

UNIT 5

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 5. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

The "Elephant Man" is Dead

<Obituary>

Joseph Merrick, "The Elephant Man," Dies at 27

by Archibald Winsor Jorrocks for
The Sentinel

Joseph Carey Merrick, known as the Elephant Man, died on April 11, 1890, in the London Hospital at age 27. He was cursed with extreme physical deformities caused by an unknown and incurable disease. The coroner's report lists the official cause of death as asphyxia. It was brought about by the **substantial** weight of his massive head.

Official versions, however, can be **fallible**. There is **uncertainty** surrounding this conclusion. His doctor and friend Frederick Treves believes Merrick's neck snapped as he attempted to sleep lying down. Because of his deformities, Merrick slept sitting up. Treves maintains that Merrick wanted to fulfill a simple wish to sleep like others—and that this wish cost him his life.

Joseph Merrick was born in Leicester on August 5, 1862, son of Joseph and Mary Jane Merrick. Although healthy at

birth, young Joseph soon developed unsightly tumors. His lips swelled dramatically, and a large, bony lump formed on his forehead. Wart like growths resembling cauliflowers appeared on his head and body. His feet and right hand and arm ballooned to many times the normal size. (Measurements taken at the time of death indicate his head was 36 inches in circumference, while his right wrist was 12 inches around.)

Merrick's mother died when he was 11 years old, and his father remarried. His new stepmother **dominated** the household and showed Joseph not one

iota of kindness. The boy was cast out to fend for himself. He became an unwilling **fugitive**, his life filled with loneliness. For a time, he lived in a **grimy** poorhouse. Because of his alarming appearance and unintelligible speech, Merrick was the **ultimate** outsider. But at age 20, he took advantage of the cruel fate bestowed upon him.

Merrick contacted a showman and offered to put himself on exhibit. Thus, "the Elephant Man—half-



Joseph Carey Merrick, known as
the Elephant Man

man, half-elephant," as he was billed, was put on display as a curiosity in a traveling freak show. According to a pamphlet put together by Merrick and his managers (which contained **counterfeit** autobiographical information), Merrick said his affliction was the result of his mother being knocked down by a fairground elephant while she was pregnant. This **anecdote** was told by his family to explain his disease, and Joseph held fast to this belief.

Merrick ended up in London on display at a shop set up to host cheap entertainment. Children and adults taunted him, and cruel onlookers **mauled** him. It was here that Frederick Treves discovered him and invited him to the London Hospital for an examination.

Because the hospital did not handle incurable cases, an administrator **entreated** other institutions to offer Merrick a safe haven. When this proved fruitless, a letter to *The Times* describing Merrick's plight brought an outpouring of sympathy and financial donations.

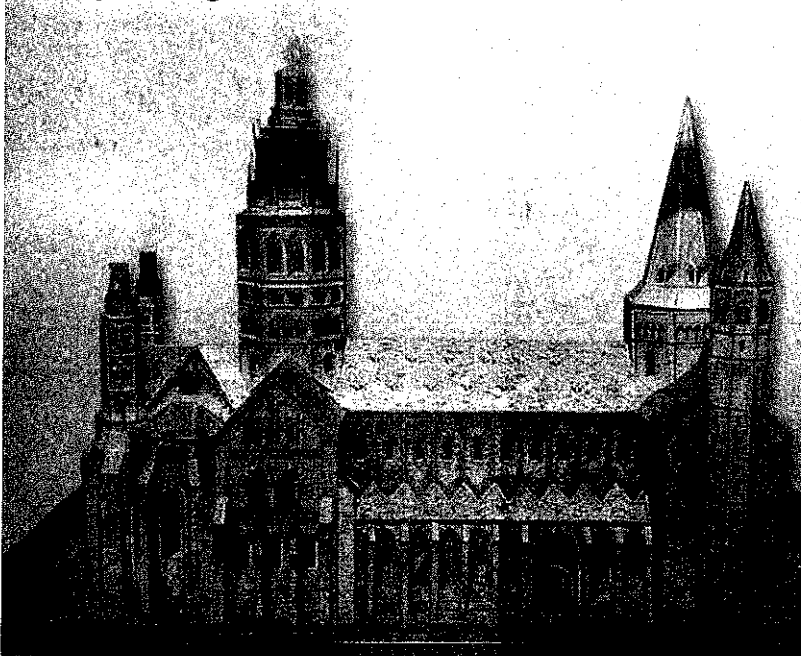
Merrick settled into a comfortable apartment at the London Hospital. And, finally, Joseph Merrick's **radiant** intelligence, gentle nature, and true



To protect himself from stares and scrutiny, Joseph Merrick often wore a hat and mask in public.

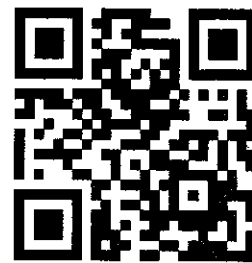
potential were revealed. Beneath his startling exterior, the Elephant Man was a **docile**, compassionate, intelligent soul who loved art, music, and animals. He was drawn to beauty in all forms, and society patrons visited him and gave him gifts.

The world that treated Merrick so cruelly in life treated him with respect upon his death. A memorial service was attended by doctors, nurses, royalty, actors, and artists. A fitting epitaph might be: You'll never understand a person until you walk a mile in his shoes.



Joseph Merrick made intricate models of churches and other buildings.

Audio



For Words and audio passages, snap the code, or go to vocabularyworkshop.com.

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. anecdote
(an' ek dōt)

(n.) a short account of an incident in someone's life

The governor told a humorous _____ about her first day in office.

SYNONYMS: tale, sketch, vignette, yarn

2. consolidate
(kən sāl' ə dāt)

(v.) to combine, unite; to make solid or firm

The generals agreed to _____ their forces for the invasion.

SYNONYMS: strengthen, firm up, merge
ANTONYMS: scatter, disperse, dissipate

3. counterfeit
(kaün' tər fit)

(n.) an imitation designed to deceive; (*adj.*) not genuine, fake;

(v.) to make an illegal copy

The painting was a _____ of Gainsborough's *Blue Boy*.

The forger was selling _____ postage stamps to his friends and neighbors.

It is a crime to _____ money.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) false, phony, bogus
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) genuine, real, authentic

4. docile
(däs' əl)

(*adj.*) easily taught, led, or managed; obedient

She was a _____ child, eager to learn and to please.

SYNONYMS: manageable, teachable, pliant
ANTONYMS: unruly, wayward, intractable, disobedient

5. dominate
(däm' ə nāt)

(v.) to rule over by strength or power, control; to tower over, command due to height

History shows that powerful nations tend to _____ weaker ones.

SYNONYMS: govern, overlook

6. entreat
(en trēt')

(v.) to beg, implore, ask earnestly

The dog's eyes seemed to _____ me for an extra helping of dinner.

SYNONYMS: plead, appeal to
ANTONYM: clamor for

- 7. fallible**
(fal' ə bəl)
(*adj.*) capable of being wrong, mistaken, or inaccurate
The researcher's _____ methods led to faulty conclusions.
SYNONYMS: errant, flawed; ANTONYMS: foolproof, unflinching, flawless
- 8. fickle**
(fik' ə l)
(*adj.*) liable to change very rapidly, erratic; marked by a lack of constancy or steadiness, inconsistent
My aunt's interests change with the weather, showing she is a truly _____ person.
SYNONYMS: inconstant, faithless; ANTONYMS: constant, steady
- 9. fugitive**
(fyū' jə tiv)
(*n.*) one who flees or runs away; (*adj.*) fleeting, lasting a very short time; wandering; difficult to grasp
That thief is a _____ from justice.
Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch had a few _____ moments together before Mrs. Hirsch boarded the train.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) deserter; (*adj.*) elusive
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) lasting, enduring, permanent
- 10. grimy**
(grī' mē)
(*adj.*) very dirty, covered with dirt or soot
The miners emerged from the pits with _____ hands and faces.
SYNONYMS: filthy, sooty, soiled, dirt-encrusted
ANTONYMS: spotless, spick-and-span, immaculate
- 11. iota**
(ī ō' tə)
(*n.*) a very small part or quantity
The employer had not an _____ of proof, but he blamed the new clerk for the theft anyway.
SYNONYMS: speck, dab, jot, bit, smidgen
ANTONYMS: flood, deluge, avalanche, glut
- 12. maul**
(môl)
(*v.*) to beat or knock about, handle roughly; to mangle;
(*n.*) a heavy hammer
The tiger was about to _____ its victim when the zookeeper stepped between them.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) manhandle, batter
- 13. potential**
(pə ten' chəl)
(*adj.*) possible, able to happen; (*n.*) something that can develop or become a reality
Hurricanes are a _____ threat to this area.
They were a football team with _____.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) possibility, capability
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) actual, real, unlikely, impossible

- 14. radiant**
(rā' dē ənt)
(*adj.*) shining, bright; giving forth light or energy
A model needs to have a _____ smile in order to advertise toothpaste.
SYNONYMS: glowing, brilliant, dazzling, resplendent
ANTONYMS: dull, tarnished, lackluster
- 15. rural**
(rūr' əl)
(*adj.*) relating to farm areas and life in the country
They settled in a _____ community that was miles from the nearest large city.
SYNONYMS: countrified, pastoral
ANTONYMS: metropolitan, citified
- 16. substantial**
(səb stan' shəl)
(*adj.*) large, important; major, significant; prosperous; not imaginary, material
Expecting a _____ raise in salary, the employee put a down payment on a new car.
SYNONYMS: considerable, tangible, big
ANTONYMS: minor, insignificant, negligible
- 17. tactful**
(takt' fəl)
(*adj.*) skilled in handling difficult situations or people, polite
A _____ approach is usually the wisest one to take with coworkers.
SYNONYMS: skillful, discreet
ANTONYMS: clumsy, gauche, indiscreet
- 18. tamper**
(tam' pər)
(*v.*) to interfere with; to handle in a secret and improper way
Please don't _____ with our baggage.
SYNONYMS: monkey with, fool with, mess with
- 19. ultimate**
(əl' tə mət)
(*adj.*) last, final; most important or extreme; eventual; basic, fundamental
California is our _____ destination on this cross-country trip.
SYNONYMS: farthest, furthest, terminal
ANTONYMS: first, initial, most immediate, nearest
- 20. uncertainty**
(ən sər' tən tē)
(*n.*) doubt, the state of being unsure
_____ about the future was the immigrants' greatest concern.
SYNONYMS: doubtfulness, unsureness
ANTONYMS: sureness, certainty, confidence

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 60–61 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Throughout the course of its history, the United States has opened its doors to (**fugitives, counterfeit**) from tyranny in other lands.
2. His (**anecdotes, entreaties**) were amusing, but what did they have to do with his central topic?
3. The mayor won't be reelected unless she can (**consolidate, maul**) the groups supporting her.
4. There, in the very heart of the noisy and (**grimy, fallible**) city, was a truly beautiful little park.
5. Although the ideals of my youth have been (**entreated, mauled**) by hard experience, they have not been totally destroyed.
6. Rarely in our history has one man so (**dominated, entreated**) the federal government as Franklin D. Roosevelt did during his four terms.
7. The (**ultimate, rural**) population of the United States is growing smaller, but farms are as important as ever to the nation.
8. The young man who seemed so quiet and (**docile, substantial**) turned out to be very well informed and to have strong opinions of his own.
9. Evidence showed that the lawyer had tried to (**consolidate, tamper**) with the witnesses by offering them bribes to change their testimony.
10. I suspected that his expression of happiness was (**potential, counterfeit**) and that he was really jealous of our success.
11. It wasn't very (**substantial, tactful**) of you to tell her that her new eyeglasses were out of style.
12. Imagine someone as changeable as George having the nerve to say that I'm the (**radiant, fickle**) one in the family!
13. Larry got good grades on the midterm tests, but he is headed for trouble because he hasn't done an (**anecdote, iota**) of work since then.
14. I know from personal experience how much harm smoking can do, and I (**dominate, entreat**) you not to get started on that miserable habit.
15. In modern hospitals, everything possible is done to prevent mistakes resulting from human (**fallibility, uncertainty**).



Since its dedication in 1886, the Statue of Liberty has symbolized America's willingness to welcome people from all lands.

16. Alma is such a (**fickle, fallible**) fan that she starts rooting for the opposing teams when they start winning.
17. To make her finances easier to manage, Mrs. Bridges decided to (**entreat, consolidate**) her two bank accounts into one.
18. The Fire Department found that the wiring in our kitchen was a(n) (**potential, uncertain**) fire hazard.
19. If you want to see the (**iota, ultimate**) in shoe styles, ask Beth to show you the new sandals she bought for the spring dance.
20. The thief tried to (**tamper, counterfeit**) with the lock, but he couldn't get it to open.
21. How can we properly direct the (**iota, potential**) for good and evil in each of us into useful channels?
22. One of our best hopes of solving the energy problem lies in making direct use of (**radiant, fugitive**) energy from the sun.
23. One certain thing in life is that there will always be many (**fugitives, uncertainties**).
24. As soon as Horace opened his lunch bag, I realized he needed something more (**grimy, substantial**) to eat.
25. Marisa felt a (**rural, fugitive**) glow of happiness, but it was gone in an instant.

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. a lovely, **rustic**, wooded landscape _____
2. to **meddle with** the truth _____
3. made **remarkable** progress last week _____
4. made a **diplomatic** remark _____
5. is **changeable** in his moods _____
6. to **gather together** notes from different sources _____
7. would **beseech** me to give them money _____
8. moved forward without **hesitation** _____
9. was a **runaway** from oppression _____
10. shared a charming **story** from her childhood _____

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. a traffic jam in a crowded **urban** area _____
2. a **boorish** person pushing to the head of the line _____
3. to **separate** the members of the two clubs _____
4. a good idea to **leave it alone** _____
5. as **invariable** as an atomic clock _____

Fill in blank

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. Since all our cashiers handle large sums of money, we have given them special training in recognizing _____ bills.
2. The wily old senator had such a forceful and aggressive personality that he soon came to _____ his entire party.
3. Though the United Nations has many lesser objectives, its _____ goal is to achieve lasting world peace.
4. I took my car to a qualified repair shop, rather than run the risk of damaging it further by _____ with it myself.
5. The new book of presidential _____ contains many amusing stories involving our Chief Executives, both past and present.
6. Because I had expected the children to be hard to handle, I was pleasantly surprised by their _____ behavior.
7. As she told us the good news, her face was _____ with joy.
8. To be _____ in everyday life means doing whatever you can to avoid hurting the feelings of other people.
9. Trying desperately to avoid the police, the _____ hid in the cellar of the abandoned house.
10. The boat has been so badly _____ by the storm that it will have to be overhauled before it can be used again.

11. Though Company A has very little chance of expanding in the near future, the _____ growth rate of Company B is staggering.
12. Despite the doctor's best efforts, there has been no _____ change in the patient's condition for weeks.
13. The Board of Education believes it would save considerable money to _____ three small schools into one big school.
14. The windows had become so _____ and spotted that it took me some time to get them clean.
15. There is an old saying that pencils are made with erasers because human beings are _____.
16. "As a mother," the woman said to the judge, "I _____ you to show leniency toward my son."
17. Unwilling to bear the _____ any longer, I called the Dean of Admissions to find out if I had been admitted.
18. The taste of the public is so _____ that a TV performer who is a big hit one year may be forgotten the next.
19. After living so long in a large city, I was happy to spend a few weeks in those beautiful _____ surroundings.
20. We discovered that there was not a(n) _____ of truth in the rumors that they had spread so eagerly.

Writing Words in Action

1. Look back at "The 'Elephant Man' Is Dead" (pages 60–61). Suppose that you are Dr. Frederick Treves, Joseph Merrick's doctor and friend. A newspaper reporter is interviewing you about what Merrick was like. Write two or three questions and answers from the interview. Make each answer at least two sentences long. Use at least two details from the passage and three Unit words to give Dr. Treves's opinions about Merrick's life and character.
2. Joseph Merrick faced an unusually difficult challenge all through his life, and he met it with courage. All people face challenges, both large and small, throughout their lives. Write a brief essay on whether facing challenges makes people stronger. Choose your position on the issue, and defend it in at least two paragraphs. Give at least two reasons to support your position, and provide evidence from life, the reading passage (refer to pages 60–61), or your studies. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more Unit words.

The following excerpts are from Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*. 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. Here, the clothesman, the shoe-vamper, and the rag-merchant, display their goods . . . here, stores of old iron and bones, and heaps of mildewy fragments of woollen-stuff and linen, rust and rot in the **grimy** cellars.

A **grimy** cellar is

- a. dim c. deep
b. dirty d. damp

2. And Mr. Sikes was right. By dint of alternate threats, promises, and bribes, the lady in question was **ultimately** prevailed upon to undertake the commission.

Something that is done **ultimately** takes place

- a. soon c. rarely
b. at the start d. in the end

3. The sun—the bright sun, that brings back, not light alone, but new life, and hope, and freshness to man—burst upon the crowded city in clear and **radiant** glory.

When something is **radiant**, it is NOT

- a. bright c. dull
b. warm d. funny

4. In a dreadful state of doubt and **uncertainty**, the agonized young woman staggered to the gate, and then, exchanging her faltering walk for a swift run, returned by the most devious and complicated route she could think of.

Uncertainty is a state of

- a. despair c. grief
b. hope d. confusion

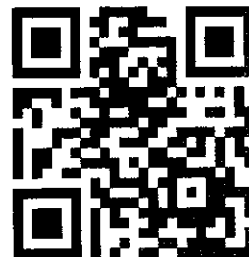
5. They **entreated** to be made good, virtuous, contented, and obedient, and to be guarded from the sins and vices of *Oliver Twist*.

When they **entreated**, they

- a. pleaded c. tried
b. failed d. wished



Like many of the novels of Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* examines the lives of the rich and poor in nineteenth-century England.



Snap the code, or go to