

HOW TO TALK ABOUT COMMON PHENOMENA AND OCCURRENCES

(Sessions 39–41)

TEASER PREVIEW

What word aptly describes:

- *dire poverty?*
 - *emotion experienced without direct participation?*
 - *something which lasts a very short time?*
 - *an inoffensive word for an unpleasant idea?*
 - *light and easy banter?*
 - *someone who is cowlike in his stolidity?*
 - *homesickness?*
 - *harsh sound?*
 - *a meat-eating animal?*
 - *something kept secret?*
-

SESSION 39

This world, Robert Louis Stevenson once claimed—with, I think, questionable logic—is so full of a number of things that we should all be as happy as kings.

I doubt very strongly that happiness comes from the outside, or that kings are necessarily happy. But I will go this far (and no further) with Stevenson: the world is certainly full of a number of things. For instance, poverty and misery, hospitals and insane asylums, slums and racial restrictions, cut-down forests and once fertile lands becoming progressively more arid, war and death and taxes and bumbling diplomats. I know that Stevenson had a different sort of thing in mind, for romantic poets tend to view the world through rose-tinted spectacles, but it is often necessary to counter one extreme with another—and I simply wish to set the record straight.

In this chapter we are going to discuss a number of things to be found in the world and in the minds of its inhabitants—poverty and wealth; secondhand emotions; the relativity of time; praise of various sorts; small talk and how to indulge in it; animals; longings for the past; sounds; eating habits; and many kinds and conditions of secrecy.

As you see, when you start exploring ideas, as we constantly do in these chapters, you never know what will turn up.

IDEAS

1. for want of the green stuff

There are those people who are forced (often through no fault of their own) to pursue an existence not only devoid of such luxuries as radios, television sets, sunken bathtubs, electric orange-juice squeezers, automobiles, Jacuzzis, private swimming pools,

etc., but lacking also in many of the pure necessities of living—sufficient food, heated homes, hot water, vermin- and rodent-free surroundings, decent clothing, etc.

Such people live:

in *penury*

2. at least watch it

All normal people want and need love and at least a modicum of excitement in their lives—so say the psychologists. If no one loves them, and if they can find no one on whom to lavish their own love, they may often satisfy their emotional longings and needs by getting their feelings secondhand—through reading love stories, attending motion pictures, watching soap operas, etc.

These are:

vicarious feelings

3. time is fleeting

During the late winter and early spring of 1948–49, great numbers of people went practically berserk joining and forming “pyramid clubs.” If you have not heard of this amazing phenomenon, I won’t attempt to describe it in any of its multifarious ramifications, but the main point was that you paid two dollars, treated some people to coffee and doughnuts, and shortly thereafter (if you were gullible enough to fall for this get-rich-quick scheme) supposedly received a return of some fantastic amount like \$2,064 for your investment.

For a short time, pyramid clubs were a rage—soon they had vanished from the American scene.

Anything that lasts for but a short time and leaves no trace is:

ephemeral

4. how not to call a spade . . .

Words are only *symbols* of things—they are not the things themselves. (This, by the way, is one of the basic tenets of seman-

tics.) But many people identify the word and the thing so closely that they fear to use certain words that symbolize things that are unpleasant to them.

I know that this is confusing, so let me illustrate.

Words having to do with death, sex, certain portions of the anatomy, excretion, etc. are avoided by certain people.

These people prefer circumlocutions—words that “talk around” an idea or that mean or imply something but don’t come right out and say so directly.

For example:

WORD	CIRCUMLOCUTION
<i>die</i>	expire; depart this life; pass away; leave this vale of tears
<i>sexual intercourse</i>	(intimate) relations; “playing house”; “shacking up”
<i>prostitute</i>	lady of the evening; <i>fille de joie</i> ; painted woman; lady of easy virtue; <i>fille de nuit</i> ; streetwalker; hooker
<i>house of prostitution</i>	house of ill-fame; bawdyhouse; house of ill-repute; bagnio; brothel; bordello; “house”; “massage parlor”
<i>buttocks, behind</i>	derrière; rear end; butt; tail
<i>breasts</i>	bosom; bust; curves
<i>toilet</i>	powder room; little girl’s room; facilities; washroom; lavatory; head

The left-hand column is the direct, non-pussyfooting word. The right-hand column is made up of:

euphemisms

5. small talk

“Whenever I’m in the dumps, I get a new suit.”

“Oh, so that’s where you get them!”

“Lend me a dime—I want to phone one of my friends.”

“Here’s a quarter—call them all.”

“The doctor says I have snoo in my blood!”

"Shoo? What's shoo?"

"Not a darn! What's new with you?"

"What are twins?"

"Okay, what are twins?"

"Womb mates!"

"I took a twip yesterday."

"A twip?"

"Yes, I took a twip on a twain!"

These are examples of:

badinage

6. everything but give milk

You've seen a cow contentedly munching its cud. Nothing seems capable of disturbing this animal—and the animal seems to want nothing more out of life than to lead a simple, vegetable existence.

Some people are like a cow—calm, patient, placid, phlegmatic, vegetable-like. They are:

*bovine**

7. good old days

Do you sometimes experience a keen, almost physical, longing for associations or places of the past?

When you pass the neighborhood in which you were born and where you spent your early years, do you have a sharp, strange reaction, almost akin to mild nausea?

When you are away from home and friends and family, do pleasant remembrances crowd in on your mind to the point where your present loneliness becomes almost unbearable, and you actually feel a little sick?

This common feeling is called:

nostalgia

* Remember Ogden Nash's delightful definition?

The cow is of the bovine ilk,
One end moo, the other end milk.

8. sounds that grate

Some sounds are so harsh, grating, and discordant that they offend the ear. They lack all sweetness, harmony, pleasantness. Traffic noises of a big city, electronic rock music, chalk squeaking on a blackboard. . . .

Such blaring, ear-splitting, or spine-tingling sounds are called:

cacophonous

9. eating habits

Lions, tigers, wolves, and some other mammals subsist entirely on flesh. No spinach, salad greens, whole-wheat cereals, sugar, or spices—just good, red meat.

These mammals are:

carnivorous

10. private and public

There are certain things most of us do in private, like taking a bath. Some people like to engage in other activities in complete privacy—eating, reading, watching TV, sleeping, for example.

The point is that, while these activities may be conducted in privacy, there is never any reason for keeping them secret.

But there are other activities that are kept not only private, but well-shrouded in secrecy and concealed from public knowledge. These activities are unethical, illegal, or unsafe—like having an affair with someone whose spouse is your best friend, betraying military secrets to the enemy, trading in narcotics, bribing public officials, etc.

Arrangements, activities, or meetings that fall under this category are called:

clandestine

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <i>penury</i> | PEN'-yə-ree |
| 2. <i>vicarious</i> | vī-KAIR'-ee-əs |
| 3. <i>ephemeral</i> | ə-FEM'-ə-rəl |
| 4. <i>euphemism</i> | YŪŌ'-fə-miz-əm |
| 5. <i>badinage</i> | BAD'-ə-nəj |
| 6. <i>bovine</i> | BŌ'-vīn' |
| 7. <i>nostalgia</i> | nə-STAL'-jə |
| 8. <i>cacophony</i> | kə-KOF'-ə-nee |
| 9. <i>carnivorous</i> | kahr-NIV'-ər-əs |
| 10. <i>clandestine</i> | klän-DES'-tin |

Can you work with the words?

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>penury</i> | a. impermanent |
| 2. <i>vicarious</i> | b. banter |
| 3. <i>ephemeral</i> | c. homesickness |
| 4. <i>euphemism</i> | d. meat-eating |
| 5. <i>badinage</i> | e. circumlocution |
| 6. <i>bovine</i> | f. harsh noise |
| 7. <i>nostalgia</i> | g. poverty |
| 8. <i>cacophony</i> | h. secret |
| 9. <i>carnivorous</i> | i. placid; stolid; cowlike |
| 10. <i>clandestine</i> | j. secondhand |

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

Do you understand the words? (I)

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Do wealthy people normally live in <i>penury</i> ? | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|

2. Is a <i>vicarious</i> thrill one that comes from direct participation?	YES	NO
3. Do <i>ephemeral</i> things last a very short time?	YES	NO
4. Is a <i>euphemism</i> the substitution of an inoffensive term for another of the same meaning that may sound offensive, vulgar, or indelicate?	YES	NO
5. Does <i>badinage</i> show lighthearted frivolity?	YES	NO
6. Are <i>bovine</i> people high-strung and nervous?	YES	NO
7. Does one get a feeling of <i>nostalgia</i> for past occurrences and relationships?	YES	NO
8. Is <i>cacophony</i> pleasant and musical?	YES	NO
9. Do <i>carnivorous</i> animals eat meat?	YES	NO
10. Is a <i>clandestine</i> meeting conducted in secrecy?	YES	NO

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

Do you understand the words? (II)

1. penury—affluence	SAME	OPPOSITE
2. vicarious—actual	SAME	OPPOSITE
3. ephemeral—eternal	SAME	OPPOSITE
4. euphemism—less offensive word	SAME	OPPOSITE
5. badinage—light, teasing talk	SAME	OPPOSITE
6. bovine—high-strung	SAME	OPPOSITE
7. nostalgia—longing for the past	SAME	OPPOSITE
8. cacophony—euphony	SAME	OPPOSITE
9. carnivorous—herbivorous	SAME	OPPOSITE
10. clandestine—hidden	SAME	OPPOSITE

KEY: 1-O, 2-O, 3-O, 4-S, 5-S, 6-O, 7-O, 8-O, 9-O, 10-S

(The new words used in this test will be discussed in later sections of this chapter.)

Can you recall the words?

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. harsh sound | 1. C _____ |
| 2. having a short life | 2. E _____ |
| 3. dire poverty | 3. P _____ |
| 4. substitution of an indirect or pleasant word or phrase for a possibly offensive one of the same meaning | 4. E _____ |
| 5. experienced as a spectator, rather than as a participant | 5. V _____ |
| 6. acute feeling of homesickness | 6. N _____ |
| 7. light, half-teasing banter | 7. B _____ |
| 8. subsisting solely on meat | 8. C _____ |
| 9. cowlike; stolid | 9. B _____ |
| 10. secret; concealed | 10. C _____ |

KEY: 1-cacophony, 2-ephemeral, 3-penury, 4-euphemism, 5-vicarious, 6-nostalgia, 7-badinage, 8-carnivorous, 9-bovine, 10-clandestine

(End of Session 39)

SESSION 40

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. money, and what it will buy

The modern world operates largely by means of a price structure—wealth and poverty are therefore words that indicate the

possession, on the one hand, or the lack, on the other, of money. *Penury*, from Latin *penuria*, need, neediness, is dire, abject poverty, complete lack of financial resources. It is one of the two strongest English words there are to denote absence of money. The adjective form, *penurious* (pə-NYŌŌr'-ee-əs or pə-NŌŌR'-ee-əs), strangely enough, *may mean poverty-stricken*, but more commonly signifies *stingy, close-fisted, niggardly*; so sparing in the use of money as to give the appearance of *penury*.

Penurious is a synonym of *parsimonious* (pah'r-sə-MŌ'-nee-əs), but is much stronger in implication. A *parsimonious* person is stingy; a *penurious* person is twice as stingy. *Penury*, then, is poverty; *penuriousness* is stinginess, excessive frugality. The noun form of *parsimonious* is *parsimony* (PAHR'-sə-mŏ'-nee).

A somewhat milder word than *penury* for poverty (if you can imagine a mild degree of poverty) is *indigence* (IN'-də-jəns). *Indigent* (IN'-də-jənt) people are not absolutely penniless—they are simply living in reduced circumstances, forgoing many creature comforts, forced to undergo the type of hardships that may accompany a lack of sufficient funds.

On the other hand, a close synonym of *penury*, and one of equal strength, is *destitution* (des'-tə-TŌŌ'-shən). *Destitute* (DES'-tə-tŏt) people do not even have the means for mere subsistence—as such, they are perhaps on the verge of starvation. *Penury* and *destitution* are not merely straitened circumstances—they are downright desperate circumstances.

To turn now to the brighter side of the picture, the possession of money, especially in increasing amounts, is expressed by *affluence* (AF'-lŏŏ-əns). *Affluent* (AF'-lŏŏ-ənt) people, people of *affluence*, or those living in *affluent* circumstances, are more than comfortable; in addition, there is the implication that their wealth is increasing. People who live in *affluence* probably own large and costly homes, run big, new cars, belong to expensive golf or country clubs, etc.

A much stronger term is *opulence* (OP'-yə-ləns), which not only implies much greater wealth than *affluence*, but in addition suggests lavish expenditures and ostentatiously luxurious surroundings. People of *opulence* own estates; drive only outrageously expensive and specially equipped cars (Rolls-Royces, Mercedes-Benzes, Porsches, etc.); have a corps of servants, in-

cluding a major-domo; belong to golf and yacht and country clubs, etc., etc. Embroider the fantasy as much as you wish to. *Opulent* (OP'-yə-lənt) may describe people, surroundings, styles of life, or the like.

Affluent is a combination of the prefix *ad-*, to, toward (changing to *af-* before a root beginning with *f*), plus the Latin verb *fluo*, to flow—*affluence* is that delightful condition in which money keeps flowing to us, and no one ever turns off the spigot. Other words from the same root, *fluo*, to flow, are *fluid*, *influence*, *confluence* (a "flowing together"), *fluent* (the words flow smoothly), etc.

Opulent is from Latin *opulentus*, wealthy. No other English words derive from this root.

2. doing and feeling

If you watch a furious athletic event, and *you* get tired, though the athletes expend all the energy—that's *vicarious* fatigue.

If your friend goes on a bender, and as you watch him absorb one drink after another, *you* begin to feel giddy and stimulated, that's *vicarious* intoxication.

If you watch a mother in a motion picture or dramatic play suffer horribly at the death of her child, and *you* go through the same agony, that's *vicarious* torment.

You can experience an emotion, then, in two ways: firsthand, through actual participation; or *vicariously*, by becoming empathetically involved in another person's feelings.

Some people, for example, lead essentially dull and colorless lives. Through their children, through reading or attending the theater, however, they can experience all the emotions felt by others whose lives move along at a swift, exciting pace. These people live at second hand; they live *vicariously*.

3. time is relative

Elephants and turtles live almost forever; human beings in the United States have a life expectancy in general of sixty-eight to seventy-six years (though the gradual conquest of disease is con-

stantly lengthening our span);† dogs live from seven to ten years; and some insects exist for only a few hours or days.

One such short-lived creature is the dayfly, which in Greek was called *ephemera*. Hence anything so short-lived, so unenduring that it scarcely seems to outlast the day, may be called *ephemeral*.

A synonym of *ephemeral* is *evanescent* (ev-ə-NES'-ənt), fleeting, staying for a remarkably short time, vanishing. Something intangible, like a feeling, may be called *evanescent*; it's here, and before you can quite comprehend it, it's gone—vanished.

The noun is *evanescence* (ev'-ə-NES'-əns); the verb is to *evanesce* (ev-ə-NES').

Evanescence is built on the prefix *e-* (*ex-*), out, the root *vanesco*, to vanish, and the adjective suffix *-ent*.

The suffix *-esce* often, but not always, means *begin to*. *-Escent* may mean *becoming* or *beginning to*. Thus:

adolescent—beginning to grow up;
 beginning to become an adult
evanesce—begin to vanish
convalesce—begin to get well after illness
putrescent—beginning to rot;
 beginning to become putrid
obsolescent—becoming obsolete

4. an exploration of various good things

A *euphemism* is a word or expression that has been substituted for another that is likely to offend—it is built on the Greek prefix *eu-*, good, the root *pheme*, voice, and the noun suffix *-ism*. (Etymologically, “something said in a good voice!”) Adjective: *euphemistic* (yoo'-fə-MIS'-tik)

Other English words constructed from the prefix *eu-*:

1. *euphony* (YOO'-fə-nee)—good sound; pleasant lilt or rhythm (*phone*, sound)

Adjective: *euphonic* (yoo-FON'-ik) or *euphonious* (yoo-FŌ'-nee-əs)

† Latest figures, 1978, for the United States: males, 68.5 years; females, 76.4 years.

2. *eulogy* (YŌŌ'-lā-jee)—etymologically, “good speech”; a formal speech of praise, usually delivered as a funeral oration. *Logos* in this term means *word* or *speech*, as it did in *philology* (Chapter 6). *Logos* more commonly means *science* or *study*, but has the alternate meaning in *eulogy*, *philology*, *monologue*, *dialogue*, *epilogue* (words upon the other words, or “after-words”), and *prologue* (words before the main part, “before-words,” or introduction).

Adjective: *eulogistic* (yōō-lā-JIS'-tik); verb: *eulogize* (YŌŌ-lā-jīz'); person who delivers a *eulogy*: *eulogist* (YŌŌ-lā-jīst).

3. *euphoria* (yōō-FAWR'-ee-ə)—good feeling, a sense of mental buoyancy and physical well-being

Adjective: *euphoric* (yōō-FAWR'-ik)

4. *euthanasia* (yōō'-thə-NAY'-zhə)—etymologically, “good death”; method of painless death inflicted on people suffering from incurable diseases—not legal at the present time, but advocated by many people. The word derives from *eu-* plus Greek *thanatos*, death.

5. exploration of modes of expression

Badinage is a half-teasing, non-malicious, frivolous banter, intended to amuse rather than wound. *Badinage* has a close synonym, *persiflage* (PUR'-sə-flahzh'), which is a little more derisive, a trifle more indicative of contempt or mockery—but still totally unmalicious.

In line with *badinage* and *persiflage*, there are four other forms of expression you should be familiar with: *cliché* (klee-SHAY'), *bromide* (BRŌ'-mīd'), *platitude* (PLAT'-ə-tōōd), and *anodyne* (AN'-ə-dīn').

A *cliché* is a pattern of words which was once new and fresh, but which now is so old, worn, and threadbare that only banal, unimaginative speakers and writers ever use it. Examples are: *fast and furious*; *unsung heroes*; *by leaps and bounds*; *conspicuous by its absence*; *green with envy*; etc. The most devastating criticism you can make of a piece of writing is to say, “It is full of *clichés*”; the most pointed insult to a person's way of talking is, “You speak in *clichés*.”

A *bromide* is any trite, dull, and probably fallacious remark that shows little evidence of original thinking, and that therefore convinces a listener of the total absence of perspicacity on the part of the speaker.

For instance, some cautious, dull-minded individual might warn you not to take a chance in these words: "Remember it's better to be safe than sorry!"

Your sneering response might be: "Oh, that old *bromide*!"

A *platitude* is similar to a *cliché* or *bromide*, in that it is a dull, trite, hackneyed, unimaginative pattern of words—but, to add insult to injury (*cliché*), the speaker uses it with an air of novelty—as if he just made it up, and isn't he the brilliant fellow!

An *anodyne*, in the medical sense, is a drug that allays pain without curing an illness, like aspirin or morphine. Figuratively, an *anodyne* is a statement made to allay someone's fears or anxieties, not believed by the speaker, but intended to be believed by the listener. "Prosperity is just around the corner" was a popular *anodyne* of the 1930s.

A *bromide* is also a drug, formerly used as a sedative. Sedatives dull the senses—the statement labeled a *bromide* comes from a speaker of dull wit and has a sedative effect on the listener. The adjective is *bromidic* (brō-MID'-ik), as in "his *bromidic* way of expressing himself."

Platitude derives from Greek *platys*, broad or flat, plus the noun suffix *-tude*. Words like *plateau* (flat land), *plate* and *platter* (flat dishes), and *platypus* (flat foot) all derive from the same root as *platitude*, a flat statement, i.e., one that falls flat, despite the speaker's high hopes for it. The adjective is *platitudinous* (plat'-ə-TOO-də-nəs), as in, "What a *platitudinous* remark."

Anodyne is a combination of the negative prefix *an-* with Greek *odyne*, pain. *Anodynes*, as drugs, lessen pain; as statements, they are intended to reduce or eliminate emotional pain or anxiety.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING	ENGLISH WORD
1. <i>penuria</i>	need, neediness	_____
2. <i>ad-</i> (<i>af-</i>)	to, toward	_____
3. <i>fluo</i>	to flow	_____

4. <i>opulentus</i>	wealthy	_____
5. <i>ephemera</i>	dayfly	_____
6. <i>e-, ex-</i>	out	_____
7. <i>vanesco</i>	to vanish	_____
8. <i>-esce</i>	begin to	_____
9. <i>-ent</i>	adjective suffix	_____
10. <i>-ence</i>	noun suffix	_____
11. <i>eu-</i>	good	_____
12. <i>pheme</i>	voice	_____
13. <i>-ism</i>	noun suffix	_____
14. <i>phone</i>	sound	_____
15. <i>-ic</i>	adjective suffix	_____
16. <i>-ous</i>	adjective suffix	_____
17. <i>logos</i>	word, speech	_____
18. <i>-ize</i>	verb suffix	_____
19. <i>thanatos</i>	death	_____
20. <i>platys</i>	broad or flat	_____
21. <i>an-</i>	negative prefix	_____
22. <i>odyne</i>	pain	_____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

1. <i>penurious</i>	pə-NYŪŪ'-ee-əs <i>or</i>
2. <i>penuriousness</i>	pə-NYŪŪR'-ee-əs-nəs <i>or</i>
	pə-NŪŪR'-ee-əs-nəs
3. <i>parsimonious</i>	pahr'-sə-MŌ'-nee-əs
4. <i>parsimony</i>	PAHR'-sə-mŏ'-nee
5. <i>indigence</i>	IN'-də-jəns
6. <i>indigent</i>	IN'-də-jənt
7. <i>destitution</i>	des'-tə-TŌŌ'-shən
8. <i>destitute</i>	DES'-tə-tŏt
9. <i>affluence</i>	AF'-lŏŏ-əns
10. <i>affluent</i>	AF'-lŏŏ-ənt
11. <i>opulence</i>	OP'-yə-ləns
12. <i>opulent</i>	OP'-yə-lənt

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>evanescent</i> | ev'-ə-NES'-ənt |
| 2. <i>evanescence</i> | ev'-ə-NES'-əns |
| 3. <i>evanesce</i> | ev'-ə-NES' |
| 4. <i>euphemistic</i> | yōō-fə-MIS'-tik |
| 5. <i>euphony</i> | YOO'-fə-nee |
| 6. <i>euphonic</i> | yōō-FON'-ik |
| 7. <i>euphonious</i> | yōō-FŌ'-nee-əs |
| 8. <i>eulogy</i> | YOO'-lə-jee |
| 9. <i>eulogistic</i> | yōō'-lə-JIS'-tik |
| 10. <i>eulogize</i> | YŌŌ'-lə-jīz' |

Can you pronounce the words? (III)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>euphoria</i> | yōō-FAWR'-ee-ə |
| 2. <i>euphoric</i> | yōō-FAWR'-ik |
| 3. <i>euthanasia</i> | yōō'-thə-NAY'-zha |
| 4. <i>persiflage</i> | PUR'-sə-flahzh' |
| 5. <i>cliché</i> | klee-SHAY' |
| 6. <i>bromide</i> | BRŌ'-mīd' |
| 7. <i>bromidic</i> | brō-MID'-ik |
| 8. <i>platitude</i> | PLAT'-ə-tōōd |
| 9. <i>platitudinous</i> | plat'-ə-TOO'-də-nəs |
| 10. <i>anodyne</i> | AN'-ə-dīn' |

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. penurious | a. poor; of limited means |
| 2. indigent | b. inoffensive |
| 3. affluent | c. flat, trite |
| 4. evanescent | d. feeling tiptop |
| 5. euphemistic | e. wealthy |
| 6. euphonious | f. pleasant in sound |
| 7. euphoric | g. stingy; tight-fisted |
| 8. platitudinous | h. fleeting |

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

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. parsimony | a. lavish luxury |
| 2. destitution | b. painless death |
| 3. opulence | c. pleasant sound |
| 4. evanescence | d. trite remark |
| 5. euphony | e. impermanence |
| 6. euphoria | f. feeling of well-being |
| 7. euthanasia | g. stinginess |
| 8. platitude | h. poverty |

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

Can you work with the words? (III)

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. anodyne | a. light, teasing banter |
| 2. bromide | b. tightfistedness |
| 3. persiflage | c. statement intended to allay anxiety |
| 4. eulogy | d. poverty, want |
| 5. penuriousness | e. high, formal praise |
| 6. indigence | f. wealth |
| 7. affluence | g. trite statement |

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

Can you work with the words? (IV)

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. parsimonious | a. begin to vanish |
| 2. destitute | b. stingy, frugal |
| 3. opulent | c. highly praising |
| 4. vicarious | d. hackneyed phrase |
| 5. euphonic | e. ostentatiously wealthy |
| 6. eulogistic | f. stilted in expression |
| 7. evanesce | g. pleasant-sounding |
| 8. eulogize | h. in want |

9. bromidic

i. secondhand

10. cliché

j. praise

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

Do you understand the words? (I)

1. Do <i>penurious</i> people satisfy their extravagant desires?	YES	NO
2. Is <i>penuriousness</i> the characteristic of a miser?	YES	NO
3. If you are <i>parsimonious</i> with praise, do you lavish it on others?	YES	NO
4. Are people with extremely low incomes forced to live a life of <i>parsimony</i> ?	YES	NO
5. Is <i>indigence</i> a sign of wealth?	YES	NO
6. Are <i>indigent</i> people often aided by state welfare?	YES	NO
7. If you live in a state of <i>destitution</i> , do you have all the money you need?	YES	NO
8. Is a completely <i>destitute</i> person likely to have to live in want?	YES	NO
9. Does a person of <i>affluence</i> generally have petty money worries?	YES	NO
10. Are <i>opulent</i> surroundings indicative of great wealth?	YES	NO

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

Do you understand the words? (II)

1. Can you engage in <i>vicarious</i> exploits by reading spy novels?	YES	NO
2. Does an <i>evanescent</i> feeling remain for a considerable time?	YES	NO

3. Do parents generally indulge in <i>euphemisms</i> in front of young children?	YES	NO
4. Is poetry generally <i>euphonious</i> ?	YES	NO
5. Does a sincere <i>eulogy</i> indicate one's feeling of admiration?	YES	NO
6. Is <i>euphoria</i> a feeling of malaise?	YES	NO
7. Is <i>euthanasia</i> practiced on animals?	YES	NO
8. Is <i>persiflage</i> an indication of seriousness?	YES	NO
9. Does a liberal use of <i>clichés</i> show original thinking?	YES	NO
10. Is an <i>anodyne</i> intended to relieve fears?	YES	NO

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

Do you understand the words? (III)

1. Is a <i>platitude</i> flat and dull?	YES	NO
2. If a person uses <i>bromides</i> , is he likely to be an interesting conversationalist?	YES	NO
3. If you indulge in <i>persiflage</i> , are you being facetious?	YES	NO
4. Are the works of Beethoven considered <i>euphonious</i> ?	YES	NO
5. Can parents receive a <i>vicarious</i> thrill from their children's triumphs?	YES	NO

KEY: 1—yes, 2—no, 3—yes, 4—yes, 5—yes

Can you recall the words?

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. a statement, usually untrue,
meant to alleviate fear | 1. A _____ |
| 2. light banter | 2. P _____ |
| 3. a hackneyed phrase | 3. C _____ |

time (<i>adj.</i>)	
5. laudatory—delivered in tones of formal praise (<i>adj.</i>)	5. E _____
6. process of painlessly putting to death a victim of an incurable disease	6. E _____
7. stingy (<i>adj.</i>)	7. P _____ or P _____
8. in want (<i>adj.</i>)	8. D _____
9. wealth	9. A _____
10. immense wealth	10. O _____
11. adverb describing the manner of responding empathetically to another's acts	11. V _____
12. stinginess (<i>noun</i>)	12. P _____ or P _____
13–14. poverty	13. I _____ 14. D _____
15. impermanence	15. E _____
16. pleasing sound	16. E _____
17. substituting inoffensive words (<i>adj.</i>)	17. E _____
18. sense of well-being	18. E _____
19. trite remark	19. B _____
20. banal remark	20. P _____
21. begin to vanish (<i>v.</i>)	21. E _____
22. poverty-stricken (<i>adj.</i>)	22. I _____
23–24. wealthy (two <i>adjs.</i>)	23. A _____ 24. O _____
25. feeling tiptop (<i>adj.</i>)	25. E _____
26. pleasant in sound (<i>adj.</i>)	26. E _____ or E _____
27. formal praise	27. E _____
28. trite (<i>adj.</i>)	28. B _____
29. flat, dull (<i>adj.</i>)	29. P _____
30. to praise	30. E _____

KEY: 1—anodyne, 2—persiflage, 3—cliché, 4—evanescent, 5—eulogistic, 6—euthanasia, 7—parsimonious or penurious,

12—parsimony *or* penuriousness, 13—indigence, 14—destitution, 15—evanescence, 16—euphony, 17—euphemistic, 18—euphoria, 19—bromide, 20—platitude, 21—evanesce, 22—indigent, 23—affluent, 24—opulent, 25—euphoric, 26—euphonic *or* euphonious, 27—eulogy, 28—bromidic, 29—platitudinous, 30—eulogize

(End of Session 40)

SESSION 41

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. people are the craziest animals

Bovine, placid like a cow, stolid, patient, unexcitable, is built on the Latin word for *ox* or *cow*, *bovis*, plus the suffix *-ine*, like, similar to, or characteristic of. To call someone *bovine* is of course far from complimentary, for this adjective is considerably stronger than *phlegmatic*, and implies a certain mild contempt on the part of the speaker. A *bovine* person is somewhat like a vegetable: eats and grows and lives, but apparently is lacking in any strong feelings.

Humans are sometimes compared to animals, as in the following adjectives:

1. *leonine* (LEE'-ə-nīn')—like a lion in appearance or temperament.

2. *canine* (KAY'-nīn')—like a dog. As a noun, the word refers to the species to which dogs belong. Our *canine* teeth are similar to those of a dog.

3. *feline* (FEE'-līn')—catlike. We may speak of *feline* grace; or (insultingly) of *feline* temperament when we mean that a person is "catty."

4. *porcine* (PAWR'-sīn')—piglike.

5. *vulpine* (VUL'-pīn')—foxlike in appearance or temperament. When applied to people, this adjective usually indicates the shrewdness of a fox.

6. *ursine* (UR'-sīn')—bearlike.

7. *lupine* (LOO'-pīn')—wolflike.

8. *equine* (EE'-kwīn')—horselike; "horsy."

9. *piscine* (PIS'-īn')—fishlike.

All these adjectives come from the corresponding Latin words for the animals; and, of course, each adjective also describes, or refers to, the specific animal as well as to the person likened to the animal.

1. <i>leo</i>	lion
2. <i>canis</i>	dog
3. <i>felis</i>	cat
4. <i>porcus</i>	pig
5. <i>vulpus</i>	fox
6. <i>ursus</i>	bear
7. <i>lupus</i>	wolf
8. <i>equus</i>	horse
9. <i>piscis</i>	fish

The word for meat from a pig—*pork*—derives, obviously, from *porcus*. *Ursa Major* and *Ursa Minor*, the *Great Bear* and the *Little Bear*, the two conspicuous groups of stars in the northern sky (conspicuous, of course, only on a clear night), are so labeled because in formation they resemble the outlines of bears. The feminine name *Ursula* is, by etymology, "a little bear," which, perhaps, is a strange name to burden a child with. The skin disease *lupus* was so named because it eats into the flesh, as a wolf might.

2. you can't go home again

Nostalgia, built on two Greek roots, *nostos*, a return, and *algos*, pain (as in *neuralgia*, *cardialgia*, etc.), is a feeling you can't ever

understand until you've experienced it—and you have probably experienced it whenever some external stimulus has crowded your mind with scenes from an earlier day.

You know how life often seems much pleasanter in retrospect? Your conscious memory tends to store up the pleasant experiences of the past (the trauma and unpleasant experiences may get buried in the unconscious), and when you are lonely or unhappy you may begin to relive these pleasant occurrences. It is then that you feel the emotional pain and longing that we call *nostalgia*.

The adjective is *nostalgic* (nos-TAL'-jik), as in "motion pictures that are *nostalgic* of the fifties," or as in, "He feels *nostalgic* whenever he passes 138th Street and sees the house in which he grew up."

3. soundings

Cacophony is itself a harsh-sounding word—and is the only one that exactly describes the unmusical, grating, ear-offending noises you are likely to hear in man-made surroundings: the New York subway trains thundering through their tunnels (they are also, these days in the late 1970s, eye-offending, for which we might coin the term *cacopsis*, noun, and *cacoptic*, adjective), the traffic bedlam of rush hours in a big city, a steel mill, an automobile factory, a blast furnace, etc. Adjective: *cacophonous* (kə-KOF'-ə-nəs).

These words are built on the Greek roots *kakos*, bad, harsh, or ugly, and *phone*, sound.

Phone, sound, is found also in:

1. *telephone*—etymologically, "sound from afar"
2. *euphony*—pleasant sound
3. *phonograph*—etymologically, "writer of sound"
4. *saxophone*—a musical instrument (hence *sound*) invented by Adolphe Sax
5. *xylophone*—a musical instrument; etymologically, "sounds through wood" (Greek *xylon*, wood)
6. *phonetics* (fə-NET'-iks)—the science of the sounds of language; the adjective is *phonetic* (fə-NET'-ik), the expert a *phonetician* (fō'-nə-TISH'-ən)

7. *phonics*—the science of sound; also the method of teaching reading by drilling the sounds of letters and syllables

4. the flesh and all

Carnivorous combines *carnis*, flesh, and *voro*, to devour. A *carnivorous* animal, or *carnivore* (KAHR'-nə-vawr'), is one whose main diet is meat.

Voro, to devour, is the origin of other words referring to eating habits:

1. *herbivorous* (hur-BIV'-ər-əs)—subsisting on grains, grasses, and other vegetation, as cows, deer, horses, etc. The animal is a *herbivore* (HUR'-bə-vawr'). Derivation: Latin *herba*, herb, plus *voro*, to devour

2. *omnivorous* (om-NIV'-ər-əs)—eating everything: meat, grains, grasses, fish, insects, and anything else digestible. The only species so indiscriminate in their diet are humans and rats, plus, of course, some cats and dogs that live with people (in contrast to *felines* and *canines*—lions, tigers, bobcats, wolves, etc.—that are not domesticated). *Omnivorous* (combining Latin *omnis*, all, with *voro*, plus the adjective suffix *-ous*) refers not only to food. An *omnivorous* reader reads everything in great quantities (that is, devours *all* kinds of reading matter).

3. *voracious* (vaw-RAY'-shəs)—*devouring*; hence, greedy or gluttonous; may refer either to food or to any other habits. One may be a *voracious* eater, *voracious* reader, *voracious* in one's pursuit of money, pleasure, etc. Think of the two noun forms of *loquacious*. Can you write two nouns derived from *voracious*?
(1) _____, (2) _____.

5. "allness"

Latin *omnis*, all, is the origin of:

1. *omnipotent* (om-NIP'-ə-tənt)—all-powerful, an adjective usually applied to God; also, to any ruler whose governing powers are unlimited, which allows for some exaggeration, as King Canute the Great proved to his sycophantic courtiers when he or-

dered the tide to come so far up the beach and no further. He got soaking wet! (*Omnis* plus Latin *potens*, *potentis*, powerful, as in *potentate*, a powerful ruler; *impotent* (IM'-pə-tənt), powerless; *potent*, powerful; and *potential*, possessing power or ability not yet exercised). Can you write the noun form of *omnipotent*?

2. *omniscient* (om-NISH'-ənt)—all-knowing: hence, infinitely wise. (*Omnis* plus *sciens*, knowing.) We have discussed this adjective in a previous chapter, so you will have no problem writing the noun: _____.

3. *omnipresent* (om'-nə-PREZ'-ənt)—present in all places at once. Fear was *omnipresent* in Europe during 1939 just before World War II. A synonym of *omnipresent* is *ubiquitous* (yōō-BIK'-wə-təs), from Latin *ubique*, everywhere. The *ubiquitous* ice cream vendor seems to be *everywhere* at the same time, tinkling those little bells, once spring arrives. The *ubiquitous* little red wagon rides around *everywhere* in airports to refuel departing planes. "*Ubiquitous* laughter greeted the press secretary's remark," i.e., laughter was heard *everywhere* in the room. The noun forms are *ubiquity* (yōō-BIK'-wə-tee) or _____. (Can you think of the alternate form?)

4. *omnibus* (OM'-nə-bəs)—etymologically, "for all, including all." In the shortened form *bus* we have a public vehicle for *all* who can pay; in a John Galsworthy *omnibus* we have a book containing *all* of Galsworthy's works; in an *omnibus* legislative bill we have a bill containing *all* the miscellaneous provisions and appropriations left out of other bills.

6. more flesh

Note how *carnis*, flesh, is the building block of:

1. *carnelian* (kahr-NEEL'-yən)—a reddish color, the color of red *flesh*.

2. *carnival* (KAHR'-nə-vəl)—originally the season of merry-making just before Lent, when people took a last fling before saying "*Carne vale!*" "Oh *flesh*, farewell!" (Latin *vale*, farewell, goodbye). Today a *carnival* is a kind of outdoor entertainment

with games, rides, side shows, and, of course, lots of food—also any exuberant or riotous merrymaking or festivities.

3. *carnal* (KAHR'-nəl)—most often found in phrases like “*carnal* pleasures” or “*carnal* appetites,” and signifying pleasures or appetites of the *flesh* rather than of the spirit—hence, sensual, lecherous, lascivious, lubricious, etc. The noun is *carnality* (kahr-NAL'-ə-tee).

4. *carnage* (KAHR'-nəj)—great destruction of life (that is, of human *flesh*), as in war or mass murders.

5. *reincarnation* (ree'-in-kahr-NAY'-shən)—a rebirth or reappearance. Believers in *reincarnation* maintain that one's soul persists after it has fled the *flesh*, and eventually reappears in the body of a newborn infant or animal, or in another form. Some of us, according to this interesting philosophy, were once Napoleon, Alexander the Great, Cleopatra, etc. The verb is to *reincarnate* (ree-in-KAHR'-nayt), to bring (a soul) back in another bodily form.

6. *incarnate* (in-KAHR'-nət)—in the *flesh*. If we use this adjective to call someone “the devil *incarnate*,” we mean that here is the devil in the *flesh*. Or we may say that someone is evil *incarnate*, that is, the personification of evil, evil invested with human or bodily form. The verb to *incarnate* (in-KAHR'-nayt) is to embody, give bodily form to, or make real.

7. dark secrets

Clandestine comes from Latin *clam*, secretly, and implies secrecy or concealment in the working out of a plan that is dangerous or illegal. *Clandestine* is a close synonym of *surreptitious* (sur'-əp-TISH'-əs), which means *stealthy*, *sneaky*, *furtive*, generally because of fear of detection.

The two words cannot always, however, be used interchangeably. We may speak of either *clandestine* or *surreptitious* meetings or arrangements; but usually only of *clandestine* plans and only of *surreptitious* movements or actions. Can you write the noun form of *surreptitious*? _____.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING	ENGLISH WORD
1. <i>-ine</i>	like, similar to, characteristic of	_____
2. <i>leo</i>	lion	_____
3. <i>felis</i>	cat	_____
4. <i>porcus</i>	pig	_____
5. <i>canis</i>	dog	_____
6. <i>vulpus</i>	fox	_____
7. <i>ursus</i>	bear	_____
8. <i>lupus</i>	wolf	_____
9. <i>equus</i>	horse	_____
10. <i>piscis</i>	fish	_____
11. <i>nostos</i>	a return	_____
12. <i>algos</i>	pain	_____
13. <i>-ic</i>	adjective suffix	_____
14. <i>kakos</i>	bad, harsh, ugly	_____
15. <i>phone</i>	sound	_____
16. <i>xylon</i>	wood	_____
17. <i>carnis</i>	flesh	_____
18. <i>voro</i>	to devour	_____
19. <i>herba</i>	herb	_____
20. <i>omnis</i>	all	_____
21. <i>-ous</i>	adjective suffix	_____
22. <i>potens, potentis</i>	powerful	_____
23. <i>sciens</i>	knowing	_____
24. <i>ubique</i>	everywhere	_____
25. <i>-ity</i>	noun suffix	_____
26. <i>vale</i>	farewell	_____
27. <i>-al</i>	adjective suffix	_____
28. <i>re-</i>	again, back	_____
29. <i>-ate</i>	verb suffix	_____
30. <i>in-</i>	in	_____

31. <i>clam</i>	secretly	_____
32. <i>-ent</i>	adjective suffix	_____
33. <i>-ence</i>	noun suffix	_____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

1. <i>leonine</i>	LEE'-ə-nīn'
2. <i>canine</i>	KAY'-nīn'
3. <i>feline</i>	FEE'-līn'
4. <i>porcine</i>	PAWR'-sīn'
5. <i>vulpine</i>	VUL'-pīn'
6. <i>ursine</i>	UR'-sīn'
7. <i>lupine</i>	LŌŌ'-pīn'
8. <i>equine</i>	EE'-kwīn'
9. <i>piscine</i>	PIS'-īn'
10. <i>nostalgic</i>	nos-TAL'-jik

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>cacophonous</i>	kə-KOF'-ə-nəs
2. <i>phonetics</i>	fə-NET'-iks
3. <i>phonetic</i>	fə-NET'-ik
4. <i>phonetician</i>	fō-nə-TISH'-ən
5. <i>carnivore</i>	KAHR'-nə-vawr'
6. <i>herbivore</i>	HUR'-bə-vawr'
7. <i>herbivorous</i>	hur-BIV'-ər-əs
8. <i>omnivororous</i>	om-NIV'-ər-əs
9. <i>voracious</i>	vaw-RAY'-shəs
10. <i>voracity</i>	vaw-RAS'-ə-tee
11. <i>omnipotent</i>	om-NIP'-ə-tənt
12. <i>impotent</i>	IM'-pə-tənt
13. <i>impotence</i>	IM'-pə-təns
14. <i>omnipotence</i>	om-NIP'-ə-təns

Can you pronounce the words? (III)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>omniscient</i> | om-NISH'-ənt |
| 2. <i>omniscience</i> | om-NISH'-əns |
| 3. <i>omnipresent</i> | om'-nə-PREZ'-ənt |
| 4. <i>omnipresence</i> | om'-nə-PREZ'-əns |
| 5. <i>ubiquitous</i> | yōō-BIK'-wə-təs |
| 6. <i>ubiquity</i> | yōō-BIK'-wə-tee |
| 7. <i>ubiquitousness</i> | yōō-BIK'-wə-təs-nəs |
| 8. <i>omnibus</i> | OM'-nə-bəs |

Can you pronounce the words? (IV)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <i>carnelian</i> | kahr-NEEL'-yən |
| 2. <i>carnal</i> | KAHR'-nəl |
| 3. <i>carnality</i> | kahr-NAL'-ə-tee |
| 4. <i>carnage</i> | KAHR'-nəj |
| 5. <i>reincarnation</i> | ree'-in-kahr-NAY'-shən |
| 6. <i>reincarnate</i> (v.) | ree'-in-KAHR'-nayt |
| 7. <i>incarnate</i> (adj.) | in-KAHR'-nət |
| 8. <i>incarnate</i> (v.) | in-KAHR'-nayt |
| 9. <i>surreptitious</i> | sur'-əp-TISH'-əs |
| 10. <i>surreptitiousness</i> | sur'-əp-TISH'-əs-nəs |

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. leonine | a. doglike |
| 2. canine | b. greedy, devouring |
| 3. feline | c. foxlike |
| 4. porcine | d. all-powerful |
| 5. vulpine | e. stealthy, clandestine |
| 6. ursine | f. lionlike |
| 7. voracious | g. all-knowing |
| 8. omnipotent | h. bearlike |
| 9. omniscient | i. catlike |
| 10. surreptitious | j. piglike |

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

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. nostalgic | a. harsh-sounding |
| 2. cacophonous | b. eating everything |
| 3. herbivorous | c. lewd, lecherous, lubricious |
| 4. omnivorous | d. found everywhere |
| 5. ubiquitous | e. homesick |
| 6. carnal | f. grass-eating |
| 7. incarnate | g. in the flesh |

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

Can you work with the words? (III)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. phonetics | a. universality |
| 2. carnivore | b. a color |
| 3. voracity | c. infinite power |
| 4. omnipotence | d. furtiveness; stealth; sneakiness |
| 5. omniscience | e. lechery, lasciviousness, lubricity |
| 6. omnipresence | f. infinite wisdom |
| 7. omnibus | g. science of speech sounds |
| 8. carnelian | h. slaughter |
| 9. carnality | i. a collection of all things |
| 10. carnage | j. greediness |
| 11. surreptitiousness | k. meat-eater |
| 12. reincarnation | l. a return to life in a new body or form |

KEY: 1-g, 2-k, 3-j, 4-c, 5-f, 6-a, 7-i, 8-b, 9-e, 10-h, 11-d, 12-l

Can you work with the words? (IV)

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. lupine | a. fishlike |
| 2. equine | b. powerless |
| 3. piscine | c. wolflike |
| 4. phonetician | d. bring back into a new body or form |
| 5. impotent | e. occurrence, or existence, everywhere |
| 6. ubiquity | f. horselike |
| 7. reincarnate (v.) | g. expert in speech sounds |
| 8. incarnate (v.) | h. embody; make real; put into bodily form |

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

Do you understand the words? (I)

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. A person of <i>leonine</i> appearance looks like a tiger. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. <i>Canine</i> habits refers to the habits of dogs. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. <i>Feline</i> grace means catlike grace. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. <i>Porcine</i> appearance means wolflike appearance. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. <i>Vulpine</i> craftiness means foxlike craftiness. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6. <i>Ursine</i> means bearlike. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 7. <i>Nostalgic</i> feelings refer to a longing for past experiences. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 8. <i>Cacophonous</i> music is pleasant and sweet. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 9. An elephant is a <i>carnivore</i> . | TRUE | FALSE |
| 10. Deer are <i>herbivorous</i> . | TRUE | FALSE |

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

Do you understand the words? (II)

1. An <i>omnivorous</i> reader does very little reading.	TRUE	FALSE
2. A <i>voracious</i> eater is gluttonous.	TRUE	FALSE
3. True <i>omnipotence</i> is unattainable by human beings.	TRUE	FALSE
4. No one is <i>omniscient</i> .	TRUE	FALSE
5. Fear of economic ruin was practically <i>omnipresent</i> in the early nineteen-thirties.	TRUE	FALSE
6. When an airplane lands for refueling, the <i>ubiquitous</i> little red gasoline wagon comes rolling up.	TRUE	FALSE
7. An author's <i>omnibus</i> contains all his published writings.	TRUE	FALSE
8. <i>Carnelian</i> is a deep blue color.	TRUE	FALSE
9. <i>Carnality</i> is much respected in a puritanical society.	TRUE	FALSE
10. There is considerable <i>carnage</i> in war.	TRUE	FALSE
11. A <i>surreptitious</i> glance is meant to be conspicuous.	TRUE	FALSE
12. A person who is evil <i>incarnate</i> is a vicious character.	TRUE	FALSE

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

Can you recall the words?

I—adverbs

1-2. secretly (two forms)

1. C _____

2. S _____

3. in a harsh and noisy manner

3. C _____

4. in a homesick manner
5. in a greedy, devouring manner

4. N _____
5. V _____

KEY: 1—clandestinely, 2—surreptitiously, 3—cacophonously, 4—nostalgically, 5—voraciously

II—nouns

1. greediness
2. unlimited power
3. infinite knowledge
4. a gathering of all things
5. lechery; indulgence in fleshly pleasures
6. slaughter
7. stealthiness; secretiveness
8. harsh sound
9. science of speech sounds
10. a return to life in new form

1. V _____
2. O _____
3. O _____
4. O _____
5. C _____
6. C _____
7. S _____
8. C _____
9. P _____
10. R _____

KEY: 1—voracity, 2—omnipotence, 3—omniscience, 4—omnibus, 5—carnality, 6—carnage, 7—surreptitiousness, 8—cacophony, 9—phonetics, 10—reincarnation

III—adjectives

1. lionlike
2. doglike
3. catlike
4. cowlike
5. foxlike
6. bearlike
7. homesick
8. grating in sound
9. meat-eating
10. grass-eating

1. L _____
2. C _____
3. F _____
4. B _____
5. V _____
6. U _____
7. N _____
8. C _____
9. C _____
10. H _____

11. all-eating; indiscriminate
12. devouring; greedy
13. in the flesh

11. O _____
12. V _____
13. I _____

KEY: 1-leonine, 2-canine, 3-feline, 4-bovine, 5-vulpine, 6-ursine, 7-nostalgic, 8-cacophonous, 9-carnivorous, 10-herbivorous, 11-omnivorous, 12-voracious, 13-incarnate

IV. more adjectives

1. all-powerful
2. all-knowing
3. present or existing everywhere
4. found everywhere
5. lewd, lascivious, lecherous
6. secret

1. O _____
2. O _____
3. O _____
4. U _____
5. C _____
6. C _____

KEY: 1-omnipotent, 2-omniscient, 3-omnipresent, 4-ubiquitous, 5-carnal, 6-clandestine

V. final mop-up

1. wolflike
2. horselike
3. fishlike
4. referring to speech sounds
5. expert in speech sounds
6. powerless
- 7-8. existence everywhere

1. L _____
2. E _____
3. P _____
4. P _____
5. P _____
6. I _____
7. U _____
- or U _____
8. O _____
9. R _____

9. to bring back into another body or form

10. to embody, make real, or put
into bodily form

10. I _____

KEY: 1-lupine, 2-equine, 3-piscine, 4-phonetic, 5-phonetician,
6-impotent, 7-ubiquity or ubiquitousness, 8-omni-
presence, 9-reincarnate, 10-incarnate

CHAPTER REVIEW

A. Do you recognize the words?

1. Utter want:
(a) affluence, (b) opulence, (c) penury
2. Experienced secondhand:
(a) ephemeral, (b) vicarious, (c) evanescent
3. Inoffensive circumlocution:
(a) badinage, (b) persiflage, (c) euphemism
4. Homesick:
(a) nostalgic, (b) bromide, (c) clandestine
5. Meat-eating:
(a) herbivorous, (b) voracious, (c) carnivorous
6. Stingy:
(a) indigent, (b) parsimonious, (c) opulent
7. Extreme financial need:
(a) destitution, (b) affluence, (c) parsimony
8. Great and increasing wealth:
(a) penuriousness, (b) affluence, (c) omnipresence
9. Remaining for a short time:
(a) euphemistic, (b) evanescent, (c) eulogistic
10. Sweet-sounding:
(a) euphonious, (b) cacophonous, (c) euphoric
11. Praise glowingly:
(a) evanesce, (b) eulogize, (c) reincarnate
12. Sense of physical well-being:
(a) euthanasia, (b) euphoria, (c) persiflage

13. Hackneyed expression:
(a) anodyne, (b) badinage, (c) cliché
14. catlike:
(a) leonine, (b) feline, (c) canine
15. Bearlike:
(a) vulpine, (b) ursine, (c) porcine
16. All-knowing:
(a) omnipotent, (b) omniscient, (c) omnipresent
17. Found everywhere:
(a) ubiquitous, (b) omnivorous, (c) omnibus
18. Destruction:
(a) carnage, (b) carnality, (c) reincarnation
19. Stealthy:
(a) voracious, (b) surreptitious, (c) incarnate

KEY: 1-c, 2-b, 3-c, 4-a, 5-c, 6-b, 7-a, 8-b, 9-b, 10-a, 11-b, 12-b, 13-c, 14-b, 15-b, 16-b, 17-a, 18-a, 19-b

B. Can you recognize roots?

ROOT	MEANING	EXAMPLE
1. <i>penuria</i>	_____	penury
2. <i>fluo</i>	_____	affluent
3. <i>opulentus</i>	_____	wealthy
4. <i>ephemera</i>	_____	ephemeral
5. <i>vanesco</i>	_____	evanescent
6. <i>pheme</i>	_____	euphemism
7. <i>phone</i>	_____	phonetics
8. <i>logos</i>	_____	eulogy
9. <i>thanatos</i>	_____	euthanasia
10. <i>platys</i>	_____	platitude, platypus
11. <i>odyne</i>	_____	anodyne
12. <i>leo</i>	_____	leonine
13. <i>felis</i>	_____	feline
14. <i>porcus</i>	_____	porcine
15. <i>canis</i>	_____	canine
16. <i>vulpus</i>	_____	vulpine

17. <i>lupus</i>	_____	lupine
18. <i>equus</i>	_____	equine
19. <i>piscis</i>	_____	piscine
20. <i>nostos</i>	_____	nostalgia
21. <i>algos</i>	_____	nostalgic
22. <i>kakos</i>	_____	cacophonous
23. <i>xylon</i>	_____	xylophone
24. <i>carnis</i>	_____	carnivorous
25. <i>voro</i>	_____	omnivorous
26. <i>herba</i>	_____	herbivorous
27. <i>omnis</i>	_____	omnipotent
28. <i>potens, potentis</i>	_____	impotent
29. <i>sciens</i>	_____	omniscience
30. <i>ubique</i>	_____	ubiquitous
31. <i>vale!</i>	_____	carnival
32. <i>clam</i>	_____	clandestine

KEY: 1—want, neediness, 2—to flow, 3—wealthy, 4—dayfly, 5—to vanish, 6—voice, 7—sound, 8—word, speech, 9—death, 10—flat, broad, 11—pain, 12—lion, 13—cat, 14—pig, 15—dog, 16—fox, 17—wolf, 18—horse, 19—fish, 20—a return, 21—pain, 22—bad, harsh, ugly, 23—wood, 24—flesh, 25—to devour, 26—herb, 27—all, 28—powerful, 29—knowing, 30—everywhere, 31—farewell!, 32—secretly

TEASER QUESTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR ETYMOLOGIST

1. American poet William Cullen Bryant wrote a poem in 1811 called *Thanatopsis*. You are familiar with both roots in the word. Can you figure out the meaning? _____

2. If you wanted to coin a word for the study or science of death and dying, what would you come up with? _____

3. *Pheme*, as you know from *euphemism*, means *voice*. This root derives from a Greek verb *phanai*, to speak, which, as it trav-

eled through Latin, Old French, and Middle English, finally took on the spelling *phet-*, *phec-*, or *phes-*. And you recall that the Greek prefix *pro-* means *beforehand* or *ahead* (as in *prognosis*, *prologue*, etc.). Can you now combine elements to form a word meaning:

(a) to say beforehand; to foretell (an occurrence before it actually happens)? _____.

(b) the foretelling of such an occurrence? _____.

(c) the person who foretells? _____.

4. Can you combine a *Latin* prefix and root to form words of the same meaning?

(a) to foretell: _____.

(b) the act of foretelling: _____.

5. An eminent psychoanalyst, Richard Karpe of Connecticut, has coined the term *nostopathy* (nos-TOP'-ə-thee) for an emotional disorder he diagnosed among a number of his patients who were returning veterans of World War II and of the Korean and Vietnam wars. You know both roots in the word. Can you figure out the meaning? _____

_____.

6. Coin a word that means:

(a) the killing of foxes: _____.

(b) the killing of wolves: _____.

(c) the killing of lions, tigers, and other cats: _____.

(d) the killing of bears: _____.

7. Figure out an adjective that means:

(a) fish-eating: _____.

(b) insect-eating: _____.

8. Have you ever wondered whether the Canary Islands were named after the Latin root *canis*, dog? They were. Large, wild dogs inhabited the area. Pretty songbirds also abounded there. What were these birds called? _____.

9. A new verb was coined some years ago, based on the Latin root *potens*, *potentis*, meaning (of a drug) *to make more effective*.

or powerful, to augment the effect of another drug. Can you figure out what this verb would be? _____

(Answers in Chapter 18)

GETTING USED TO NEW WORDS

Reference has been made, in previous chapters, to the intimate relationship between reading and vocabulary building. Good books and the better magazines will not only acquaint you with a host of new ideas (and, therefore, new words, since every word is the verbalization of an idea), but also will help you gain a more complete and a richer understanding of the hundreds of words you are learning through your work in this book. If you have been doing a sufficient amount of stimulating reading—and that means, at minimum, several magazines a week and at least three books of non-fiction a month—you have been meeting, constantly, over and over again, the new words you have been learning in these pages. Every such encounter is like seeing an old friend in a new place. You know how much better you understand your friends when you have a chance to see them react to new situations; similarly, you will gain a much deeper understanding of the friends you have been making among words as you see them in different contexts and in different places.

My recommendations in the past have been of non-fiction titles, but novels too are a rich source of additions to your vocabulary—provided you stay alert to the new words you will inevitably meet in reading novels.

The natural temptation, when you encounter a brand-new word in a novel, is to ignore it—the lines of the plot are perfectly clear even if many of the author's words are not.

I want to counsel strongly that you resist the temptation to ignore the unfamiliar words you may meet in your novel reading: resist it with every ounce of your energy, for only by such resistance can you keep building your vocabulary as you read.

What should you do? Don't rush to a dictionary, don't bother underlining the word, don't keep long lists of words that you will eventually look up *en masse*—these activities are likely to become

painful and you will not continue them for any great length of time.

Instead, do something quite simple—and very effective.

When you meet a new word, underline it with a *mental* pencil. That is, pause for a second and attempt to figure out its meaning from its use in the sentence or from its etymological root or prefix, if it contains one you have studied. Make a mental note of it, say it aloud once or twice—and then go on reading.

That's all there is to it. What you are doing, of course, is developing the same type of mind-set toward the new word that you have developed toward the words you have studied in this book. And the results, of course, will be the same—you will begin to notice the word occurring again and again in other reading you do, and finally, having seen it in a number of varying contexts, you will begin to get enough of its connotation and flavor to come to a fairly accurate understanding of its meaning. In this way you will be developing alertness not only to the words you have studied in this book, but to all expressive and meaningful words. And your vocabulary will keep growing.

But of course that will happen only if you keep reading.

I do not wish to recommend any particular novels or novelists, since the type of fiction one enjoys is a very personal matter. You doubtless know the kind of story you like—mystery, science fiction, spy, adventure, historical, political, romantic, Western, biographical, one or all of the above. Or you may be entranced by novels of ideas, of sexual prowess, of fantasy, of life in different segments of society from your own. No matter. Find the kind of novel or novelist *you* enjoy by browsing in the public library or among the thousands of titles in bookstores that have a rich assortment of paperbacks as well as hardbacks.

And then read! And keep on the alert for new words! You will find them by the hundreds and thousands. Bear in mind: *people with rich vocabularies have been reading omnivorously, voraciously, since childhood*—including the ingredients listed in small print on bread wrappers and cereal boxes.

(End of Session 41)

HOW TO SPELL A WORD

The spelling of English words is archaic, it's confusing, it's needlessly complicated, and, if you have a sense of humor, it's downright comical. In fact, any insulting epithet you might wish to level against our weird methods of putting letters together to form words would probably be justified—but it's our spelling, and we're stuck with it.

How completely stuck we are is illustrated by a somewhat ludicrous event that goes back to 1906, and that cost philanthropist Andrew Carnegie \$75,000.

Working under a five-year grant of funds from Carnegie, and headed by the esteemed scholar Brander Matthews, the Simplified Spelling Board published in that year a number of recommendations for bringing some small semblance of order out of the great chaos of English spelling. Their suggestions affected a mere three hundred words out of the half million then in the language. Here are a few examples, to give you a general idea:

SPELLING THEN CURRENT	SIMPLIFIED SPELLING
<i>mediaeval</i>	<i>medieval</i>
<i>doubt</i>	<i>dout</i>
<i>debtor</i>	<i>dettor</i>
<i>head</i>	<i>hed</i>
<i>though</i>	<i>tho</i>

through
laugh
tough
knife
theatre
centre
phantom

thru
laf
tuf
nife
theater
center
fantom

These revisions seemed eminently sensible to no less a personage than the then President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. So delighted was he with the new garb in which these three hundred words could be clothed that he immediately ordered that all government documents be printed in simplified spelling. And the result? Such a howl went up from the good citizens of the republic, from the nation's editors and schoolteachers and businessmen, that the issue was finally debated in the halls of Congress. Almost to a man, senators and representatives stood opposed to the plan. Teddy Roosevelt, as you have doubtless heard, was a stubborn fellow—but when Congress threatened to hold up the White House stationery appropriation unless the President backed down, Teddy rescinded the order. Roosevelt ran for re-election some time later, and lost. That his attitude toward spelling contributed to his defeat is of course highly doubtful—nevertheless an opposition New York newspaper, the day the returns were in, maliciously commented on the outgoing incumbent in a one-word simplified-spelling editorial: “THRU!”

Roosevelt was not the first President to be justifiably outraged by our ridiculous orthography. Over a hundred years ago, when Andrew Jackson was twitted on his poor spelling, he is supposed to have made this characteristic reply, “Well, sir, it is a damned poor mind that cannot think of more than one way to spell a word!” And according to one apocryphal version, it was Jackson's odd spelling that gave birth to the expression “okay.” Jackson thought, so goes the story, that “all correct” was spelled “orl kor-rect,” and he used O.K. as the abbreviation for these words when he approved state papers.

Many years ago, the British playwright George Bernard Shaw offered a dramatic proposal for reducing England's taxes. Just

eliminate unnecessary letters from our unwieldy spelling, he said, and you'll save enough money in paper and printing to cut everyone's tax rate in half. Maybe it would work, but it's never been put to the test—and the way things look now, it never will be. Current practice more and more holds spelling exactly where it is, bad though it may be. It is a scientific law of language that if enough people make a "mistake," the "mistake" becomes acceptable usage. That law applies to pronunciation, to grammar, to word meanings, but not to spelling. Maybe it's because of our misbegotten faith in, and worship of, the printed word—maybe it's because written language tends to be static, while spoken language constantly changes. Whatever the cause, spelling today successfully resists every logical effort at reform. "English spelling," said Thorstein Veblen, "satisfies all the requirements of the canons of reputability under the law of conspicuous waste. It is archaic, cumbrous, and ineffective." Perfectly true. Notwithstanding, it's here to stay.

Your most erudite friend doubtless misspells the name of the Hawaiian guitar. I asked half a dozen members of the English department of a large college to spell the word—without exception they responded with *ukelele*. Yet the only accepted form is *ukulele*.

Judging from my experience with my classes at Rio Hondo College, half the population of the country must think the word is spelled *alright*. Seventy-five per cent of the members of my classes can't spell *embarrassing* or *coolly*. People will go on misspelling these four words, but the authorized spellings will remain impervious to change.

Well, you know the one about Mohammed and the mountain. Though it's true that we have modernized spelling to a microscopic extent in the last eighty years (*traveler*, *center*, *theater*, *medieval*, *labor*, and *honor*, for example, have pretty much replaced *traveller*, *centre*, *theatre*, *mediaeval*, *labour*, and *honour*), still the resistance to change has not observably weakened. If spelling won't change, as it probably won't, those of us who consider ourselves poor spellers will have to. We'll just have to get up and go to the mountain.

Is it hard to become a good speller? I have demonstrated over and over again in my classes that anyone of normal intelligence

and average educational background can become a good speller in very little time.

What makes the task so easy?

First—investigations have proved that 95 per cent of the spelling errors that educated people make occur in just one hundred words. Not only do we all misspell the same words—but we misspell them in about the same way.

Second—correct spelling relies exclusively on memory, and the most effective way to train memory is by means of association or, to use the technical term, mnemonics.

If you fancy yourself an imperfect or even a terrible speller, the chances are very great that you've developed a complex solely because you misspell some or all of the hundred words with which this Intermission deals. When you have conquered this single list, and I shall immediately proceed to demonstrate how easy it is, by means of mnemonics, to do so, 95 per cent of your spelling difficulties will in all likelihood vanish.

Let us start with twenty-five words from the list. In the first column you will find the correct spelling of each, and in the second column the simple mnemonic that will forevermore fix that correct spelling in your memory.

CORRECT SPELLING

1. all right
2. coolly
3. supersede
4. succeed
5. proceed
6. exceed

MNEMONIC

Two words, no matter what it means.
Keep in mind that it's the opposite of
all wrong.

Of course you can spell *cool*—simply
add the adverbial ending -ly.

This is the only word in the language
ending in -*sede* (the only one, mind
you—there isn't a single other one so
spelled).

The only three words in the entire
language ending in -*ceed*. When you
think of the three words in the order
given here, the initial letters form the
beginning of SPEED.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 7. cede, precede, recede, etc. | All other words with a similar-sounding final syllable end in <i>-cede</i> . |
| 8. procedure | One of the double <i>e</i> 's of <i>proceed</i> moves to the end in the noun form, <i>procedure</i> . |
| 9. stationery | This is the word that means paper, and notice the <i>-er</i> in <i>paper</i> . |
| 10. stationary | In this spelling, the word means standing, and notice the <i>-a</i> in <i>stand</i> . |
| 11. recommend | <i>Commend</i> , which we all spell correctly, plus the prefix <i>re-</i> . |
| 12. separate | |
| 13. comparative | Look for a <i>rat</i> in both words. |
| 14. ecstasy | to <i>sy</i> (sigh) with <i>ecstasy</i> |
| 15. analyze | The only two non-technical words in the whole language ending in <i>-yze</i> . |
| 16. paralyze | |
| 17. repetition | First four letters identical with those in the allied form <i>repeat</i> . |
| 18. irritable | Think of allied forms <i>irritate</i> and |
| 19. inimitable | <i>imitate</i> . |
| 20. absence | Think of the allied form <i>absent</i> , and you will not be tempted to misspell it <i>abscence</i> . |
| 21. superintendent | The superintendent in an apartment house collects the <i>rent</i> —thus you avoid <i>superintendant</i> . |
| 22. conscience | <i>Science</i> plus prefix <i>con-</i> . |
| 23. anoint | Think of <i>an ointment</i> , hence no double <i>n</i> . |
| 24. ridiculous | Think of the allied form <i>ridicule</i> , which we usually spell correctly, thus avoiding <i>rediculous</i> . |
| 25. despair | Again, think of another form— <i>desperate</i> —and so avoid <i>dispair</i> . |

Whether or not you have much faith in your spelling ability, you will need very little time to conquer the preceding twenty-five

demons. Spend a few minutes, now, on each of those words in the list that you're doubtful of, and then test your success by means of the exercise below. Perhaps to your astonishment, you will find it easy to make a high score.

A test of your learning

Instructions: After studying the preceding list of words, fill in the missing letters correctly.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a_____right | 14. ecsta_____y |
| 2. coo_____y | 15. anal_____e |
| 3. super_____ | 16. paral_____e |
| 4. suc_____ | 17. rep_____tition |
| 5. pro_____ | 18. irrit_____ble |
| 6. ex_____ | 19. inimit_____ble |
| 7. pre_____ | 20. ab_____ence |
| 8. proc_____dure | 21. superintend_____nt |
| 9. station_____ry (paper) | 22. con_____nce |
| 10. station_____ry (still) | 23. a_____oint |
| 11. sep_____rate | 24. r_____diculous |
| 12. compar_____tive | 25. d_____spair |
| 13. re_____o_____end | |

Mere repetitious drill is of no value in learning to spell a word correctly. You've probably heard the one about the youngster who was kept after school because he was in the habit of using the ungrammatical expression "I have went." Miss X was going to cure her pupil, even if it required drastic measures. So she ordered him to write "I have gone" one thousand times. "Just leave your work on my desk before you go home," she said, "and I'll find it when I come in tomorrow morning." Well, there were twenty pages of neat script on her desk next morning, one thousand lines of "I have gone's," and on the last sheet was a note from the child. "Dear Teacher," it read, "I have done the work and I have went home." If this didn't actually happen, it logically could have, for in any drill, if the mind is not actively engaged, no learning will result. If you drive a car, or sew, or do any familiar and repetitious manual work, you know how your hands can carry on an

accustomed task while your mind is far away. And if you hope to learn to spell by filling pages with a word, stop wasting your time. All you'll get for your trouble is writer's cramp.

The only way to learn to spell those words that now plague you is to devise a mnemonic for each one.

If you are never quite sure whether it's *indispensible* or *indispensable*, you can spell it out one hundred, one thousand, or one million times—and the next time you have occasion to write it in a sentence, you'll still wonder whether to end it with *-ible* or *-able*. But if you say to yourself *just once* that *able* people are generally *indispensable*, that thought will come to you whenever you need to spell the word; in a few seconds you've conquered another spelling demon. By engineering your own mnemonic through a study of the architecture of a troublesome word, you will become so quickly and completely involved with the correct spelling of that word that it will be impossible for you ever to be stumped again.

Let us start at once. Below you will find another twenty-five words from the list of one hundred demons, each offered to you in both the correct form and in the popular misspelling. Go through the test quickly, checking off what you consider a proper choice in each case. In that way you will discover which of the twenty-five you would be likely to get caught on. Then devise a personal mnemonic for each word you flunked, writing your ingenious result out in the margin of the page. And don't be alarmed if some of your mnemonics turn out kind of silly—the sillier they are the more likely you are to recall them in an emergency. One of my pupils, who could not remember how many *l's* to put into *tranquillity* (or is it *tranquility*?), shifted his mind into high gear and came up with this: "In the old days life was more *tranquil* than today, and people wrote with *quills* instead of fountain pens. Hence—*tranquillity*!" Another pupil, a girl who always chewed her nails over *irresistible* before she could decide whether to end it with *-ible* or *-able*, suddenly realized that a certain brand of *lipstick* was called *irresistible*, the point being of course that the only vowel in *lipstick* is *i*—hence, *-ible*! Silly, aren't they? But they work. Go ahead to the test now; and see how clever—or silly—you can be.

SPELLING TEST

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. a. supprise | b. surprise |
| 2. a. inoculate | b. innoculate |
| 3. a. definitely | b. definately |
| 4. a. priviledge | b. privilege |
| 5. a. incidently | b. incidentally |
| 6. a. predictable | b. predictable |
| 7. a. dissipate | b. disippate |
| 8. a. descriminate | b. discriminate |
| 9. a. description | b. discription |
| 10. a. baloon | b. balloon |
| 11. a. occurence | b. occurrence |
| 12. a. truely | b. truly |
| 13. a. arguement | b. argument |
| 14. a. assistant | b. asisstant |
| 15. a. grammer | b. grammar |
| 16. a. parallel | b. paralell |
| 17. a. drunkenness | b. drunkenness |
| 18. a. suddeness | b. suddenness |
| 19. a. embarassment | b. embarrassment |
| 20. a. weird | b. wierd |
| 21. a. pronounciation | b. pronunciation |
| 22. a. noticeable | b. noticable |
| 23. a. developement | b. development |
| 24. a. vicious | b. viscious |
| 25. a. insistent | b. insistant |

KEY: 1-b, 2-a, 3-a, 4-b, 5-b, 6-b, 7-a, 8-b, 9-a, 10-b, 11-b,
12-b, 13-b, 14-a, 15-b, 16-a, 17-b, 18-b, 19-b, 20-a,
21-b, 22-a, 23-b, 24-a, 25-a

By now you're well on the way toward developing a definite superiority complex about your spelling—which isn't a half-bad thing, for I've learned, working with my students, that many peo-

ple think they're awful spellers, and have completely lost faith in their ability, solely because they get befuddled over no more than two dozen or so common words that they use over and over again and always misspell. Every other word they spell perfectly, but they still think they're prize boobs in spelling until their self-confidence is restored. So if you're beginning to gain more assurance, you're on the right track. The conquest of the one hundred common words most frequently misspelled is not going to assure you that you will always come out top man in a spelling bee, but it's certain to clean up your writing and bolster your ego.

So far you have worked with fifty of the one hundred spelling demons. Here, now, is the remainder of the list. Test yourself, or have someone who can keep a secret test you, and discover which ones are your Waterloo. Study each one you miss as if it were a problem in engineering. Observe how it's put together and devise whatever association pattern will fix the correct form in your mind.

Happy spelling!

SPELLING DEMONS

These fifty words complete the list of one hundred words that most frequently stump the inexperienced spellers:

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| 1. embarrassing | 14. dilemma |
| 2. judgment | 15. perseverance |
| 3. indispensable | 16. until (but till) |
| 4. disappear | 17. tyrannize |
| 5. disappoint | 18. vacillate |
| 6. corroborate | 19. oscillate |
| 7. sacrilegious | 20. accommodate |
| 8. tranquillity | 21. dilettante |
| 9. exhilaration | 22. changeable |
| 10. newsstand | 23. accessible |
| 11. license | 24. forty |
| 12. irresistible | 25. desirable |
| 13. persistent | 26. panicky |

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| 27. seize | 39. vacuum |
| 28. leisure | 40. benefited |
| 29. receive | 41. committee |
| 30. achieve | 42. grievous |
| 31. holiday | 43. conscious |
| 32. existence | 44. plebeian |
| 33. pursue | 45. tariff |
| 34. pastime | 46. sheriff |
| 35. possesses | 47. connoisseur |
| 36. professor | 48. necessary |
| 37. category | 49. sergeant |
| 38. rhythmical | 50. misspelling |