

Lesson Nine

1. **bilk** (bilk) *v.* to cheat or swindle; to thwart
The landscapers tried to **bilk** the homeowner out of money by charging for work that was never authorized.
syn: defraud, con
2. **homily** (hom'ə lē) *n.* a sermon
"Sir," I said, "If I may interrupt you, I need food and clothing for these people, not a **homily** on patience."
syn: lecture, speech
3. **dernise** (di nīz') *n.* death; a ceasing to exist
Mary will inherit the estate upon the **dernise** of Uncle Irving.
syn: termination, conclusion
4. **emit** (i mit') *v.* to send out; to give forth, as in sound or light
The lamp did not **emit** enough light for reading.
syn: produce, discharge; release
5. **decadence** (dek'ə dāns) *n.* moral deterioration
It is often suggested that Rome fell as a result of its own **decadence**.
syn: decay; corruption; debauchery *ant: decency*
6. **aghast** (ə gəst') *adj.* feeling great dismay or horror
We were **aghast** when we saw the disrespectful manner in which the teenager treated her parents.
syn: terrified; horrified; shocked
7. **granary** (gran'ə rē) *n.* a storehouse for grain
We lost a year's supply of corn when the **granary** burned down.
8. **choleric** (kol'ə rik) *adj.* easily angered
He was a **choleric** man, whose temper often got him into trouble.
syn: irascible; cantankerous *ant: apathetic; impassive*
9. **impede** (im pēd') *v.* to hinder; to obstruct
The reckless fan's running through the outfield **impeded** the playoff game.
syn: delay; retard *ant: aid; encourage*
10. **qualm** (kwām) *n.* a feeling of uneasiness
The boy had no **qualms** about cheating on the test.
syn: misgiving *ant: ease*

11. **lampoon** (lām pōn) *n.* a written satire used to ridicule or attack someone

The *lampoon* of the athletic program in the school newspaper angered the players and the coach.
syn: parody; caricature

12. **narcissistic** (nār si sis' tic) *adj.* conceited; having excessive self-love or admiration

The *narcissistic* criminal cared only about his own fate.
syn: vain; egotistic *ant: humble; modest*

13. **eradicate** (i rad' i kāt) *v.* to wipe out; to destroy

The pest control specialist *eradicated* the termites in our house.
syn: eliminate *ant: add; create*

14. **fabricate** (fab' ri kāt) *v.* to concoct; to make up a story in order to deceive

The scientist's career ended when someone discovered that he had *fabricated* his experiments.
syn: forge; fake

15. **ghastly** (gast' le) *adj.* horrible; frightful

The *ghastly* smile on the dead man at the end of the movie showed that he had enjoyed the last laugh.
syn: dreadful; hideous *ant: lovely; attractive*

EXERCISE I—Words in Context

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| decadence | honestly | bilk | fabricate |
| choleric | qualm | narcissistic | |

1. The reverend had _____ what he thought was an excellent story for his weekly _____. It was a lengthy parable about a wealthy family that lived in _____ and had no _____ about its lavish lifestyle or mistreatment of servants. The sermon went fairly well until the _____ preacher angrily stopped in mid-sentence to lecture a sleeping member of the congregation.

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| impede | lampoon | demise | granary |
| ghastly | emit | qualm | |

2. Bill arrived at the _____ with his truckload of wheat and with a(n) _____ look on his face. Apparently, the railroad crossing lights had failed to _____ a signal, and Bill had stopped just in time to postpone his _____. The next time he has to drive over railroad tracks, Bill declares, he is going to stop his truck and look both ways, even if he _____ the flow of traffic.

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| narcissistic | decadence | eradicate | bilk |
| lampoon | aghast | choleric | |

3. The author claimed that her article was fiction, but it was actually a(n) _____ that satirized the life of a famous Hollywood figure. It portrayed the famous director as being so _____ that he had mirrors in every room of his mansion so that he could observe his own "perfection" at any moment. It also portrayed the movie mogul as someone who _____ investors out of their money by knowingly creating box-office failures while pocketing millions. The director was _____ when he read the derisive-but-truthful satire of himself. Within minutes, he was on the phone with his lawyers trying to stop the magazine before the article _____ whatever remained of his credibility.

EXERCISE II—Sentence Completion

Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the italicized vocabulary word.

1. The gauge on the dashboard *emits* a red light when...
2. If the *granary* fills up too early, the farmers will have to...
3. The late night show included *lampoons* that were meant to...
4. Larry had no *qualms* about...
5. During the *homily*, Jonathan Edwards warned the congregation that...
6. The *demise* of the old West can be attributed to...
7. The *choleric* sailor often found himself in the brig for...
8. *Narcissistic* people seldom worry about...
9. You could tell by the *ghastly* look on her face that she...
10. Some of the games at the carnival are designed to *hulk* people by...
11. You will *impede* the healing of your broken foot if you...
12. *Decadence* among government officials ultimately caused...
13. You will be *aghast* when you see...
14. Dan tried to *eradicate*...
15. Heidi *fabricated* an excuse for...

EXERCISE III—Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes

Study the entries and answer the questions that follow.

The root *multi* means "many."
The roots *naut* and *naus* mean "sailor" or "ship."
The roots *nov* and *neo* mean "new."

1. Using literal translations as guidance, define the following words without using a dictionary.
A. innovation D. multitude
B. novel E. multimedia
C. nautical F. neoclassical
2. Someone who is new at a sport is said to be a[n] _____. If you restore an old house to new condition, then you _____ it.
3. Someone who is not used to sailing might get _____, or seasick, on his or her first voyage. A sailor explores or travels the seas, but a[n] _____ travels through space.
4. List as many words as you can think of that contain the roots *multi* and *nov*.

EXERCISE IV—Inference

Complete the sentences by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

1. A narcissistic person might refuse to help someone because...
2. If you have *qualms* about doing something, then you might...
3. People who cannot control their wants and pursue lives of *decadence* are in danger of...

EXERCISE V—Writing

Here is a writing prompt similar to the one you will find on the writing portion of the SAT.

Plan and write an essay based on the following statement:

Now if I am to be no mere copper wire amateur but a luminous author, I must also be a most intensely refractory person, liable to go out and to go wrong at inconvenient moments, and with incendiary possibilities. These are the faults of my qualities; and I assure you that I sometimes dislike myself so much that when some irritable reviewer chances at that moment to pitch into me with zest, I feel unspeakably relieved and obliged.

—G. Bernard Shaw
from an “immoderately long letter”
to Arthur Bingham Walkley in 1903

Assignment: The above passage is from a letter that George Bernard Shaw submitted with his manuscript for *Man and Superman*. In an essay, explain why Shaw would feel “relieved and obliged” if his work were to endure harsh criticism. Support your explanation with evidence from your knowledge, classroom studies, experience and observation.

Thesis: Write a one-sentence response to the assignment. Make certain this single sentence offers a clear statement of your position.

Example: George Bernard Shaw knows that his own work is sometimes offensive or controversial, and it relieves him to hear that other people perceive it in that way—just as he planned.

Organizational Plan: If your thesis is the point on which you want to end, where does your essay need to begin? List the points of development that are inevitable in leading your reader from your beginning point to your end point. This list is your outline.

Draft: Use your thesis as both your beginning and your end. Following your outline, write a good first draft of your essay. Remember to support all your points with examples, facts, references to reading, etc.

Review and Revise: Exchange essays with a classmate. Using the Holistic scoring guide on page 225, score your partner’s essay (while he or she scores yours). If necessary, rewrite your essay to correct the problems noted by your partner.

Identifying Sentence Errors

Identify the grammatical error in each of the following sentences. If the sentence contains no error, select answer choice E.

1. My oldest sister, Marilyn a talented commercial artist, is also a registered nurse. (A) No error (B) (C) (D) (E)
2. Arguing with a professor in class will wreck havoc with your grade. (A) No error (B) (C) (D) (E)
3. If the repaired car were ready to be driven, we would of taken it home. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)
4. The nurse suddenly jumps when the doctor walked through the door to the operating room. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)
5. I do not like Shelly playing the stereo so loudly in the car. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)

Improving Sentences

The underlined portion of each sentence below contains some flaw. Select the answer choice that best corrects the flaw.

6. I could watch the lake all day long playing computer solitaire is my only distraction.
A. While I could watch the lake all day long and playing computer solitaire is my only distraction.
B. All day long playing computer solitaire is my only distraction when I could be watching the lake.
C. Playing computer solitaire all day long watching the lake is my only distraction.
D. My only distraction playing computer solitaire all day long watching the lake.
E. I could watch the lake all day long. Playing computer solitaire is my only distraction.
7. Lisa was a girl who had to be in trouble before she would turn the other cheek.
A. get into a boat.
B. learn to float on her back.
C. back down.
D. make a stitch in time.
E. take a turn for the worse.
8. The dog was released by Stephanie and the guests were startled by the cheese platter when that was knocked on the floor by it.
A. Stephanie released the dog and it startled the guests when the cheese platter was knocked onto the floor.
B. When Stephanie released the dog, it knocked the guests onto the floor with the cheese platter.
C. The dog startled Stephanie and the guests when, released, it knocked the cheese platter onto the floor.
D. Stephanie released the dog, and it startled the guests when it knocked the cheese platter onto the floor.
E. Stephanie released the dog and the guests were startled when it knocked the cheese platter onto the floor.
9. Some teenagers were suspended for failing grades this year on Monday.
A. This year some teenagers were suspended for failing grades on Monday.
B. On Monday, some teenagers were suspended for having failing grades this year.
C. For failing grades Monday, some teenagers were suspended this year.
D. Some teenagers this year for failing grades were suspended on Monday.
E. Suspended for failing grades this year on Monday were some teenagers.
10. Henry bought a new computer that has a large memory and having a DVD burner.
A. and a DVD burner.
B. that has a DVD burner.
C. for the DVD burner.
D. and it has a DVD burner.
E. with a DVD burner.

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