

UNIT 8

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 8. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

A Fish That Fishes

<Magazine Article>

by Laverne J. Cambalda, Ph.D.

A fish that fishes? Can such a creature really exist in the natural order of things? One might at first be inclined to deny the possibility, but at the risk of being **disputatious**, the answer is yes. The creature that appears to use rod and lure to capture its prey is known as the anglerfish. One glance at this bizarre denizen of the deep suffices to establish its appearance as **abnormal** in the extreme.

The old adage points out that "it takes one to know one." But human observers of this creature do not even need to be anglers themselves to recognize the uncanny resemblance of the anglerfish's projecting spine to a fishing rod.

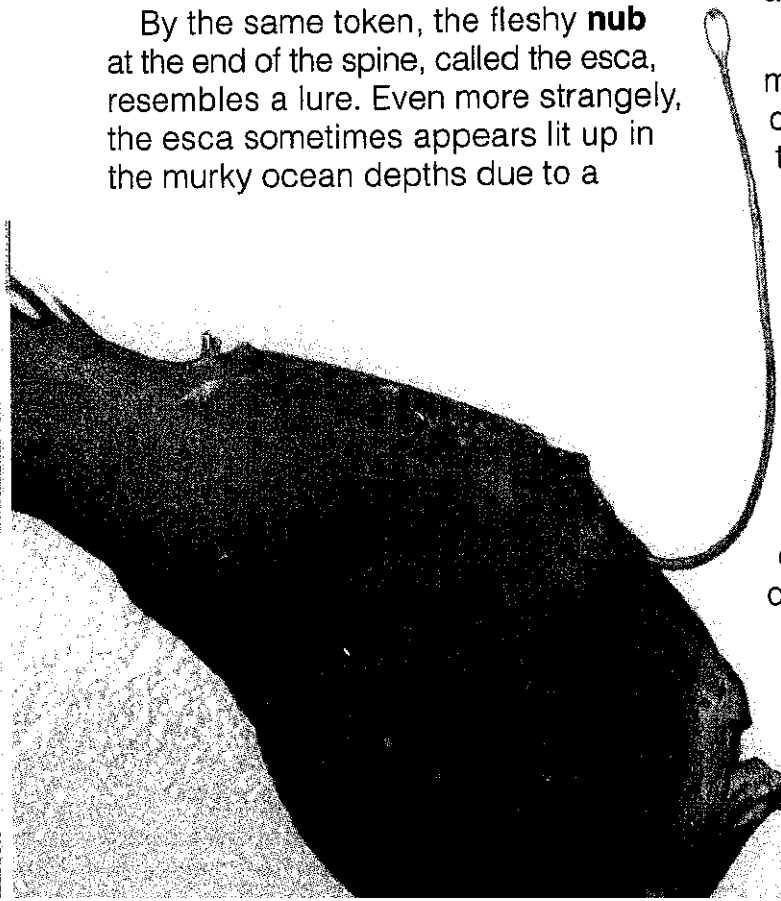
By the same token, the fleshy **nub** at the end of the spine, called the esca, resembles a lure. Even more strangely, the esca sometimes appears lit up in the murky ocean depths due to a

phenomenon known as bioluminescence—this shining in the dark is, in fact, caused by clusters of bacteria.

Such a setup often spells **catastrophe** for the anglerfish's prey: skatefish, haddock, cod, whiting, and sand eels. An offensive **onslaught** by an anglerfish is formidable. The angler's head is enormous, with a huge mouth ringed with needle-sharp teeth. If a potential victim succumbs to the **incentive** of the lure, the contest is almost always over. The anglerfish comes equipped with a remarkable triggering mechanism; any external contact with its spinelike tentacle will trigger a virtually **simultaneous**, immediate rapid-fire bite. This swiftness almost invariably **outstrips** any defensive actions by the prey.

The cavernous size of the angler's mouth means that it can capture even cautious, **prudent** prey by making even the slightest **swerve** in any direction. Sometimes, moreover, the prey can be twice the angler's own size. Indeed, anglerfish are said to possess the fastest biting action of any vertebrate.

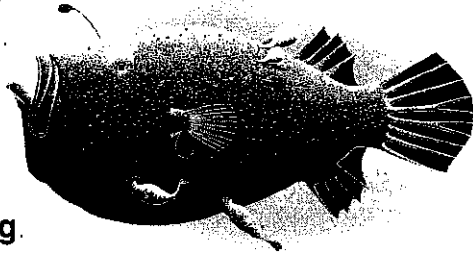
Reassuringly, boaters who **capsize** are unlikely to encounter an anglerfish when they hit the water. Anglers are deep-sea residents, living a mile or more below the surface. Anglerfish occur worldwide, and they are generally divided into four groups: batfish, frogfish,



deep-sea anglerfish, and goosefish. Of the 200 species of anglerfish, some can be tiny, measuring only one-fourth of an inch, while others may stretch up to six feet long. Scientists agree that thanks to their remote habitat and effective “fishing” techniques, anglerfish are **flourishing**.

In this respect, as in so many others, they differ from other marine species, many of which are in decline.

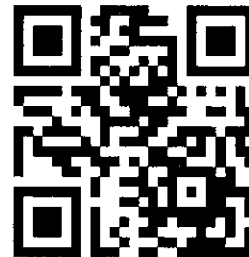
Some curious differences separate male anglerfish from females. Only the female angler, for example, comes armed for fishing with the spine and the esca. Males, overall, are much smaller than females. In fact, throughout their lives males actually **decrease** in size. A male attaches itself to a female’s body, becoming completely dependent on her. One can only imagine the consequences of any **insubordination** on his part!



Ultimately, the male’s body dwindles to a mere **remnant**. He has become merely a fertilizing mechanism for the female.

Such is the remarkable world of the anglerfish—both intriguing and demanding but perfectly suited for the anglerfish.

Laverne J. Cambalda, Ph.D., has been fascinated by marine life since she first saw the ocean. A native of Nebraska, Cambalda moved to Monterey, California, after she went to graduate school to study marine biology. This is her first article for Ocean Seven magazine.



For and audio passages, snap the code, or go to



Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

1. abnormal
(ab nôr' mæl)

(*adj.*) not usual, not typical, strange

For my sister, who is always late, being early for class would be an _____ situation.

SYNONYMS: freakish, unnatural, irregular, anomalous
ANTONYMS: normal, usual, regular, typical

2. capsize
(kap' siz)

(*v.*) to turn bottom side up, upset

Anyone watching could see that it was our inexperience that caused us to _____ the canoe.

SYNONYMS: upend, tip over

3. catastrophe
(kə tas' trə fē)

(*n.*) a large-scale disaster, misfortune, or failure

During the Cold War, the United States did everything possible to avoid a nuclear _____.

SYNONYMS: tragedy, cataclysm
ANTONYMS: triumph, victory, success

4. decrease
(*v.*, di krēs';
n., dē' krēs)

(*v.*) to become or make less; (*n.*) a lessening

The manager hopes that theft will _____ once the new security system is installed.

Because of a sharp _____ in sales, the company had to lay off two-thirds of its workers.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) lessen, reduce, dwindle, diminish
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) increase, grow, develop, wax

5. disputatious
(dis pyü ta' shəs)

(*adj.*) inclined to argue or debate; provoking debate

The _____ senator had engaged in filibusters to block the passage of many a bill.

SYNONYMS: argumentative, quarrelsome, contentious
ANTONYMS: nonargumentative, peaceable, pacific

6. evict
(i vikt')

(*v.*) to force out from a property, eject

The landlord reluctantly decided to _____ the tenants who fell on hard times and had not paid their rent in six months.

SYNONYMS: oust, expel, kick out
ANTONYMS: admit, insert

7. flourish
(flər' ish)

(*v.*) to grow, thrive, be prosperous; to wave in the air;
(*n.*) a dramatic gesture; a fanfare of horns

It is fortunate for lovers of the arts that painting and opera
still _____ in Italy.

Actors often enter the stage with a _____.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) prosper, burgeon, increase
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) wither, die, fade, shrivel up

8. incentive
(in sen' tiv)

(*n.*) a reason for doing something; something that
stimulates action

Because career advancement is such a strong
_____, adults are usually eager and
hard-working students.

SYNONYMS: stimulus, spur, motive, inducement
ANTONYMS: curb, check, restraint, hindrance

9. insubordinate
(in sə bôrd' ən ət)

(*adj.*) disobedient, rebellious

The _____ soldier repeatedly interrupted
his commanding officer.

SYNONYMS: defiant, unruly, mutinous
ANTONYMS: obedient, submissive, docile, tractable

10. legible
(lej' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) easily read

In keeping with the jokes, pharmacists will tell you that most
doctors' handwriting is barely _____.

SYNONYMS: clear, decipherable
ANTONYMS: unreadable, indecipherable

11. nub
(nəb)

(*n.*) the central point or heart of a matter; a knob

After seemingly endless digressions, the speaker finally
got to the _____ of his argument.

SYNONYMS: kernel, nucleus, crux
ANTONYMS: fringe, periphery, edge

12. onslaught
(än' slôt)

(*n.*) a violent attack; a sudden rush of something

To prepare for the _____ of winter, we
replenished our supply of firewood and rock salt.

SYNONYMS: assault, charge, foray, onset

13. ordain
(ôr dān')

(*v.*) to establish by law; to order or command; to appoint as a
priest or minister; to destine

Ancient astrologers believed that the stars could
_____ one's future.

SYNONYMS: anoint, consecrate, enact, decree
ANTONYMS: forbid, veto, cancel

- 14. outstrip**
(aút strip')
- (v.) to get ahead of, do better than, exceed
By offering customers low prices and good terms, the new store hopes to _____ the competition.
SYNONYMS: outdo, outperform, outdistance, surpass
ANTONYMS: trail, lag behind
- 15. pervade**
(pər vād')
- (v.) to spread throughout
Pollutants _____ the atmosphere of many of our nation's large cities.
SYNONYMS: permeate, diffuse, imbue
- 16. prudent**
(prüd' ənt)
- (adj.) cautious, careful, showing good sense
It pays to make _____ investments.
SYNONYMS: wary, judicious
ANTONYMS: foolish, unwise, rash
- 17. quench**
(kwench)
- (v.) to put out, extinguish, end
The firefighters will _____ the flames with water.
SYNONYMS: douse, stifle
ANTONYMS: ignite, kindle
- 18. remnant**
(rem' nənt)
- (n.) a small part remaining behind
By the end of the war, the rebels had but a _____ of their former strength.
SYNONYMS: remainder, residue, leftover
- 19. simultaneous**
(si məl tā' nē əs)
- (adj.) happening or existing at the same time
The diplomats put on headphones so that they could listen to a _____ translation of the speech.
SYNONYMS: occurring at the same time, concurrent
ANTONYM: occurring at different times
- 20. swerve**
(swərv)
- (v.) to turn aside sharply; (n.) a sharp or sudden turn
Be aware that if you _____ too sharply, you may lose control of the car.
The sudden _____ of the bus caused some passengers to fall out of their seats.
SYNONYMS: (v.) digress, sheer off

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 98–99 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. After finishing the painting, the artist signed his name in big letters with a playful (**flourish, incentive**).
2. The only advice I can give you is to take the problems one at a time and deal with each in a sensible and (**prudent, disputatious**) way.
3. We have made some progress in cleaning up our community, but that is certainly no reason to (**decrease, evict**) our efforts.
4. To get a good grade, make sure that your composition is interesting in content, correct in grammar and spelling, and (**abnormal, legible**).
5. There's nothing like pure water to (**quench, evict**) your thirst.
6. Two of the more (**abnormal, disputatious**) members of the committee soon got into an argument about where to build the new facility.
7. After the protesters had been sleeping in the building for two months, the police finally (**evicted, ordained**) them.
8. As we returned to the dressing room after that terrible first half, the whole atmosphere seemed to be (**pervaded, capsized**) by defeat.
9. The train and the car approached the crossing almost (**simultaneously, prudently**), and a terrible accident seemed unavoidable.
10. "We have become so engrossed in the minor details of the situation that we have left no time to consider the (**nub, incentive**) of the matter," I said.
11. When the musicians failed to arrive and the air-conditioning conked out, we realized that the party was becoming a (**remnant, catastrophe**).
12. The possibility of getting a summer job in an office is all the (**incentive, onslaught**) I need to improve my computer skills.
13. All our hopes and plans were (**capsized, outstripped**) when we learned that we would not be able to attend the music festival.
14. Experts predict a (**remnant, decrease**) in the number of medical school applicants this year due to rising costs of tuition.
15. The first (**onslaught, remnant**) of the disease is marked by a severe fever and the appearance of an ugly rash all over the body.



Spanish painter Francisco Goya (1746–1828) signed his name with a distinctive flourish.

16. With eager students and able teachers, learning will (**flourish, outstrip**), even though the school building may be old and shabby.
17. As (**ordained, flourished**) in the U.S. Constitution, the President must be a native-born American at least 35 years old when he or she takes office.
18. Months after the fire, a strong scent of charred wood (**pervaded, outstripped**) the forest.
19. When the elderly pianist began to play, we were saddened to observe that he had only a(n) (**incentive, remnant**) of his once great skill.
20. Doesn't it seem (**abnormal, insubordinate**) for a bright young person to show no interest in taking part in any school activities?
21. The high spirits with which we had begun the hike were soon (**pervaded, quenched**) when it began to rain.
22. I'm following a very strict study schedule, but I must admit that I (**swerved, flourished**) from it when the play-offs were televised.
23. Has the ability of human beings to produce new inventions (**quenched, outstripped**) our ability to use them wisely?
24. Even though you may think your supervisor is wrong, you won't be able to hold your job if you act (**simultaneously, insubordinately**).
25. Be careful when you come to the sudden (**capsize, swerve**) in the road ahead!

Synonyms

*Choose the word from this Unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.*

1. finally got to the **core** of the matter _____
2. was forced to **veer** to the right _____
3. wants to **throw out** the guests _____
4. had to **appoint** a minister _____
5. witnessed the **calamity** of war _____
6. has **readable** handwriting _____
7. tried to **slake** her thirst with water _____
8. winds that could **overturn** the boat _____
9. left with only a **fragment** of her pride _____
10. clothing **saturated** with the liquid _____

Antonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. to **activate** a powerful force _____
2. unbearably **messy** handwriting _____
3. had to **disestablish** his appointment _____
4. **to restrict** the spread of pollution _____
5. wished they could **take in** more pets _____

Completing the Sentence

From the words in this Unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word form in the space provided.

1. American farms continue to produce more and more food, even though the number of people working on them has actually _____.
2. Do you really believe that making money is the only _____ that leads people to work hard and try to excel?
3. By landing the damaged plane in an open field, the pilot prevented a major _____ from occurring.
4. When that land is developed into a mall, the city will _____ any illegal squatters and offer them other alternatives for living situations.
5. "If that _____ young hothead had followed my orders to the letter," the general remarked sourly, "we wouldn't be in this fix!"
6. Let's ignore minor side issues and get to the _____ of the problem as quickly as possible.
7. As the holidays approached, a feeling of excitement and anticipation seemed to _____ the entire school.
8. My brother was _____ a priest after he had completed his studies at the seminary.
9. Though we are still the leading producers of various industrial products, other countries are catching up fast and may soon _____ us.
10. The secret of the trick is to remove the first card and pick up the second so quickly that the two actions seem to be _____.

11. Trying to avoid an argument with that _____ fellow is like trying to nail oatmeal to the wall.
12. When my canoe unexpectedly hit a tree stump and _____, I suddenly found myself neck-deep in some very cold and dirty water.
13. Even the most _____ businessperson knows that there are times when it is necessary to take chances.
14. The only thing that ever really _____ my thirst on a stifling summer afternoon is a glass of ice-cold lemonade.
15. After I had eaten my fill, I threw the _____ of my dinner into the dog's bowl.
16. After our team won the last big game of the season, we all ran out onto the field, _____ our pennants and banners jubilantly.
17. Although we are used to severe winters, a heavy snowfall this early in the season is quite _____.
18. At the first shock of the enemy's _____, our lines wavered a bit, but they soon recovered and held firm.
19. When a deer suddenly ran onto the road, the car _____ quickly to avoid hitting it.
20. The writing on the curious old document had faded badly, but it was still perfectly _____ when held up to the light.

Writing Words in Action

1. Look back at "A Fish That Fishes" (pages 98–99). Write a summary of the article. Your summary should be no more than half the length of Dr. Cambalda's original text and should use your own words. Include all the key facts in the article, and omit minor details. Use at least three Unit words in your summary.
2. In her article on the anglerfish, Dr. Cambalda notes that climate change, overfishing, and pollution are often cited as key reasons for the decline of fish populations in the world's oceans. Write an essay in which you examine the consequences of a decline in the population of fish species and suggest one or more possible solutions to the problem. Support your points with examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 98–99), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more Unit words.

The following excerpts are from Jules Verne's novel *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*. Some of the words you have studied in this Unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. Our thirst was so intense that to **quench** it we would have dug below the bed of old Ocean itself.

When you **quench** your thirst, you

- a. discover it c. satisfy it
b. worsen it d. enjoy it

2. If the degree of heat increased instead of **decreasing**, as we approached the surface of the earth, it was simply because the causes were local and solely due to volcanic influence.

When something is **decreasing**, it is NOT

- a. growing c. shrinking
b. melting d. drying out

3. My companions, doubtless, felt the same horrible tortures, but neither of them would touch the wretched morsel of meat that remained. It lay there, a last **remnant** of all our great preparations for the mad and senseless journey!

A **remnant** is something that is

- a. forgotten c. final
b. horrible d. left over

4. In many doubtful or dangerous places, it became necessary for us to be tied together by a long rope in order that should any one of us be unfortunate enough to slip, he would be supported by his companions. This connecting link was doubtless a **prudent** precaution.

A **prudent** precaution is

- a. wise c. indifferent
b. reckless d. useless

5. An invincible dread had taken possession of my brain and soul. I could only look forward to an immediate **catastrophe**, such a catastrophe as not even the most vivid imagination could have thought of.

One example of a **catastrophe** is

- a. a long journey c. a new experience
b. a shipwreck d. a bad dream



In the 1959 film based on Verne's novel, a group of adventurers discovers a strange world at Earth's core, complete with dinosaurs, lakes, and even a sun.

Interactive
Quiz



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