

Analogies

In each of the following, circle the item that best completes the comparison.

1. **Proliferate** is to **stagnate** as

- a. facilitate is to hamper
- b. relinquish is to pilfer
- c. supplant is to replace
- d. rebut is to mock

2. **prim** is to **dissolute** as

- a. spurious is to bogus
- b. unbridled is to unflinching
- c. terse is to curt
- d. lucid is to muddled

3. **circumspect** is to **caution** as

- a. inanimate is to life
- b. credible is to doubt
- c. intricate is to simplicity
- d. tenacious is to persistence

4. **subjugate** is to **bondage** as

- a. incarcerate is to prison
- b. terminate is to servitude
- c. fabricate is to doghouse
- d. incinerate is to debt

5. **pauper** is to **impoverished** as

- a. comedian is to sardonic
- b. dancer is to obese
- c. superstar is to eminent
- d. orator is to pompous

6. **doleful** is to **grief** as

- a. intrepid is to fear
- b. irate is to anger
- c. brazen is to envy
- d. morose is to joy

7. **spasmodic** is to **incessant** as

- a. hasty is to slapdash
- b. biased is to opinionated
- c. lucrative is to profitable
- d. latent is to overt

8. **chore** is to **arduous** as

- a. detail is to superfluous
- b. novel is to posthumous
- c. note is to legible
- d. burden is to cumbersome

9. **hew** is to **ax** as

- a. rectify is to ruler
- b. efface is to eraser
- c. hoodwink is to pistol
- d. defray is to thread

10. **diligent** is to **erratic** as

- a. alien is to foreign
- b. cherubic is to angelic
- c. novel is to trite
- d. comely is to lively

Choosing the Right Meaning

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

Fearing that readers would not grasp what he was up to with his "whale" story, some friends admonished Melville against publishing *Moby Dick*. (2)

1. The word **admonished** in line 2 most nearly means

- a. scolded
- b. reminded
- c. cautioned
- d. prevented

"Why be content just to muddle through the course," my math teacher asked, "when you might excel if you only put your mind to it?" (2)

2. In line 1 the phrase **muddle through** is used to mean

- a. mess up
- b. get by
- c. drop
- d. fail dismally

In the first act of *Hamlet*, the Prince is visited by the semblance of his murdered father. (1)

3. In line 1 the word **semblance** most nearly means

- a. memory
- b. relative
- c. facade
- d. apparition

The author's prim style is poorly matched to the story of overwrought passions it recounts.

(2)

4. The best definition for the word **prim** in line 1 is

- a. precise b. exacting c. crisp d. fussy

Rather than trust in an increasingly erratic public transportation system, some commuters have turned to private bus services.

(2)

5. The word **erratic** in line 1 is best defined as

- a. undependable b. untimely c. unexpected d. expensive

Two-Word Completions

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

1. Though some of our most _____ writers and artists became famous while they were alive, to others such renown was accorded only _____.

- a. eminent . . . posthumously c. intrepid . . . superfluously
b. lucrative . . . incorrigibly d. opaque . . . illegibly

2. In a society that is totally free of prejudice and bigotry, the demons of racial and religious _____ have forever been totally _____ from the minds and hearts of the people.

- a. anarchy . . . reprieved c. debris . . . salvaged
b. bias . . . exorcised d. larceny . . . annihilated

3. When the negotiations for a new contract become _____, the representatives of labor and management in some cases attempt to _____ a settlement by calling on the services of an impartial outside mediator.

- a. disentangled . . . hamper c. rectified . . . commandeer
b. defrayed . . . fabricate d. deadlocked . . . facilitate

4. Though we had no difficulty _____ small valuables from the old wreck, our efforts to raise the hull itself were _____ by swift currents and heavy seas.

- a. accessing . . . compensated c. salvaging . . . hampered
b. breaching . . . tantalized d. foddering . . . predisposed

5. I regarded the rival who had _____ me in my true love's affections with as much displeasure and dismay as a legitimate heir would look upon the upstart _____ who had stolen his throne.

- a. fortified . . . brigand c. supplanted . . . usurper
b. terminated . . . cherub d. condoned . . . marauder

Enriching Your Vocabulary

Read the passage below. Then complete the exercise at the bottom of the page.

A Legal Inheritance of Words

The doors open, and the jury files in. Suspense builds as they take their seats. Innocent or guilty? What will their verdict be?

Trials, whether civil or criminal, can make for high drama, gripping the public's attention and resulting in landmark decisions that touch many aspects of American life. Among these historic cases: the *Amistad* trial (1839-1840); the Leopold and Loeb murder trial (1924); the Rosenbergs spy trial (1951); and *Brown vs. Board of Education* (1954), in which the Supreme Court ruled segregated schools unconstitutional.

In the United States, persons who believe they have been wronged may sue, provided there is enough evidence to support a case. The one bringing the legal complaint is the *plaintiff* (Unit 15), who must prove "with a preponderance of the evidence" that the accused is guilty; the *defendant* (the accused) is innocent until proven guilty.

Films, television shows, plays, and books based on aspects of our legal system abound. As a result, many legal terms have found their way into everyday English. Some, such as *plaintiff*, largely maintain their legal meaning, while others enjoy broader usage. For example, *reprieve* (Unit 4) is a legal term meaning to postpone punishment. However, when a teacher postpones a difficult exam, students might consider *that* a wonderful reprieve.



Courtroom scene from the film *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962)

In Column A below are 6 more words with legal origins. With or without a dictionary, match each word with its meaning in Column B.

Column A

- _____ 1. indictment
- _____ 2. subpoena
- _____ 3. affidavit
- _____ 4. arraign
- _____ 5. contraband
- _____ 6. defraud

Column B

- a. a written statement made under oath before a person authorized to administer legally binding oaths
- b. to swindle, deceive
- c. a formal written statement usually presented by a grand jury charging one or more persons with an offense
- d. goods prohibited by law for import or export; smuggled goods
- e. (n.) a written legal order requiring a person to appear in court to give legal testimony; (v.) to serve or summon with such a written order
- f. to bring an accused person before a court of law to hear and answer the legal charge made against him or her