

Vocabulary Lesson 1  
11 Composition CP

*Incongruous*

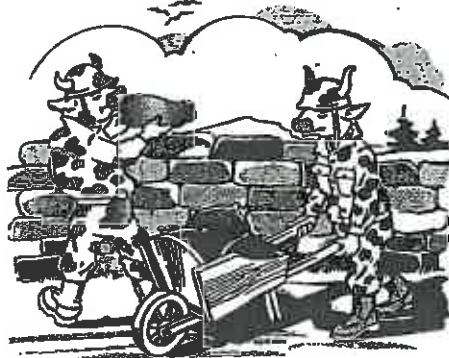
**CONGRUOUS**  
(in KAHN grew us)  
not appropriate, unsuited to the surroundings; not fitting in  
Link: IN CONGRESS



"The new Alaskan senator's presence **IN CONGRESS** was **INCONGRUOUS**."

- ❑ Ed appeared **INCONGRUOUS** wearing his tuxedo on an old-fashioned hayride.
- ❑ The **INCONGRUITY** with Joseph's chosen career was that he had a Ph.D. in chemistry, but preferred to work as a mullet fisherman.
- ❑ **INCONGRUOUSLY**, Dianne spent several days a week at the library, even though she professed that she didn't like to read.

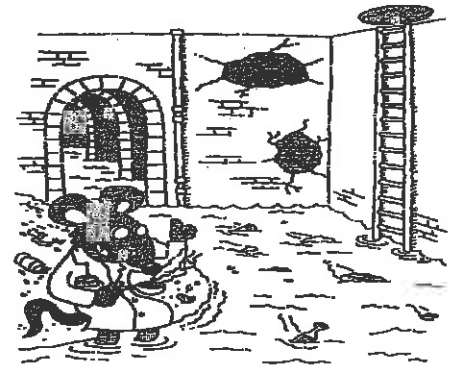
**BULWARK**  
(BULL work)  
a defensive wall; something serving as a principle defense  
Link: BULL WORK



"**BULLS WORK** building a **BULWARK**."

- ❑ Quebec City is the only city in North America with a **BULWARK** built entirely around it.
- ❑ The budget for national defense is an economic burden for all taxpayers, but we must never forget our armed services are the **BULWARK** of defense for the nation.
- ❑ Our mother was a **BULWARK** against bad times; no matter how bad things became she always wore a smile and had a cheerful word.

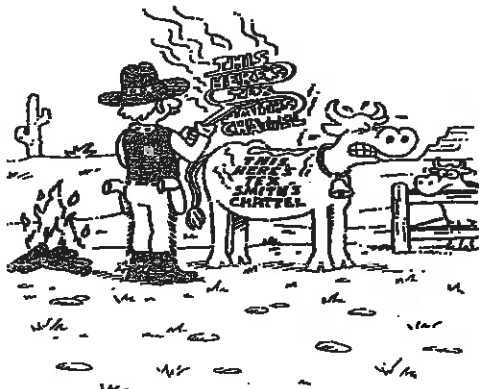
**CONNOISSEUR**  
(kahn uh SUR)  
an expert, particularly in matters of art and taste  
Link: KING OF SEWER



"The **KING OF the SEWER** is a **CONNOISSEUR** of garbage."

- ❑ My uncle is a **CONNOISSEUR** of fine wines.
- ❑ Art dealer, Jorge Guizar, is a **CONNOISSEUR** of Mexican art of the 19th century.
- ❑ When it came to coins, Jerry proclaimed he was a **CONNOISSEUR**, because he had collected them all his life.

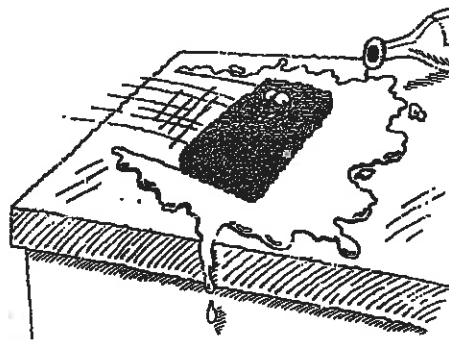
**CHATTEL**  
(chatel)  
an item of personal, movable property; slave  
Link: CATTLE



"Tex's **CATTLE** were his **CHATTEL**."

- 1 The bank held a **CHATTEL** mortgage on all our office equipment, chairs, computers and even our electric clock. Please.
- 1 e do not order me around, Lady Boswell, I am neither your servant nor your **CHATTEL**.
- 1 The **CHATTEL** belonging to Herodotos of Athens at his death were sixteen slaves, seven horses, six hunting dogs and three midget gladiators.

**EXPUNGE**  
(ex PUNGE)  
to remove; to delete; to erase  
Link: SPONGE



"A **SPONGE EXPUNGING** a spill."

- ❑ The judge ordered the clerk to **EXPUNGE** the lawyer's statement from the record.
- ❑ The wet and muddy footprints were **EXPUNGED** with soap and water.
- ❑ The teacher told Justin **EXPUNGING** the low grades from his record was not something she was willing to do.

**CACOPHONY**  
(kuh KAFH uh nee)  
harsh sounds  
Link: COUGH



"A **CACOPHONY** of **COUGHING**."

- ❑ A **CACOPHONY** isn't noise alone, it is disturbing noise such as when people shout all at once.
- ❑ Gene thinks all rock music is a **CACOPHONY** to be avoided whenever possible.
- ❑ An unpleasant **CACOPHONY** of sound was produced as the orchestra tuned their instruments. But once they began to play together the sounds became euphonious.

### LAMENT

(la MENT)

to express sorrow or regret;  
to mourn

Link: CEMENT



"We LAMENT that Joe got buried in CEMENT."

- The song, "Cowboy's LAMENT," is a ballad about the lonely life of those who drive cattle for a living.
- The nation LAMENTS the passing of the President while at the same time celebrating his achievements while in office.
- It is LAMENTABLE that Roscoe quit college in his sophomore year; his professors considered him the brightest engineering student in his class.

### AUSTERE

(aw STEER)

stern, as in manner; without excess,  
unadorned, severely simple and plain

Link: STEER



"An AUSTERE STEER is no fun at a party."

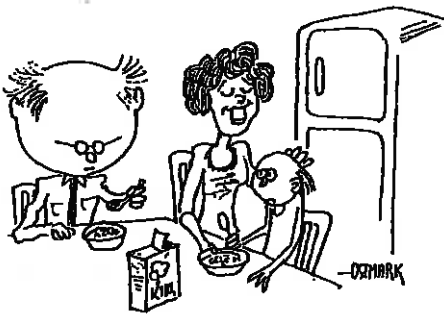
- Jill's father was AUSTERE, rarely smiled and was always stern with her about having dates with boys he didn't know.
- The AUSTERITY of life in the village was understandable. Many were jobless and evidence of poverty was everywhere.
- Her home was AUSTERELY decorated, very plain furniture without frills and only items that were necessary.

### CEREBRAL

(suh REE brul)

of or relating to the brain;  
an intellectual person

Link: CEREAL



"Eat your CEREAL so you'll grow up and be CEREBRAL like your father."

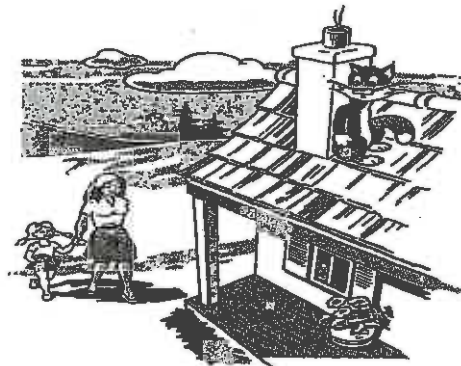
- CEREBRAL for a football player, the wily Kansas quarterback rarely called a play that wasn't well planned and thought out.
- Dr. Clark was too CEREBRAL to be a boy scout leader. Instead of saying "pitch your tents over by the cliff," he would confuse everyone with his big words and say, "construct the canvas shelters in the proximity of the promontory."

### ALOOF

(uh LOOF)

distant, reserved in manner;  
uninvolved

Link: ROOF



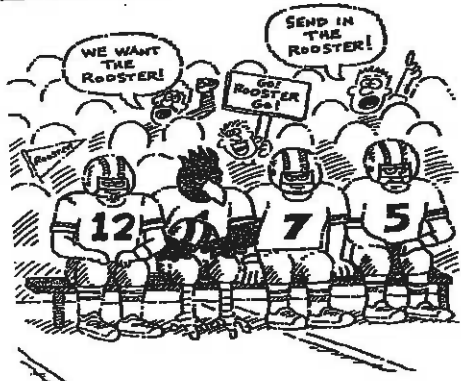
"Snowball, the cat, was so ALOOF when guests came she hid on the ROOF."

- Most everyone thought Theodore ALOOF when actually he was only very shy.
- Nothing ruins a fine dinner at a good restaurant like an ALOOF waiter who makes the entire experience uncomfortable.
- At the wedding reception, the bride's relatives were very ALOOF, hardly speaking to the groom's guests and family.

Vocabulary Lesson 2  
11 Composition CP

**ROSTER**

(raw ster)  
a list of names; especially of personnel available for duty  
Link: ROOSTER



"A ROOSTER on the ROSTER."

- The football program has a ROSTER for both teams.
- Tom saw his name on the duty ROSTER.
- The military is full of all types of ROSTERS; there is a duty ROSTER, a leave ROSTER and even a ROSTER for standing guard.

**PROCRASTINATE**

(PRO cras tuh nate)  
to put off until a later time  
Link: GRASS HATE

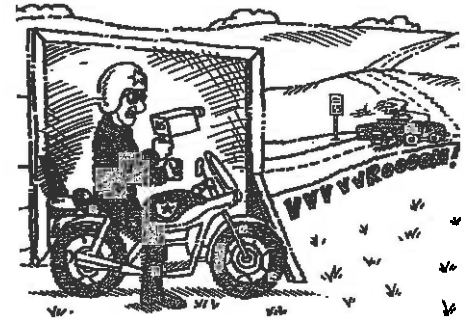


"Larry HATED to cut the GRASS and would PROCRASTINATE about it for weeks."

- Never do today what you can PROCRASTINATE until tomorrow, a famous husband once said.
- Tom would PROCRASTINATE until the last minute to do his homework.
- Wilcox had a PROCRASTINATING personality; whatever he started, you felt he was probably not going to finish.

**IMPEDE**

(im PEED)  
to obstruct or interfere with;  
to delay  
Link: SPEED



"The job of highway patrolmen is to IMPEDE SPEEDING motorists."

- He was only my uncle, but he always told me no matter what, not to let anyone IMPEDE my ambition to go to medical school.
- (Something that IMPEDES is an IMPEDIMENT. As a hopeful runner on the school track team, James Carver's biggest IMPEDIMENT to his foot speed was his short legs.

**ASUNDER**

(uh SUN dur)  
in separate parts; apart from each other in position  
Link: THUNDER

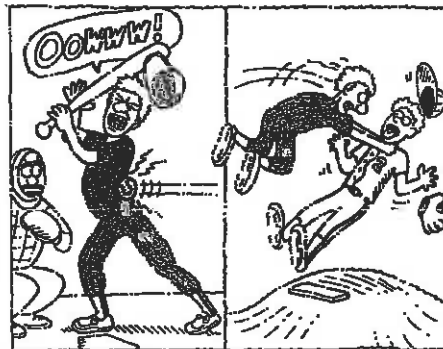


"The THUNDER tore the young lovers ASUNDER."

- When the earthquake stopped, and we came up from our shelter, we found the city had been torn ASUNDER and not one single building was left standing.
- Our team lost its unity and became a group of individuals who played entirely for themselves, ASUNDER from each other.

**INCITE**

(in SIGHT)  
to arouse to action  
Link: FIGHT

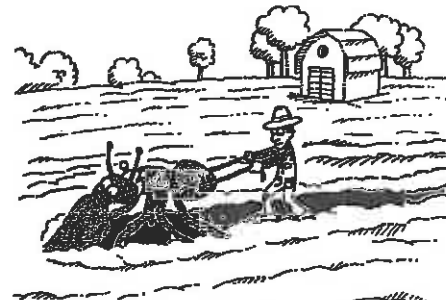


"The pitcher's bean ball INCITED the batter to FIGHT."

- The mob was INCITED to riot when the police arrived and began hitting people with their nightsticks.
- When Rodney decided that his case was hopeless, nothing the doctors could say would INCITE him to fight his illness.
- Waving a stick at Jerry's dog only INCITES him and increases the chance he will bite you.

**TRENCHANT**

(TREN chant)  
cutting, incisive, having a sharp point; caustic, sarcastic  
Link: TRENCH ANT



"A TRENCHANT mouth is characteristic of the famous Madagascar TRENCH ANT."

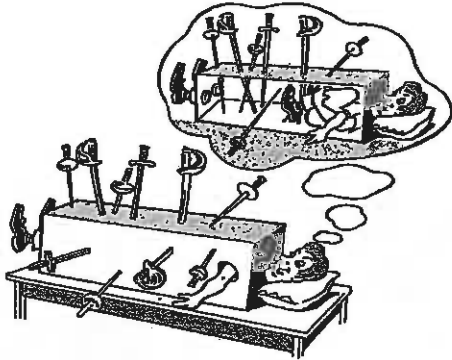
- Roger's angry remarks at the budget meeting were TRENCHANT, because he knew precisely where the financial problems lay.
- The music teacher made numerous TRENCHANT comments about the band's performance; clearly she thought the band stunk.
- Julia had a TRENCHANT tongue and was always putting her friends down behind their backs.

## EVADE

(ee VADE)

to elude or avoid by cunning; to flee from a pursuer

Link: BLADE



"A magician's secret for *EVADING* BLADES."

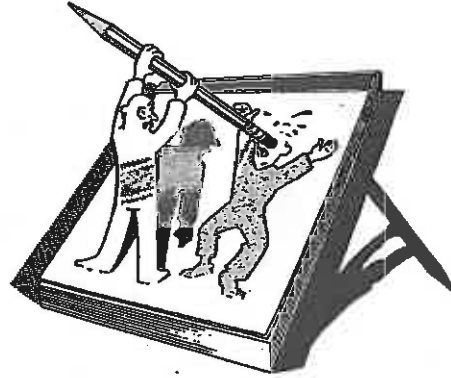
- ❑ The escaped prisoners *EVADED* the authorities by breaking into a church and disguising themselves as nuns.
- ❑ Jane always managed to *EVADE* helping her sister wash the dinner dishes by claiming she had home-work to do.
- ❑ Their romance never really blossomed as their friends expected because Sarah was the pursuer, but Bill was the *EVADER*.

## EFFACE

(uh FACE)

to rub away

Link: ERASE



"How to *EFFACE* a face by *ERASING* it."

- ❑ We came upon a cemetery by the sea. Many of the headstone inscriptions had been *EFFACED* by the ravages of time, but we could make out many that were well over two hundred years old.
- ❑ To assure that he left no clues, the thief *EFFACED* his fingerprints from the stolen car.
- ❑ Someone vandalized the museum paintings by *EFFACING* each one with red spray paint.

## MIGRATORY

(MIE gra tory)

roving, wandering, nomadic

Link: MY STORY



"*MY STORY* is one of many *MIGRATORY* movements."

- ❑ Wild geese *MIGRATE* to Canada in the summers and Mexico in the winters.
- ❑ Most American Indian tribes in the old west were *MIGRATORY* and followed the movements of the buffalo.
- ❑ Fruit pickers are *MIGRATORY* workers who move from place to place at harvesting time.

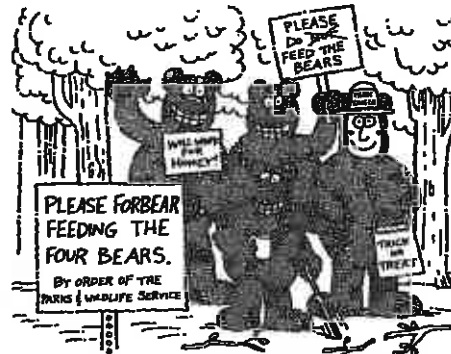
## FORBEAR

(for BAYR)

to refrain from; to abstain;

to be patient or tolerant

Link: FOUR BEARS



"Please *FORBEAR* feeding the *FOUR BEARS*."

- ❑ To *FORBEAR* your opinion on any controversial matter until you have first heard all the facts is generally the wisest course of action.
- ❑ Jonathan said his motto was to never *FORBEAR* a good party for another time when you can have one today.
- ❑ Hemy *FORBORE* his decision to close the store, deciding to wait until after the Christmas season.

**MILIEU**  
(mill you)  
environment or surroundings  
Link: **MILDEW**



"The boys' locker room showers were a MILIEU of MILDEW."

- After a long sea journey, a sailor on land for the first few days feels out of his MILIEU.
- The proper MILIEU for raising a family is a home setting with loving parents who understand child rearing; something every parent must work at and not take for granted.
- The New York Stock Exchange is a MILIEU of frenzied activity during trading hours.

**BELEAGUER**  
(be LEE gur)  
to besiege; beset, surround, harass  
Link: **BIG LEAGUER**



"The little leaguers BELEAGUERED the BIG LEAGUERS."

- In World War II, the Russian city of Stalingrad was BELEAGUERED by the German Army for five months before it fell to the Germans.
- During his last year in office, Richard Nixon was a BELEAGUERED president, struggling to fight off the Watergate scandal.
- In the midst of important negotiations, the union official asked his staff not to BELEAGUER him with insignificant details.

**QUIXOTIC**  
(kwik SAHT ik)  
idealistic and totally impractical  
Link: **IDIOTIC**



"Jim, the messenger, is not IDIOTIC, he's just QUIXOTIC."

- Professor Callan said it is QUIXOTIC of society to ignore the world's environmental problems.
- Putting all taxpayers on the honor system is a QUIXOTIC suggestion.
- Sue had the most QUIXOTIC ideas of what her life would be like if she ever won the lottery.

**ARDUOUS**  
(AHR joo us)  
hard, difficult, tiresome  
Link: **HARD ON US**



"The ARDUOUS snow-covered trail is HARD ON US."

- The assignment given the recruits was ARDUOUS, twenty miles with full packs in the hot sun.
- Swimming three miles was the most ARDUOUS exercise Jeannie ever had, particularly since she swam all the way on her back.
- The long, ARDUOUS boat trip was made even worse by stormy seas and much seasickness.

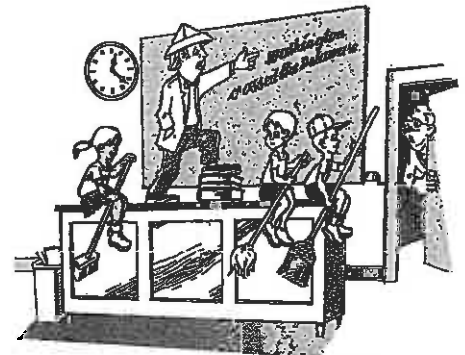
**BLUDGEON**  
(BLUD jun)  
a short heavy, thick club that has one end larger than the other  
Link: **DUNGEON**



"Why do you suppose they have all these BLUDGEONS in this DUNGEON?"

- There was nothing temperate about the lawyer's summary to the jury; he BLUDGEONED them with all the gruesome details of the murder.
- Henry's BLUDGEONING accusations about his neighbor's dog were more than criticisms; he was trying to intimidate the dog owner into getting rid of the animal.
- The police arrested the lumberjack on suspicion of BLUDGEONING a co-worker with an axe handle.

**HISTRIONIC**  
(his tree AHN ik)  
overly dramatic, theatrical  
Link: **HISTORY**



"Professor Bradley liked his HISTORY on the HISTRIONIC side."

- As soon as you would mention the word wrinkle, the middle-aged actress would fall into a state of HISTRIONIC tears.
- Everything Michael said was on the swaggering, HISTRIONIC side, as if he were the coolest guy on campus.
- The children's HISTRIONICS when they couldn't find their toys made everyone uncomfortable.

### OPPORTUNE

(AHP ur tune)  
occurring or coming at a  
good time

Link: OPERA TUNE



"Not an OPPORTUNE time for an OPERA TUNE."

- ❑ An OPPORTUNIST at heart, Ed OPPORTUNELY dropped by Janet's house just as dinner was being served.
- ❑ During the family reunion, Christopher felt it the OPPORTUNE moment for announcing his job promotion.
- ❑ Mrs. Childs, our teacher, said the weekend before our final exam was an OPPORTUNE time for last minute studying.

### PORCINE

(PORE sein)  
reminiscent of or pertaining  
to a pig; resembling a pig

Link: POOR SCENE



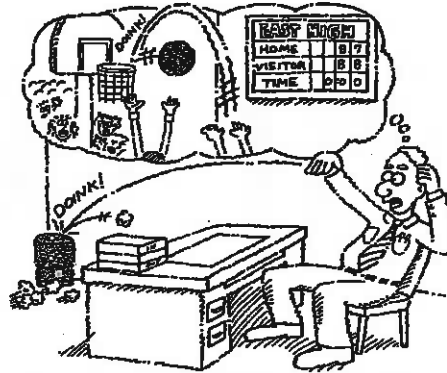
"It was a POOR SCENE when Mark arrived with his PORCINE date."

- ❑ After an around the world cruise, where each meal is a grand feast, Bob and Helen returned home with PORCINE figures.
- ❑ She had a PORCINE attitude about food; that is to say she would eat anything and everything.

### REMINISCE

(rem uh NISS)  
the act or practice of  
recalling the past

Link: RIM MISS



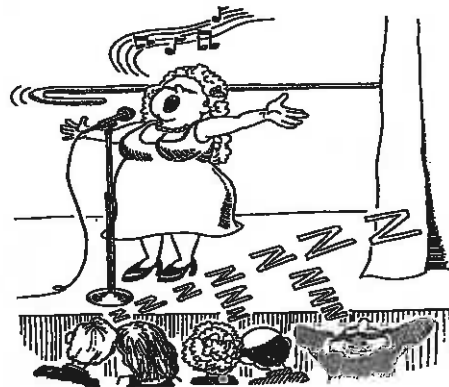
"Jim never got over his RIM MISS and tortured himself for years REMINISCING about it."

- ❑ Sometimes when we are feeling nostalgic, my wife and I lie back and listen to the music of the 1960s and REMINISCE about when we were dating and the things we used to do.
- ❑ The REMINISCENT qualities in his art brought back fond memories of Paris in the 19th century.

### DULCET

(DULL set)  
melodious, soft, soothing

Link: DULL SIT



"If you don't like opera, even the most DULCET tones of the finest sopranos make for a DULL SIT."

- ❑ Senator Kramer was a political campaigner who could hypnotize an audience with sweet words and DULCET tones.
- ❑ Jeff's parents declared there was nothing DULCET about the rock-and-roll music that shook the house from his room every morning as he dressed for school.

# Vocabulary Lesson 4

## 11 Composition CP

### BALLISTICS

(bah LISS ticks)

the study of the dynamics or flight characteristics of projectiles

Link: LIPSTICK



"BALLISTIC LIPSTICK."

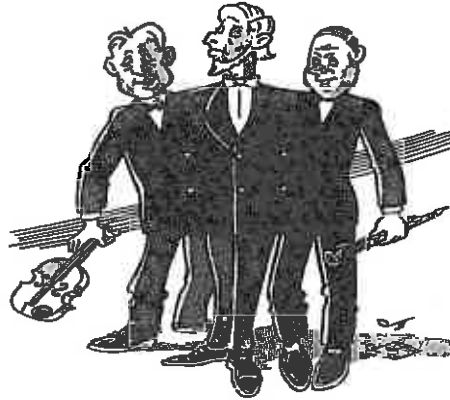
- ❑ BALLISTICS is a noun, while BALLISTIC is an adjective which means "of projectiles."
- ❑ Most naval warships carry BALLISTIC missiles.
- ❑ Detective Culleton specializes in BALLISTICS and is always called to a crime scene whenever a firearm is involved.

### COTERIE

(koh tuh ree)

a circle of close associates or friends

Link: COAT FOR THREE



"The maestro and his COTERIE in a COAT FOR THREE."

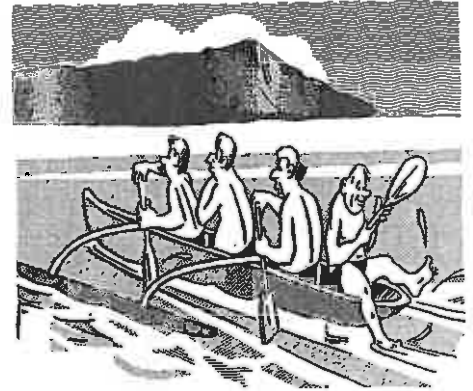
- ❑ Today's tennis stars rarely travel alone, but with a COTERIE of managers and coaches.
- ❑ Rock stars have a COTERIE of fans who follow them around like leeches.
- ❑ You have to be a member of Daisy's COTERIE, or you don't count at all, in the opinion of Daisy.

### LASSITUDE

(LAS uh tood)

listlessness; torpor, weariness

Link: LAZY DUDE



"A LAZY DUDE with LASSITUDE."

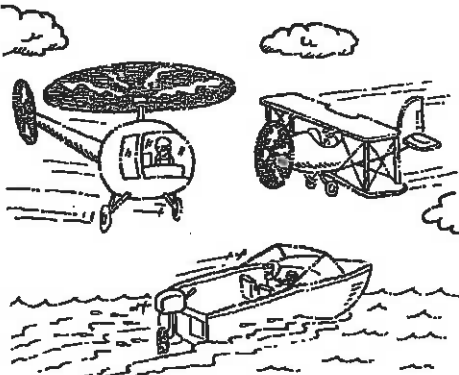
- ❑ After eating three servings of Thanksgiving dinner, George succumbed to a feeling of LASSITUDE and fell asleep on the couch.
- ❑ Having worked for the cannery for twenty years without a raise, Charles became discouraged with his employers and approached his daily work with unenthusiastic LASSITUDE.

### PROPULSIVE

(PROH pul siv)

the act or process of propelling; a propelling force

Link: PROPELLER



"PROPELLERS provide the PROPULSIVE force that PROPEL many transportation vehicles."

- ❑ The first ship PROPELLED by a PROPELLER was invented by Isambard Brunel in 1844.
- ❑ The champion hit his opponent, Ray Jackson, with a terrific right cross that PROPELLED him right into the second row.
- ❑ Modern submarines are PROPELLED by nuclear energy.

### GIRTH

(girth)

the distance around something; to encircle; to secure with a band that encircles the body of an animal

Link: BIRTH



"Before giving BIRTH, ladies are quite large in GIRTH."

- ❑ Jonathan placed the saddle on top of the horse and fastened the GIRTH.
- ❑ Before crawling into a sewer pipe, it is first wise to measure the GIRTH.
- ❑ The GIRTH of the planet Earth is about twenty-five thousand miles.

### AMBIANCE

(AM bee uns)

mood, feeling; general atmosphere

Link: AMBULANCE



"George did not enjoy the AMBIANCE in the AMBULANCE."

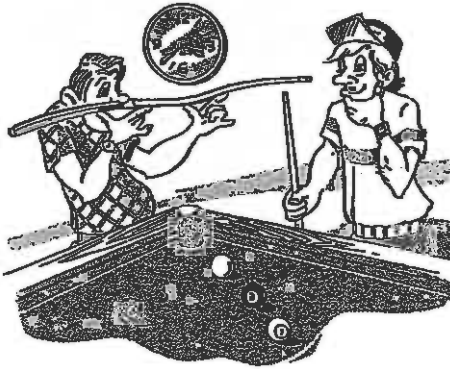
- ❑ The AMBIANCE of the locker room after the team lost the championship was depressing.
- ❑ For their daughter's birthday party, the Jeffersons' created an AMBIANCE of gaiety, decorating the garden with bright balloons and ribbons.
- ❑ The AMBIANCE in the Italian restaurant was delightful, there was soft music, candlelight and singing waiters.

### ASKEW

(uh SKEW)

to one side; crooked; awry; a sidelong look of contempt

Link: CUE



"Curly's pool CUE had become ASKEW."

- After the flood receded, the bridge was found to be ASKEW of the road which connected to it.
- The tire wouldn't fit on the car because in the accident the axle had been bent ASKEW.
- The speaker looked ASKEW at the heckler at every interruption.

### ENRAGE

(in RAGE)

to put in a rage; infuriate, anger

Link: HEN CAGE



"An ENRAGED farmer discovering a fox in the HEN CAGE."

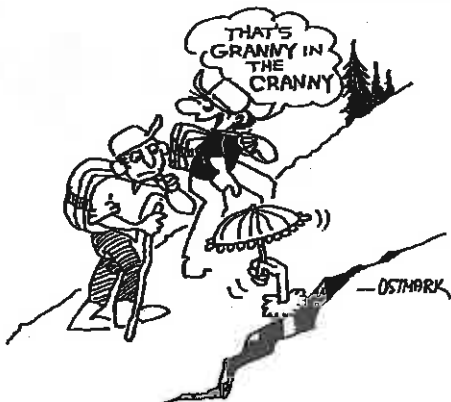
- What ENRAGES my wife is when I forget to wipe my feet before coming into the house.
- Muriel's boss was ENRAGED when he found out she had gone on her vacation to the Caribbean and left a lot of unfinished work on her desk.

### CRANNY

(KRAN ee)

a small opening as in a wall or rock face

Link: GRANNY



"GRANNY found a CRANNY."

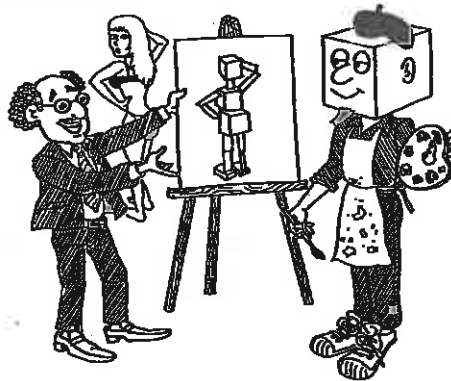
- The secret message was found stuffed into a small CRANNY in the courtyard wall next to the church.
- Rock climbers look for any CRANNY where they can get a secure foothold.
- We searched the house from top to bottom and never overlooked a single nook or CRANNY.

### CUBISM

(KYOO biz um)

a style of art in which the subject matter is portrayed by geometric forms, especially cubes

Link: CUBES



"By the look of these CUBES, you are an artist of the school of CUBISM."

- CUBISM is a style of art that stresses abstract structure at the expense of other pictorial elements by fragmenting the form of those objects that are to be depicted.
- Pablo Picasso did not originate the CUBISM style of painting, but he is credited with popularizing it.



# Vocabulary Lesson 5

## 11 Composition CP

### COWER

(KOW ur)

cringe from fear; to shrink away

Link: COW



"Bessie, the COWERING COW, never could stand the sight of her own milk."

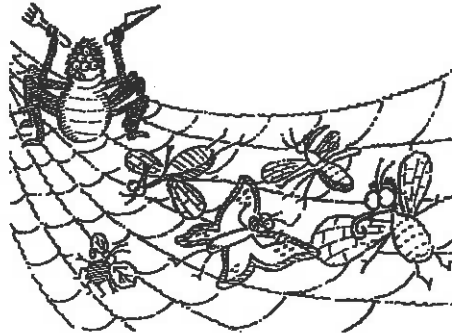
- When Sheriff Wild Bill Hickok entered the Last Chance Saloon, the villains COWERED in fear.
- The sound of the rusty door opening in the middle of the night made Sue COWER behind her bed.
- Jack COWERED in frustration just to think about coming home from vacation and finding all the homework he had to catch up on.

### GOSSAMER

(GOSS uh mer)

delicate floating cobwebs; a sheer gauzy fabric; something delicate, light, flimsy

Link: CUSTOMER



"The spider's GOSSAMER captured many unhappy CUSTOMERS."

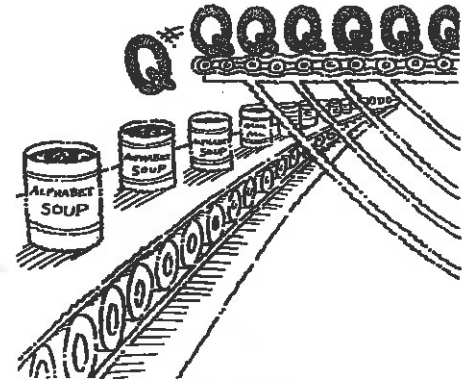
- The bride wore a white silk wedding dress which touched the floor as she proceeded up the aisle to the altar. A GOSSAMER of fine Italian lace gently touched her face.
- Between the audience and the actors on the stage hung a thin GOSSAMER of fabric, heightening the feeling that the actors were in a dream-like setting.

### QUEUE

(Q)

to form or to wait in line

Link: Q



"Qs in a QUEUE."

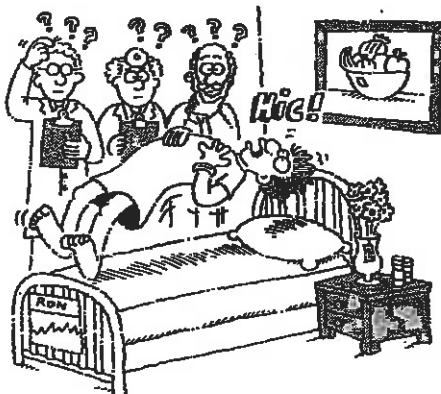
- During the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, fans QUEUE outside the gates the day before and spend the night waiting for the gates to open the following morning.
- The sisters decided not to attend the movie because a line was QUEUEING up as they arrived, and they didn't want to stand in a QUEUE in the cold, night air.

### CHRONIC

(KRAHN ik)

continuing for a long time; continuous

Link: RON'S HIC



"RON'S HICcupps were CHRONIC."

- George was a CHRONIC complainer, he never saw the positive side of anything.
- When lower back pain becomes CHRONIC, it's time to see a doctor.
- Her CHRONIC gossiping led to her being kicked out of the garden club.

### GIDDY

(GEDD ee)

a light-headed sensation; dizzy, frivolous

Link: CITY



"Farmer John gets a little GIDDY every time he goes to the CITY."

- After Sue Ellen won the beauty contest, she was absolutely GIDDY with joy.
- Jackie didn't faint, but she said the sun was so hot she felt GIDDY.
- Bill never had more than one beer; anything more made him GIDDY.

### IRASCIBLE

(i RAS uh bul)

easily angered, irritable

Link: WRESTLE BULLS



"When he became IRASCIBLE, the Masked Marvel would WRESTLE BULLS."

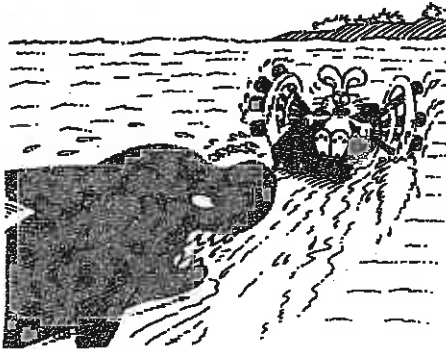
- Normally, Rose was a pleasant wife and mother but if a member of her family prevented her from watching her favorite "soaps," she could become quite IRASCIBLE.
- Uncle Tim was a real grouch, even on his birthday he would find a way to become as IRASCIBLE as a spoiled child.
- The school principal became so IRASCIBLE even his teachers avoided speaking to him.

## HARROWING

(HARE roc ing)

extremely distressed; disturbing  
or frightening

Link: HARE ROWING



"A HARROWING experience for a HARE ROWING."

- After the HARROWING experience when Eddie's main parachute didn't open, and his emergency chute saved him only at the last minute, he vowed never to jump again.
- (HARRIED is to be troubled or bothered while HARROWING is to be frightened to the ex-treme.) At first we were HARRIED by the gang members, called names and insulted, but later it became a HARROWING experience as they chased and threatened us with knives.

## ENDURE

(in DUR)

to carry on through despite  
hardships; to put up with

Link: MANURE



"Cowboys ENDURE a lot of MANURE."

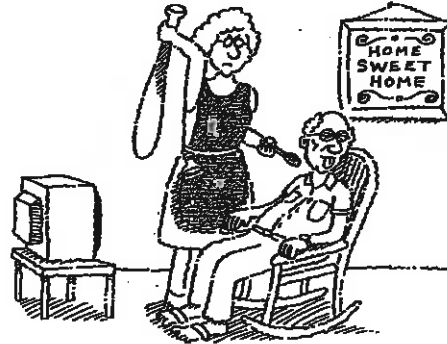
- Settlers in the 1800s ENDURED many hardships on their way to California.
- "I can't ENDURE the solitude," Jimbo Marks told his lawyer, as the sheriff placed him in an isolation cell awaiting trial.
- The ENDURING quality I recall most with loving memory about my Aunt Emma was that she never had a bad word to say about anyone.

## LACONIC

(luh KAHN ik)

brief, using few words

Link: TONIC



"Grandma was LACONIC when it came time for Grandpa's TONIC."

- Benjamin's LACONIC speech habits gave him a reputation for thoughtfulness and intelligence.
- The doctor was LACONIC with his patients to the point of being rude.
- The fictional heroes of the old west were usually cowboys who spoke LACONICALLY, when at all.

## APTITUDE

(ap TUH tude)

capacity for learning;  
natural ability

Link: ALTITUDE



"Birds have an APTITUDE for ALTITUDE."

- Chris has had a champion's APTITUDE for tennis since she was four years old.
- Jess is all thumbs and has no APTITUDE for fixing things around the house.
- The APTITUDE of flora and fauna to adapt to changing environmental conditions is absolutely marvelous.

## Vocabulary Lesson 6

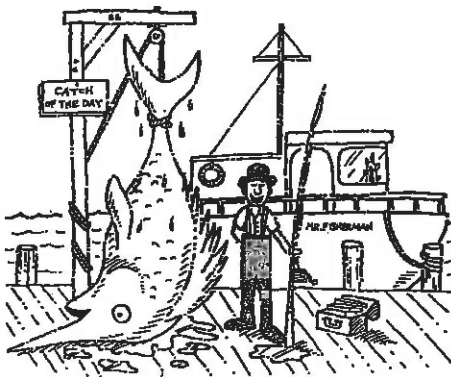
### 11 Composition CP

#### PROFICIENT

(pruh FISH unt)

skillful; to be very good at something

Link: **PRO FISHERMAN**



"The ultimate **PROFICIENT PRO FISHERMAN**."

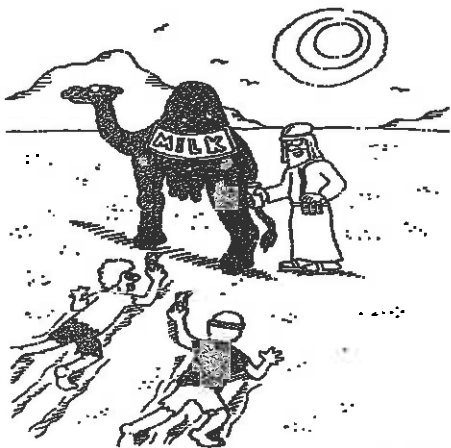
- ❑ Wally was the most competent, **PROFICIENT** ice skater in our league, but he wasn't good enough to make the Olympic team.
- ❑ June was so **PROFICIENT** as executive secretary, she was promoted and became vice president of sales.

#### DROMEDARY

(DRO me dary)

a one-humped domesticated camel

Link: **ROAMING DAIRY**



"On the Arabian deserts, a mother **DROMEDARY** is a **ROAMING DAIRY**."

- ❑ The **DROMEDARY** is widely used as a beast of burden in Northern Africa and Western Asia.
- ❑ A **DROMEDARY** is also known as an Arabian camel.

#### ATROPHY

(AT ruh fee)

to wither away

Link: **TROPHY**



"Once a **TROPHY** champion, Jim's muscles **ATROPHIED** due to a chronic illness."

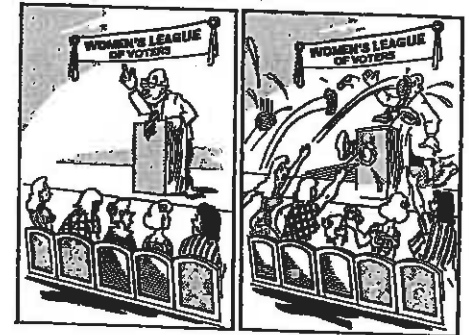
- ❑ The author's interest in writing **ATROPHIED** after he won the Pulitzer Prize for literature.
- ❑ The **ATROPHIC** condition of the mummy was apparent as soon as the tomb was opened.
- ❑ The **ATROPHYING** state of the starving children left no doubt that the rescue mission had arrived just in time.

#### HARANGUE

(ruh RANG)

to lecture, berate; a long bombastic speech

Link: **MERINGUE**



"The mayor's **HARANGUE** that women should stay home more was met with **MERINGUE** pies."

- ❑ Our sergeant **HARANGUED** the recruits for not keeping in step as the platoon practiced marching.
- ❑ Our neighbor is a farmer who goes to town once a week on Saturdays and **HARANGUES** everyone he meets on how bad the government treats farmers.
- ❑ A perpetual **HARANGUER**, Jeannie was a feminist who believed everyone who didn't believe as she did was an anti-feminist.

#### DEMONIC

(dee MON ik)

one who works devilishly (a demon for work), a persistent person, force or drive; an evil person

Link: **DEMON**



"Professor Luke E. Fer was a **DEMONIC DEMON** when it came time for his final exams."

- ❑ Walter had a **DEMONIC** approach to business, he was only out there for himself and the money.
- ❑ In pursuit of an **OLYMPIC** medal, Jack's practice habits were **DEMONIC**; six hours a day on the track was his norm.
- ❑ To have a **DEMONIC** attitude in attempting to achieve your goals will sooner or later pay off.

#### NOXIOUS

(KNOKKS ee us)

physically or mentally destructive, or harmful to human beings

Link: **KNOCKS US**



"Her cheap perfume was so **NOXIOUS**, it almost **KNOCKED US** out."

- ❑ The **NOXIOUS** pollutants discharged into the bay by the paper mill killed all the marine life.
- ❑ It is **NOXIOUS** to live in big city surroundings if you love spacious, outdoor country-living.
- ❑ (**OBNOXIOUS** is to be exposed to something **NOXIOUS**.) Jenny's flirtatious behavior with her best friend's husband was **OBNOXIOUS**.

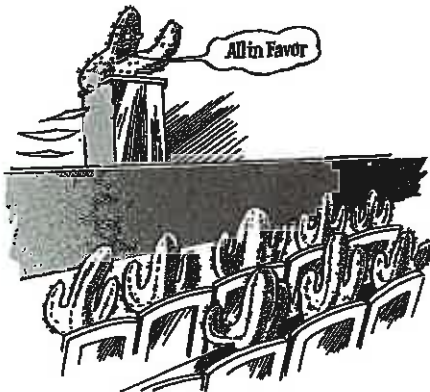
**ACCOLADE**  
 (AK uh layd)  
 an award, an honor;  
 approval, praise  
 Link: LEMONADE



"Jane and Jack received ACCOLADES for their LEMONADE."

- ❑ The ACCOLADES given our chemistry teacher as the teacher of the year were nothing compared to the ACCOLADES her students gave her when she accidentally blew up the lab and class was cancelled for the remainder of the term.
- ❑ The ACCOLADES she received for making the Olympic Swim Team quickly went to her head, and she thought she was grand madam of the swimming pool.

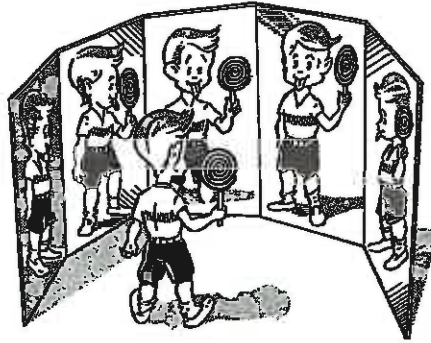
**CAUCUS**  
 (KAW kus)  
 a meeting of the members of a political party to make decisions; to assemble in or hold a caucus  
 Link: CACTUS



"A CACTUS CAUCUS."

- ❑ A CAUCUS was held by the members of the delegation to determine if they should hold a special CAUCUS for the unmarried members.
- ❑ Some delegates to political conventions are select-ed in CAUCUSES, while others are appointed.

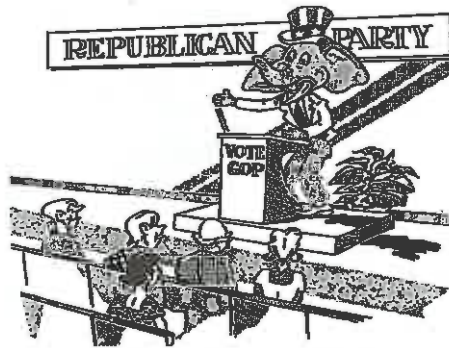
**MYRIAD**  
 (MIR ee ud)  
 an extremely large number  
 Link: MIRROR ADD



"Many MIRRORS ADD a MYRIAD of reflections."

- ❑ George was a hypochondriac, weighted down by MYRIAD concerns about his health.
- ❑ On a clear night in Alaska the sky is filled with a MYRIAD of stars.
- ❑ Jane said she had a MYRIAD of things to do to get ready for the party.

**GRANDILOQUENT**  
 (gran DIL uh kwunt)  
 attempting to impress with big words or grand gestures  
 Link: GRAND ELEPHANT



"The GRAND ELEPHANT made a GRANDILOQUENT speech."

- ❑ It was another GRANDILOQUENT political af-fair; the candidates made the same old promises for lower taxes and more free services.
- ❑ They may be eloquent, but there is nothing grand about pompous GRANDILOQUENT speakers.
- ❑ The new teacher's GRANDILOQUENCE didn't fool the class one bit. She really knew very little about South American history.

## Vocabulary Lesson 7

### 11 Composition CP

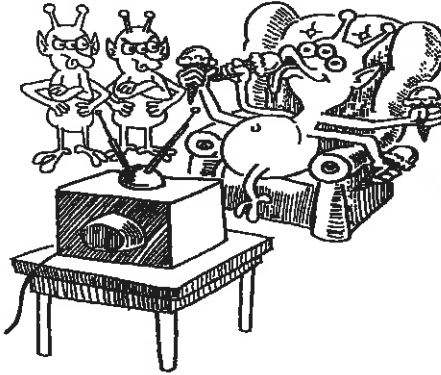
**CRAVEN**  
(KRA ven)  
cowardly  
Link: RAVEN



"A **CRAVEN RAVEN** on the run."

- The soldier was full of bluster about how bravely he would fight, but his comrades later found him to be **CRAVEN** once the battle started.
- To let his wife do his fighting for him was the act of a **CRAVEN** husband with no backbone.
- The **CRAVENLY** act of the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, led to the death of President Lincoln.

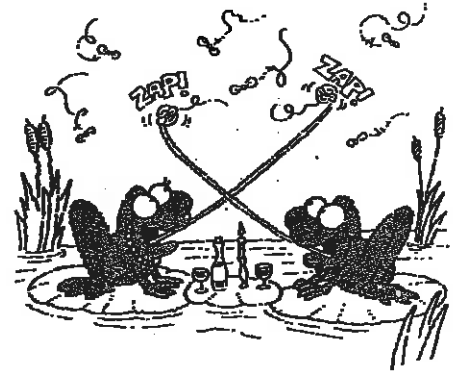
**ALIENATE**  
(AY lee uh nayt)  
to make hostile; to cause to feel  
unwelcome or estranged  
Link: ALIEN ATE



"The chief **ALIEN ATE** all the ice cream and **ALIENATED** his crew."

- Her boss **ALIENATED** his secretary by shouting at her when she made a mistake.
- All during school, Bob Smith felt **ALIENATED** by the other students because he wore his hair down to his knees.
- Barb was **ALIENATED** from her group when they learned that she was the town gossip.

**MODE**  
(mowed)  
a way or method of doing something;  
type, manner, fashion  
Link: TOAD



"**TOADS** have a special **MODE** for catching dinner."

- Four-wheel drive vehicles have gears to go from two to four wheel drive **MODE**.
- Once he became a lawyer, Hal put aside his jeans and dressed in the **MODE** of his contemporaries, conservative dark suits, white shirts and ties.
- Our vacation was in a laid-back **MODE**, sleeping-in late and then catching rays on the beach.

**CURTAIL**  
(ker TALE)  
to truncate or abridge; to lessen,  
usually by cutting away from  
Link: CAT TAIL



"Rex readies himself to **CURTAIL** the **CAT'S TAIL**."

- The chairman requested that we should **CURTAIL** any further discussion of women's rights until the women arrived.
- Sheriff McDougall **CURTAILED** all further night patrols east of the river until bullet-proof windows were installed in his patrol cars.
- The factory bosses **CURTAILED** the employment of any more workers until the strike was over.

**PARANOIA**  
(par uh NOY uh)  
a mental illness of unreasonable anxiety, especially  
believing someone is out to get you, or that you are an  
important person  
Link: DESTROY 'YA



"**PARANOIA** will **DESTROY 'YA**."

- Julie's **PARANOIA** was so advanced she thought everyone who came to her door was an assassin who had come to kill her.
- (A person suffering from **PARANOIA** is said to be **PARANOID**.) Joshua was absolutely **PARANOID** about walking under a ladder.
- When Ramon told his wife she was **PARANOID** about her hair, he meant she was very sensitive to criticism.

**FACILITATE**  
(fuh SILL uh tate)  
to make easier, to help bring about  
Link: CELL MATE



"You're lucky to have a **CELL MATE** who **FACILITATES** a homey atmosphere."

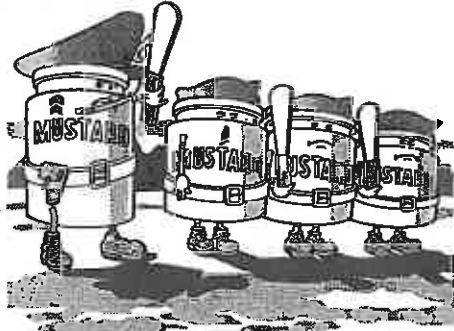
- Cassette tapes **FACILITATE** learning a foreign language.
- In order to **FACILITATE** the sale of their home, George came down on the price.
- Jack's tools **FACILITATED** the repair of the sink.

### MUSTER

(MUS tur)

to collect or gather; the act of inspection or critical examination

Link: MUSTARD



"Each morning the **MUSTARD** troops are **MUSTERED** for roll call."

- ❑ In 1836 the Texans at the Alamo **MUSTERED** all the troops available to defend against the invading Mexican Army.
- ❑ The restaurant owner inspected the kitchen and said the eating utensils did not pass **MUSTER**, and for the dish washer to wash them all over again.
- ❑ He was **MUSTERED** into the army at the age of eighteen.

### BEGET

(bi GET)

to give birth to; to create

Link: FORGET



"The old lady who lived in the shoe **BEGAT** so many children she would **FORGET** who was who."

- ❑ Prior to the development of large farm machinery, farmers used to **BEGET** large families to help them run their farms.
- ❑ Chronic lying becomes a habit which starts out with one small lie, which **BEGETS** a second lie, which **BEGETS** a third lie, and so on.
- ❑ The Wright brothers didn't invent the airplane, but they were the **BEGETTERS** of the first sustained flight in the United States.

### GLUTTON

(GLUT en)

one who eats or consumes a great deal; having capacity to receive or withstand something

Link: GUT TON



"If you're a **GLUTTON**, your **GUT** could weigh a **TON**."

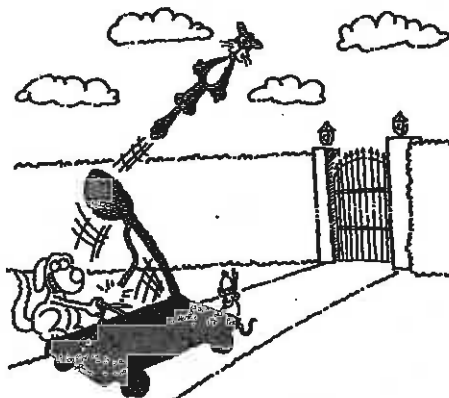
- ❑ Every day at school lunch the Pitts children behave in a **GLUTTONOUS** manner, so much so, it made one wonder if they were ever fad at home.
- ❑ Jack was a **GLUTTON** for punishment; no matter how many times he was knocked down in the fight, he kept getting up.
- ❑ A baseball freak, JoAnne **GLUTTONOUSLY** reads every sports book on baseball she can get her hands on.

### CATAPULT

(CAT uh pult)

slingshot

Link: CAT

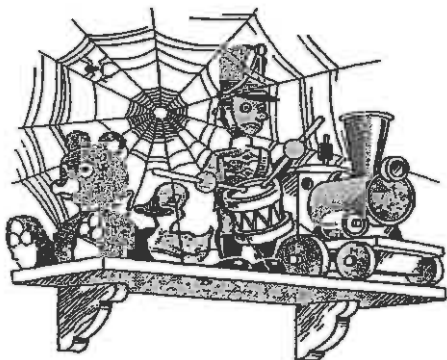


"Testing the first **CAT** **CATAPULT**."

- ❑ When the Dolphins beat the Steelers, the victory **CATAPULTED** them into first place.
- ❑ The Atlas entry won at Indianapolis by drafting behind the lead car and **CATAPULTING** forward to take the lead at the finish line.
- ❑ Before the invention of cannons, **CATAPULTS** were used by armies to attack castles and forts.

Vocabulary Lesson 8  
11 Composition CP

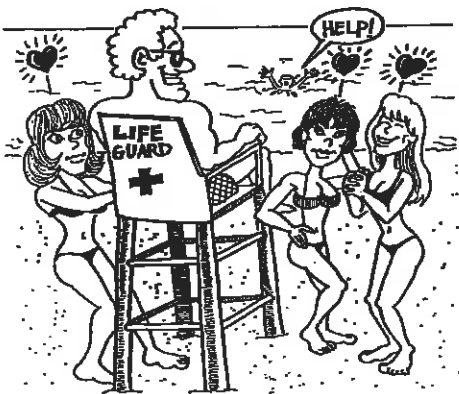
**DOLDRUMS**  
(DOHL drums)  
a period or condition of  
depression or inactivity  
Link: DOLL DRUMS



"All covered with dust, the DOLL DRUMS were in the DOLDRUMS."

- Ever since Jackie's dog died, the little fellow has not touched his toys, moping around day after day in the DOLDRUMS.
- For thirteen days we were becalmed in the Horse Latitudes near the equator, our ship drifting in the DOLDRUMS without the faintest breeze to fill the sails of our vessel.

**CONSENSUS**  
(kum SEN sus)  
general agreement  
Link: SENDS US



"We are in CONSENSUS, this guy SENDS US."

- After taking a CONSENSUS of the congressmen present, the bill to legalize nude beaches failed to pass.
- The CONSENSUS of the faculty was that no more chili dogs were to be served at the school lunch.
- A CONSENSUS is more than a majority, it means ~~most agree~~

**BLATHER**  
(BLAH thur)  
to talk nonsensically  
Link: LATHER



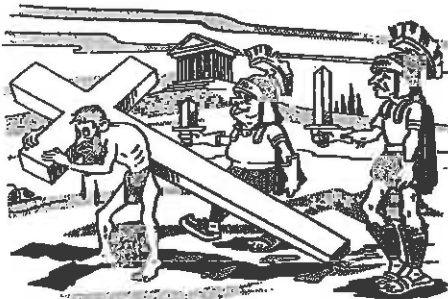
"Karen and Allison BLATHERED until their mouths LATHERED."

- Everything the media reported about the supposed plane disaster never happened. It was a bunch of BLATHER by uninformed journalists.
- Children have great imaginations, and often BLATHER about ghosts that supposedly enter their rooms and either scare them or play with them.

**MARTYR**  
(MAHR tur)

someone willing to sacrifice and even give his/her life for a cause; also one who pretends suffering to gain sympathy

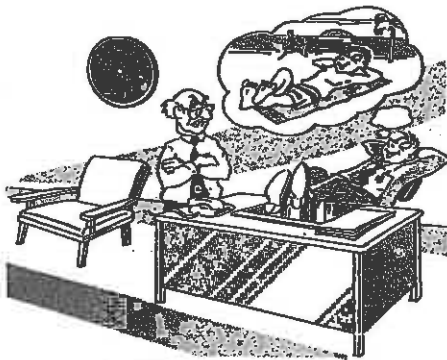
Link: HARDER



"It's HARDER to be a MARTYR."

- She was a professional MARTYR, all-suffering for her children, or so she would tell them ten times a day.
- Joan of Arc was undoubtedly the most famous MARTYR in modern history, burned at the stake because she refused to go against her beliefs.
- Jack was a MARTYR to his job; he worked seven days a week and rarely took a day off.

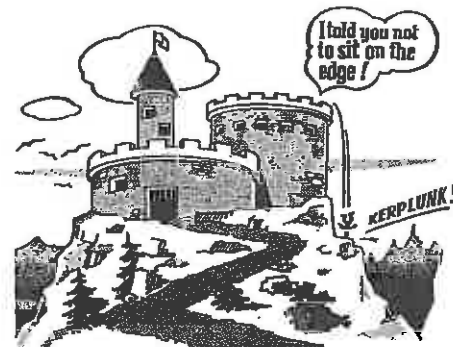
**ASPIRE**  
(ass PIRE)  
something one hopes to achieve; goal  
Link: RETIRE



"Jim ASPIRED to RETIRE early and become a man of leisure."

- Tim ASPIRED to be the valedictorian of his class at graduation and studied hard to reach that goal.
- The counselor told Jim's parents that his problem in school was he didn't ASPIRE for anything. He had no goals or career direction.
- As a young child, General Custer had ASPIRED to become a musician, but later decided to become a general instead.

**CITADEL**  
(SIT uh dul)  
a fortress overlooking a city;  
a stronghold  
Link: SIT WELL



"It pays to SIT WELL on the edge of a CITADEL."

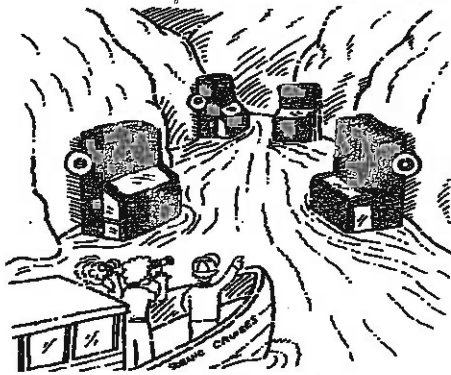
- Charlie was a CITADEL of strength, always there for you no matter what.
- West Point is considered a CITADEL of military learning, a fact easily understood when you come to understand that most generals attended West Point.
- There are many ancient CITADELS in Spain; they are among the attractions most visited by tourists.

### FJORD

(fyord)

a long narrow inlet from the sea  
between steep cliffs or hills

Link: FORD

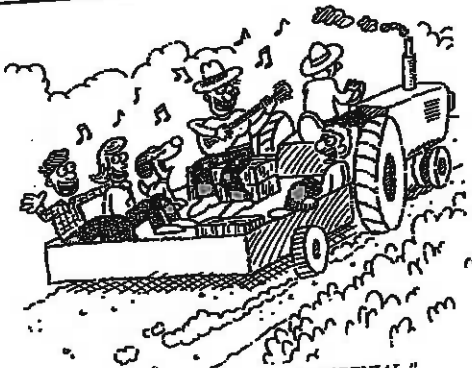


"FORDS in a FJORD."

- ❑ Norway and New Zealand are two countries noted for having the most scenic FJORDS in the world.
- ❑ FJORDS are generally deep so that large cruise ships have more than enough water to navigate up their length.
- ❑ The Grand Canyon could be the grandest FJORD of all, if only it were on the coast with an inlet from the sea.

### CONGENIAL

(kum JEAN ee ul)  
pleasant to be around;  
social, agreeable  
Link: JEANS



"Folks in JEANS are very CONGENIAL."

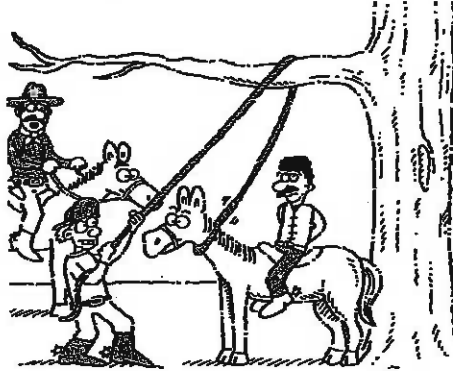
- ❑ Dr. Armstrong was very CONGENIAL, always a smile and a kind word for his patients, and candies for the children.
- ❑ Miss Florida was voted Miss CONGENIALITY in the Miss America pageant.
- ❑ The atmosphere at the property appraiser's office is CONGENIAL. Everyone enjoys their job, and visitors are welcome at any time.

### OBTUSE

(ob tuse)

insensitive; block-headed,  
slow in comprehension

Link: NOOSE



"Don't be OBTUSE, the horse-thief gets the NOOSE,  
not the horse."

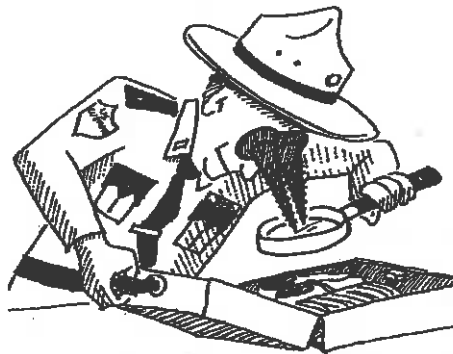
- ❑ Hazel was so OBTUSE she thought a watched pot of water never boils.
- ❑ The OBTUSENESS of some people is due to their unwillingness to accept new ideas.
- ❑ Don't pretend to be so OBTUSE. You know the idea of business investing is to buy low and sell high.

### SCRUTINIZE

(SKROOT uh nyze)

to look very carefully; to examine

Link: SCREW EYES



"U.S. Customs officials have SCREW EYES when  
they SCRUTINIZE baggage."

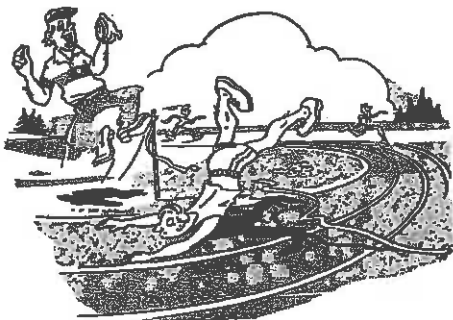
- ❑ Newspaper proof readers SCRUTINIZE an entire newspaper each day.
- ❑ Each soldier's uniform is SCRUTINIZED by his commanding officer.
- ❑ I SCRUTINIZED all the books in the library and found several I had wanted.



## Vocabulary Lesson 9

### 11 Composition CP

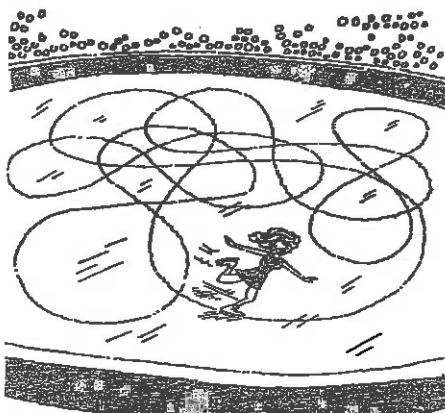
**ELAPSE**  
(ee LAPS)  
to pass or go by (said of time)  
Link: **COLLAPSE**



"Ted ran the mile in the **ELAPSED** time of three minutes, forty-seven seconds, and then **COLLAPSED**."

- Time **ELAPSES** slowly when someone is waiting for important news.
- Two years **ELAPSED** before they were to meet again, but all the time Jonathan knew Annette was the girl he was going to marry.
- During World War II, the siege of Stalingrad lasted five months; in the **ELAPSING** battle 750,000 Russians and 400,000 Germans died.

**CURVILINEAR**  
(kurv ah LIN ee ur)  
formed, bound, or characterized  
by curved lines  
Link: **CURVY LINES**



"The skater's **CURVY LINES** outlined her **CURVILINEAR** skating program."

- Squares and rectangles have no **CURVILINEAR** lines.
- Surveyors have special instruments to lay out **CURVILINEAR** streets in subdivisions.

**DEFAME**  
(di FAYME)  
to libel or slander; take  
away a good name  
Link: **RENAME**



"When the good name of William Bonney was **DEFAMED**, reporters **RENAMED** him 'Billy the Kid'."

- **DEFAMED** and defeated, Napoleon was exiled to the Island of Elba.
- False accusations have **DEFAMED** the reputations of many fair ladies by unscrupulous, lying men.
- Thomas Jefferson was once quoted as saying, "**DEFAMATION** is becoming a way of life inso-much that a dish of tea cannot be digested without the stimulant."

**ASTUTE**  
(uh STOOT)  
quick in discernment; shrewd,  
clever, keen  
Link: **SUIT**



"Larry thought a new **SUIT** would make him appear more **ASTUTE** for his job interview."

- Louisa has a natural **ASTUTENESS** in dealing with angry people and winning them over to her view, thereby settling matters amicably.
- Like many gamblers, John thought he was very **ASTUTE** when it came to betting on horses. Only his wife kept telling him if he was so **ASTUTE**, he would realize he lost more often than he won.
- Mary was known to be very **ASTUTE**. She was always the first to finish her assignments.

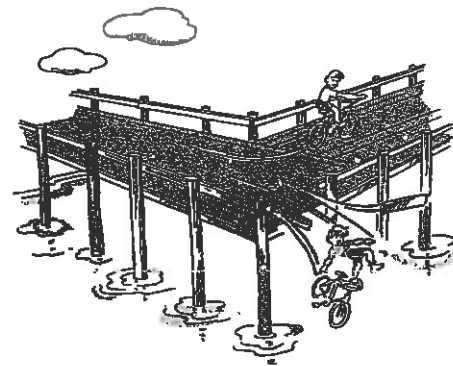
**KARMA**  
(KAHR mah)  
fate, destiny; to detect good or bad vibrations from  
something or someone  
Link: **HARM-A**



"No **HARM-A** will come if you have good **KARMA**."

- All his life he possessed a protective **KARMA** that kept him out of harm's way.
- Louise often told her friends it was her **KARMA** to die young and beautiful.
- Genghis Khan emanated a **KARMA** of death and destruction.

**VEER**  
(ve ur)  
change in direction  
Link: **PIER**



"Vern, I told you to **VEER** at the end of the **PIER**."

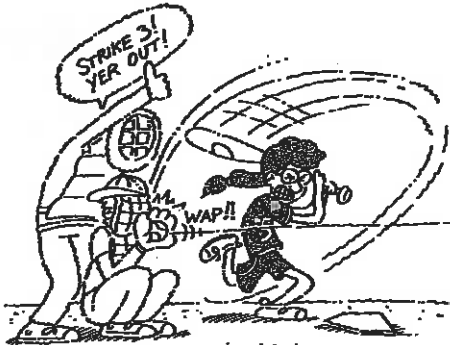
- When you arrive at the castle, **VEER** left around the wall and follow the foot trail until you come to the valley.
- Without warning, Flight #638 suddenly **VEERED** off the runway and slammed into a small plane parked outside the hanger. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt.
- Arthur never **VEERED** from the path of honor and dignity.

### MISNOMER

(miss NO mur)

an incorrect or inappropriate name

Link: MISS HOMER



"What a MISNOMER, our little MISS HOMER struck out five times in a row."

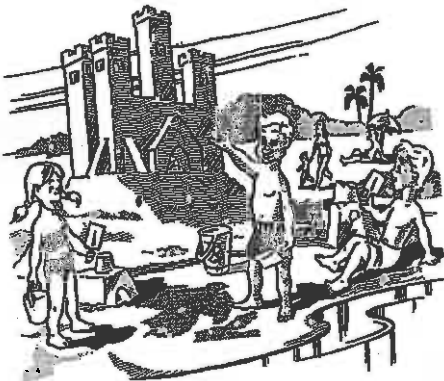
- ❑ A nickname like "Speedy" is a MISNOMER when directed toward one who is slow at what they do.
- ❑ We usually have dinner at this very small Italian restaurant called The Spaghetti Factory, obviously a MISNOMER of major proportions.
- ❑ It was no MISNOMER when they called Harry Houdini, "The Great Houdini," as he was the greatest escape artist of his time.

### ARTISAN

(AHRT uh sun)

a worker skilled in a craft

Link: ART IN SAND



"Little Jimmy was a SAND CASTLE ARTISAN."

- ❑ The ARTISANS of Pueblo, Mexico are known for their beautiful pottery.
- ❑ The ARTISANS arrived early in the morning to repaint and landscape the house.
- ❑ The Italian painter and sculptor Michelangelo was both an artist and an ARTISAN.

### DRACONIAN

(dray KOH nee un)

hard, severe, cruel

Link: DRACULA



"Count DRACULA often behaved in a DRACONIAN manner."

- ❑ Mr. Jeb had a DRACONIAN personality. Nothing his students did pleased him, and rarely did half of his students get passing grades.
- ❑ Judge McNamara handed down a DRACONIAN sentence to the defendant, sixty days for littering.
- ❑ The word DRACONIAN did not originate with the fictional character, Count Dracula, but with an ancient Greek official named Dracula who created a harsh code of laws.

### RESURGENT

(re sur jent)

a rise after defeat

Link: SERGEANT



"A RESURGENT SERGEANT."

- ❑ After losing last year, the RESURGENT Frank Morrow said he was going to run for class president.
- ❑ The RESURGENT little boy was determined to ride his bike without training wheels.
- ❑ RESURGENCE and strong determination helps most climbers conquer Mount Everest.

## Vocabulary Lesson 10

### 11 Composition CP

#### CRITERION

(kry TEER ee un)  
a standard or rule by which something can be judged; a basis for judgment  
Link: LIBRARIAN

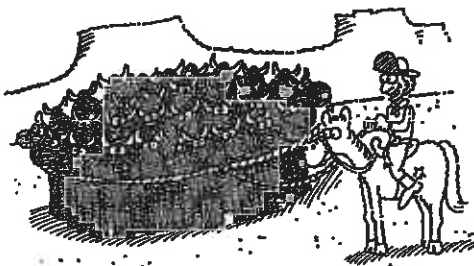


"A **CRITERION** for any **LIBRARIAN** is that she must know how to read."

- There is no special **CRITERION** for making a fortune, but some say the fastest way is to marry rich. (**CRITERION** is singular. **CRITERIA** is plural.) The physical **CRITERIA** for a good basketball player are to be seven feet tall and jump like a kangaroo.

#### GIRD

(gyrd)  
to encircle as with a belt; to prepare as for action  
Link: HERD



"Curly **GIRDED** the **HERD** with his trusty lasso."

- Johnny's job each week of the soccer season was to **GIRD** the field with a line of white chalk to mark the boundaries of the playing field.
- Jack hoped he could stop the invasion of weeds from his neighbor's yard by **GIRDING** his lawn with a pre-emergent herbicide.
- GIRDED** for action, the tanks moved forward into battle formation.

#### PRECARIOUS

(pruh KA REE us)  
unsafe, unsteady, unstable  
Link: CARRY US

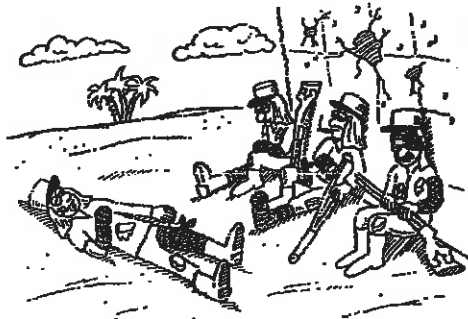


"To escape the dinosaur, Mississippi Jones **CARRIED US** to safety across a **PRECARIOUS** bridge."

- It was a **PRECARIOUS** moment; we were out of town, without any money and without any gas.
- The **PRECARIOUSNESS** of their situation did not fully strike the fishermen until their small boat arrived at the dock only moments before the storm struck.
- Isabel's habit of arriving at work late almost every morning made her job future **PRECARIOUSLY** uncertain.

#### LESION

(LEE zhan)  
wound, injury; especially one created by a disease  
Link: LEGION

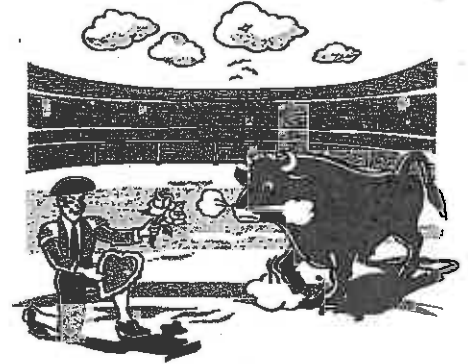


"Soldiers of the French Foreign **LEGION** suffering from their **LESIONS**."

- The nurses told Crystal to keep the bandage on her knee until the **LESION** healed, otherwise the open sore would be prone to infection by air-borne bacteria.
- When a person has a **LESION**, even a small one that will not heal, it is time to see a doctor.
- Ebola is an infectious disease characterized by open **LESIONS** of the skin.

#### AMENABLE

(ah MEE muh bul)  
agreeable, responsible to authority, pleasant, willing to give in to the wishes of another  
Link: MEAN BULL

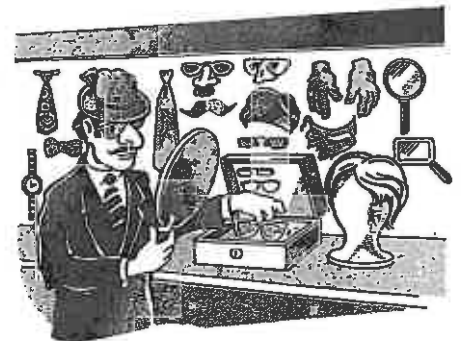


"The matador tried to be **AMENABLE** to the **MEAN BULL**."

- Jack was such a classy guy, always **AMENABLE** to any reasonable solution to a problem.
- The Seminole Indians were **AMENABLE** to our sharing revenue from the games at their bingo hall.
- Jane was **AMENABLE** to calling back tomorrow when the main office would be open.

#### GUISE

(gyze)  
appearance, semblance  
Link: DISGUISE



"A master of **DISGUISE**, Sherlock Holmes concealed his real **GUISE**."

- Every night the undercover detective would enter the toughest part of town in the **GUISE** of a junkie, uncovering the identity of many drug pushers.
- (A false appearance can also be a **GUISE**.) Amy was extremely cautious of advances made toward her by Harold because, as she put it, he had the **GUISE** of an angel, but the intentions of a devil.

### DISPERSE

(dis PURS)

to scatter in various directions;  
distribute widely

Link: PURSE



"When the thug grabbed Dee's PURSE, all its contents were DISPERSED."

- Bonaparte DISPERSED his troops strategically all along the mountain's ridge where they could fire down upon the Austrian Army as it advanced up the hill.
- The police arrived and DISPERSED the crowd with threats of arrest if they did not leave the parade grounds.

### FETISH

(FET ish)

an object of unreasonable obsessive  
reverence or attention

Link: BRITISH



"The BRITISH, they say, have an absolute FETISH for tea."

- Her psychologist said the reason Darlene had a FETISH of washing her hands a dozen times a day was because she had a guilt complex about something in her past life, and she was trying to wash the guilt away.
- Chocolate was more than a FETISH with Mary; she had to have a chocolate fix several times a day.

### FORAGE

(FOR vj)

to search or hunt for  
food and provision

Link: FOREST



"Wild animals FORAGING for food in the FOREST."

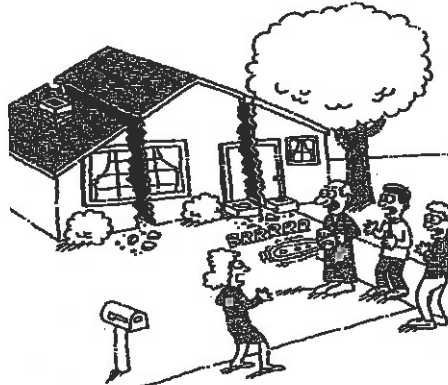
- When the last of our provisions were gone, it was decided that two men would take our only rifle and go FORAGING for game.
- We FORAGED through the shed for plywood, tin sheets and boards, anything with which to board up the windows and doors before the full force of the hurricane struck.

### DISSOLUTION

(dis uh LOO shum)

the breaking up into parts; termination  
of a legal bond or contract

Link: SOLUTION



"When the heirs to the estate were unable to agree on DISSOLUTION of their parents' home, the judge's SOLUTION was to divide it into equal parts."

- After his wife's death, Bill fell into a DISSOLUTE lifestyle, caring little for his appearance or career.
- The DISSOLUTION of the committee for fine arts left the matter of payment to the artists undecided.
- Nothing could prevent the DISSOLUTION of our