

UNIT 6

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 6. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

Nazca Lines

<Persuasive Essay>

If one **browses** the list of more than 900 locations the United Nations has identified as World Heritage Sites, none remains more mysterious than the Nazca Lines of southwest Peru.

These lines, sometimes called geoglyphs, are giant ground drawings. They cover an area of nearly 200 square miles. In the dry, windless climate of the high desert plain, the drawings have survived for many centuries. The huge shapes, **prominent** from the air, first attracted world attention in the 1920s, when airplane pilots reported these unique and **inimitable** creations.

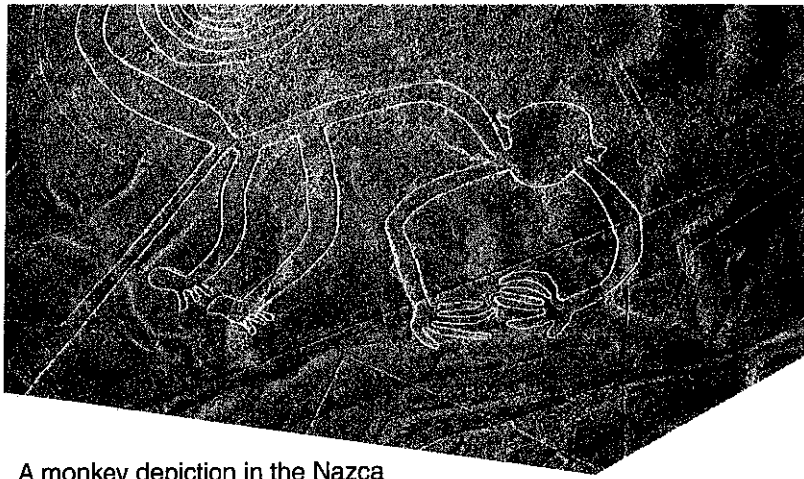
Some of the lines depict geometric shapes, such as trapezoids, triangles, and spirals. Others show gigantic animals and plants. One monkey, for example, measures 360 feet long, while a bird resembling a condor stretches 440 feet.

Who were the **anonymous** designers of these shapes?

How were the geoglyphs made, and why? For nearly a century, experts have been in a lively, **dynamic** debate. They have done their **utmost** to explain a phenomenon that still **frustrates** rational explanation.

For many years, the German-born mathematician and archaeologist Maria Reiche **prescribed** the prevailing view on the Nazca Lines. Reiche argued that the lines were a giant sun calendar and astronomical observatory. Systematic investigation by the British astronomer Gerald Hawkins, however, dislodged this theory, even if it did not thoroughly **eradicate** it. Critics of Hawkins, in turn, have pointed out that he paid only **marginal** attention to the cultural context of the Nazca Lines. Hawkins has also been criticized for employing only a **makeshift** network of astronomical targets, a selection that would make more sense in England than in the Southern Hemisphere. Thus, Hawkins





A monkey depiction in the Nazca Lines is 360 feet long.

may have only scratched the surface of the astronomical significance of the Nazca Lines.

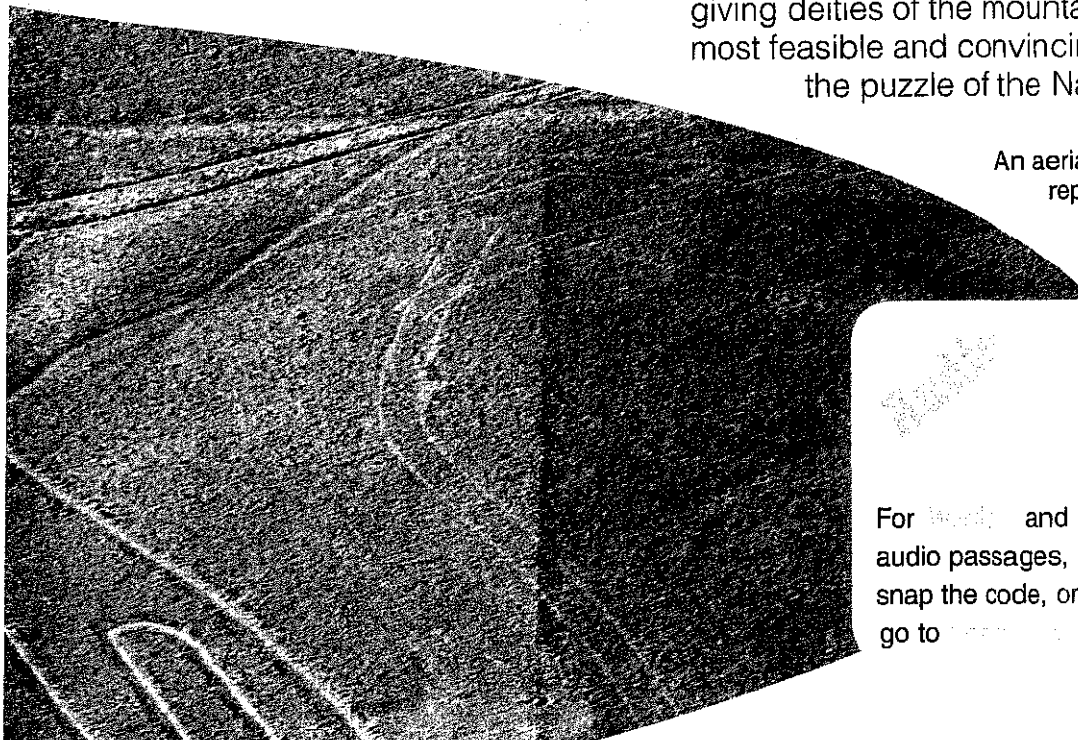
The Reiche-Hawkins debate, at least, has unfolded on a sober playing field. Some theorists of Nazca, however, have not been **reluctant** to offer explanations that may fairly be described as **quaint**.

Among the most eccentric theories is one that says the lines functioned as actual runways. One imaginative theorist, for example, was convinced that the drawings were meant to be seen from the air. He argued that the creators of the lines also managed to build hot-air balloons, which they used to admire their handiwork from aloft.

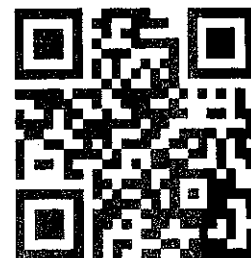
Another even more imaginative commentator has proposed that the “runways” of Nazca were not used for takeoffs, but for landings. According to this theory, the inbound passengers were space aliens. After they landed, they intermarried with earthlings. Was this theory deliberately intended to **dupe** the public? Perhaps it was, since its principal proponent **previewed** his ideas in a highly profitable best-selling book.

The puzzles of the Nazca Lines are far from being solved. Among the **pending** theories, perhaps the most persuasive claims that the lines had a religious purpose. According to this theory, ancient people walked the lines as pilgrims. These people worshipped mountain deities, largely because water came down from the mountains. For all cultures, water has a central role. The origin, movement, and function of water were subjects of fundamental importance. It may be, then, that the Nazca Lines, which are so much more visible from the air than from ground level, were designed to be pilgrimage routes for people worshipping the water-giving deities of the mountains. This is the most feasible and convincing answer to the puzzle of the Nazca Lines.

An aerial view of a bird representation in the Nazca Lines



For **Word** and audio passages, snap the code, or go to www.nhantriviet.com



Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition 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. anonymous
(ə nən' ə məs)

(*adj.*) unnamed, without the name of the person involved (writ composer, etc.); unknown; lacking individuality or character

The detective received an _____ tip that helped to narrow the search for the thief.

SYNONYM: nameless

2. browse
(braŭz)

(*v.*) to nibble, graze; to read casually; to window-shop

I like to _____ through a book before deciding to buy it.

SYNONYMS: scan, dip into

ANTONYMS: pore over, scrutinize

3. dupe
(dŭp)

(*n.*) a person easily tricked or deceived; (*v.*) to deceive

He played the _____ in one of Shakespeare's comedies.

The villain in the play tried to _____ the hero out of his money.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) mislead, hoodwink, delude

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) undeceive, disabuse

4. dynamic
(dī nam' ik)

(*adj.*) active, energetic, forceful

The social network was looking to hire a creative person with a _____ personality.

SYNONYMS: high-powered, bold

ANTONYMS: lazy, lackadaisical, lethargic, sluggish

5. eradicate
(i rad' ə kāt)

(*v.*) to root out, get rid of, destroy completely

The team of doctors and researchers worked tirelessly to _____ the disease.

SYNONYMS: uproot, abolish

ANTONYMS: implant, instill, foster, promote

6. frustrate
(frəs' trāt)

(*v.*) to prevent from accomplishing a purpose or fulfilling a desire; to cause feelings of discouragement

Nothing could _____ our plans to storm the fort.

SYNONYMS: foil, baffle, disappoint

ANTONYMS: help, assist, abet

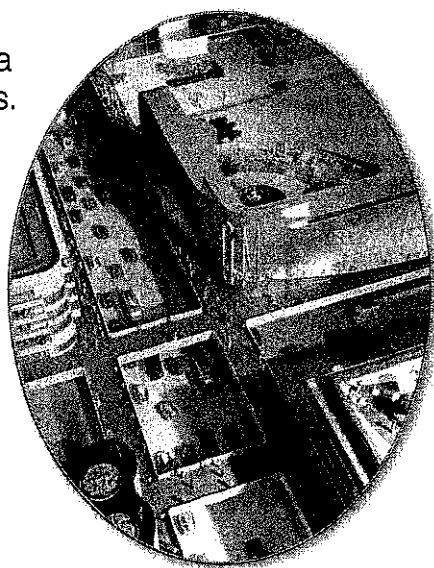
- 7. grim**
(grim)
(*adj.*) stern, merciless; fierce, savage, cruel
Millions of poor people face the _____
prospect of hunger.
SYNONYMS: dreadful, frightful; ANTONYMS: mild, merciful, delightful
- 8. inimitable**
(in im' ə tə bəl)
(*adj.*) not capable of being copied or imitated
The young performer stole the show with her
_____ charm.
SYNONYMS: matchless, incomparable, unique
- 9. makeshift**
(māk' shift)
(*n.*) a temporary substitute for something else; (*adj.*) crude, flimsy, or temporary
The boards and cinder blocks are only a
_____ until the bookcase arrives.
That army cot serves as a _____ bed
for guests.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) stopgap, improvisation
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) permanent, durable, solid, sturdy
- 10. marginal**
(märj' ən əl)
(*adj.*) in, at, or near the edge or margin; only barely good, large, or important enough for the purpose
During times of economic hardship, many people have
only a _____ standard of living.
SYNONYMS: borderline, peripheral; ANTONYMS: central, pivotal, focal
- 11. pending**
(pen' dɪŋ)
(*adj.*) waiting to be settled; (*prep.*) until
Curiosity about the _____ trial builds with
each day.
Sentencing of the criminal was postponed
_____ the judge's decision.
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) unsettled, unfinished
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) settled, decided, resolved
- 12. prescribe**
(pri skrib')(*v.*) to order as a rule or course to be followed; to order for medical purposes
The doctor was quick to _____ complete
bed rest.
SYNONYMS: specify, appoint
- 13. preview**
(prē' vyü)
(*n.*) something seen in advance; (*v.*) to view beforehand
The critics saw a _____ of the new movie.
The teacher decided to _____ the video
before showing it to the class.
SYNONYM: (*n.*) foretaste

- 14. prominent**
(präm' ə nənt)
(*adj.*) standing out so as to be easily seen; important, well-known
Some famous authors are _____ figures in society.
SYNONYMS: conspicuous, noticeable
ANTONYMS: inconspicuous, unnoticeable, obscure
- 15. quaint**
(kwānt)
(*adj.*) odd or old-fashioned in a pleasing way; clever, ingenious; skillfully made
My parents stayed at a _____ old inn in Stowe, Vermont.
SYNONYMS: picturesque, peculiar, strange, curious
ANTONYMS: familiar, commonplace, modern, contemporary
- 16. reluctant**
(ri lək' tənt)
(*adj.*) unwilling, holding back
The attorney called the _____ witness to the stand.
SYNONYMS: hesitant, loath, disinclined
ANTONYMS: willing, eager, inclined
- 17. scrimp**
(skrimp)
(*v.*) to handle very economically or stingily; to supply in a way that is small, short, or scanty
When the factory closed and other work was scarce, many people were forced to _____.
SYNONYM: economize; ANTONYM: splurge
- 18. snare**
(snâr)
(*v.*) to trap, catch; (*n.*) a trap or entanglement
They set a trap to _____ the rodents that were getting into the garden.
The unsuspecting spy was caught in a _____ set by the other side.
SYNONYMS: (*n.*) pitfall; (*v.*) entrap; ANTONYM: liberate
- 19. utmost**
(ət' most)
(*adj.*) greatest, highest, farthest; (*n.*) the extreme limit
The voters had the _____ regard for her ability as a leader.
SYNONYMS: (*adj.*, *n.*) supreme, best; ANTONYM: least
- 20. vengeance**
(ven' jəns)
(*n.*) punishment in return for an injury or a wrong; unusual force or violence
History is filled with examples of violent rulers taking _____ on their enemies.
SYNONYMS: retaliation, reprisal
ANTONYMS: forgiveness, pardon

Browsing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 70–71 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. The exhibition at the fair was intended to give visitors a (**preview, dupe**) of what life might be like in twenty years.
2. The mistaken idea that the most important thing in life is to “have fun” is a (**snare, vengeance**) that leads to trouble for many people.
3. He still doesn't realize that he has been used as a (**dupe, makeshift**) by our opponents to do their dirty work for them.
4. As I was (**previewing, browsing**) my way lazily through the newspaper, I was shocked to see my own name in a headline!
5. We have many good musicians in our school orchestra, but they need a (**makeshift, dynamic**) conductor to make them play as a unit.
6. Although the announcement had promised us “a (**prominent, reluctant**) speaker,” she turned out to be a minor public official.
7. I understand your (**reluctance, vengeance**) to be our candidate in the next election, but I think it is your duty to accept the nomination.
8. Although we cannot mention her by name, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the (**quaint, anonymous**) donor who gave us this generous gift.
9. (**Pending, Eradicating**) the outcome of the national election, none of the foreign governments is willing to take any definite action.
10. His reference to a “historic downfall” after I had failed the history test struck me as a rather (**dynamic, grim**) joke.
11. For months the winter was unusually mild, but when the cold weather finally came, it struck with a (**vengeance, prominence**).
12. The new parking regulations are only a (**snare, makeshift**) that will have to be replaced by a better plan within a few years.
13. The wily champion used every tennis trick she knew to (**frustrate, scrimp**) her opponent's attempt to come to the net and hit a winner.
14. To improve your unsatisfactory school record, I would (**browse, prescribe**) regular doses of study, to be taken every day for as long as is necessary.
15. It is very easy to say that our city government should (**scrimp, snare**) to balance its budget, but which departments should spend less?



At the 1939 World's Fair, the Futurama exhibit modeled a view of “the America of 1960.”

16. "Try as they may, they will never (**eradicate, snare**) me!" said the thief just before he was caught.
17. Even before we saw Alice, we heard her (**inimitable, grim**) high-pitched giggle and knew she was at the party.
18. After the big hurricane destroyed our homes, many of us lived in (**pending, makeshift**) shelters.
19. The most effective advertising is honest advertising that does not try to (**browse, dupe**) the public.
20. Nothing can (**eradicate, scrimp**) the love of liberty from the hearts of a free people!
21. The (**anonymous, pending**) decision, once it is given, will be one of the most important of the year.
22. My job is only (**marginal, inimitable**); if business falls off a little, my employer might let me go.
23. Landing a man on the moon was a great achievement, but it is far from being the (**utmost, pending**) limit of our space program.
24. You must realize that, although we may find the customs of other lands (**anonymous, quaint**), they are just part of everyday life in those areas.
25. It is wise to (**dupe, preview**) the contents of a book before you buy it.

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. the **harsh** terms delivered by the enemy _____
2. got an **early glimpse** of the new spring clothing _____
3. wanted to **wipe out** poverty _____
4. was of **minimal** help to the team _____
5. is an issue that is still **undecided** _____
6. tried to **save money** on unimportant items _____
7. wanted to **capture** the rabbit _____
8. waited to hear what the doctor would **recommend** _____
9. gave a very **vigorous** effort _____
10. will demand swift **revenge** _____

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. loved to **spend** money on food and clothing _____
2. remained a **little-known** playwright _____
3. brought a spirit of **mercy** to the land _____
4. decided to **release** the tiger _____
5. heard the **pleasant** news on the radio _____

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. Is there any sight in the world more restful than cows _____ in a meadow alongside a little brook?
2. When unexpected guests turned up on the doorstep, I hurriedly made a few _____ arrangements to accommodate them.
3. After the angler _____ the fish, he unhooked it from his line and threw it back into the stream.
4. When we visited Salem, Massachusetts, last year, we were charmed by the _____ eighteenth-century houses in the town.
5. I like to write _____ notes in a book alongside important material, but I never do so unless the book belongs to me.
6. Instead of seeking personal _____ for the wrong that has been done to you, why don't you look for justice under the law?
7. After several unsuccessful attempts to catch the waiter's eye, I became more than a little _____.
8. Safety measures are of the _____ importance when you are planning a canoe trip over rivers filled with dangerous rapids.
9. When we saw the _____ expression on the poor man's face, we realized that the situation was indeed serious.
10. There is quite a contrast between the _____ administration that now runs that country and the "do-nothing" regime that preceded it.

11. For months I _____ on everything to save enough money to buy the replacement tires for my bicycle.
12. Many books have been written about boys, but none of them can match the _____ qualities in the tales of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.
13. We may not be able to _____ crime in our community, but if we go about it in the right way, I am sure we can reduce it greatly.
14. I was _____ into trusting him, and I have paid a heavy price for being misled so easily.
15. Although we know who wrote such famous epics as the *Aeneid* and the *Iliad*, the author of *Beowulf* remains _____.
16. The suspect was held in the local police station, _____ the outcome of the investigation.
17. The eyewitness was _____ to tell the police all that she had seen, but we convinced her that it was the only right thing to do.
18. It took the pharmacist about an hour to prepare the medicine that the doctor had _____ for my illness.
19. Each unit in the textbook opens with a section that _____ the chapter materials.
20. The most _____ feature of the skyline of that little town in Iowa is the four-story grain elevator.

Writing Words in Action

1. Look back at "Nazca Lines" (pages 70–71). Of the theories mentioned in the passage, which do you think is the most likely explanation of how the Nazca Lines came to be? In a detailed argument, state and support your opinion, using at least two details from the passage and three Unit words to support your claim.
2. The world is full of mysterious places. Some might be on a distant continent, while others might be in your own hometown. Write a brief essay in which you describe a mysterious place that you know of and explain what makes it strange and unusual. Suggest possible explanations for the characteristics that make the place "mysterious." Include specific examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 70–71), or personal experience. Write at least two paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

The following excerpts are from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. 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. I had never seen my friend's face so **grim** or his brow so dark as it was when we turned from the scene of this investigation. ("The Adventure of the Speckled Band")

A **grim** face is one that does NOT look

- a. tired c. pleasant
b. dirty d. serious

2. "This, I take it, belongs to the room in which you used to sleep . . .?"

"Exactly so. But I am now sleeping in the middle one."

"**Pending** the alterations, as I understand. By the way, there does not seem to be any very pressing need for repairs at that end wall." ("The Adventure of the Speckled Band")

Pending the alterations means

- a. once c. still
b. until d. before

3. "Again I laughed very heartily at the funny stories of which my employer had an immense repertoire, and which he told **inimitably**." ("The Adventure of the Copper Beeches")

A story told **inimitably** is told

- a. with humor c. in an original way
b. with emotion d. in a dramatic way

4. "On the very day that I saw him last he cut himself in the bedroom, and yet I in the dining room rushed upstairs instantly with the **utmost** certainty that something had happened." ("The Man with the Twisted Lip")

Someone who feels the **utmost** certainty is

- a. unsure c. mostly sure
b. never sure d. completely sure

5. "Had I been recognized in that den my life would not have been worth an hour's purchase; for I have used it before now for my own purposes, and the rascally Lascar who runs it has sworn to have **vengeance** upon me." ("The Man with the Twisted Lip")

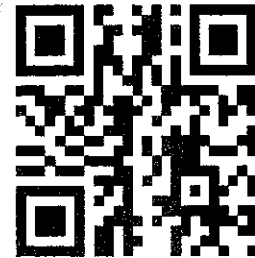
The act of **vengeance** involves

- a. friendship c. argument
b. punishment d. forgiveness



Sherlock Holmes is perhaps the world's most famous and recognizable fictional detective.

Interactive
Quiz



Snap the code, or go to
vocabularyworksheets.com

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following passage in which some of the words you have studied in Units 4-6 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer the questions on page 81.

This passage discusses Nellie Bly (1864-1922), a groundbreaking American journalist whose stories often shocked her readers.

(Line)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(5) Nellie Bly wasn't her real name; but when 18-year-old Elizabeth Cochrane, a spirited young woman from a small town in Pennsylvania, moved to Pittsburgh in 1885 to become a writer, the aspiring reporter knew she would need a catchy new name. She chose Nellie Bly, from the title of a popular Stephen Foster tune, and turned out stories on controversial subjects that would sell record numbers of newspapers.</p> <p>(15) Under the byline "Nellie Bly," the young woman wrote articles for the <i>Pittsburgh Dispatch</i> that were spiced with shocking anecdotes she heard from the older women living in her boardinghouse. Nellie's writing rang true; and soon she was exposing the grim conditions in Pittsburgh's slums, jails, and factories. When her stories became too sensational for her editors, Nellie left Pittsburgh for New York City. There she joined the staff of Joseph Pulitzer's <i>New York World</i>.</p> <p>(30) Once again, there was nothing typical about the topics Nellie chose to write about and nothing orthodox about the way she researched them.</p> | <p>(35) To expose the dreadful conditions in New York's insane asylum, Bellevue, she threw a fit and got admitted to the hospital. To test the capabilities of a ferry rescue crew, she jumped overboard into the Hudson River. To expose shameful prison conditions, Nellie framed herself on a robbery charge and landed in jail. Her stories both thrilled and embarrassed readers. Some of her work led to social reform. It also made her famous.</p> <p>(45) In the name of grabbing headlines, Nellie had her share of adventures. Yet a stunt she pulled in 1889 would be the greatest adventure of her career. Responding to the fame of Jules Verne's novel <i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>, Nellie proposed to outdo the book's fictional character, Phileas Fogg, and circle the globe in less time. Pulitzer accepted her idea; and as readers breathlessly followed her course, Nellie made her way around the world. In the end, she bested Fogg. Her time: 72 days. People had said that it couldn't be done, but then Nellie Bly, still only 21, was used to beating the odds.</p> |
|--|--|

1. Which title best suits this passage?
 - a. "Around the World in Eighty Days"
 - b. "Elizabeth Cochrane vs. Nellie Bly"
 - c. "A Success Story"
 - d. "Nellie Bly: Investigative Reporter"
 - e. "Women Reporters in New York City"
2. The meaning of **spirited** (line 3) is
 - a. lively
 - b. psychic
 - c. good-natured
 - d. ambitious
 - e. atypical
3. **Controversial** (line 11) means
 - a. strange
 - b. patriotic
 - c. agreeable
 - d. depressing
 - e. debatable
4. The last sentence in paragraph 1 (lines 8–13)
 - a. restates the paragraph's main idea
 - b. summarizes paragraph 4
 - c. describes Nellie Bly's appearance
 - d. hints at Bly's trip around the world
 - e. provides a focus for the passage
5. **Anecdotes** (line 17) is best defined as
 - a. prescriptions
 - b. statistics
 - c. stories
 - d. disappointments
 - e. secrets
6. **Grim** (line 21) most nearly means
 - a. dreadful
 - b. predictable
 - c. dirty
 - d. humorless
 - e. benign
7. **Orthodox** (line 30) is best defined as
 - a. unusual
 - b. original
 - c. traditional
 - d. illegal
 - e. subtle
8. According to paragraph 3 (lines 28–44), one consequence of Nellie Bly's reporting was
 - a. the development of editorial pages
 - b. rising interest in the novels of Jules Verne
 - c. equal pay for women reporters
 - d. her successful movie career
 - e. social reforms related to her stories
9. From paragraph 3, you can conclude that Bly's methods primarily involved
 - a. interviewing older women in her boardinghouse
 - b. experiencing first-hand the situations she wrote about
 - c. imagining the details she included
 - d. depending on others to supply her with information
 - e. researching facts and details in library reference books
10. Which of the following best describes the writer's attitude toward Nellie Bly?
 - a. critical
 - b. skeptical
 - c. outraged
 - d. admiring
 - e. pitying
11. With which generalization would the author most likely agree?
 - a. Nellie Bly was a colorful reporter who wrote sensational stories.
 - b. Female reporters are more reliable than male reporters.
 - c. Male reporters are more imaginative than female reporters.
 - d. Nellie Bly was more interested in writing fiction than in reporting facts.
 - e. Nellie Bly was a second-rate reporter who accomplished little.
12. Which of the following best describes Nellie Bly's style of reporting?
 - a. subdued
 - b. self-promotional
 - c. modest
 - d. gullible
 - e. sympathetic

Two-Word
Completions

Select the pair of words that best completes the meaning of each of the following sentences.

1. I know that an injection of novocaine doesn't normally _____ a great deal of pain. Still, the mere thought of the dentist's sharp needle is enough to make me _____ in imaginary discomfort.

a. inflict . . . wince	c. eradicate . . . maul
b. consolidate . . . scurry	d. procure . . . scrimp

2. The book is full of highly amusing stories involving many people who were _____ at the time. One of these witty little _____ tells how a famous director once used glue to get an actor to stand on his mark.

a. utmost . . . previews	c. dominant . . . snares
b. inimitable . . . iotas	d. prominent . . . anecdotes

3. "The president's new economic program has stirred up a good deal of _____ on Capitol Hill," the reporter observed. "Some members of Congress favor the plan; others are definitely _____ to it."

a. vengeance . . . anonymous	c. bewilderment . . . malignant
b. controversy . . . hostile	d. uncertainty . . . reluctant

4. Despite setbacks that would have _____ a less determined or ambitious person, she continued to do her _____ to become the top tennis player in the world. As she herself admitted, she knew that she wouldn't succeed unless she gave the task her "very best shot."

a. mortified . . . potential	c. frustrated . . . virtual
b. entreated . . . ultimate	d. disheartened . . . utmost

5. Come to my island, and you won't be sorry! It's a _____ paradise with clean air, clear blue water, _____ blue skies, five miles of white sand beaches, and the friendliest people you'll ever meet.

a. fickle . . . substantial	c. fugitive . . . wayward
b. virtual . . . radiant	d. tactful . . . potential

6. "His methods are hardly what I'd call _____, but they do get results," the sales manager remarked about her star salesperson. "If he took a more traditional approach when dealing with customers, the company's profits might not be so _____."

a. dynamic . . . disheartening	c. orthodox . . . substantial
b. quaint . . . marginal	d. controversial . . . tactful

7. Two convicts escaped from the state prison last week. The police managed to recapture one of the _____ in a matter of hours. Yet their efforts to catch the other have so far proved _____.

a. buffoons . . . fallible	c. fugitives . . . fruitless
b. counterfeits . . . void	d. dupes . . . wayward

Proverbs

In the obituary for the Elephant Man (pages 60–61), the author concludes by saying, “You’ll never understand a person until you walk a mile in his shoes.”

Walk a mile in another person’s shoes” is a proverb that means that the best way to understand another person is to see the world from his or her perspective. A **proverb** is a memorable saying that expresses a truth about life. Because the meanings of proverbs are not always obvious, they must be learned, just like unfamiliar words.

Choosing the Right Proverb

Read each sentence. Use context clues to figure out the meaning of each proverb in **oldface** print. Then write the letter of the definition for the proverb in the sentence.

1. Since **all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy**, I’m going outside to shoot some baskets. _____
 2. I know you’re disappointed that you didn’t win the competition, but **don’t give up the ship**. _____
 3. Whenever I’m tired and discouraged, I remind myself that **a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step**. _____
 4. **Don’t let the pot call the kettle black**; since you haven’t cleaned your own room in months, is it fair to accuse your brother of being a slob? _____
 5. Grandpa wishes he could still work; **the old horse in the stable still yearns to run**. _____
 6. Apologize to him as soon as possible. It’s best to **put out a fire while it is still small**. _____
 7. My Aunt Kim really believes that **when in Rome, do as the Romans do**. When she visited India, she wore saris, and she only ate local foods. _____
 8. After she broke up with her boyfriend, I tried to console my sister by telling her **there are other fish in the sea**, but that just made her cry harder. _____
 9. Of course you prefer Josh’s bike, because **the grass is always greener on the other side**. _____
 10. Wait until you drive the car before you say whether you like it; after all, **the proof of the pudding is in the eating**. _____
- a. You can’t know whether something is good until you try it.
 - b. That person wasn’t the only one; there are many other people to choose from.
 - c. Hang in there.
 - d. People need time off now and then.
 - e. Visitors to a place should try to blend in and adopt the local customs.
 - f. We always want the things we don’t have.
 - g. Every achievement has to start somewhere.
 - h. Don’t criticize someone for something you too are guilty of.
 - i. Fix a small problem before it becomes a big one.
 - j. Age does not diminish passion and interest.

WORD STUDY

Writing with Proverbs

Find the meaning of each proverb. (Use a dictionary if necessary.) Then write a sentence for each proverb.

1. Say "I can" or say "I can't," and you're right either way.

2. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

3. If you can't beat them, join them.

4. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.

5. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

6. A man's home is his castle.

7. A hyena cannot know its own stench.

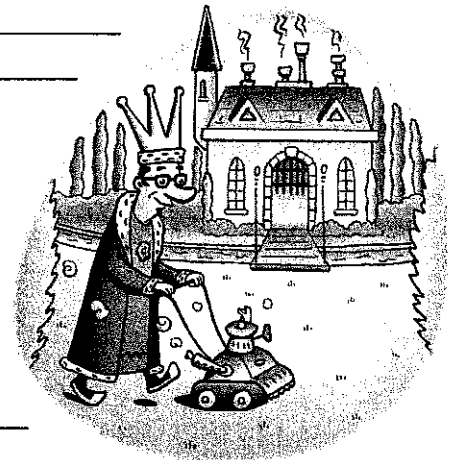
8. A leopard doesn't change its spots.

9. A penny is a lot of money if you haven't got a penny.

10. You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind.

11. No wind, no waves.

12. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.



A word's **denotation** is its dictionary meaning, which conveys a neutral tone. The **connotation** of a word is its emotional association. Connotations may be positive, negative, or neutral.

Connotations are informal, implied meanings. We know, for example, that there is a shade of difference in meaning between *worried* and *anxious*, even though the words have similar denotations. Consider these synonyms for the neutral word *country*:

Rural and *rustic* have positive connotations, suggesting the peaceful countryside, while *backwoods* and *countrified* have negative connotations, suggesting roughness and a lack of sophistication.

If you live in the country, far away from cities and suburbs, you probably think of your home as rural or pleasantly rustic, but not as a backwoods or countrified.

Look at these examples of words that are similar in denotation but have different connotations.

oversee	govern	dominate
important	prominent	conspicuous
economize	save	scrimp

When writers or speakers choose among synonyms, they select the word that contains the shade of meaning they want to express. Audiences who are aware of varying connotations understand the layers of meaning implied in spoken or written words.

Write a plus sign (+) in the box if the word has a positive connotation.
Write a minus sign (-) if the word has a negative connotation. Put a zero (0) if the word is neutral.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. inflammable | 2. buffoon | 3. fugitive | 4. iota |
| 5. spirited | 6. orthodox | 7. dupe | 8. fickle |
| 9. tactful | 10. grim | 11. preview | 12. malignant |
| 13. wince | 14. alliance | 15. docile | 16. radiant |

WORD STUDY

Expressing the Connotation

Read each sentence. Select the word in parentheses that better expresses the connotation (positive, negative, or neutral) given at the beginning of the sentence.

- positive 1. Willie is so (**easygoing, docile**) that anyone can convince him to do h
or her bidding.
- positive 2. My parents ate at a (**quaint, strange**) old restaurant where there was
no written menu.
- negative 3. Mr. Jacobs likes to tell (**anecdotes, tales**) about his adventures.
- negative 4. After two inches of rain, the golf course was (**wet, sodden**).
- neutral 5. A (**changeable, fickle**) friend is often not there when you need help.
- negative 6. Turning the corner, we came face-to-face with a crowd of people
wearing (**serious, grim**) expressions.
- neutral 7. The third-graders built a (**rickety, makeshift**) fort out of branches.
- positive 8. The speaker's use of video and audio made for a(n) (**interesting,
dynamic**) presentation.

Challenge: Using Connotation

Choose vocabulary words from Units 4–6 to replace the highlighted words in the sentences below. Then explain how the connotation of the replacement word changes the tone of the sentence.

anecdote
voiding

buffoon
dynamic

tactful
mauling

1. Even as a child, Susie wanted to be a **comedian** _____ and mak
crowds of people laugh.

2. The orchestra played at a **frantic** _____ pace that was quite a bit
faster than most listeners were used to.

3. We didn't go far into the woods, because we had heard stories of bears **attacking**
_____ campers.

Classical Roots

scrib, scribe, script—
to write

This Latin root appears in **prescribe** (page 73). Literally “to write before,” *praescribe* means “to set down as a rule, order for medical treatment, or give medical advice.” Some other words based on the same root are listed below.

circumscribe
indescribable

inscription
postscript

proscribe
script

subscribe
transcribe

From the list of words above, choose the one that corresponds to each of the brief definitions below. Write the word in the blank space in the illustrative sentence below the definition. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. handwriting; a manuscript of a play or movie

The actor read the _____ before he agreed to star in the new action movie.

2. to write out or make a typewritten copy of; to write in another alphabet

The assistant will need to _____ her shorthand notes before inputting the information in her computer.

3. to outlaw, forbid, prohibit; to banish

Building codes _____ that type of flimsy construction.

4. that which is written on a monument, coin, building; a dedication in a book

The _____ on the monument is short and to the point.

5. to draw a line around, encircle; to confine within limits, restrict

After major surgery, patients may need to _____ their physical activities for a while.

6. an addition to a letter written after the writer's name has been signed

The _____ she added to her letter was so long that it took up an entire page.

7. to sign one's name; to express agreement or approval; to promise to take or to pay for

My parents _____ to several newspapers and magazines.

8. beyond description

The joy the winning team felt was _____.