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOT</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>monos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>graphein</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>theos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THIRTIETH DAY

4. *bis* .................................................
5. *uri* ..................................................

XII

Write the word that fits each definition.
1. Pathologic incendiari**m** .......................... P
2. Fear of closed **spaces** ........................... C
3. Sleepwalking ....................................... S
4. Hostility to father, with undue **attachment** to mother O
5. Delusions of persecution .......................... P

XIII

Check the proper word.
1. Loss of a. insom-  
   memory b. somnam-  c. amnesia
   nia bulism
2. Incessant a. pyro-  b. klepto-  c. dipso- 
   drunken- mania mania
   ness
3. Trouble a. claustra-  b. acropho-  c. hypochon-
   phobia bia dria
   phobia imaginary ills
e. Delight a. sadism b. cynicism c. icono-
   in inflict- clasm
   ing pain on another
4. Pandering a. anar-  b. jingoism c. demogogu-
   chism ery
   to the passions of people to gain political power

XIV

Match the two columns by placing the appropriate letter of column B next to each word in column A. We have added an extra word in column B to make it more difficult.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.</th>
<th>B.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. disciplinarian</td>
<td>a. coquette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. boot-licker</td>
<td>b. egotist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. beginner</td>
<td>c. martinet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. conceited fellow</td>
<td>d. sycophant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. flirt</td>
<td>e. atheist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. tyro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XV

Proceed as before.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.</th>
<th>B.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. coin collector</td>
<td>a. virtuoso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. one with good taste</td>
<td>b. philologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in food</td>
<td>c. philatelist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. beauty worshiper</td>
<td>d. numismatist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. student of language</td>
<td>e. gourmet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. skilled artist</td>
<td>f. esthete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XVI

Proceed as before.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.</th>
<th>B.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. man with one wife</td>
<td>a. ornithologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. see</td>
<td>b. ethnologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. eye doctor</td>
<td>c. clairvoyant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. dabbler in art</td>
<td>d. oculist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. student of birds</td>
<td>e. monogamist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. dilettante</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THIRTIETH DAY

XVII

Write the word that fits each definition.
1. drowsiness or indifference  L .............
2. full to repletion  S .............
3. exhausted  E .............
4. boredom  E .............
5. haughtily contemptuous  S .............

XVIII

Write the meaning of the root and one English word built on it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOT</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. anthropos</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. polys</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. philein</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. misein</td>
<td>..........</td>
<td>..........</td>
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XXI

Match the two columns.

A.
1. introvert  a. truculent
2. inhibited  b. one whose mind is turned inward
3. diffident  c. quixotic
4. with impractical ideals  d. shy
5. overbearing  e. restrained

XXII

Check in each case the word opposite to the italicized word. Repeat: opposite, or antonymous.
1. plebeian  a. common b. ordinary c. distinguished
2. inane  a. wise b. necessary c. useful
3. wanton  a. hopeful b. restrained c. lovely
4. obsequious  a. brusque b. happy c. sad
5. crass  a. rapid b. refined c. good

XXIII

Match the words of similar meaning in these two columns:

A.
1. carelessly
2. skilfully

B.
1. adroitly
2. vociferously
THIRTIETH DAY

3. sourly c. irascibly
4. smoothly d. glibly
5. loudly e. cursorily

XXIV

Choose from the following lettered list a word or phrase opposite—repeat, opposite—to each numbered word below the list. Write the appropriate letter next to each number.

a. useless d. solid h. necessary
b. known to all e. satisfactory i. stingy
c. marriage within f. healthy j. wavering
one's own race g. wasteful k. respectful

1. miscenation
2. esoteric
3. nebulous
4. moribund
5. scurrilous

XXV

Choose from the following lettered list a word or phrase similar—repeat, similar—in meaning to each numbered word below the list. Write the appropriate letter next to each number.

a. imaginary e. overpatriotic i. object of hatred
b. hater of women f. liberal j. desirable
c. excessively fond g. wasteful k. tireless
d. stingy h. homesickness i. well-meaning

1. parsimonious
2. catholic
3. uxorious
4. profligate
5. chauvinistic

Your 30-Day Vocabulary Test

XXVI

Write “same” if the two words in a pair have similar meanings; “opposite” if they have opposing meanings.

1. analogous—similar
2. ambiguous—clear
3. epigrammatic—pointless
4. euphemistic—crude
5. redundant—repetitious

XXVII

Write the meaning of the italicized portion of each word.

1. dipsomania
2. biped
3. tripod
4. podium
5. bicycle

XXVIII

Proceed as before.

1. animate
2. benefit
3. factory
4. dictate
5. unite

XXIX

Each one of the following five words is followed by a definition. Where the definition is correct, write “yes”; where it is incorrect write “no.”
THIRTIETH DAY

1. ochlocracy .......... rule by a dictator
2. omniscient .......... all-knowing
3. fetish ............... object of hate
4. facet ............... hope
5. abstemious .......... glutinous

XXX

Write “true” or “false” next to each statement.

1. Chimerical things are tangible.
2. Machiavellian people are naive.
3. Pariahs are popular.
4. Diffident people are generally peremptory.
5. Querulous wives are happy.

Allowing two points for each correct answer to the 155 items in the test you have just taken, it is possible to make a maximum score of 310. After checking with the answers below, read the results of your learning from the following table:

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<td>Fair</td>
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<td>Poor</td>
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ANSWERS:

I. (1) b; (2) a; (3) b; (4) a; (5) b
II. dipsomania, megalomania, pyromania, kleptomania, bibliomania, egomania, nymphomania, Anglomania, Francomania, etc.
III. (1) rusticate; (2) procrastinate; (3) depreciate; (4) ostracize; (5) scintillate
IV. (1) oculist or ophthalmologist; (2) pediatrician; (3) psychiatrist; (4) dermatologist; (5) orthodontist
V. (1) feet; (2) women’s diseases; (3) skin diseases; (4) eye diseases; (5) delivery of babies
VI. (1) c; (2) a; (3) a; (4) c; (5) b
VII. (1) atheism; (2) agnosticism; (3) egoism; (4) epicureanism; (5) chauvinism
VIII. (1) history of mankind; (2) rocks; (3) ancient relics or excavations; (4) unborn animals or children; (5) insects; (6) history of races; (7) derivation of words; (8) birds; (9) language; (10) human mind
IX. (1) impute; (2) expiate; (3) vegetate; (4) mult; (5) importune
X. (1) b; (2) a; (3) a; (4) a; (5) a
XI. (1) one (monocle, monogram, monologue, monosomnia, monogamy, monotheism, monopole, monastery, monk, monopoly, monograph, etc.); (2) write (graphology, autograph, graphic, monograph, monograph, etc.); (3) god (theology, theocracy, monotheism, atheism, pantheism, theism, etc.); (4) twice, two (biped, bicycle, bicuspid, bilateral, binocular, bigamy, bisect, etc.); (5) three (triangle, tricycle, tripod, trio, trinity, tricuspid, trisect, etc.)
XII. (1) pyromania; (2) claustrophobia; (3) somnambulism; (4) Oedipus complex; (5) paranoia
XIII. (1) c; (2) c; (3) c; (4) a; (5) c
XIV. (1) c; (2) d; (3) f; (4) b; (5) a
XV. (1) d; (2) e; (3) f; (4) b; (5) a
XVI. (1) e; (2) c; (3) d; (4) f; (5) a
XVII. (1) lethargy; (2) satiated; (3) enervated; (4) ennui; (5) supercilious
XVIII. (1) man, mankind (anthropology, anthropoid, misanthropy, philanthropy, etc.); (2) many (polygamy, polygon, polytechnic, polymer, polyester resin, polytheism, etc.); (3) love (philanthropy, Philadelphia, philately, philtrum,
philosophy, bibliophile, Anglophile, Franco-
phile, Russophile, philodendron, philopro-
genitive, etc.; (4) hate (misanthropy,
misogamy, misogyny, etc.); (5) foot (pe-
destrian, pedal, pedometer, impede, expedite,
expedition, impediment, etc.)
XIX. (1) e; (2) c; (3) d; (4) b; (5) a
XX. (1) peccadillo; (2) braggadocio; (3) im-
broglio; (4) jingoism; (5) malinger
XXI. (1) b; (2) e; (3) d; (4) c; (5) a
XXII. (1) c; (2) a; (3) b; (4) a; (5) b
XXIII. (1) e; (2) a; (3) c; (4) d; (5) b
XXIV. (1) c; (2) b; (3) d; (4) f; (5) k
XXV. (1) d; (2) f; (3) c; (4) g; (5) e
XXVI. (1) same; (2) opposite; (3) opposite;
(4) opposite; (5) same
XXVII. (1) derangement; (2) twice, two; (3)
three; (4) foot; (5) wheel
XXVIII. (1) mind or spirit; (2) well; (3) do,
make; (4) say, tell; (5) one
XXIX. (1) no; (2) yes; (3) no; (4) no; (5)
no
XXX. (1) false; (2) false; (3) false; (4) false;
(5) false

One Last Word:
A Lifetime Habit

In one sense you have finished this book. In another we
hope that you have just begun.

You have, perhaps, learned to know many words more
intimately. And any new word that you learn in your life
will add amazingly to your power to think. Once a man
thinks—really thinks—he has little competition. You may
remember that the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw
one time said that few people think more than two or three
times a year. He claimed that he had made an international
reputation by thinking as often as once a week! And please
remember that there is no expedient to which a man will
not resort to avoid the labor of thinking.

It will be more important now than ever before to
shine up all the instruments in your kit that may prove to
be the tools to success. We are coming out into a tough
and tangled world. Those who are well-equipped will sur-
vive. Those who are not, may not. In almost every life, in
every age, one gets what one asks for, and in this age of all
others there will be very few alibis allowed.
There is not much of a secret to success. It is a great thing that is usually won by humble, routine methods. The mere decision you made to begin these lessons was an important step, for, as the Chinese say, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

So continue with your word study. Watch for new words at all times. Never be content until you know the meaning of a strange one. Make it your own possession. Use it in a letter, in conversation. List it in your pocket notebook, with its common meaning, its pronunciation, and a sentence in which it is used. Have a little mental rehearsal on these words now and again while you are walking along the street. Carry on an imaginary conversation.

An intelligent argument, by the way, will give your new words a real workout. In such a challenge, a sharply accurate knowledge of the exact meanings of words is invaluable.

We can take particular and patriotic pride in mastering our speech. For ours is no longer the English language. It is the American language. Our language is as different from so-called English as South American Spanish is from the Castilian Spanish of Spain.

As a matter of fact, there is no real "English" language, as Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and the various areas of England itself, all have their dialects. The Lincolnshire farmer and the Lancashire miner can't even understand each other. England, like almost every other nation in the world, is a mass of discordant dialects.

What we know as the "English" language is, much more truly, the "London" language, and the language of a particular part and class of London at that, as the inhabitants of Limehouse might laugh at the cockney dialect and the taxi driver would smile at the toff.

So there is every reason why you should take a deep and passionate pride in the American language. It has a beautiful unity throughout our land. No other country in the world one tenth our size can show such linguistic
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Only the first appearance of each word in each chapter is indicated.

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