

HOW TO TALK ABOUT DOCTORS

(Sessions 4–6)

TEASER PREVIEW

What is the title of the doctor who specializes in:

- *internal medicine?*
 - *female ailments?*
 - *pregnancy and childbirth?*
 - *the treatment and care of infants and young children?*
 - *skin disorders?*
 - *diseases of the eye?*
 - *heart problems?*
 - *the brain and nervous system?*
 - *mental and emotional disturbances?*
-

SESSION 4

In this chapter we discuss ten medical specialists—what they do, how they do it, what they are called.

IDEAS

1. what's wrong with you?

To find out what ails you and why, this specialist gives you a thorough physical examination, using an impressive array of tests: X ray, blood chemistry, urinalysis, cardiogram, and so on.

An internist

2. female troubles?

This specialist treats the female reproductive and sexual organs.

A gynecologist

3. having a baby?

This specialist delivers babies and takes care of the mother during and immediately after the period of her pregnancy.

An obstetrician

4. is your baby ill?

You know the common childhood maladies—mumps, whooping cough, chicken pox, measles. This specialist limits his practice to youngsters, taking care of babies directly after birth, supervising their diet and watching over their growth and development, giving them the series of inoculations that has done so much to decrease infant mortality, and soothing their anxious parents.

A pediatrician

5. skin clear?

You have heard the classic riddle: "What is the best use for pigskin?" Answer: "To keep the pig together." Human skin has a similar purpose: it is, if we get down to fundamentals, what keeps us all in one piece. And our outer covering, like so many of our internal organs, is subject to diseases and infections of various kinds, running the gamut from simple acne and eczemas through impetigo, psoriasis, and cancer. There is a specialist who treats all such skin diseases.

A dermatologist

6. eyes okay?

The physician whose specialty is disorders of vision (myopia, astigmatism, cataracts, glaucoma, etc.) may prescribe glasses, administer drugs, or perform surgery.

An ophthalmologist

7. how are your bones?

This specialist deals with the skeletal structure of the body, treating bone fractures, slipped discs, clubfoot, curvature of the spine, dislocations of the hip, etc., and may correct a condition either by surgery or by the use of braces or other appliances.

An orthopedist

8. does your heart go pitter-patter?

This specialist treats diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

A cardiologist

9. is your brain working?

This physician specializes in the treatment of disorders of the brain, spinal cord, and the rest of the nervous system.

A neurologist

10. are you neurotic?

This specialist attempts to alleviate mental and emotional disturbances by means of various techniques, occasionally drugs or electroshock, more often private or group psychotherapy.

A psychiatrist

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

Words take on a new color if you hear them in your own voice; they begin to belong to you more personally, more intimately, than if you merely hear or read them. As always, therefore, *say the words aloud* to take the first, crucial step toward complete mastery.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>internist</i> | in-TURN'-ist |
| 2. <i>gynecologist</i> | gīn (or jin or jīn)-ə-KOL'-ə-jist |
| 3. <i>obstetrician</i> | ob-stə-TRISH'-ən |
| 4. <i>pediatrician</i> | pee'-dee-ə-TRISH'-ən |
| 5. <i>dermatologist</i> | dur-mə-TOL'-ə-jist |
| 6. <i>ophthalmologist</i> | off-thal-MOL'-ə-jist |
| 7. <i>orthopedist</i> | awr-thə-PEE'-dist |
| 8. <i>cardiologist</i> | kahr-dee-OL'-ə-jist |
| 9. <i>neurologist</i> | noor-OL'-ə-jist |
| 10. <i>psychiatrist</i> | sī (or sə)-KĪ'-ə-trist |

Can you work with the words?

Match each doctor to the field.

| FIELDS | DOCTORS |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. mental or emotional disturbances | a. internist |
| 2. nervous system | b. gynecologist |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3. skin | c. obstetrician |
| 4. diagnosis; internal organs | d. pediatrician |
| 5. infants | e. dermatologist |
| 6. female reproductive organs | f. ophthalmologist |
| 7. eyes | g. orthopedist |
| 8. heart | h. cardiologist |
| 9. pregnancy, childbirth | i. neurologist |
| 10. skeletal system | j. psychiatrist |
-

KEY: 1-j, 2-i, 3-e, 4-a, 5-d, 6-b, 7-f, 8-h, 9-c, 10-g

Do you understand the words?

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Is an <i>internist</i> an expert in diagnosis? | YES | NO |
| 2. Is a <i>gynecologist</i> familiar with the female reproductive organs? | YES | NO |
| 3. Does an <i>obstetrician</i> specialize in diseases of childhood? | YES | NO |
| 4. Does a <i>pEDIatrician</i> deliver babies? | YES | NO |
| 5. If you had a skin disease, would you visit a <i>dermatologist</i> ? | YES | NO |
| 6. If you had trouble with your vision would you visit an <i>orthopedist</i> ? | YES | NO |
| 7. Is an <i>ophthalmologist</i> an eye specialist? | YES | NO |
| 8. Does a <i>cardiologist</i> treat bone fractures? | YES | NO |
| 9. Is a <i>neurologist</i> a nerve specialist? | YES | NO |
| 10. If you were nervous, tense, overly anxious, constantly fearful for no apparent reasons, would a <i>psychiatrist</i> be the specialist to see? | YES | NO |
-

KEY: 1-yes, 2-yes, 3-no, 4-no, 5-yes, 6-no, 7-yes, 8-no, 9-yes, 10-yes

Can you recall the words?

Write the name of the specialist you might visit or be referred to:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. for a suspected brain disorder | 1. N _____ |
| 2. for a thorough internal checkup | 2. I _____ |
| 3. if you have a skin disease | 3. D _____ |
| 4. if you have a heart problem | 4. C _____ |
| 5. if you are tense, fearful, insecure | 5. P _____ |
| 6. if you are pregnant | 6. O _____ |
| 7. for some disorder of the female reproductive organs | 7. G _____ |
| 8. for a checkup for your two-month-old child | 8. P _____ |
| 9. for faulty vision | 9. O _____ |
| 10. for curvature of the spine | 10. O _____ |

KEY: 1-neurologist, 2-internist, 3-dermatologist, 4-cardiologist,
5-psychiatrist, 6-obstetrician, 7-gynecologist, 8-pediatrician,
9-ophthalmologist, 10-orthopedist

(End of session 4)

SESSION 5

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. inside you

Internist and *internal* derive from the same Latin root, *internus*, inside. The *internist* is a specialist in *internal* medicine, in the ex-

ploration of your *insides*. This physician determines the state of your internal organs in order to discover what's happening *within* your body to cause the troubles you're complaining of.

Do not confuse the *internist* with the *intern* (also spelled *interne*), who is a medical graduate serving an apprenticeship *inside* a hospital.

2. doctors for women

The word *gynecologist* is built on Greek *gyne*, woman, plus *logos*, science; etymologically, *gynecology* is the science (in actual use, the medical science) of women. Adjective: *gynecological* (gin [or jin or jīn]-ə-kə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

Obstetrician derives from Latin *obstetrix*, midwife, which in turn has its source in a Latin verb meaning *to stand*—midwives stand in front of the woman in labor to aid in the delivery of the infant.

The suffix *-ician*, as in *obstetrician*, *physician*, *musician*, *magician*, *electrician*, etc., means *expert*.

Obstetrics (ob-STET'-riks) has only within the last 150 years become a respectable specialty. No further back than 1834, Professor William P. Dewees assumed the first chair of *obstetrics* at the University of Pennsylvania and had to brave considerable medical contempt and ridicule as a result—the delivery of children was then considered beneath the dignity of the medical profession.

Adjective: *obstetric* (ob-STET'-rik) or *obstetrical* (ob-STET'-rə-kəl).

3. children

Pediatrician is a combination of Greek *paidos*, child; *iatreia*, medical healing; and *-ician*, expert.

Pediatrics (pee-dee-AT'-riks), then, is by etymology the medical healing of a child. Adjective: *pediatric* (pee-dee-AT'-rik).

(The *ped-* you see in words like *pedestal*, *pedal*, and *pedestrian* is from the Latin *pedis*, foot, and despite the identical spelling in English has no relationship to Greek *paidos*.)

Pedagogy (PED-ə-gō'-jee), which combines *paidos* with *agogos*, leading, is, etymologically, *the leading of children*. And to what do you lead them? To learning, to development, to growth, to maturity. From the moment of birth, infants are led by adults—they are taught, first by parents and then by teachers, to be self-sufficient, to fit into the culture in which they are born. Hence, *pedagogy*, which by derivation means *the leading of a child*, refers actually to the principles and methods of teaching. College students majoring in education take certain standard *pedagogy* courses—the history of education; educational psychology; the psychology of adolescents; principles of teaching; etc. Adjective: *pedagogical* (ped-ə-GOJ'-ə-kəl).

A *pedagogue* (PED'-ə-gog) is versed in *pedagogy*. But *pedagogue* has an unhappy history. From its original, neutral meaning of *teacher*, it has deteriorated to the point where it refers, today, to a narrow-minded, strait-laced, old-fashioned, dogmatic teacher. It is a word of contempt and should be used with caution.

Like *pedagogue*, *demagogue* (DEM'-ə-gog) has also deteriorated in meaning. By derivation a leader (*agogos*) of the people (*demos*), a *demagogue* today is actually one who attempts, in essence, to *mislead* the people, a politician who fomenting discontent among the masses, rousing them to fever pitch by wild oratory, in an attempt to be voted into office.

Once elected, *demagogues* use political power to further their own personal ambitions or fortunes.

Many "leaders" of the past and present, in countries around the world, have been accused of *demagoguery* (dem-ə-GOG'-ə-ree). Adjective: *demagogic* (dem-ə-GOJ'-ik).

4. skin-deep

The *dermatologist*, whose specialty is *dermatology* (dur-mə-TOL'-ə-jee), is so named from Greek *derma*, skin. Adjective: *dermatological* (dur'-mə-tə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

See the syllables *derma* in any English word and you will know there is some reference to *skin*—for example, a *hypodermic* (hī-pə-DUR'-mik) needle penetrates *under* (Greek, *hypos*) the *skin*; the *epidermis* (ep-ə-DUR'-mis) is the outermost layer of *skin*; a *taxidermist* (TAKS'-ə-dur-mist), whose business is *taxidermy*

(TAKS'-ə-dur-mee), prepares, stuffs, and mounts the *skins* of animals; a *pachyderm* (PAK'-ə-durm) is an animal with an unusually thick *skin*, like an elephant, hippopotamus, or rhinoceros; and *dermatitis* (dur-mə-TĪ'-tis) is the general name for any *skin* inflammation, irritation, or infection.

5. the eyes have it

Ophthalmologist—note the *ph* preceding *th*—is from Greek *ophthalmos*, eye, plus *logos*, science or study. The specialty is *ophthalmology* (off'-thal-MOL'-ə-jee), the adjective *ophthalmological* (off'-thal-mə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

An earlier title for this physician, still occasionally used, is *oculist* (OK'-yə-list), from Latin *oculus*, eye, a root on which the following English words are also built:

1. *ocular* (OK'-yə-lər)—an adjective that refers to the eye
2. *monocle* (MON'-ə-kəl)—a lens for one (*monos*) eye, sported by characters in old movies as a symbol of the British so-called upper class
3. *binoculars* (bə-NOK'-yə-lərz)—field glasses that increase the range of two (*bi-*) eyes
4. And, strangely enough, *inoculate* (in-OK'-yə-layt'), a word commonly misspelled with two *n*'s. When you are *inoculated* against a disease, an "eye," puncture, or hole is made in your skin, through which serum is injected.

Do not confuse the *ophthalmologist* or *oculist*, a medical specialist, with two other practitioners who deal with the eye—the *optometrist* (op-TOM'-ə-trist) and *optician* (op-TISH'-ən).

Optometrists are not physicians, and do not perform surgery or administer drugs; they measure vision, test for glaucoma, and prescribe and fit glasses.

Opticians fill an *optometrist's* or *ophthalmologist's* prescription, grinding lenses according to specifications; they do not examine patients.

Optometrist combines Greek *opsis*, *optikos*, sight or vision, with *metron*, measurement—the *optometrist*, by etymology, is one who measures vision. The specialty is *optometry* (op-TOM'-ə-tree).

Optician is built on *opsis*, *optikos*, plus *-ician*, expert. The specialty is *optics* (OP'-tiks).

Adjectives: *optometric* (op-tə-MET'-rik) or *optometrical* (op-tə-MET'-rə-kəl), *optical* (OP'-tə-kəl).

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT,

| SUFFIX | MEANING | ENGLISH WORD |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. <i>internus</i> | inside | _____ |
| 2. <i>gyne</i> | woman | _____ |
| 3. <i>obstetrix</i> | midwife | _____ |
| 4. <i>paidos</i> | child | _____ |
| 5. <i>pedis</i> | foot | _____ |
| 6. <i>agogos</i> | leading, leader | _____ |
| 7. <i>demos</i> | people | _____ |
| 8. <i>derma</i> | skin | _____ |
| 9. <i>hypos</i> | under | _____ |
| 10. <i>ophthalmos</i> | eye | _____ |
| 11. <i>oculus</i> | eye | _____ |
| 12. <i>monos</i> | one | _____ |
| 13. <i>bi-</i> | two | _____ |
| 14. <i>-ician</i> | expert | _____ |
| 15. <i>opsis, optikos</i> | vision, sight | _____ |
| 16. <i>metron</i> | measurement | _____ |

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>intern (e)</i> | IN'-turn |
| 2. <i>gynecology</i> | gīn-ə-KOL'-ə-jee, jin-ə-KOL'-ə-jee, or jīn-ə-KOL'-ə-jee |
| 3. <i>gynecological</i> | gīn-ə-kə-LOJ'-ə-kəl, jin-ə-kə-LOJ'-ə-kəl or jīn-ə-kə-LOJ-ə-kəl |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 4. <i>obstetrics</i> | ob-STET'-riks |
| 5. <i>obstetric</i> | ob-STET'-rik |
| 6. <i>obstetrical</i> | ob-STET'-rə-kəl |
| 7. <i>pediatrics</i> | pee-dee-AT'-riks |
| 8. <i>pediatric</i> | pee-dee-AT'-rik |
| 9. <i>pedagogy</i> | PED'-ə-gō-jee |
| 10. <i>pedagogical</i> | ped-ə-GOJ'-ə-kəl |
| 11. <i>pedagogue</i> | PED'-ə-gog |
| 12. <i>demagogue</i> | DEM'-ə-gog |
| 13. <i>demagoguery</i> | dem-ə-GOG'-ə-ree |
| 14. <i>demagogic</i> | dem-ə-GOJ'-ik |

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>dermatology</i> | dur-mə-TOL'-ə-jee |
| 2. <i>dermatological</i> | dur'-mə-tə-LOJ'-ə-kəl |
| 3. <i>hypodermic</i> | hī-pə-DURM'-ik |
| 4. <i>epidermis</i> | ep-ə-DUR'-mis |
| 5. <i>taxidermist</i> | TAKS'-ə-dur-mist |
| 6. <i>taxidermy</i> | TAKS'-ə-dur-mee |
| 7. <i>pachyderm</i> | PAK'-ə-durm |
| 8. <i>dermatitis</i> | dur-mə-TĪ'-tis |
| 9. <i>ophthalmology</i> | off-thal-MOL'-ə-jee |
| 10. <i>ophthalmological</i> | off'-thal-mə-LOJ'-ə-kəl |
| 11. <i>oculist</i> | OK'-yə-list |
| 12. <i>ocular</i> | OK'-yə-lər |
| 13. <i>monocle</i> | MON'-ə-kəl |
| 14. <i>binoculars</i> | bə-NOK'-yə-lərz |
| 15. <i>inoculate</i> | in-OK'-yə-layt' |
| 16. <i>optometrist</i> | op-TOM'-ə-trist |
| 17. <i>optometry</i> | op-TOM'-ə-tree |
| 18. <i>optometric</i> | op-tə-MET'-rik |
| 19. <i>optometrical</i> | op-tə-MET'-rə-kəl |
| 20. <i>optician</i> | op-TISH'-ən |
| 21. <i>optics</i> | OP'-tik |
| 22. <i>optical</i> | OP-tə-kəl |

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. gynecology | a. principles of teaching |
| 2. obstetrics | b. stuffing of skins of animals |
| 3. pediatrics | c. specialty dealing with the delivery of newborn infants |
| 4. pedagogy | d. stirring up discontent among the masses |
| 5. demagoguery | e. treatment of skin diseases |
| 6. dermatology | f. specialty dealing with women's diseases |
| 7. taxidermy | g. specialty dealing with the treatment of children |

KEY: 1-f, 2-c, 3-g, 4-a, 5-d, 6-e, 7-b

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. hypodermic | a. elephant |
| 2. epidermis | b. eye doctor |
| 3. pachyderm | c. under the skin |
| 4. dermatitis | d. one who measures vision |
| 5. ophthalmologist | e. lens grinder |
| 6. optometrist | f. outer layer of skin |
| 7. optician | g. inflammation of the skin |

KEY: 1-c, 2-f, 3-a, 4-g, 5-b, 6-d, 7-e

Do you understand the words?

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Does a treatise on <i>obstetrics</i> deal with childbirth? | YES | NO |
| 2. Does <i>gynecology</i> deal with the female reproductive organs? | YES | NO |

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 3. Is <i>pediatrics</i> concerned with the diseases of old age? | YES | NO |
| 4. Does <i>pedagogy</i> refer to teaching? | YES | NO |
| 5. Is a <i>pedagogue</i> an expert teacher? | YES | NO |
| 6. Is a <i>demagogue</i> interested in the welfare of the people? | YES | NO |
| 7. Is a lion a <i>pachyderm</i> ? | YES | NO |
| 8. Is the <i>epidermis</i> one of the layers of the skin? | YES | NO |
| 9. Is <i>dermatitis</i> an inflammation of one of the limbs? | YES | NO |
| 10. Is a <i>taxidermist</i> a medical practitioner? | YES | NO |
| 11. Is an <i>ophthalmologist</i> a medical doctor? | YES | NO |
| 12. Is an <i>optometrist</i> a medical doctor? | YES | NO |
| 13. Does an <i>optician</i> prescribe glasses? | YES | NO |

KEY: 1—yes, 2—yes, 3—no, 4—yes, 5—no, 6—no, 7—no, 8—yes, 9—no, 10—no, 11—yes, 12—no, 13—no

Can you recall the words?

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. specialty of child delivery | 1. O _____ |
| 2. outer layer of skin | 2. E _____ |
| 3. principles of teaching | 3. P _____ |
| 4. thick-skinned animal | 4. P _____ |
| 5. skin inflammation | 5. D _____ |
| 6. one who foments political discontent | 6. D _____ |
| 7. one who sells optical equipment | 7. O _____ |
| 8. medical graduate serving his apprenticeship | 8. I _____ |
| 9. treatment of childhood diseases | 9. P _____ |
| 10. practice of stirring up political dissatisfaction for purely personal gain | 10. D _____ |

11. one who stuffs the skins of animals
12. another title for *ophthalmologist*
13. treatment of female ailments
14. medical specialty relating to diseases of the eye
15. one-lens eyeglass
16. pertaining to the eye
17. one who measures vision

11. T _____
12. O _____
13. G _____
14. O _____
15. M _____
16. O _____
17. O _____

KEY: 1—obstetrics, 2—epidermis, 3—pedagogy, 4—pachyderm, 5—dermatitis, 6—demagogue, 7—optician, 8—intern *or* interne, 9—pediatrics, 10—demagoguery, 11—taxidermist, 12—oculist, 13—gynecology, 14—ophthalmology, 15—monocle, 16—ocular, 17—optometrist

(End of Session 5)

SESSION 6

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. the straighteners

The *orthopedist* is so called from the Greek roots *orthos*, straight or correct, and *paidos*, child. The *orthopedist*, by etymology, straightens children. The term was coined in 1741 by the author of a textbook on the prevention of childhood diseases—at that time the correction of spinal curvature in children was a main concern of practitioners of *orthopedics* (awr-thə-PEE'-diks).

Today the specialty treats deformities, injuries, and diseases of the bones and joints (of adults as well as children, of course), often by surgical procedures.

Adjective: *orthopedic* (awr-thə-PEE'-dik).

Orthodontia (awr-thə-DON'-shə), the straightening of teeth, is built on *orthos* plus *odontos*, tooth. The *orthodontist* (awr-thə-DON'-tist) specializes in improving your "bite," retracting "buck teeth," and by means of braces and other techniques seeing to it that every molar, incisor, bicuspid, etc. is exactly where it belongs in your mouth.

Adjective: *orthodontic* (awr-thə-DON'-tik).

2. the heart

Cardiologist combines Greek *kardia*, heart, and *logos*, science.

The specialty is *cardiology* (kahr-dee-OL'-ə-jee), the adjective *cardiological* (kahr'-dee-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

So a *cardiac* (KAHR'-dee-ak) condition refers to some malfunctioning of the heart; a *cardiogram* (KAHR'-dee-ə-gram') is an electrically produced record of the heartbeat. The instrument that produces this record is called a *cardiograph* (KAHR'-dee-ə-graf').

3. the nervous system

Neurologist derives from Greek *neuron*, nerve, plus *logos*, science.

Specialty: *neurology* (nōor-OL'-ə-jee); adjective: *neurological* (nōor-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

Neuralgia (nōor-AL'-ja) is acute pain along the nerves and their branches; the word comes from *neuron* plus *algos*, pain.

Neuritis (nōor-Ī'-tis), is inflammation of the nerves.

Neurosis (nōor-Ō'-sis), combining *neuron* with *-osis*, a suffix meaning *abnormal or diseased condition*, is not, despite its etymology, a disorder of the nerves, but rather, as described by the late Eric Berne, a psychiatrist, ". . . an illness characterized by excessive use of energy for unproductive purposes so that personality development is hindered or stopped. A man who spends most

of his time worrying about his health, counting his money, plotting revenge, or washing his hands, can hope for little emotional growth.”

Neurotic (nŏr-OT'-ik) is both the adjective form and the term for a person suffering from *neurosis*.

4. the mind

A *neurosis* is not a form of mental unbalance. A full-blown mental disorder is called a *psychosis* (sī-KŌ'-sis), a word built on Greek *psyche*, spirit, soul, or mind, plus *-osis*.

A true *psychotic* (sī-KOT'-ik) has lost contact with reality—at least with reality as most of us perceive it, though no doubt *psychotic* (note that this word, like *neurotic*, is both a noun and an adjective) people have their own form of reality.

Built on *psyche* plus *iatreia*, medical healing, a *psychiatrist* by etymology is a mind-healer. The specialty is *psychiatry* (sī- or sə-KĪ-ə-tree); the adjective is *psychiatric* (sī-kee-AT'-rik).

Pediatrics, as you know, is also built on *iatreia*, as is *podiatry* (pə-DĪ'-ə-tree), discussed in the next chapter, and *geriatrics* (jair'-ee-AT'-riks), the specialty dealing with the particular medical needs of the elderly. (This word combines *iatreia* with Greek *geras*, old age.)

The specialist is a *geriatrician* (jair'-ee-ə-TRISH'-ən), the adjective is *geriatric* (jair'-ee-AT'-rik).

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

| ROOT, SUFFIX | MEANING | ENGLISH WORD |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. <i>orthos</i> | straight, correct | _____ |
| 2. <i>paidos</i> (<i>ped-</i>) | child | _____ |
| 3. <i>odontos</i> | tooth | _____ |
| 4. <i>kardia</i> | heart | _____ |
| 5. <i>logos</i> | science; study | _____ |
| 6. <i>neuron</i> | nerve | _____ |
| 7. <i>algos</i> | pain | _____ |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 8. <i>-osis</i> | abnormal or diseased condition | _____ |
| 9. <i>-itis</i> | inflammation | _____ |
| 10. <i>psyche</i> | spirit, soul, mind | _____ |
| 11. <i>iatreia</i> | medical healing | _____ |
| 12. <i>geras</i> | old age | _____ |

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words (I)

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <i>orthopedics</i> | awr-thə-PEE'-diks |
| 2. <i>orthopedic</i> | awr-thə-PEE'-dik |
| 3. <i>orthodontia</i> | awr-thə-DON'-shə |
| 4. <i>orthodontist</i> | awr-thə-DON'-tist |
| 5. <i>orthodontic</i> | awr-thə-DON'-tik |
| 6. <i>cardiology</i> | kahr-dee-OL'-ə-jee |
| 7. <i>cardiological</i> | kahr'-dee-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl |
| 8. <i>cardiac</i> | KAHR'-dee-ak |
| 9. <i>cardiogram</i> | KAHR'-dee-ə-gram' |
| 10. <i>cardiograph</i> | KAHR'-dee-ə-graf' |

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <i>neurology</i> | nōor-OL'-ə-jee |
| 2. <i>neurological</i> | nōor-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl |
| 3. <i>neuralgia</i> | nōor-AL'-jə |
| 4. <i>neuritis</i> | nōor-Ī'-tis |
| 5. <i>neurosis</i> | nōor-Ō'-sis |
| 6. <i>neurotic</i> | nōor-OT'-ik |
| 7. <i>psychosis</i> | sī-KŌ'-sis |
| 8. <i>psychotic</i> | sī-KOT'-ik |
| 9. <i>psychiatry</i> | sī- or sə-KĪ'-ə-tree |
| 10. <i>psychiatric</i> | sī-kee-AT'-rik |
| 11. <i>geriatrics</i> | jair'-ee-AT'-riks |
| 12. <i>geriatrician</i> | jair'-ee-ə-TRISH'-ən |
| 13. <i>geriatric</i> | jair'-ee-AT'-rik |

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. orthopedics | a. nerve pain |
| 2. orthodontia | b. specialty dealing with medical problems of the elderly |
| 3. neuralgia | c. straightening of teeth |
| 4. neuritis | d. inflammation of the nerves |
| 5. geriatrics | e. treatment of skeletal deformities |

KEY: 1-e, 2-c, 3-a, 4-d, 5-b

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. cardiogram | a. record of heart beats |
| 2. cardiograph | b. mental unbalance |
| 3. neurosis | c. emotional disturbance |
| 4. psychosis | d. treatment of personality disorders |
| 5. psychiatry | e. instrument for recording heartbeats |

KEY: 1-a, 2-e, 3-c, 4-b, 5-d

Do you understand the words?

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. A <i>gynecologist's</i> patients are mostly men. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. <i>Ophthalmology</i> is the study of eye diseases. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. <i>Orthopedics</i> is the specialty dealing with the bones and joints. | TRUE | FALSE |

| | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 4. A <i>cardiac</i> patient has a heart ailment. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. A person with a bad "bite" may profit from <i>orthodontia</i> . | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6. <i>Neuralgia</i> is a disease of the bones. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 7. A <i>neurosis</i> is the same as a <i>psychosis</i> . | TRUE | FALSE |
| 8. <i>Neuritis</i> is inflammation of the nerves. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 9. <i>Psychiatry</i> is a medical specialty that deals with mental, emotional, and personality disturbances. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 10. A <i>cardiograph</i> is a device for recording heartbeats. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 11. <i>Psychiatric</i> treatment is designed to relieve tensions, fears, and insecurities. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 12. A doctor who specializes in <i>pediatrics</i> has very old patients. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 13. A <i>geriatrician</i> has very young patients. | TRUE | FALSE |

KEY: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-T, 6-F, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T, 10-T, 11-T, 12-F, 13-F

Can you recall the words?

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. specialist who straightens teeth | 1. O _____ |
| 2. nerve pain | 2. N _____ |
| 3. medical specialty dealing with bones and joints | 3. O _____ |
| 4. medical specialty dealing with emotional disturbances and mental illness | 4. P _____ |
| 5. inflammation of the nerves | 5. N _____ |
| 6. emotional or personality disorder | 6. N _____ |
| 7. mentally unbalanced | 7. P _____ |
| 8. pertaining to the heart | 8. C _____ |
| 9. specialty dealing with medical problems of the elderly | 9. G _____ |

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 10. instrument that records heart action | 10. C_____ |
| 11. record produced by such an instrument | 11. C_____ |
-

KEY: 1-orthodontist, 2-neuralgia, 3-orthopedics, 4-psychiatry, 5-neuritis, 6-neurosis, 7-psychotic, 8-cardiac, 9-geriatrics, 10-cardiograph, 11-cardiogram

CHAPTER REVIEW

A. Do you recognize the words?

1. Specialist in female ailments:
(a) obstetrician, (b) gynecologist, (c) dermatologist
 2. Specialist in children's diseases:
(a) orthopedist, (b) pediatrician, (c) internist
 3. Specialist in eye diseases:
(a) cardiologist, (b) ophthalmologist, (c) optician
 4. Specialist in emotional disorders:
(a) neurologist, (b) demagogue, (c) psychiatrist
 5. Pertaining to medical treatment of the elderly:
(a) neurological, (b) obstetric, (c) geriatric
 6. Straightening of teeth:
(a) orthodontia, (b) orthopedic, (c) optometry
 7. Personality disorder:
(a) neuritis, (b), neuralgia, (c) neurosis
 8. Mentally unbalanced:
(a) neurotic, (b) psychotic, (c) cardiac
 9. Principles of teaching:
(a) demagoguery, (b) pedagogy, (c) psychosis
-

KEY: 1-b, 2-b, 3-b, 4-c, 5-c, 6-a, 7-c, 8-b, 9-b

B. Can you recognize roots?

| ROOT | MEANING | EXAMPLE |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1. <i>internus</i> | _____ | internist |
| 2. <i>paidos</i> (<i>ped-</i>) | _____ | pediatrician |
| 3. <i>pedis</i> | _____ | pedestrian |
| 4. <i>agogos</i> | _____ | pedagogue |
| 5. <i>demos</i> | _____ | demagogue |
| 6. <i>derma</i> | _____ | dermatologist |
| 7. <i>hypos</i> | _____ | hypodermic |
| 8. <i>ophthalmos</i> | _____ | ophthalmologist |
| 9. <i>oculus</i> | _____ | monocle |
| 10. <i>opsis, optikos</i> | _____ | optician |
| 11. <i>metron</i> | _____ | optometrist |
| 12. <i>orthos</i> | _____ | orthopedist |
| 13. <i>odontos</i> | _____ | orthodontist |
| 14. <i>kardia</i> | _____ | cardiologist |
| 15. <i>logos</i> | _____ | anthropologist |
| 16. <i>neuron</i> | _____ | neurologist |
| 17. <i>algos</i> | _____ | neuralgia |
| 18. <i>psyche</i> | _____ | psychiatrist |
| 19. <i>iatreia</i> | _____ | psychiatry |
| 20. <i>geras</i> | _____ | geriatrics |

KEY: 1—inside, 2—child, 3—foot, 4—leading, 5—people, 6—skin, 7—under, 8—eye, 9—eye, 10—view, vision, sight, 11—measurement, 12—straight, correct, 13—tooth, 14—heart, 15—science, study, 16—nerve, 17—pain, 18—mind, 19—medical healing, 20—old age

TEASER QUESTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR ETYMOLOGIST

- Thinking of the roots *odontos* and *paidos* (spelled *ped-* in English), figure out the meaning of *pedodontia*: _____
-

2. Recall the roots *kardia* and *algos*. What is the meaning of *cardialgia*? _____

3. Of *odontalgia*? _____

4. *Nostos* is the Greek word for a *return* (home). Can you combine this root with *algos*, pain, to construct the English word meaning *homesickness*? _____

(Answers in Chapter 18)

TWO KEYS TO SUCCESS: SELF-DISCIPLINE AND PERSISTENCE

You can achieve a superior vocabulary in a phenomenally short time—given self-discipline and persistence.

The greatest aid in building self-discipline is, as I have said, a matter of devising a practical and comfortable schedule for yourself and then *keeping to that schedule*.

Make sure to complete *at least* one session each time you pick up the book, and always decide exactly when you will continue with your work before you put the book down.

There may be periods of difficulty—then is the time to exert the greatest self-discipline, the most determined persistence.

For every page that you study will help you attain a mastery over words; every day that you work will add to your skill in understanding and using words.

(End of Session 6)

Brief Intermission Two

RANDOM NOTES ON MODERN USAGE

English grammar is confusing enough as it is—what makes it doubly confounding is that it is slowly but continually changing.

This means that some of the strict rules you memorized so painfully in your high school or college English courses may no longer be completely valid.

Following such outmoded principles, you may think you are speaking “perfect” English, and instead you may sound stuffy and pedantic.

The problem boils down to this: If grammatical usage is gradually becoming more liberal, where does educated, unaffected, informal speech end? And where does illiterate, ungrammatical speech begin?

The following notes on current trends in modern usage are intended to help you come to a decision about certain controversial expressions. As you read each sentence, pay particular attention to the italicized word or words. Does the usage square with your own language patterns? Would you be willing to phrase your thought in just terms? Decide whether the sentence is right or wrong, then compare your conclusion with the opinion given in the explanatory paragraphs that follow the test.

TEST YOURSELF

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. If you drink too many vodka martinis, you will surely <i>get</i> sick. | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 2. Have you <i>got</i> a dollar? | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 3. No one loves you except <i>I</i> . | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 4. Please <i>lay</i> down. | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 5. <i>Who</i> do you love? | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 6. Neither of these cars <i>are</i> worth the money. | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 7. The judge sentenced the murderer to be <i>hung</i> . | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 8. Mother, <i>can</i> I go out to play? | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 9. Take two <i>spoonsful</i> of this medicine every three hours. | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 10. Your words seem to <i>infer</i> that Jack is a liar. | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 11. I <i>will</i> be happy to go to the concert with you. | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 12. It is <i>me</i> . | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 13. Go <i>slow</i> . | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 14. Peggy and Karen are <i>alumni</i> of the same high school. | RIGHT | WRONG |
| 15. I <i>would</i> like to ask you a question. | RIGHT | WRONG |

1. If you drink too many vodka martinis, you will surely *get* sick.

RIGHT. The puristic objection is that *get* has only one meaning—namely, *obtain*. However, as any modern dictionary will attest, *get* has scores of different meanings, one of the most respectable of which is *become*. You can *get* tired, *get* dizzy, *get* drunk, or *get* sick—and your choice of words will offend no one but a pedant.

2. Have you *got* a dollar?

RIGHT. If purists get a little pale at the sound of "*get sick*," they turn chalk white when they hear *have got* as a substitute for *have*. But the fact is that *have got* is an established American form of expression. Jacques Barzun, noted author and literary critic, says: "*Have you got* is good idiomatic English—I use it in speech without thinking about it and would write it if colloquialism seemed appropriate to the passage."

3. No ones loves you except *I*.

WRONG. In educated speech, *me* follows the preposition *except*. This problem is troublesome because, to the unsophisticated, the sentence sounds as if it can be completed to "No one loves you, except *I* do," but current educated usage adheres to the technical rule that a preposition requires an objective pronoun (*me*).

4. Please *lay* down.

WRONG. Liberal as grammar has become, there is still no sanction for using *lay* with the meaning of *recline*. *Lay* means to place, as in "*Lay* your hand on mine." *Lie* is the correct choice.

5. *Who* do you love?

RIGHT. "The English language shows some disposition to get rid of *whom* altogether, and unquestionably it would be a better language with *whom* gone." So wrote Janet Rankin Aiken, of Columbia University, way back in 1936. Today, many decades later, the "disposition" has become a full-fledged force.

The rules for *who* and *whom* are complicated, and few educated speakers have the time, patience, or expertise to bother with them. Use the democratic *who* in your everyday speech whenever it sounds right.

6. Neither of these cars *are* worth the money.

WRONG. The temptation to use *are* in this sentence is, I admit, practically irresistible. However, "neither of" means "neither *one* of" and *is*, therefore, is the preferable verb.

7. The judge sentenced the murderer to be *hung*.

WRONG. A distinction is made, in educated speech, between *hung* and *hanged*. A picture is *hung*, but a person is *hanged*—that is, if such action is intended to bring about an untimely demise.

8. Mother, *can* I go out to play?

RIGHT. If you insist that your child say *may*, and nothing but *may*, when asking for permission, you may be considered puristic. *Can* is not discourteous, incorrect, or vulgar—and the newest editions of the authoritative dictionaries fully sanction the use of *can* in requesting rights, privileges, or permission.

9. Take two *spoonsful* of this medicine every three hours.

WRONG. There is a strange affection, on the part of some people, for *spoonsful* and *cupsful*, even though *spoonsful* and *cupsful* do not exist as acceptable words. The plurals are *spoonfuls* and *cupfuls*.

I am taking for granted, of course, that you are using one spoon and filling it twice. If, for secret reasons of your own, you prefer to take your medicine in two separate spoons, you may then properly speak of “two *spoons full* (not *spoonsful*) of medicine.”

10. Your words seem to *infer* that Jack is a liar.

WRONG. *Infer* does not mean *hint* or *suggest*. *Imply* is the proper word; to *infer* is to draw a conclusion from another's words.

11. I *will* be happy to go to the concert with you.

RIGHT. In informal speech, you need no longer worry about the technical and unrealistic distinctions between *shall* and *will*. The theory of modern grammarians is that *shall-will* differences were simply invented out of whole cloth by the textbook writers of the 1800s. As the editor of the scholarly *Modern Language Forum* at the University of California has stated, “The artificial distinction between *shall* and *will* to designate futurity is a superstition that has neither a basis in historical grammar nor the sound sanction of universal usage.”

12. It is *me*.

RIGHT. This “violation” of grammatical “law” has been completely sanctioned by current usage. When the late Winston Churchill made a nationwide radio address from New Haven, Connecticut, many, many years ago, his opening sentence was: “This is *me*, Winston Churchill.” I imagine that the purists who were listening fell into a deep state of shock at these words, but of course Churchill was simply using the kind of down-to-earth English that had long since become standard in informal educated speech.

13. Go *slow*.

RIGHT. "Go *slow*" is not, and never has been, incorrect English—every authority concedes that *slow* is an adverb as well as an adjective. Rex Stout, well-known writer of mystery novels and creator of Detective Nero Wolfe, remarked: "Not only do I use and approve of the idiom *Go slow*, but if I find myself with people who do not, I leave quick."

14. Peggy and Karen are *alumni* of the same high school.

WRONG. As Peggy and Karen are obviously women, we call them *alumnae* (ə-LUM'-nee); only male graduates are *alumni* (ə-LUM'-nī).

15. I *would* like to ask you a question.

RIGHT. In current American usage, *would* may be used with *I*, though old-fashioned rules demand *I should*.

Indeed, in modern speech, *should* is almost entirely restricted to expressing probability, duty, or responsibility.

As in the case of the charitable-looking dowager who was approached by a seedy character seeking a handout.

"Madam," he whined, "I haven't eaten in five days."

"My good man," the matron answered with great concern, "you should force yourself!"