

## Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in Units 1–3 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer questions 1–12 on page 43 on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in the introductory statement.

Although the Chicago fire caused enormous destruction, the city recovered quickly, as this passage shows.

- (Line) On the evening of October 8, 1871, at around 9 o'clock, the city of Chicago went up in flames. The exact **incendiary** agent remains unknown, but historians have **substantiated** the Chicago Fire Department's discovery that the blaze began in or near the barn of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Leary, on the southwest side of the city.
- (10) Official **credence**, however, has not been extended to the popular belief that it all started when the O'Leary's cow knocked over a lighted lantern. Whatever the initial spark, the city was a tinderbox. That summer had been unusually dry, and almost all the buildings, bridges, and even the sidewalks were made of wood. Construction over the previous years had proceeded rapidly and with little attention to fire safety. The **feckless** city council ignored all pleas to improve the level of fire protection, either by bolstering the fire department or by passing zoning laws. As a result, the city of Chicago averaged about two fires a day. Driven by a strong wind out of the southwest, the October 8 fire was already out of control by the time the exhausted Chicago firefighters (who had been working the day before on another large fire) arrived. The wind
- (35) carried the flames to the center of the city, where they consumed nearly every structure in their path. In a panic, the **distraught** population fled northward toward Lincoln Park and Lake Michigan.
- (40) The fire raged for more than twenty-four hours until it rained on the morning of October 10. In the days that followed, **reconnaissance** missions were conducted over the rubble that remained of homes, businesses, and tunnels. Three hundred were dead, nearly 100,000 were homeless, and property damage amounted to \$200 million. Yet, four years later, Chicago was almost completely rebuilt. And today, the Chicago Fire Academy stands on the site of the O'Leary cowshed.
- (45) (50)

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- expose the incompetence of the city council
  - focus on the heroism of the firefighters
  - tell the story of the Chicago fire of 1871
  - highlight the geography of Chicago
  - compare the Chicago fire with the San Francisco earthquake of 1906
2. The meaning of **incendiary** (line 3) is
- causative
  - criminal
  - foreign
  - subversive
  - inflammatory
3. **Substantiated** (line 5) most nearly means
- ignored
  - verified
  - dismissed
  - disputed
  - analyzed
4. From the passage, it is clear that
- Mr. and Mrs. O'Leary were responsible for setting the fire
  - the fire started when the O'Leary's cow knocked over a lighted lantern
  - no one really knows how or where the fire started
  - the fire started in or near the O'Leary's barn
  - the fire spread slowly but steadily
5. **Credence** (line 10) is best defined as
- acceptance
  - pardon
  - enthusiasm
  - mourning
  - condemnation
6. Which of the following best describes the organizational structure of paragraph 2 (lines 14–27)?
- order of importance
  - chronological order
  - spatial order
  - comparison and contrast
  - cause and effect
7. The meaning of **feckless** (line 21) is
- popular
  - corrupt
  - incompetent
  - conservative
  - effective
8. From the passage, you can reasonably infer that all of the following played a role in the spread of the fire EXCEPT
- the unusually dry summer
  - a strong wind
  - the minimal attention to safety in construction
  - the fleeing population
  - the exhaustion of the firefighters
9. **Distraught** (line 37) is best defined as
- frightened
  - frantic
  - disheveled
  - angry
  - bemused
10. **Reconnaissance** (line 44) is best defined as
- calm evacuation
  - court decision
  - slow deliberation
  - scouting expedition
  - detailed analysis
11. The effect of the last sentence in the passage (lines 52–54) might best be described as
- ironic
  - tragic
  - farcical
  - melancholy
  - fanciful
12. Which of the following best describes the author's attitude toward the subject of the passage?
- disillusioned
  - satiric
  - enthusiastic
  - facial
  - skeptical

## Grammar in Context

In the sentence "Construction over the previous years had proceeded rapidly and with little attention to fire safety" (lines 19–21 on page 42), the word *little* is an **adjective**. Adjectives tell *what kind*, *which one*, *how many*, or *how much*. Adjectives always modify a noun or pronoun. The word *rapidly* in the sentence is an **adverb**. Adverbs tell *where*, *when*, *in what way*, or *to what extent*. An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Sometimes the same word can be either an adjective or an adverb, depending on how it is used in the sentence. For example in the sentence "Determining the cause of the fire posed a hard challenge for investigators," *hard* is an adjective. But in the sentence "Firefighters worked hard to extinguish the blaze," *hard* is an adverb.

Many adverbs are formed by adding the suffix *-ly* to an adjective: for example, *rapid* and *rapidly*. Keep in mind, though, that not all words ending in *-ly* are adverbs. A few of these words are adjectives: for example, *gingerly*, *leisurely*, and *ungainly*. A few others may be either adjectives or adverbs: for example, *early* and *daily*.

On the lines provided, identify each underlined word as an adjective or an adverb.

- The specific cause of the Chicago fire was never determined exactly.
- The most likely location for the origin of the blaze was the O'Learys' barn.
- It was widely rumored that the O'Learys' cow knocked over a lighted lantern.
- In Chicago, the summer of 1871 had been unusually dry.
- Ignoring urgent pleas to improve fire protection, the city council proved to be incompetent.
- As a result, several fires broke out in the city on a daily basis.
- Distraught citizens fled northward toward Lincoln Park and Lake Michigan.
- The buildings destroyed by the fire included dozens of stately homes.

## Two-Word Completions

Circle the pair of words that best complete the meaning of each of the following passages.

- Little did we realize, as we \_\_\_\_\_ blithely on the beach during those \_\_\_\_\_ and cloudless days of spring 1914, that the world was moving inexorably into the maelstrom of total war.  
a. evinced . . . piquant  
b. belabored . . . utopian  
c. emulated . . . insatiable  
d. cavorted . . . halcyon
- For what must have been the first and only time in his life, the overly cautious general did not \_\_\_\_\_ or vacillate but committed his troops to battle with \_\_\_\_\_ celerity.  
a. arrogate . . . overt  
b. temperize . . . unwanted  
c. carp . . . myopic  
d. dissemble . . . feckless
- Someone who is by nature as skeptical as I am usually refuses to give any \_\_\_\_\_ to the kinds of wild allegations thrown about in an election until they have been \_\_\_\_\_ by solid evidence.  
a. credence . . . substantiated  
b. celerity . . . decreed  
c. largesse . . . exhumed  
d. propriety . . . eschewed
- Despite the somewhat strident \_\_\_\_\_ of some professional critics and the inane \_\_\_\_\_ of a few literary pedants, the work enjoyed a notable popular success.  
a. encomiums . . . largesse  
b. verbiage . . . eulogies  
c. animadversions . . . carping  
d. gambits . . . sacrilege
- From the top of the mountain that summer afternoon, I looked out on a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ panorama of fields and pasturelands through which countless streams and rivulets \_\_\_\_\_ like so many serpents slithering lazily across a carpet.  
a. murky . . . articulated  
b. avid . . . congealed  
c. verdant . . . undulated  
d. primordial . . . cavorted
- Someone with a \_\_\_\_\_ nature is generally very good at \_\_\_\_\_, while more honest people give off unconscious cues that they are not telling the truth.  
a. distraught . . . emulating  
b. devious . . . dissembling  
c. ubiquitous . . . strategizing  
d. acquisitive . . . decrying

## Choosing the Right Meaning

Read each sentence carefully. Then circle the item that best completes the statement below the sentence.

By devaluing the nation's currency, the government hoped to both spur exports and curb inflation.

1. The word **devaluing** in line 1 is used to mean

a. denouncing    b. devaluing    c. condemning    d. supporting

Unfortunately, the procurement specifications were framed in technical verbiage that only those thoroughly versed in such matters could understand.

2. In line 1 the word **verbiage** most nearly means

a. prolixity    b. jargon    c. verbosity    d. code

The space vehicle was equipped with an articulated boom designed to deploy and retrieve small satellites and scientific devices.

3. The best definition for the word **articulated** in line 1 is

a. elucidated    b. state-of-the-art    c. well-spoken    d. jointed

The ultimatum delivered to the besieged American forces at Bastogne in December 1944 is reputed to have evinced the succinct response "Nuts!"

4. The best definition for the **evinced** in line 2 is

a. displayed    b. demanded    c. provoked    d. exhibited

The narrator of Edgar Allan Poe's tale "Descent Into the Maelstrom" tells the harrowing story of his deliverance from a gigantic vortex.

5. In line 1 the word **maelstrom** most nearly means

a. chaos    b. turbulence    c. mine    d. whirlpool

Fire marshals soon apprehended the incendiary responsible for the conflagration that reduced to smoking embers the historic waterfront hotel.

6. The word **incendiary** in line 1 is used to mean

a. arsonist    b. rabble-rouser    c. agitator    d. criminal

## Antonyms

In each of the following groups, circle the word or expression that is most nearly the **opposite** of the word in **boldface** type.

1. **propriety**

a. tactfulness  
b. correctness  
c. morality  
d. unseemliness

2. **avid**

a. enthusiastic  
b. indifferent  
c. quick  
d. intelligent

3. **myopic**

a. sincere  
b. scholarly  
c. farsighted  
d. foolish

4. **coherent**

a. recent  
b. disjointed  
c. strange  
d. workable

5. **nefarious**

a. intelligent  
b. feasible  
c. new  
d. meritorious

6. **propinquity**

a. remoteness  
b. importance  
c. size  
d. splendor

7. **largesse**

a. haste  
b. rudeness  
c. stinginess  
d. skill

8. **overt**

a. concealed  
b. obvious  
c. humorous  
d. unnecessary

## 9. animadversions

a. compliments  
b. salaries  
c. backgrounds  
d. quirks

## 10. germane

a. irrelevant  
b. worthy  
c. unprotected  
d. disloyal

## 11. acquisitive

a. fault-finding  
b. deliberate  
c. altruistic  
d. retentive

## 12. substantiate

a. refute  
b. introduce  
c. report  
d. confirm

## 13. tenable

a. scientific  
b. indefensible  
c. interesting  
d. complicated

## 16. taciturn

a. arrogant  
b. mean  
c. stupid  
d. garrulous

## Word Families

A. On the line provided, write the word you have learned in Units 1-3 that is related to each of the following nouns.

EXAMPLE: acquisitiveness—**acquisitive**

1. utopia, utopianism

2. viscosity

3. murkiness, murk

4. myopia

5. coherence

6. banality

7. undulation

8. piquancy

9. intransigence

10. emulation

11. deviousness

12. substantiation

13. exhumation, exhumed

14. articulation, articulator, articulateness

15. arrogation

B. On the line provided, write the word you have learned in Units 1-3 that is related to each of the following verbs.

EXAMPLE: acquire—**acquisitive**

16. eulogize

17. cohere

18. supplicate

19. satiate

20. reconnoiter

## Word Associations

In each of the following groups, circle the word that is best defined or suggested by the given phrase.

- what a person who vacillates would probably do in a crisis
  - cavort
  - temporize
  - propound
  - articulate
- going back to the time of the first appearance of life on this planet
  - primordial
  - feckless
  - viscous
  - taciturn
- what a nitpicker seems always to be doing
  - cavorting
  - decrying
  - articulating
  - carping
- one who is unwilling to compromise
  - tenable
  - invidious
  - intransigent
  - pejorative
- hiding one's disappointment behind a brave smile
  - arrogate
  - congeal
  - dissemble
  - evince
- the rate at which gossip travels
  - celerity
  - encomium
  - maelstrom
  - credence
- lavish tips given to waiters, parking lot attendants, etc.
  - eulogy
  - gambit
  - credence
  - largesse
- too agitated to continue
  - articulate
  - distraught
  - utopian
  - primordial
- so nearsighted that one can't see the woods for the trees
  - avid
  - unwonted
  - myopic
  - devious
- rolling hills and lush meadows in springtime
  - verdant
  - brackish
  - intractable
  - germane
- how you might properly characterize a cliché
  - piquant
  - insatiable
  - banal
  - halcyon
- "So he came up to me and asked me for a quarter."
  - accost
  - eschew
  - emulate
  - exhume
- improper use of a house of worship
  - suppliant
  - sacrilege
  - animadversion
  - verbiage
- will consider only matters directly related to the question under discussion
  - incendiary
  - germane
  - pejorative
  - suppliant
- a grasping society
  - feckless
  - acquisitive
  - overt
  - primordial
- avoid bad habits
  - eschew
  - evince
  - belabor
  - articulate
- disparaging remark
  - verdant
  - coherent
  - halcyon
  - pejorative
- a rabbit's foot
  - talisman
  - gambit
  - suppliant
  - animadversion
- condemn publicity
  - temporize
  - decry
  - exhume
  - substantiate
- appropriateness
  - eulogy
  - credence
  - propriety
  - verbiage

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cred—to believe

## Building with Classical Roots

This root appears in **credence** (page 35). Some other words based on the same root are listed below.

accreditation      credibility      creditor      credulity  
 credentials      creditable      credo      credulous

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

- references, testimonials, or other (usually written) evidence of identity or status ("that which provides a basis for belief")  
 The security guard demanded to see their \_\_\_\_\_ before they could enter the building.
- inclined to believe very readily, gullible  
 The naive young man seemed as \_\_\_\_\_ as a child.
- worthiness of belief  
 At the hearing, a panel of experts questioned the \_\_\_\_\_ of the advertisement.
- a statement or summary of faith or fundamental belief; an authoritative statement of religious belief ("I believe")  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ of our hiking club is "Take only pictures; leave only footprints."
- bringing or deserving credit or honor  
 Despite limited rehearsal time, the cast did a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ job on that play.
- an undue readiness to believe; a lack of critical judgment  
 The wily con artists exploited their victims' \_\_\_\_\_.
- official authorization or approval (often used in regard to academic affairs)  
 The college received \_\_\_\_\_ as an institution of higher learning.
- a person or an organization to which money is owed  
 The bank denied her request for a loan when they saw that she had made late payments to past \_\_\_\_\_.

From the list of words above, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

- In view of the number of weeks he'd been absent from class with the chicken pox, he gave a very \_\_\_\_\_ performance on the math final.
- The salesperson making those absurd claims about the used car was clearly trying to take advantage of our \_\_\_\_\_.

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- The new medical school will convene classes as soon as it receives its official \_\_\_\_\_ from the state.
  - A physician's \_\_\_\_\_ is aptly summarized in the noble ideas and attitudes set forth in the Hippocratic Oath.
  - The applicant submitted her résumé, along with several \_\_\_\_\_ such as a diploma and written references from former employers, in order to get the job.
  - After a series of financial setbacks, the entrepreneur was forced to dodge a relentless wave of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The plot involved a series of coincidences so farfetched as to tax the patience of even the most \_\_\_\_\_ of readers.
  - The attorney attacked the \_\_\_\_\_ of the star witness by demonstrating that he had a poor reputation for honesty and reliability.
- Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.
- In researching day-care centers for her son, Ms. Lopez always asked to see the most recent documents of (**accreditation, credo**).
  - We could tell by the (**credible, credulous**) looks on their faces that the children completely believed our story about flying carpets.
  - The first thing she did with her prize money was to pay off all her (**credentials, creditors**).
  - My doctor's office is decorated with framed diplomas, certificates, awards, and other (**credentials, credulities**) that attest to her excellent training.
  - Each week that they met, the boy scouts recited their (**accreditation, credo**).
  - During the 1960s, widespread distrust of government led to the "(**credibility, creditor**) gap"—a general lack of confidence in statements made by public officials.
  - The children tried to take advantage of their babysitter's (**credulity, credibility**) when they told him they were allowed eight cookies apiece.
  - In the American film classic *Gone with the Wind*, the ever-resourceful Scarlett O'Hara creates a (**credulous, creditable**) ball gown out of green velvet drapes.

## Definitions

1. **atrophy**  
(a' trə fē)

(n.) the wasting away of a body organ or tissue; any progressive decline or failure; (v.) to waste away

2. **bastion**  
(bā' chən)

(n.) a fortified place, stronghold

3. **concord**  
(kän' kōrd)

(n.) a state of agreement, harmony, unanimity; a treaty, pact, covenant

4. **consummate**  
(v., kən' sū māt;  
adj., kən' sū mət)

(adj.) complete or perfect in the highest degree; (v.) to bring to a state of completion or perfection

5. **disarray**  
(dis ə rā')

(n.) disorder, confusion; (v.) to throw into disorder

6. **exigency**  
(ek' sē jən sē)

(n., often pl.) urgency, pressure; urgent demand, pressing need; an emergency

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the downtown business district began when two huge malls opened.

The patients' muscles have \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (n.) degeneration, deterioration; (v.) wither

ANTONYMS: (n.) growth, development; (v.) mature, develop

Contrary to popular belief, the military is not always a \_\_\_\_\_ of political conservatism.

SYNONYMS: citadel, rampart, bulwark, parapet

(n.) a state of agreement, harmony, unanimity; a treaty, pact, covenant

A spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ was restored when the company compensated its employees.

ANTONYMS: disagreement, strife, discord

(adj.) complete or perfect in the highest degree; (v.) to bring to a state of completion or perfection

Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican are works of \_\_\_\_\_.

The lawyers could not \_\_\_\_\_ the settlement until the two parties met face to face.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) masterful; (v.) clinch, conclude

ANTONYMS: (v.) launch, initiate, begin, kick off

(n.) disorder, confusion; (v.) to throw into disorder

The burgled apartment was in a state of \_\_\_\_\_ if you leave the window open, a breeze may \_\_\_\_\_ the papers on the desktop.

SYNONYMS: (n.) disorganization; (v.) dishevel, mess up

ANTONYMS: (n.) organization, order, tidiness

(n., often pl.) urgency, pressure; urgent demand, pressing need; an emergency

The governor emphasized the \_\_\_\_\_ of the situation by requesting the immediate dispatch of rescue teams.

SYNONYM: requirement, crisis

