

# Vocabulary Power

## Lesson 39 The Latin Root *memor* and Prefix *retro-*

The Latin root *memor*, meaning “mindful,” and the Latin prefix *retro-*, meaning “backward” or “back,” are the sources of English words that express past ideas. For example, something that is *memorable* is worth being remembered. If you consider something in *retrospect*, you are looking backward or reviewing the past. The words in this lesson will help you talk about experiences that occurred at an earlier time.

**Word List**


<b>commemorate</b>	<b>memorabilia</b>	<b>retrofit</b>	<b>retrogress</b>
<b>immemorial</b>	<b>memorandum</b>	<b>retrograde</b>	<b>retrospective</b>
<b>memoir</b>	<b>retroactive</b>		

### **EXERCISE A** Clues Matching

**Supply the vocabulary word that best matches each clue. Then, write your own definition and check it against the dictionary definition.**

1. This word from the prefix *retro-* and the Latin word *specere*, meaning “to look,” can apply to an artist’s work about the past. \_\_\_\_\_  
 My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
2. This noun comes from the Latin word *memoria*, meaning “memory.” You might read this to discover the secrets of your favorite author. \_\_\_\_\_  
 My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
3. This word combines the prefix *retro-* and the Latin word *gradi*, meaning “to go.” The economy might do this after several months of expansion. \_\_\_\_\_  
 My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
4. This word comes from the Latin word *memorabilis*, meaning “memorable.” Collectors sometimes pay high prices for this material. \_\_\_\_\_  
 My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
5. The prefix *retro-* added to the Latin word *agere*, meaning “to drive,” produces this word that might apply to a pay increase that begins in September but applies back to July. \_\_\_\_\_  
 My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

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 **Vocabulary Power** *continued*

6. This word is created when the prefix *com-*, meaning “with,” is added to the word *memor*, meaning “mindful.” You might buy a stamp that does this for a movie star. \_\_\_\_\_  
My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
7. This word combines the prefix *retro-* with the Old English word *fitt*, meaning “strife.” People who have purchased cars before airbags were available would have to do this to get airbags. \_\_\_\_\_  
My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
8. This word comes from the Latin word *memorandus*, meaning “to remind.” This is a method of communicating in a business environment. \_\_\_\_\_  
My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
9. This word comes from the prefix *im-*, meaning “not,” and the Latin word *memorialis*, meaning “memory.” This word refers to a time before written or oral records. \_\_\_\_\_  
My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_
10. This word is built from the prefix *retro-* and the Latin word *gradi*, meaning “to go.” This apparent phenomenon in planets’ movements is due to different rates of orbital speed. \_\_\_\_\_  
My definition \_\_\_\_\_  
Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE B Technology and Memory**

**Given the advanced state of technology today, how might you preserve an experience so that you do not have to rely on memory? On a separate sheet of paper, write an explanation of the kind of technology you would use, how you would apply it, and when you would be most likely to use it. In your explanation, use at least five of the vocabulary words from this lesson.**

# Vocabulary Power

## Lesson 40 Using Test-Taking Skills

### Sentence Completion

Sentence-completion questions, often included in the verbal portion of standardized tests, call upon your knowledge of vocabulary as well as your critical-thinking skills. In these items, you are required to supply a missing word or words that fit into the context of the sentence. To do so, you must understand the ideas in the sentence. These tips will help you determine meaning from context so that you can better answer sentence-completion questions.

1. Read the entire sentence, noting where the missing word or words are.
2. Analyze the structure of the sentence, searching the context for clues to the overall meaning. A sentence may offer reasons or examples, present a contrast, or give a definition. In this sample sentence, a close synonym provides the needed clue.

The theme of the novel concerns the \_\_\_\_\_ of perpetuating a meaningless feud from generation to generation.

(a) foresight (b) force (c) fortitude (d) folly

3. Eliminate the incorrect answer choices. *Foresight* and *force* make no sense because they have more positive connotations than the rest of the sentence contains. "Strength of mind," part of the definition of *fortitude*, also does not make sense in this context.
4. Substitute the remaining answer choice or choices. In this case, *folly* and *perpetuating a meaningless feud through generations* work together effectively.

### EXERCISE

Circle the letter of the word or pair of words that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. Carolyn displays \_\_\_\_\_ by writing a paragraph when a sentence would be sufficient.
  - a. brevity
  - b. verbosity
  - c. animosity
  - d. intolerance
2. To avoid having to repeat the announcement, Mr. Coelho waited until everyone was \_\_\_\_\_ before speaking.
  - a. assembled
  - b. forged
  - c. cloistered
  - d. swarmed
3. A new group of volunteers \_\_\_\_\_ the weary group that had been stacking sandbags in an effort to \_\_\_\_\_ the flood waters.
 

a. rebuked, placate	c. replaced, halt
b. depressed, preserve	d. admired, avoid
4. Millions of voters \_\_\_\_\_ guerrilla threats to \_\_\_\_\_ the country's first presidential election.
 

a. forgot, win	c. made, cancel
b. defied, participate in	d. heard, defeat
5. Scientists \_\_\_\_\_ that Antarctica, now \_\_\_\_\_ and covered with ice, was once temperate and filled with plant life.
 

a. demand, distant	b. insist, withered	c. believe, barren	d. warn, subdued
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6. Sheila finds it easy to \_\_\_\_\_ the behavior her friends expect since they share similar values.
 

a. conform to	b. force	c. pretend about	d. substitute
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