Vocabulary in Context

*Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.*

The Scarlet Woman

(Line)

One of the most vivid female characters in American fiction is Hester Prynne, the protagonist of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Published in 1850, the novel is set in Puritan New England in the mid-seventeenth century and deals with two major Puritan preoccupations: sin and redemption.

Old-fashioned pillory in Colonial Williamsburg

The particular **iniquity** of which Hester is guilty is adultery. She has broken what her Puritan neighbors view as the **inviolable** bond of matrimony, and, therefore, must be publicly exposed and punished for her sin. To that end, she is forced to wear a scarlet *A* for adultery on the bodice of her dress, and to stand **pilloried** in the town square with her illegitimate **progeny** Pearl in her arms. Hester is a strong-willed woman, however, and although she acknowledges her own guilt and accepts her punishment, she will not cooperate in punishing others. Repeatedly, she refuses to reveal the identity of the father of her child, choosing to leave her former lover, the young minister Arthur Dimmesdale, to wrestle with his own conscience. And wrestle he does. A model of apparent **rectitude**, the Reverend Dimmesdale is torn between his inner sense of guilt and the fear of losing his good name in the community.

After years of self-defeating struggle, Dimmesdale finally confesses and dies in Hester's arms, **presaging** the fate of those who hide away their guilt and fail to acknowledge their wrongdoings. Hester alone forgives herself and others, and she alone goes on, with renewed strength, to live and love generously.

1. **Iniquity** (line 5) most nearly means
   a. misstatement c. evil
   b. prejudice d. disturbance

2. The meaning of **inviolable** (line 7) is
   a. loving c. fragile
   b. sacrosanct d. eternal

3. **Pilloried** (line 12) is best defined as
   a. exposed c. compelled
   b. protected d. exonerated

4. The meaning of **progeny** (line 13) is
   a. ancestry c. name
   b. issue d. gains

5. **Rectitude** (line 23) most nearly means
   a. selflessness c. courage
   b. gentleness d. integrity

6. **Presaging** (line 26) most nearly means
   a. mocking c. defying
   b. confusing d. foretelling

Vocabulary for Comprehension

*Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in Units 13–15 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer questions 1–12 on page 172 on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in the introductory statement.*

This passage focuses on one of the most famous American novelists of the twentieth century, F. Scott Fitzgerald.

(Line)

Few writers have been as identified with an age as F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896–1940). Not only is his best fiction set in the 1920s, but he helped define that era as the Jazz Age, an **epicurean** decade of fevered pleasure-seeking, **improvident** spending, and gaudy excess.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (named after his famous ancestor) was a restless young man full of romantic dreams. In 1917 he left Princeton University before receiving his degree, to train as an Army officer, but he never made it overseas. While stationed at Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama, Fitzgerald fell for a local southern beauty, Zelda Sayre. By dint of sheer charm and persistence, Fitzgerald got Zelda to agree to marry him, but she was too **cognizant** of his poverty to succumb permanently to his **blandishments**. When the novel he was writing was rejected for a second time, she broke off the engagement.

Scott, however, was not deterred. He went back to St. Paul and rewrote the novel again. Upon its third submission to the Scribners publishing house, the manuscript was accepted. It was published in 1920 as *This Side of Paradise* and became an instant success. Scott and Zelda were married within a week. Like the characters in Fitzgerald's Jazz Age novels, the couple spent the next decade shuttling between New York and Europe, living the high life and spending lavishly. Behind the frothy **facade**, however, lay a darker reality that Fitzgerald depicted in his most famous novel, *The Great Gatsby* (1925). In *Gatsby*, Fitzgerald examines the moral decadence **engendered** by the American dream of wealth and success. When Fitzgerald died of a heart attack at the age of 44 (Zelda died in a fire only a few years later), his works that chronicled such a discrete period of American history seemed on their way to obscurity. In the 1950s, however, critics revived such classics as *Gatsby* and *Tender Is the Night* (1934), securing a place for him in the canon of American writers.

1. According to the author, which era did Fitzgerald help to define?
   a. the Age of Discovery
   b. the Jazz Age
   c. the Great Depression
   d. the Civil Rights era
   e. the Information Age

2. The meaning of **epicurean** (line 6) is
   a. impoverished
   b. turbulent
   c. idyllic
   d. uneventful
   e. hedonistic

3. **Improvident** (line 7) most nearly means
   a. prudent
   b. extravagant
   c. intermittent
   d. frugal
   e. impressive

4. In paragraph 2 (lines 9–28), it may be inferred that when Scott was courting Zelda, her values were
   a. idealistic
   b. literary
   c. patriotic
   d. materialistic
   e. romantic

5. **Cognizant** (line 24) is best defined as
   a. proud
   b. ashamed
   c. aware
   d. scornful
   e. oblivious

6. The meaning of **blandishments** (line 25) is
   a. enticements
   b. threats
   c. fantasies
   d. apologies
   e. tantrums

7. You can reasonably infer that an important factor responsible for Scott and Zelda's marriage was
   a. his repeated pleas to her
   b. the instant success of *This Side of Paradise*
   c. the intervention of Zelda's parents
   d. the couple's admiring European friends
   e. Scott's promise to leave New York for Europe

8. According to the author, the main focus in the novel *The Great Gatsby* is on which of the following?
   a. the complex rhythms of jazz
   b. the moral decadence flowing from the American dream
   c. contrasts between American and European society
   d. the pitfalls of romance
   e. the corruption of American politics

9. **Facade** (line 43) most nearly means
   a. costume
   b. mask
   c. attitude
   d. lifestyle
   e. celebration

10. **Engendered** (line 48) most nearly means
    a. generated
    b. baffled
    c. offended
    d. deterred
    e. enraged

11. The primary purpose of the passage is to
    a. analyze contrasts between Fitzgerald's early novels and his later works
    b. show how the Fitzgeralds epitomized the Jazz Age lifestyle
    c. survey the highlights of Fitzgerald's life and literary career
    d. support the claim that *The Great Gatsby* is Fitzgerald's masterpiece
    e. emphasize the irony in Fitzgerald's handling of the theme of illusion vs. reality

12. For the most part, what organizational scheme does the author use in the passage?
    a. order of importance
    b. spatial order
    c. order of impression
    d. chronological order
    e. comparison and contrast

FOR PRACTICE ONLY

Grammar in Context

In the sentence "When the novel he was writing was rejected for the second time, she broke off the engagement" (lines 26–28 on page 171), the independent clause "she broke off the engagement" expresses the main idea. However, if the author had written "Before she broke off the engagement, the novel he was writing was rejected for the second time," the independent clause would have misleadingly stressed a subordinate idea, rather than the main idea. This error is known as **faulty subordination**.

To avoid faulty subordination, review your sentences for logical emphasis and balance of ideas. For example, make sure that your sentences reflect the relative importance of ideas. Do not use a coordinating conjunction to join ideas of unequal importance. Be careful to link ideas clearly and accurately. Be sure to express cause and effect logically.

On the lines provided, rewrite each of the following sentences to correct faulty subordination. Write "correct" if the sentence is correct.

1. F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and he is identified with a particular era in American history.

   _____

   _____

2. Fitzgerald's fiction is set in the 1920s, but he helped define that era as the Jazz Age.

   _____

   _____

3. Fitzgerald was a restless young man full of romantic dreams, and he studied for a while at Princeton University.

   _____

   _____

4. Fitzgerald trained as an army officer, but he never made it overseas in World War I.

   _____

   _____

5. He was stationed at an army camp in Alabama, yet he fell for a local southern beauty, Zelda Sayre.

   _____

   _____

6. The couple lived the high life in New York and Europe, but they spent lavishly.

   _____

   _____

7. Fitzgerald's works seemed on their way to obscurity after he died at the age of 44.

   _____

   _____

Two-Word Completions

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

1. Disgruntled army officers and other _____ elements in the society engineered the bloody _____ that toppled the duly elected government a few months after it had taken office.

a. contrite . . . nostrum
b. restive . . . moratorium
c. visionary . . . pittance
d. dissident . . . coup

2. Behind the courtier's outward _____ of decorous sloth there lurked the _____ imagination of an inveterate opportunist, eager to capitalize on any windfall that came his way.

a. aperture . . . incongruous
b. facade . . . febrile
c. cynosure . . . nascent
d. chicanery . . . improvident

3. Any official who is genuinely concerned about the _____ of his or her behavior while in public office will think twice before engaging in the kinds of political _____ and backroom shenanigans that sometimes go on when a juicy government contract is up for grabs.

a. rectitude . . . chicanery
b. imminence . . . blandishments
c. progeny . . . machinations
d. iniquity . . . cognizance

4. Once the news broke, the public heaped so much _____ on the head of the hapless city official that he soon found himself a veritable political _____, even in his own party.

a. euphemism . . . canard
b. dissidence . . . amenity
c. opprobrium . . . pariah
d. efficacy . . . ghoul

5. As soon as the famous movie star walked into my shop, she became the _____ of all eyes. Customers stopped what they were doing to stare at her as if _____ by the spell of her celebrity.

a. aperture . . . engendered
b. cynosure . . . mesmerized
c. moratorium . . . subsisted
d. pillory . . . promulgated

6. The characters in Jane Austen novels display _____ manners, obeying the _____ of social conventions that range from how many consecutive waltzes a couple may dance to the type of tea that should be served to guests.

a. abstruse . . . canards
b. ethereal . . . pariahs
c. decorous . . . minutiae
d. beatific . . . recriminations

Choosing the Right Meaning

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

The bill sparked controversy when it was introduced. There was even a tug-of-war between chairpersons over which congressional committee was properly cognizant. (2)

1. The word **cognizant** in line 2 is used to mean

a. knowledgeable b. informed c. having jurisdiction d. aware

Only a historian of great imaginative power could extract from the desiccated figures of dusty old ledger books the drama of a great family's decline. (2)

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

a. complicated b. shriveled c. dried out d. uninteresting

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the guiding light of American transcendentalism, counted among his progeny such distinguished contemporaries as Henry Thoreau and Margaret Fuller. (2)

3. The word **progeny** in line 2 is used to mean

a. children b. disciples c. offspring d. descendants

"But would the honest patriot, in the full tide of successful experiment, abandon a government which has so far kept us free and firm, on the theoretic and visionary fear that this government, the world's best hope, may by possibility want energy to preserve itself?" (Thomas Jefferson, "First Inaugural Address") (2) (4)

4. In line 2 the word **visionary** is best defined as

a. utopian b. fantastic c. idealistic d. predictable

In *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table*, Oliver Wendell Holmes paraphrases Plutarch's "Epicurean paradox" this way: "Give us the luxuries of life, and we will dispense with its necessaries." (2)

5. The best definition for the word **Epicurean** in line 2 is

a. pursuing pleasure b. discriminating c. insoluble d. ancient

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. inviolable
a. honest
b. fundamental
c. vulnerable
d. sound

2. engender
a. deter
b. beget
c. aggravate
d. exploit

3. loath
a. unwilling
b. eager
c. afraid
d. unable

4. epicurean
a. hedonistic
b. ascetic
c. refined
d. predictable

5. cacophonous
a. modern
b. harmonious
c. dissonant
d. classical

6. promulgate
a. enforce
b. formulate
c. issue
d. withdraw

7. abstruse
a. poetic
b. foreign
c. straightforward
d. fallacious

8. pilloried
a. ridiculed
b. caricatured
c. censored
d. extolled

9. dissidence
a. agreement
b. opposition
c. debt
d. intrigue

10. panegyric
a. obituary
b. tribute
c. introduction
d. diatribe

11. imminent
a. looming
b. distant
c. sudden
d. destructive

12. contrite
a. apologetic
b. unrepentant
c. repeat
d. accused

13. desiccated
a. parched
b. polluted
c. sodden
d. hardened

14. incongruous
a. complex
b. compatible
c. jarring
d. vivid

15. improvident
a. incompetent
b. inexperienced
c. shortsighted
d. cautious

16. iniquity
a. daring
b. wickedness
c. rectitude
d. skill

Word Families

A. *On the line provided, write the word you have learned in Units 13–15 that is related to each of the following nouns.*

EXAMPLE: manifestation—**manifest**

1. cacophony _____
2. subsistence, subsister _____
3. consignment, consigner, consignation _____
4. desiccation, desiccant _____
5. mesmerism, mesmerizer _____
6. imminence, imminency _____
7. promulgation, promulgator _____
8. incongruence, incongruity, incongruousness _____
9. cognizance _____
10. ghoul, ghoulishness _____
11. contrition, contriteness _____
12. decorousness, decorum _____
13. mutability _____
14. improvidence _____

B. *On the line provided, write the word you have learned in Units 13–15 that is related to each of the following verbs.*

EXAMPLE: dissent—**dissidence**

15. provide _____
16. mutate _____
17. wizen _____
18. machinate _____
19. envision _____
20. violate _____

Word Associations

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

1. someone who is the center of attention
a. machination b. cynosure c. presage d. coup
2. pulled some strings to get a contract
a. pillory b. panegyric c. chicanery d. canard
3. an air-conditioned room with color TV and private bath
a. amenities b. facades c. efficacies d. pittance
4. a charming person who behaves with outstanding propriety
a. captious b. decorous c. abstruse d. mutable
5. a remark made deliberately to cause offense
a. blandishment b. minutiae c. iniquity d. affront
6. an attitude of respect and awe upon meeting a world-famous writer
a. affront b. efficacy c. obeisance d. coup
7. "I rise to dispute the accuracy of the statements made by the last speaker."
a. gainsay b. affront c. manifest d. engender
8. barely enough to make ends meet
a. canard b. pittance c. amenity d. coup
9. how you might characterize an instinct
a. epicurean b. ghoulish c. innate d. captious
10. shipped the equipment to the buyer by parcel post
a. consign b. presage c. subsist d. engender
11. "underprivileged" instead of "poor"
a. pariah b. euphemism c. canard d. facade
12. "Flattery will get you nowhere!"
a. manifests b. canards c. facades d. blandishments
13. a brilliant oratorical style that left the audience spellbound
a. engender b. mesmerize c. subsist d. pillory
14. relies on chicken soup as a remedy for all disorders of body and mind
a. nostrum b. aperture c. coup d. visionary
15. unshakable moral integrity
a. efficacy b. rectitude c. nostrum d. opprobrium
16. obvious enough to be readily perceived by all
a. manifest b. incongruous c. cognizant d. beatific
17. the first faint stirrings of an idea
a. desiccated b. nascent c. wizened d. ethereal
18. "The weird story about me has absolutely no basis in fact."
a. amenity b. panegyric c. canard d. moratorium
19. an "untouchable" in the caste system
a. pariah b. recrimination c. obeisance d. facade
20. a battleship next to a rowboat
a. manifest b. pariah c. pillory d. behemoth

Building with Classical Roots

vid, vis—to look, see

This root appears in **visionary** (page 159), which means "lacking in practicality" or, as a noun, "a dreamer or seer." Some other words based on this same root are listed below.

advisement	**providence**	**proviso**	**visitation**
envisage	**provident**	**visage**	**vista**

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.

1. a face, countenance, appearance, look, aspect (*"that which is seen"*)
   The links of chains he carried, which signified his sins, gave Jacob Marley a frightening _____.
2. divine guidance or care; a manifestation of such guidance
   Despite hard times, or perhaps especially during hard times, people of faith put their trust in _____.
3. a distinct view or prospect through an opening; an extensive mental view
   As we rounded the bend, we suddenly beheld the most breathtaking _____ of our trip.
4. a conditional stipulation; an article or clause in a contract that introduces a condition (*"that which is foreseen"*)
   They agreed to sign the deal, with the _____ that we serve as witnesses.
5. a visit for the purpose of making an official inspection; an act of visiting; a severe punishment or affliction
   Health specialists are meeting to discuss the possibility of a new _____ of tuberculosis.
6. to picture to oneself (*"see into"*); conceive of, especially as a future possibility
   It is hard to _____ a modern America made up entirely of small farmers.
7. providing for future needs or contingencies; thrifty, economical
   It is our agency's mission to explore the most _____ use of our natural resources.
8. a careful consideration (*"act of seeing to"*)
   The committee has agreed to take your most recent request under _____.

From the list of words on page 178, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the blank space provided.

1. From the summit of the mountain, a dramatic _____ of lush pastures and rolling hills spreads out in every direction as far as the eye can see.
2. An old maxim says that luck is merely a nickname for _____.
3. Is it possible for you to _____ a world free of poverty, famine, hatred, and war?
4. She agreed to chair this year's prom committee with the _____ that six other class members act as her assistants.
5. The scholarship committee has the application under _____ and has promised a decision by the end of the week.
6. It was only after I saw his gaunt eyes and haggard _____ that I began to realize just how intense an ordeal he had experienced.
7. That old mansion is reputedly inhabited by some fiendish spirit, whose nocturnal _____ have frightened away anyone who has tried to live in the place.
8. "If you'd learn to be a bit more _____ with your allowance," he scolded, "you wouldn't constantly need to borrow money from others."

*Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.*

1. A good education can expose open-minded people to new (**vistas, advisements**) for the future.
2. We had few prospects of obtaining a legal remedy for our problem until a new attorney agreed to take our case under (**advisement, vista**).
3. The normal (**providence, visitation**) hours at the hospital are 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM, except for patients who are in the intensive-care unit.
4. We tried to (**advise, envisage**) the creation of the Hoover Dam by studying detailed architectural drawings chronicling its erection.
5. It must have been an act of (**providence, visage**) that the boy was rescued from the well.
6. Photographic portraits of Abraham Lincoln provide the first modern record of the deteriorating effects of constant political stress on the presidential (**visage, proviso**).
7. Our agreement with the cable company includes a (**visage, proviso**) that we must return the converter box when we move, or we will lose our security deposit.
8. It was thanks to the (**provident, envisaged**) planning of frugal pioneer women that many homesteading families were able to endure some of their unexpected hardships.