

UNIT 13

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 13. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

The Last Flight of the *Hindenburg*

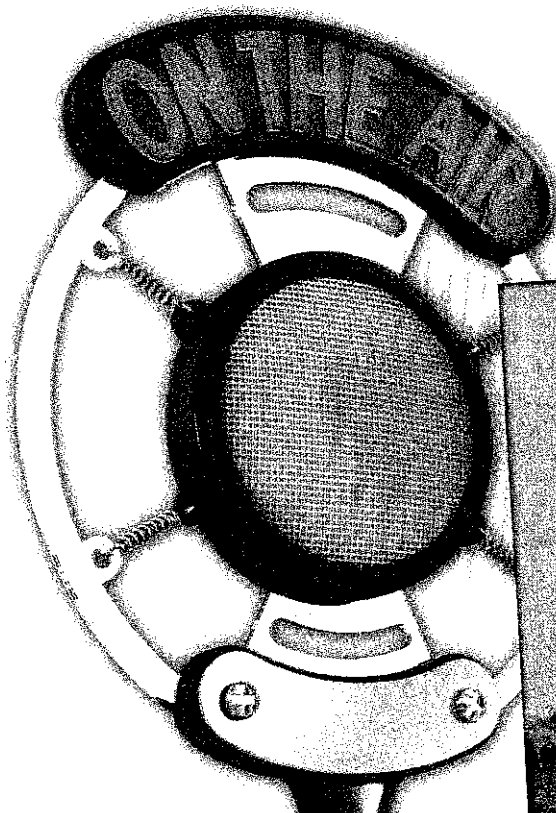
<Radio Broadcast Transcript>

In 1936 the biggest airship (also called a dirigible or zeppelin) the world has ever seen took to the skies. The German *Hindenburg* could cross the Atlantic in just two days. It was filled with highly-flammable, lighter-than-air hydrogen gas. The following transcript describes the events of May 6, 1937.

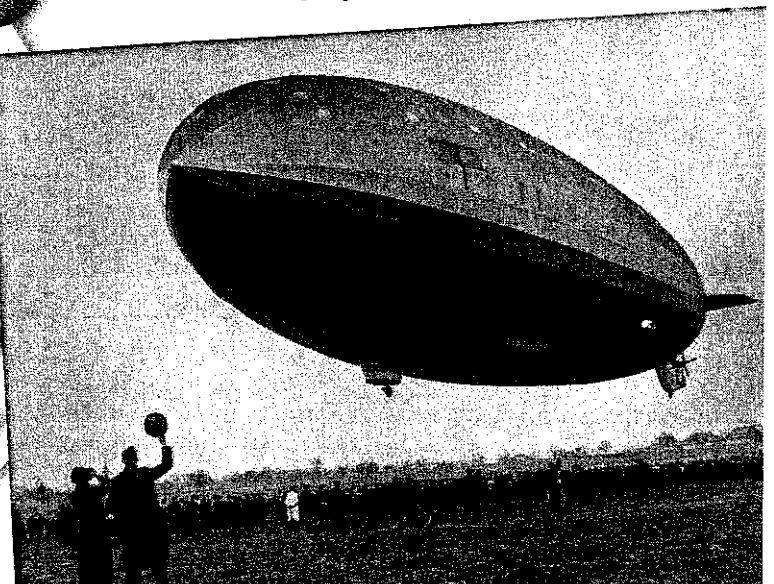
Harold Bickerson for WLEN in Springfield:
*Hello everyone. This is Harold Bickerson speaking to you from the naval airbase at Lakehurst, New Jersey, where the giant Hindenburg airship is about to land. While that great dirigible circles overhead, I'll recount the **chronological** sequence of its travels. After departing from Frankfurt, Germany, the airship spent two days speeding over miles of ocean. Though the Hindenburg was scheduled to land at*

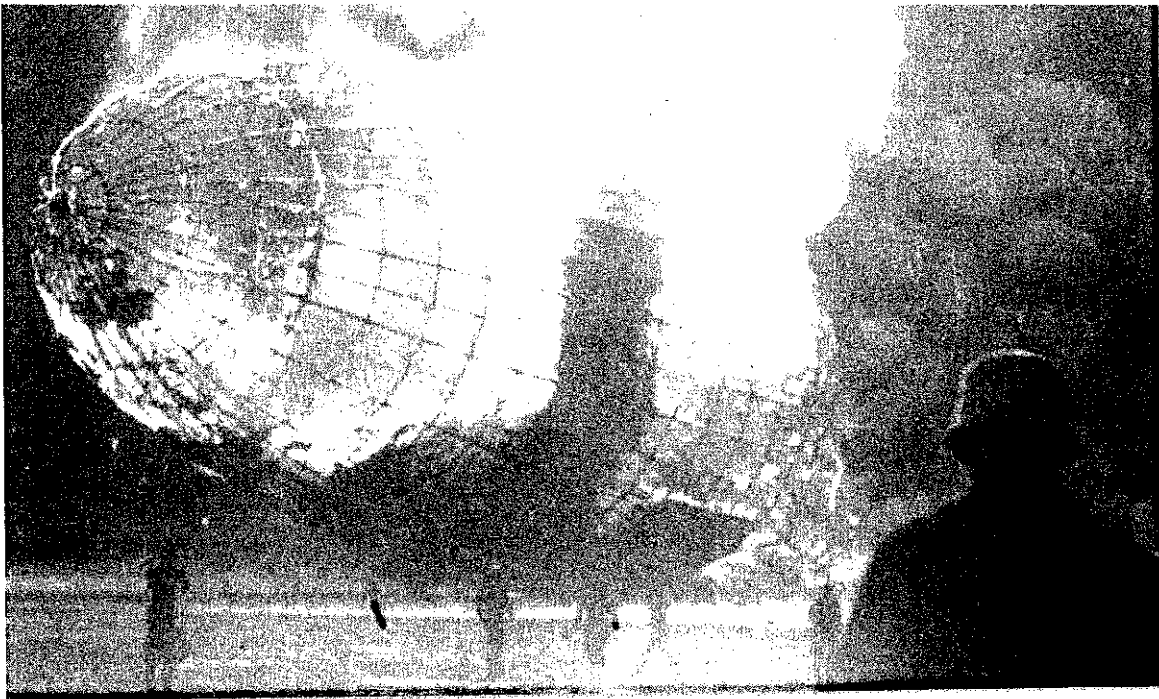
*dawn, its travel time **fluctuates** with wind conditions. Favorable conditions reduce the travel time, while unfavorable headwinds **diminish** its speed and increase travel time considerably. The ship appeared over the New York metropolitan area around noon, but the crew could not **countenance** a landing at that time. Shifting surface winds and air **agitation** at the time made landing too dangerous*

*It's just about sunset and raining fairly heavily. I'll say a few words about the preparations that have been made on the ground. The Lakehurst airbase has played a great part in the **saga** of lighter-than-air transportation in this country, and it's well equipped to handle large hydrogen-filled airships of the Hindenburg's **magnitude**. The ground crew have been preparing the field. They're a **reputable** staff, well-known and trained to ease the giant zeppelin onto the ground. When the airship arrives it will drop heavy ropes to the men below*



The first *Hindenburg* flight, March 1936





A Ball of Fire: The *Hindenburg* in flames after its disaster, May 6, 1937

and these ropes will be affixed to the **massive** mooring mast to anchor the 804-foot-long ship.

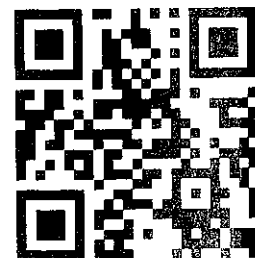
Here comes the *Hindenburg* now: It's a beautiful sight, enough to **enchant** the most sober observer and **foster** a feeling of excitement in the most jaded and **stodgy** onlooker. The *Hindenburg* is pointed directly at the mooring mast. I can see the passenger quarters and the observation deck, where the passengers must be gazing down at the great mass of humanity below them. The propellers are moving just a little to keep the ship....

It burst into flames! It burst into flames! The *Hindenburg* is burning, and it's falling, it's crashing to the ground! Watch out, watch out, folks! Oh, it's horrible, it's... The *Hindenburg* is crashing into the mooring mast, and all the people on the field are running for their lives and screaming. This is the making of a catastrophe, ladies and gentlemen. There's no chance anyone could survive this... I can't... The flames are swelling perhaps five hundred feet up in the sky and a smoky **pall** is spreading over the field, and I'm sorry, ladies and gentlemen, I can hardly breathe or talk because of the smoke. I have to move inside.

I'm back now. The wreckage is still flaming and crackling out there. We're not sure what **ignited** the ship, but something may have slipped on the craft and caused a spark, or caused the highly-flammable hydrogen gas to leak. But I have some good news related to something I hurriedly **blurted** out earlier. Ambulances have arrived, and I'm told that the ground crew managed to get out of the way unharmed. And of the 97 people on board, at least 25 have been rescued. Evidently many jumped out of the windows as the ship fell to the ground. And now I'll have to pause again, because they're asking for help out there and I must to do my part.

Of the 97 people on board, 35 died, as did one person on the ground. The era of commercial airships was over.

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. agitation
(aj i tā' shən)

(*n.*) a violent stirring or movement; noisy confusion, excitement; a stirring up of public enthusiasm

The _____ for campaign finance reform was gaining widespread support in Congress.

SYNONYMS: disquiet, uneasiness, upset

ANTONYMS: peace of mind, composure, calm

2. blurt
(blərt)

(*v.*) to say suddenly or without thinking

The detective was fairly certain that, after hours of interrogation, the suspect would _____ out the truth.

SYNONYMS: blab, let slip

3. chronological
(krän əl əj' i kəl)

(*adj.*) arranged in order of time of occurrence

The importance of a time line is that it arranges historical events in _____ order.

SYNONYMS: in time sequence, consecutive

4. countenance
(kaun' tə nəns)

(*n.*) a face, facial expression; (*v.*) to tolerate or approve

The teacher's smiling _____ reassured us that the rehearsal was going well.

The new boss is strict and does not _____ lateness or absenteeism.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) support, condone

ANTONYM: (*v.*) disapprove of

5. diminish
(di min' ish)

(*v.*) to make or become smaller, reduce in size

It takes no time at all for a fad to _____ in popularity.

SYNONYMS: lessen, decrease, dwindle

ANTONYMS: increase, enlarge, augment

6. enchant
(en chant')

(*v.*) to please greatly; to charm, put under a magic spell

The singer proceeded to _____ the audience with her beautiful voice and engaging style.

SYNONYMS: delight, thrill, bewitch

ANTONYMS: bore, nauseate, disgust

7. fluctuate
(flək' chü ät)

(v.) to change continually; to move up and down
Stock prices _____ daily.

SYNONYMS: waver, seesaw, oscillate
ANTONYMS: stay put, remain unchanged

8. foster
(fôs' tər)

(v.) to bring up, give care to; to promote, encourage; (*adj.*) in the same family but not related by birth

The American ambassador worked to
_____ positive relations with the
newly formed republic.

It is important for _____ children to be
placed with loving families.

SYNONYMS: (v.) support, nurture, cultivate
ANTONYMS: (v.) stifle, smother, quash, discourage

9. grovel
(gräv' əl)

(v.) to humble oneself, act in a fearful and servile way; to lie face downward; to indulge in something base or unworthy

Afraid of punishment, the Roman slave began to
_____ at the feet of the emperor.

SYNONYMS: crouch, cringe, wallow

10. handicraft
(han' də kraft)

(*n.*) work done by hand; a trade requiring hand skill

Making apple-head dolls is a _____ still
enjoyed in the Arkansas River Valley, among other places.

SYNONYMS: manual art, artisanship

11. hilarious
(hi lâr' ē əs)

(*adj.*) extremely funny, causing loud amusement

The comedian told a _____ story that had
the audience laughing hysterically.

SYNONYMS: highly amusing, side-splitting
ANTONYMS: boring, dull, heartrending, humorless

12. ignite
(ig nīt')

(v.) to set on fire, cause to burn; to heat up, excite

We used lighter fluid to _____ the
charcoal in the outdoor grill.

SYNONYMS: inflame, light, kindle
ANTONYMS: quench, extinguish, douse, put out

13. magnitude
(mag' nə tüd)

(*n.*) the great size or importance of something

At first, the _____ of the task seemed to
be overwhelming for a group as small as ours.

SYNONYMS: extent, immensity
ANTONYMS: smallness, unimportance, insignificance

- 14. massive**
(mas' iv)
(*adj.*) large and heavy; great in size or scope
A _____ boulder still blocks the entrance to the secret cave.
SYNONYMS: bulky, immense
ANTONYMS: flimsy, frail, thin
- 15. maternal**
(mə tər' nəl)
(*adj.*) of or like a mother
The kittens' mother took her _____ responsibilities very seriously.
SYNONYMS: protective, sympathetic
ANTONYM: paternal
- 16. pall**
(pôl)
(*v.*) to lose in interest, attraction, or effectiveness; to become tiresome; (*n.*) a dark covering, something that conceals
When the excavation yielded only pieces of pottery, the archaeologist's optimism began to _____
News of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor cast a _____ over the nation on December 7, 1941.
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) bore, weary; (*n.*) gloom, shadow
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) intrigue, fascinate; (*n.*) light, brightness
- 17. reputable**
(rep' yət ə bəl)
(*adj.*) well thought of, having a good reputation
A list of _____ lawyers is available through the local bar association.
SYNONYMS: reliable, respectable, trustworthy
ANTONYMS: shady, unsavory, questionable
- 18. revere**
(ri vēr')
(*v.*) to love and respect deeply, honor greatly
The elderly teacher was _____ by a whole generation of students.
SYNONYMS: esteem, cherish
ANTONYMS: scorn, disdain, mock
- 19. saga**
(säg' ə)
(*n.*) a narrative of heroic exploits; a long, detailed account
Although written in Old English, *Beowulf* is very much like a Norse _____ in that it details the colorful deeds of a legendary hero.
SYNONYMS: heroic tale, epic, chronicle
- 20. stodgy**
(stäj' ē)
(*adj.*) dull, boring; old-fashioned, hidebound; lumpy, thick
The _____ politician showed little inclination to listen to the speeches of junior senators.
SYNONYMS: stuffy, tiresome, blah
ANTONYMS: forward-looking, avant-garde, progressive

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 164–165 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. For more than a hundred years, the delightful *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* has been (**palling, enchanting**) readers young and old.
2. I have difficulty remembering the correct (**chronology, handicraft**) of the many battles that took place during the Civil War.
3. Some controversial figures are both (**fostered, revered**) as saints and despised as villains.
4. Many older people complain that the warm spirit of neighborliness has greatly (**diminished, ignited**) under the conditions of city living.
5. The speaker warned that our whole system of handling lawbreakers has (**massive, stodgy**) faults that will be difficult to correct.
6. She kept us in stitches with her (**chronological, hilarious**) jokes.
7. Any editorial about pollution appearing in such a (**maternal, reputable**) newspaper is bound to make a strong impression on many citizens.
8. My love of reading, (**fostered, diminished**) by my parents since early childhood, has continued to grow through the years.
9. Many professionals and executives today have made enjoyable hobbies of such (**handicrafts, sagas**) as carpentry and weaving.
10. The movie was difficult to follow because its many short scenes did not follow a traditional (**chronological, reputable**) order.
11. I'm writing a (**saga, handicraft**) that depicts one courageous soldier's devotion to the cause of freedom during the Civil War.
12. Rather than (**diminish, grovel**) in your self-pity and play the role of the victim, why don't you take a stand and confront your accuser.
13. In my excitement, I accidentally (**blurted, agitated**) out the very thing that I was trying so hard to conceal.
14. (**Fostered, Ignited**) by the civil rights movement, the students organized several sit-ins and challenged the status quo.
15. One of the sure signs of a country that is not free is that the people in power will not (**countenance, blurt**) any criticism of their acts.



Charles L. Dodgson wrote two Alice books under the name Lewis Carroll.

16. As the game proceeded, and the ball continued to change hands, our feelings (**fostered, fluctuated**) from joy to despair and back again.
17. Though there has of late been a good deal of (**countenance, agitation**) for tax reform, nothing much has come of it so far.
18. For a long time my favorite TV entertainment was police and detective programs, but now they are beginning to (**pall, enchant**).
19. Her charming personality and sparkling wit brought a breath of fresh air into the (**stodgy, hilarious**) atmosphere of the stuffy old club.
20. When the Wright brothers made the first successful airplane flight, few people realized the (**pall, magnitude**) of their achievement.
21. If it were not for the strong (**maternal, hilarious**) instinct to protect their young, many species of animals could not survive.
22. The Tea Act of 1773 was one of the sparks that helped (**enchant, ignite**) the American Revolution.
23. Like everyone else, I want to be well liked, but I will not (**grovel, fluctuate**) before public opinion when I am firmly convinced that it is wrong.
24. The cowboy on his trusty quarter horse plays a prominent part in the (**magnitude, saga**) of the Old West.
25. Marta refuses to swim in the ocean as she is fearful of (**stodgy, massive**) sharks.

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 **manual trade** like blacksmithing _____
2. launched a **monumental** attack _____
3. watched an **extremely comical** play _____
4. will **accept** the president's proposal _____
5. guided by her **motherly** instinct _____
6. to **reveal** the truth _____
7. the **enormity** of an earthquake _____
8. a leader who is loved and **admired** _____
9. temperatures that **vary** wildly _____
10. will **cower** before the king _____

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 **deride** the Romantic poets _____
2. a meeting to address a **serious** matter _____
3. **bragging** to the media _____
4. known for their **machine-made products** _____
5. inheriting a **fatherly** trait _____

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. The waves of laughter from the audience indicated that those around me found the clown's antics as _____ as I did.
2. His attitudes are so incredibly _____ and hidebound that they would have been considered old-fashioned 100 years ago!
3. Even though I need a job badly, I still have my self-respect, and I am not going to _____ just to get work.
4. How can you _____ such rude behavior in a young child!
5. All of a sudden, from out of the fog loomed a(n) _____ ocean liner bearing down on our small boat.
6. The two little girls playing house fussed over their dolls with all the _____ attention that their own mothers bestowed on them.
7. In the _____ of *Eric the Red*, there is a very interesting account of the Norse discovery of North America in A.D. 1000.
8. The number and the _____ of the problems faced by the President of the United States are almost beyond our imagination.
9. The pilot light of the stove will automatically _____ the burner when the handle is turned to the "on" position.
10. With no money coming in and my daily expenses continuing to mount, my savings have _____ at an alarming rate.

11. Can you imagine my _____ when I was told I would have to take over the lead role in the play immediately, with no rehearsals!
12. Our study of American history has taught us to _____ the great men and women who founded this nation.
13. Instead of moving steadily upwards or steadily downwards, the price of oil has been _____ all year.
14. We will donate the proceeds of the cake sale to any _____ charity you may select.
15. "When I was living in the Australian outback, I learned many curious skills and _____ from the local people," the explorer said.
16. We had hoped to have a wonderful time at the party, but the sad news of the principal's accident cast a(n) _____ over the gathering.
17. She was very fortunate to have had talented and sympathetic teachers who _____ her career.
18. The audience was _____ not only by the lovely voice of the soprano but also by her youthful good looks.
19. Statements _____ out in anger may often be regretted for a long time afterward.
20. Educators report that there is often a vast difference between a child's mental age and his or her _____ age.

Writing Words in Action

1. Look back at "The Last Flight of the *Hindenburg*" (pages 164–165). Think about how air travel has changed since the flight of the *Hindenburg*. Do you think air travel is safer today than it was in 1936? Write a persuasive essay in which you state and support your opinion, using at least two details from the passage and three Unit words.
2. People often face both man-made and natural disasters. What should people do to prepare for disasters? How can people help others after a disaster? Write a brief essay about disaster preparedness and assistance. Support your ideas with specific examples, observations, your studies, the reading (refer to pages 164–165), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

The following excerpts are from *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne. 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. His **countenance** possessed in the highest degree what physiognomists call "repose in action," a quality of those who act rather than talk. Calm and phlegmatic, with a clear eye, Mr. Fogg seemed a perfect type.

A **countenance** is a(n)

- a. expression c. advantage
b. behavior d. reputation

2. The crowd swayed back The undulations of the human surge reached the steps, while all the heads floundered on the surface like a sea agitated by a squall. Many of the black hats disappeared, and the greater part of the crowd seemed to have **diminished** in height.

When something is **diminished**, it

- a. strengthens c. shrinks
b. expands d. prospers



David Niven played the role of Phileas Fogg, who traveled around the world in eighty days.

3. Aouda, leaning upon Mr. Fogg's arm, observed the tumultuous scene with surprise, while Fix asked a man near him what the cause of it all was. Before the man could reply, a fresh **agitation** arose; hurrahs and excited shouts were heard.

An **agitation** is a(n)

- a. ceremony c. understanding
b. commotion d. mystery

4. Passepartout was delighted. His master's last exploit, the consequences of which he ignored, **enchanted** him. Never had the crew seen so jolly and dexterous a fellow.

If a person is **enchanted**, he or she is

- a. saddened c. mocked
b. valued d. captivated

5. The **massive** walking-beam rose and fell above the deck; at one end a piston-rod worked up and down; and at the other was a connecting-rod.

Something that is **massive** is NOT

- a. small c. nearby
b. substantial d. noticeable

Interactive
Quiz



Snap the code, or go to
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