

Vocabulary Power



Lesson 41 Using Context Clues

In today's world, science and technology play increasingly important roles. Empirical evidence encourages us to define reality as rooted in reason. Within this context, imagination, or the inner ordering of the mind, is often downplayed and even dismissed. Modern thinking sometimes rejects the interplay of imagination, fantasy, and illusion. However, reality is not only outer and objective, nor is it solely inner and subjective. It is a blend of both, an artful balance between inner and outer experience. The words in this lesson provide a seedbed for discussion about these two experiences that converge in a rich and fertile view of human experience.

Word List

annihilate	conspiratorial	diverge	prosaic
audacious	converge	illumination	thwart
conciliatory	derisive		

EXERCISE A Context Clues


Write the vocabulary word that best matches each clue below.

1. If you participate in a plan to overthrow the government, you can be accused of this kind of thinking.

2. The beginning snowboarder may be called this to try such a steep slope right away. _____
3. Three or more roads do this in traffic circles, found frequently in New Jersey and Massachusetts.

4. This verb can be used to describe what an earthquake can do to buildings in an unprepared city.

5. You might show your lack of respect for a person by giving this kind of laugh. _____
6. A book or movie like this would probably not hold your interest. _____
7. This happens when you turn on the lights in a dark room. _____
8. The mediator's actions were described this way when she brought opposing sides together to solve their differences. _____
9. This happens when two roads that are parallel turn in different directions. _____
10. Angry citizens did this to the mayor's plans to raise taxes. _____


Vocabulary Power *continued*
EXERCISE B Usage

Circle the correct word in parentheses that can be used to complete the sentence.

- Two roads that (diverge, annihilate, converge) in a wood represent Robert Frost's metaphor for the choice of a life direction.
- The thunderstorm didn't (converge, conciliate, thwart) our plans for a trip to the zoo.
- The (conspiratorial, audacious, derisive) thief just walked out the front door with his loot.
- Angela tried to use a (conspiratorial, conciliatory, prosaic) tone of voice to get the cooperation of both of her relatives.
- Peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches, along with cheese and crackers, comprised a (prosaic, derisive, conspiratorial) menu at the elegant art opening.
- We decided to use chemicals against the aphids, white flies, and spider mites that threatened to (converge, diverge, annihilate) every plant in the garden.
- With a loud stage whisper and a(n) (audacious, conspiratorial, derisive) wink, the narrator of the play invited the children to join him in booing the villain.
- Social, political, and economic factors can (diverge, annihilate, converge) to create a revolutionary movement.
- Candles provided the only (annihilation, convergence, illumination) for the romantic dinner.
- With hands on hips and a (derisive, prosaic, conciliatory) smile, Monica taunted, "I told you so."

EXERCISE C Synonyms and Antonyms

Decide which word has the meaning that is the same as (a synonym) or opposite to (an antonym) that of the vocabulary word. Write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

- _____ 1. converge (synonym)
a. witness b. cheapen c. meet d. climb
- _____ 2. thwart (antonym)
a. encourage b. audit c. leave d. inflame
- _____ 3. annihilate (synonym)
a. label b. compound c. straddle d. destroy
- _____ 4. conciliatory (antonym)
a. public b. clean c. sleek d. disagreeable
- _____ 5. diverge (synonym)
a. chase b. deviate c. minimize d. launch
- _____ 6. prosaic (antonym)
a. inventive b. compatible c. deliberate d. reliable



Lesson 42 Using Synonyms

Imagination is the process whereby we convert our perceptions of reality into deep inner meanings unique to us. Along with fantasy, fancy, and illusion, imagination can make a powerful impact on the way we perceive the universe. Our use of illusion can add magic and creativity to a routine assignment. Hand in hand with reason, the various faces of imagination can enhance our view of experience. The words in this lesson can help you to explore and understand the relationship between imagination and your own perceptions of reality.


Word List

curt	fatuous	impinge	privation
depreciate	hinder	parry	ravage
exotic	ignoble		

EXERCISE A Synonyms Sample synonyms and dictionary definitions are provided.

Each boldfaced vocabulary word below is paired with a synonym whose meaning you probably know. Think of other words related to the synonym and write them on the line provided. Then, look up the vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning.

1. fatuous: foolish _____
 Dictionary definition _____
2. ravage: devastate _____
 Dictionary definition _____
3. curt: abrupt _____
 Dictionary definition _____
4. hinder: obstruct _____
 Dictionary definition _____
5. depreciate: reduce _____
 Dictionary definition _____
6. impinge: encroach _____
 Dictionary definition _____
7. exotic: alien _____
 Dictionary definition _____
8. privation: destitution _____
 Dictionary definition _____
9. ignoble: sordid _____
 Dictionary definition _____



Vocabulary Power *continued*

10. parry: deflect repel, dodge
 Dictionary definition parry: to turn aside, to deflect or avoid

EXERCISE B Usage

If the boldfaced word is used correctly in the sentence, write *correct* above it. If not, draw a line through it and write the correct vocabulary word above it.

- When the Killiams enclosed their vegetable garden, they didn't realize that the fence would impinge on the property next door.
- When Abner was nervous or upset, he tended to be curt, making silly faces, animal noises, and dumb remarks.
- After the hurricane had destroyed their home, the Ruggiero family faced privation and an uncertain future.
- In today's volatile stock market, company stock values can ravage so quickly that short-term investors may be forced to sell at a loss.
- Severe thunderstorms threatened to hinder the landscape for miles.
- Plants such as orchids, African mallows, and clivias were once viewed as exotic, but today they are common.
- An incoming storm began to depreciate the deep-sea salvage operation.
- Ignoble and selfish, Benton was more interested in his fiancée's bank account than in her.
- The politician tried to parry embarrassing questions about office finances.
- The governor's press secretary cut off the barrage of questions with a curt "No comment."

EXERCISE C Word Roots

Parry, one of the words in this lesson, comes originally from the sport of fencing, where the word refers to a defensive move in which the fencer deflects or wards off a thrust from an opponent. Many other words from sports have enriched the English language. Research one of the following words in an encyclopedia of word origins or another resource. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write a brief report about the word, explaining its history, original definition, and current meaning and usage.

- haggard (falconry)
- allure (falconry)
- full tilt (jousting)
- bandy (tennis)
- sidestep (boxing)
- fluke (billiards)