

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 14. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

by Aisha B. Boulos

ENEVA, SWITZERLAND The year 2012 marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the last naturally occurring case of the highly contagious smallpox virus on the planet. The victim of the disfiguring and sometimes deadly **affliction** was a young man in the East African country of Somalia. Fortunately, after prompt treatment, the patient survived this deadly disease that has plagued humanity for centuries.

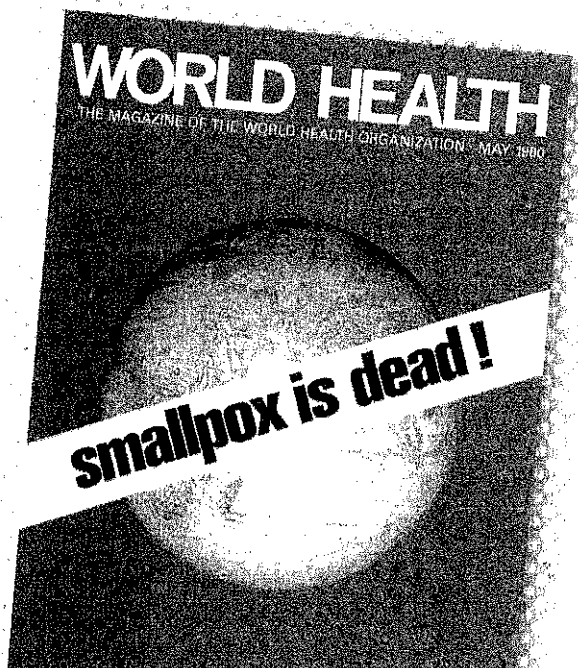
Two and a half years later, at a **gala** celebration at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared that the disease had finally been eradicated. The history of smallpox stretches back over 3,500 years. The peoples of the world owe a debt of **gratitude** to WHO.

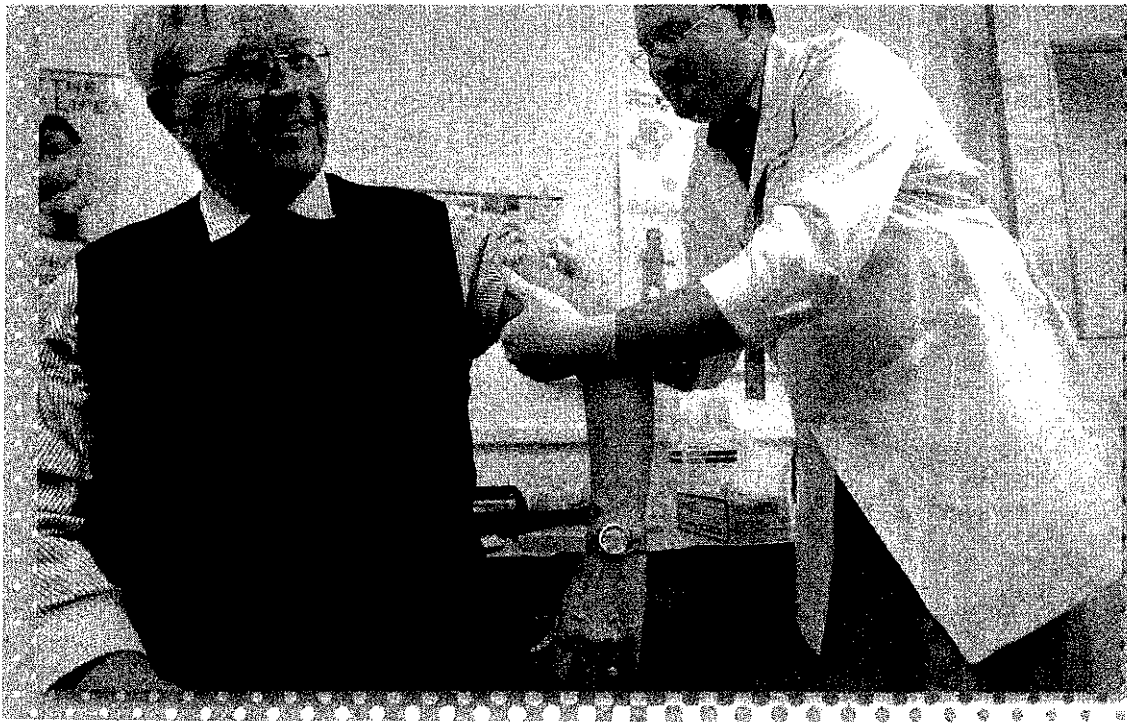
How did a single agency of the United Nations, with very little money and only a limited, **meager** staff, **vanquish** this killer

disease in only a decade (1967–1977)? The story of the eradication of smallpox might seem like a **hoax**, if it were not for the fact that it is entirely true. It is a tale of persistence, determination, and the imaginative handling of stiff challenges.

In 1959, smallpox was present in 59 countries, all of them located in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Experts have estimated that there were about 10 million new cases annually. Approximately one third were fatal. In the previous century, the smallpox virus had caused the deaths of at least half a billion people. This staggering total may be compared with the roughly 150 million deaths caused by warfare during the same period. For many of those **meditating** a global attack on smallpox, their intentions and hopes must have seemed **wan** and weak indeed. No other disease had ever been eradicated worldwide before. Even the director-general of WHO suggested that such an **inflated** goal might lie beyond the pale.

Nevertheless, the WHO team, refusing to **heed** conventional wisdom, sallied forth in January 1967. It was led by the American epidemiologist D.A. Henderson. His study of smallpox and its characteristics convinced Henderson that the team could meet the challenge. First, the virus infected only humans, so there was no reservoir in nature. Each infected person exhibited a telltale rash. If victims were isolated immediately, they could be prevented from **transmitting** the virus to others. Perhaps most critical of all, experts had developed a stable, inexpensive, freeze-dried vaccine against smallpox. A single vaccination provided immunity for at least ten years.





Dr. Henderson, leader of the WHO team against smallpox, receives his smallpox vaccine.

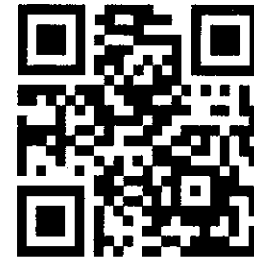
Despite these advantages, however, the WHO team had to confront formidable obstacles. Besides the skepticism of senior officials, the WHO staff members had to deal with roads in terrible disrepair, broken-down vehicles, war zones, and cultural opposition to vaccination. There were also geographical barriers. Large mountainous areas of Ethiopia, for instance, were inaccessible except for **pedestrians** or for travelers on mule-back. Communications were an ongoing problem. Drought, famine, and tides of refugees **oppressed** the team's efforts in some areas.

Yet somehow the team got it done. By 1980, a **cosmopolitan** and **impartial** killer with billions of victims around the world, including emperors and monarchs, was gone. Ramses V of Egypt, Joseph I of Austria, Louis XV of France: All their wealth and power did little to **elongate** their lives once they contracted smallpox. A small but intrepid team from WHO turned out to be the disease's most potent adversary.

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WHO kept meticulous track of which areas were still being infected by smallpox.

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. affliction
(ə flik' shən)

(*n.*) a physical ailment; a cause of pain or trouble, misfortune
Lupus is a dreadful _____ that kills nearly 5,000 people, mostly women, each year.

SYNONYMS: illness, woe, torment, anguish
ANTONYMS: blessing, boon, joy

2. akin
(ə kin')

(*adj.*) related by blood; having similar qualities or character
Our neighbors seem to have ideas _____ to ours about landscaping.

SYNONYMS: kindred, like
ANTONYMS: unrelated, different

3. cosmopolitan
(kəz mə päl' ə tən)

(*adj.*) found in most parts of the world; having many fields of interest; of worldwide scope; sophisticated
It does not surprise us that our cousin, a big-city dweller, has a _____ outlook.

SYNONYMS: global, international, polished
ANTONYMS: narrow, unsophisticated, provincial

4. elongate
(i lônj' gāt)

(*v.*) to grow in length, become longer; to extend the length of
The artist sought to _____ the trunk of the elephant in her caricature in order to amuse the children.

SYNONYMS: lengthen, stretch, protract
ANTONYMS: shorten, abbreviate, contract, curtail

5. gala
(gā' lə)

(*n.*) a public entertainment marking a special event, a festive occasion; (*adj.*) festive, showy
The inexperienced reporter had never seen such finery as was worn at the _____.

The President and the First Lady attended a _____ performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) extravaganza, fête; (*adj.*) spectacular, grand

6. gaudy
(gō' də)

(*adj.*) flashy, showy; not in good taste
The singer's _____ outfit was totally inappropriate for a command performance before the queen.

SYNONYMS: loud, vulgar
ANTONYMS: restrained, quiet, sober, sedate

7. gratitude
(grat' ə tüd)

(*n.*) appreciation, thankfulness

Be sure to express your _____ to your teacher for having written you a letter of recommendation.

SYNONYMS: thanks, gratefulness

8. heed
(hēd)

(*v.*) to pay careful attention to, notice; to be guided by;

(*n.*) close attention or consideration

My parents are always telling me to _____ their advice.

Pay no _____ to old superstitions.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) listen to, attend

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) ignore, disregard

9. hoax
(hōks)

(*n.*) an act intended to trick or deceive, a fraud;

(*v.*) to trick, deceive

Their plan was to _____ people into believing that they had found a masterpiece.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) deception, ruse, fake; (*v.*) dupe

10. impartial
(im pār' shəl)

(*adj.*) just, unbiased, fair, not taking sides

The defense attorney knew it would be difficult to find _____ jurors to serve on such a celebrated case.

SYNONYMS: disinterested, neutral, objective

ANTONYMS: one-sided, prejudiced, biased, partial

11. impostor
(im päs' tər)

(*n.*) a swindler, deceiver; one who uses a false name or character in order to cheat

After having posed as a doctor for five years, the man was finally exposed as an _____.

SYNONYMS: cheat, trickster

12. inflate
(in flāt')

(*v.*) to fill with air or gas; to swell or puff out; to make something appear larger than it is

On the evening before the big parade, we watched the workers _____ the huge balloons.

SYNONYMS: blow up, pump up, enlarge

ANTONYMS: deflate, flatten, diminish

13. meager
(mē' gər)

(*adj.*) poor, scant, unsatisfactory; thin, slight

My brother, a high school student, is always complaining that he cannot live on the _____ allowance our parents give him.

SYNONYMS: scanty, skimpy, sparse

ANTONYMS: ample, plentiful, abundant

- 14. meditate**
(med' ə tāt)
(v.) to think about deeply and quietly, reflect upon; to plan, intend
Many ancient philosophers would seek peaceful surroundings in which to _____ on the meaning of life.
SYNONYMS: ponder, contemplate, ruminate
- 15. nutritious**
(nü trish' əs)
(adj.) nourishing, valuable and satisfying as food
My mother cooks _____ meals to ensure that we have a balanced diet.
SYNONYMS: wholesome, healthful
- 16. oppress**
(ə pres')
(v.) to govern or rule cruelly or unjustly; to weigh heavily upon
Too many dictators have used their absolute power to _____ the people they govern.
SYNONYMS: mistreat, persecute, grind underfoot
ANTONYMS: pamper, coddle, free, liberate
- 17. pedestrian**
(pə des' trē ən)
(n.) one who goes on foot; (adj.) relating to walking; on foot; ordinary, unimaginative
The driver slammed on the brakes and swerved so as not to hit the _____.
Critics denounced his _____ literary style, but his book sales were high.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) commonplace, prosaic
ANTONYMS: (n.) driver, rider; (adj.) original, novel
- 18. transmit**
(tranz mit')
(v.) to send on, pass along, send out
In the Old West, local sheriffs would _____ messages by telegraph to the marshal of the territory.
SYNONYMS: pass on, convey, relay, deliver
- 19. vanquish**
(van' kwish)
(v.) to defeat in a battle or contest, overthrow; to overcome a feeling or condition
The general's goal was to _____ his country's enemies.
SYNONYMS: beat, conquer; ANTONYMS: succumb to, yield to
- 20. wan**
(wän)
(adj.) unnaturally pale or sickly looking; lacking vitality; dim, faint; weak, ineffectual
The patient was so weak that all she could give the nurse was a _____ smile.
SYNONYMS: ashen, pasty, bloodless, gaunt
ANTONYMS: rosy, ruddy, blooming, radiant

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 174–175 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. Try as he might, the sideshow barker couldn't convince me that the "real live mermaid" inside the tent wasn't just a clever (**hoax, gala**).
2. After a lifetime of travel in dozens of countries all over the world, she is highly (**cosmopolitan, akin**) in her tastes and ideas.
3. Mere words cannot express our (**affliction, gratitude**) for your splendid services to our school.
4. The spokesperson had important things to say, but his way of expressing himself was so unimaginative and (**nutritious, pedestrian**) that he lost our interest.
5. The speaker was greeted by a (**meager, gaudy**) round of applause, but before she left the stage, she had the audience cheering.
6. My mind and body were so (**oppressed, heeded**) by the stifling heat that afternoon that I couldn't do anything at all.
7. Such extravaganzas as the "Night of 100 Stars" are usually designed to be (**wan, gala**) charity benefits for worthy causes.
8. Each scholarship candidate was identified by a number so that the people doing the grading would be absolutely (**impartial, pedestrian**).
9. Is it necessary for you to go into the woods to (**inflate, meditate**) every time you have to make a routine decision?
10. By continuing to praise his extremely modest accomplishments, you are helping to (**inflate, transmit**) his already oversized ego.
11. He claimed to be a famous multimillionaire, but when he tried to borrow bus fare, we realized he was a(n) (**pedestrian, impostor**).
12. Education and compassion are the only weapons by which we will (**heed, vanquish**) prejudice and superstition once and for all.
13. The glowing review of my performance must be accurate, as critics do their best to be (**impartial, oppressive**) in their reviews.
14. The man's pathetically (**wan, elongated**) personality is matched only by the hopelessly bland and lifeless statements that issue from his mouth.
15. I'd describe nostalgia as a feeling more (**meager, akin**) to yearning than to grief.



A sideshow barker in the 1930s tries to persuade an audience to see the exhibits.

16. Regardless of whether the light is green, (**cosmopolitans, pedestrians**) always have the right of way, according to the law.
17. We won the game because we kept our heads and paid no (**gratitude, heed**) to the insulting remarks made by our opponents.
18. (**Transmitting, Meditating**) every day not only lowers stress, but it also reduces the risk of a heart attack.
19. Is there any country in the world in which the terrible (**affliction, impostor**) of poverty has been entirely overcome?
20. In order to express my (**affliction, gratitude**) for all the help Mrs. Schroeder had given me, I made a donation to her favorite charity.
21. Have you ever noticed that as the sun sinks lower in the sky, shadows become (**elongated, cosmopolitan**)?
22. Shakespeare's advice about dressing—"rich, not (**gaudy, akin**)"—still holds true in today's sophisticated world.
23. We are so accustomed to television that we tend to forget what a marvel it is to (**oppress, transmit**) colored images from one place to another.
24. A viewing diet made up entirely of game shows may be entertaining, but it is not particularly (**meager, nutritious**), mentally speaking.
25. Had you (**heeded, vanquished**) my advice, you would be finished by now.

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. would never wear such **garish** shoes _____
2. had an **exaggerated** sense of her importance _____
3. attended a **dull** series of lectures _____
4. will **subdue** all foes of the realm _____
5. ate a **healthy** meal before the game _____
6. sharing **comparable** traits _____
7. had light hair and a **pallid** complexion _____
8. must **obey** the captain's command _____
9. would **muse** on the meaning of the universe _____
10. was taken in by the **pretender** _____

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. was **dissimilar to** the views she held _____
2. refuses to eat **toxic** foods _____
3. was surprised by the **tasteful** furnishings in his home _____
4. cooked with a **lavish** amount of spices _____
5. a treat to meet an **honest person** _____

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. Modern medical science can do wonders for people suffering from various physical or emotional _____.
2. "Although these two words are not related etymologically," the professor observed, "they are _____ to each other in meaning."
3. The distraught mother's _____ expression reflected her sense of anxiety over her lost child.
4. With a population made up of people from many different lands, New York City is one of the most _____ places in the world.
5. Most cities have now passed laws to discourage _____ from crossing against the light or jaywalking.
6. The big clown's _____ costume was in sharp contrast to the simple white outfits worn by the trapeze artists.
7. Though the newspapers hailed the find as the "discovery of the century," it turned out to be nothing but an outrageous _____.
8. Unfortunately, the region cannot support a very large population because its natural resources are so _____.
9. Junk food may look attractive and taste great, but it is by no means as _____ as much plainer fare.
10. If you had only _____ my warnings, all this trouble could easily have been avoided.

11. An earthworm moves by first _____ and then contracting its wonderfully elastic body.
12. Modern technology has provided us with the computer, a device for collecting, sorting, and _____ information quickly.
13. I don't expect you to throw yourself on your knees, but I wish you'd show a little _____ for the things I've done for you. .
14. Refusing to be _____ by unjust laws, the American colonists rose in revolt against the British government.
15. Superstars and other celebrities are usually very much in evidence at _____ events, such as opening night of a new Broadway show.
16. Because I am a very close friend of his, you cannot expect me to be totally _____ in judging your criticisms of him.
17. Have you ever tried to _____ a bicycle tire with one of those old-fashioned hand pumps?
18. Most of us are so busy with everyday concerns that we can find little or no time to _____ on the larger issues of life.
19. After beating off the enemy's initial assault, our brave troops delivered a series of crippling counterattacks that _____ the foe.
20. The family lawyer proved that the young man claiming to be the missing heir was no more than a(n) _____.

Writing Words in Action

1. Look back at "Celebrating the Death of a Killer" (pages 174–175). Suppose that you were working for Dr. Henderson. You want to persuade others to join the World Health Organization team, travel to different countries, and assist with vaccinations. Write a persuasive editorial stating why this venture is a worthy cause. Use at least two details from the passage and three Unit words.
2. Vaccinations have virtually wiped out certain diseases, yet they have become a source of controversy in recent years. Some people believe that vaccinations can lead to harmful side effects. As a result, some parents are so concerned that they refuse to allow their children to receive required vaccinations. In a brief essay, argue in favor of requiring vaccinations or of exercising the right to refuse them. Consider what might be some of the consequences of not vaccinating children. Support your opinion with specific examples, observations, and the reading (refer to pages 174–175). Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

The following excerpts are from Andersen's Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen. 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. The learned man from the cold lands . . . sat in a glowing oven; it took effect on him, he became quite **meager**—even his shadow shrunk in, for the sun had also an effect on it. ("The Shadow")

Someone who becomes **meager** is

- a. ancient c. wealthy
b. feeble d. robust

2. "You are so clever," said the Reindeer. . . . "Will you give the little maiden a potion, that she may possess the strength of twelve men, and **vanquish** the Snow Queen?" ("The Snow Queen")

To **vanquish** is to

- a. weaken c. torment
b. support d. conquer

3. "How naughty a boy Cupid is! I will tell all children about him, that they may take care and not play with him."

And all good children to whom he related this story, took great **heed** of this naughty Cupid. ("The Naughty Boy")

Whenever people take **heed** of a story, they

- a. ignore it c. memorize it
b. listen to it d. recite it

4. One of the travelers kept watch while the others slept. . . . How close it was in the chamber! The heat **oppressive** to suffocation. ("The Best That the Galoshes Gave")

Something that is **oppressive** is NOT

- a. angry c. unfair
b. hot d. mild

5. [H]e went to the crafty **impostors**, who, as soon as they were aware of the Emperor's approach, went on working more diligently than ever; although they still did not pass a single thread through the looms. ("The Emperor's New Clothes")

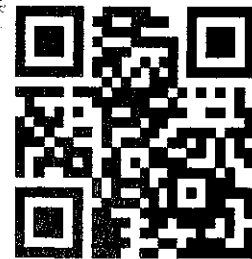
Impostors are people who are

- a. devious c. honest
b. modest d. attentive



"The Snow Queen" is one of Hans Christian Andersen's longest fairy tales.

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