



## 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.

*This passage discusses the management of municipal common waste—in other words, trash disposal.*

(Line)

- In the early 1950s concern grew over the tons of trash produced in the United States and the limited amount of landfill space available for dumping. By the 1960s and 70s the public could no longer **condone** such enormous waste. Demands came from **eminent** scientists, politicians, and the general populace to address the problem by means other than landfill dumping. Many possible solutions emerged, including municipal solid waste incinerators (MSWIs).
- (15) By burning trash in very hot incinerators and then harnessing the heat released to turn water into steam, MSWIs were predicted to reduce a city's trash volume by around 90% and produce 10% of their own electricity. But problems arose. The incinerators released carbon monoxide and other pollutants into the air, and the residue that remained contained toxic materials. Worse still, it was discovered that at extreme temperatures a family of toxic chemicals called *dioxins* might form. Airborne dioxins **diffuse** over local ecosystems and eventually reach humans through the food

chain. Cancer and other diseases have been linked to them.

- (35) Requiring plants to clean up their harmful by-products is costly yet necessary for the public good. Does this dilemma spell the end for MSWIs? Answer: No. While fewer trash burners are in use than expected by the waste disposal industry, they may yet **proliferate**. In Europe and Japan efficient, super-clean incinerators are up and running. If our communities can pay for such plants, or if the cost of building and operating them comes down, our **perennial** effort to reduce trash will surely be **fortified**.
- (50) But it is important to remember that all forms of waste management make a difference. Recycling plastic, glass, aluminum, and paper can make our resources last for years to come. Treating waste with biological and chemical agents often reduces their hazardous content. And most simply, using and consuming fewer products result in less waste.
- (60)

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
  - a. examine the use of waste incinerators
  - b. question the benefits of recycling
  - c. promote landfill dumping
  - d. discuss the benefits of combustion
  - e. provide data on waste generation
2. **Condone** (line 6) most nearly means
  - a. venerate
  - b. overlook
  - c. conceal
  - d. support
  - e. give
3. **Eminent** (line 8) is best defined as
  - a. irate
  - b. dominant
  - c. qualified
  - d. projecting
  - e. renowned
4. The meaning of **diffuse** (line 30) is
  - a. rambling
  - b. dispense
  - c. fall
  - d. concentrate
  - e. disperse
5. In the third paragraph (lines 35-49), the author suggests that safe MSWIs are
  - a. unavailable
  - b. unnecessary
  - c. imported
  - d. expensive
  - e. common
6. **Proliferate** (line 42) is best defined as
  - a. disappear
  - b. lessen
  - c. increase
  - d. explode
  - e. operate
7. In lines 43-45, the author cites the incinerators in Europe and Japan as examples of
  - a. MSWIs that are environmentally sound
  - b. MSWIs that need to be regulated
  - c. waste source reduction efforts
  - d. an alternate form of waste management
  - e. international cooperation
8. **Perennial** (line 48) most nearly means
  - a. intermittent
  - b. persistent
  - c. devoted
  - d. resistant
  - e. plant
9. The meaning of **fortified** (line 49) is
  - a. defended
  - b. enriched
  - c. strengthened
  - d. multiplied
  - e. nullified
10. The focus of the last paragraph (lines 50-60) is on
  - a. identifying the best waste disposal method
  - b. questionable waste management practices
  - c. other solutions for the trash problem
  - d. federal regulations for protecting the environment
  - e. burning municipal solid wastes
11. Evidently the author believes that
  - a. MSWIs are not a good alternative to landfills
  - b. MSWIs can be the most effective means of waste disposal
  - c. we have adequately addressed the problem of waste disposal
  - d. the waste disposal problem requires more than one solution
  - e. the scientists and politicians of the 1960s and 70s were alarmists
12. All of the following statements about MSWIs are true EXCEPT
  - a. MSWIs reduce the amount of landfill space needed.
  - b. Not only do MSWIs reduce waste, but they also produce electricity.
  - c. MSWIs emit toxic materials that pollute the environment.
  - d. MSWIs burn 90% of the waste produced in most cities.
  - e. Some day MSWIs may fulfill their promise.

## Grammar in Context

If the sentence "The incinerators released carbon monoxide and other pollutants into the air, and the residue that remained contained toxic materials" (lines 22–26 on page 42) did not contain the conjunction "and" following the comma, it wouldn't be a sentence. It would be a **run-on sentence**.

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. If a group of words is punctuated as a sentence but lacks a subject, a verb, or both, it is called a **sentence fragment**. A run-on sentence, on the other hand, is really two or more sentences masquerading as a single sentence because of incorrect punctuation. Without the "and" in the example above, only a comma would separate the two independent clauses. That kind of error is called a *comma splice*. To avoid run-ons, there are four things you can do: (1) Use capitalization and punctuation to separate the sentence into two short sentences. (2) Use a conjunction preceded by a comma (as the writer of the passage did). (3) Insert a semicolon or a semicolon with a transitional word or phrase followed by a comma. (4) Use a subordinating conjunction to make one of the two sentences a subordinate clause.

*On the lines provided, rewrite each of the groups of words to eliminate the run-ons and fragments. Write "correct" if the sentence is correct.*

1. The larger a city is the more trash.

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2. Recycling many items in the city where we live.

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3. Airborne dioxins disperse, they eventually reach humans through the food chain.

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4. If you wish to create less waste, consume fewer products.

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5. Not paying attention to recycling rules is foolish, it's also against the law.

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6. We know what happens to old newspapers, what happens to old train cars and airplanes?

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7. That book about how some companies near Boston polluted a river and made people in the neighborhood sick was made into a movie, did you see it?

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# Two-Word Completions

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

- He was thrown out of the club for constantly \_\_\_\_\_ small items from the supply room. According to club rules, that type of petty theft constitutes valid grounds for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. tantalizing . . . termination  
 b. sullyng . . . subjugation  
 c. fabricating . . . admonishment  
 d. pilfering . . . expulsion
- Although the auditorium was packed with the candidate's supporters, who greeted his remarks with thunderous cheers and applause, there were a few \_\_\_\_\_ in the crowd who seemed inclined only to boo and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. brigands . . . feint  
 b. dissenters . . . jeer  
 c. paupers . . . condone  
 d. adherents . . . admonish
- Though he began life little better than a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, with only his hands in his pockets, his highly \_\_\_\_\_ business deals turned him into a multimillionaire before the age of forty.  
 a. adherent . . . cumbersome  
 b. usurper . . . spurious  
 c. brigand . . . mediocre  
 d. pauper . . . lucrative
- The earthquake had more or less reduced our house to a pile of worthless rubble. Nevertheless, we picked carefully through the \_\_\_\_\_, trying to \_\_\_\_\_ items of value. Unfortunately, very little could be saved.  
 a. deadlock . . . relinquish  
 b. muddle . . . efface  
 c. debris . . . salvage  
 d. dilemma . . . condone
- Minor squabbles may cause temporary \_\_\_\_\_ in our friendship, but such \_\_\_\_\_, however heated and noisy, have never resulted in a permanent breach.  
 a. feints . . . dilemmas  
 b. rifts . . . altercations  
 c. deadlocks . . . abridgments  
 d. dissents . . . semblances
- "If you always act cautiously, you should be able to \_\_\_\_\_ many of life's obstacles," Dad told me. "Still, some difficulties cannot be overcome, even by the most \_\_\_\_\_ behavior."  
 a. surmount . . . circumspect  
 b. abridge . . . alien  
 c. commandeer . . . erratic  
 d. relinquish . . . mediocre
- Though I am prepared to wink at an occasional petty offense against my moral code, I absolutely refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ behavior that is consistently wicked or \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. condone . . . dissolute  
 b. efface . . . erratic  
 c. abridge . . . unbridled  
 d. exorcise . . . circumspect

## Choosing the Right Meaning

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

Some see in TV's power to abridge the distances separating the world's peoples the means of making the earth a "global village." (2)

1. The word **abridge** in line 1 most nearly means

- a. curb                      b. reduce                      c. explore                      d. erase

The cumbersome wagon trains that plied the Oregon Trail often took weeks just to cross the prairies of Kansas and Nebraska. (2)

2. The word **cumbersome** in line 1 is best defined as

- a. crude                      b. swift                      c. unprotected                      d. slow-moving

In some parts of the world, to decline a dish served at a banquet is considered an unpardonable breach of etiquette. (2)

3. In line 2 the word **breach** most nearly means

- a. opening                      b. assault                      c. violation                      d. breakthrough

As its name suggests, Frank Lloyd Wright's cantilevered "Fallingwater" house stands eminent above a waterfall. (2)

4. The word **eminent** in line 2 is best defined as

- a. jutting out                      b. distinguished                      c. illustrious                      d. outstanding

In contrast with the economy of expression that so distinguished the author's early works, the later novels are woefully diffuse. (2)

5. The word **diffuse** in line 2 is used to mean

- a. uneven                      b. spread out                      c. dispersed                      d. rambling

## 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. **tantalize**

- a. ridicule  
b. gratify  
c. lure  
d. simmer

3. **unflinching**

- a. novel  
b. wavering  
c. angry  
d. proud

5. **obesity**

- a. emaciation  
b. starving  
c. overeating  
d. disease

7. **cherubic**

- a. friendly  
b. impish  
c. angelic  
d. beautiful

2. **erratic**

- a. angry  
b. inconsistent  
c. pleasing  
d. constant

4. **lucrative**

- a. unsaid  
b. unheard  
c. understood  
d. unprofitable

6. **expulsion**

- a. compulsion  
b. farewell  
c. admission  
d. breathing out

8. **muddle**

- a. murkiness  
b. darkness  
c. neatness  
d. confusion

- a. fade
- b. follow
- c. keep
- d. try

- a. restrained
- b. checkered
- c. interrupted
- d. prolonged

- a. scatter
- b. accept
- c. concentrate
- d. originate

- a. original
- b. foolish
- c. meaningless
- d. stale

- a. commend
- b. cooperate
- c. create
- d. condemn

- a. abandon
- b. tame
- c. save
- d. injure

- a. undermine
- b. strengthen
- c. narrate
- d. listen

- a. opening
- b. revenge
- c. reconciliation
- d. escape

# 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: adjournment—**adjourn**

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The timeline illustrates the progression of the 2011-2012 season, starting from April 2011 and ending in December 2011. Key events include the first cases of influenza A (H1N1) in April 2011, the first cases of influenza A (H2N2) in May 2011, the first cases of influenza A (H3N2) in June 2011, the first cases of influenza B in July 2011, the first cases of influenza A (H1N1) in August 2011, the first cases of influenza A (H2N2) in September 2011, the first cases of influenza A (H3N2) in October 2011, and the first cases of influenza B in November 2011. The timeline also shows the progression of the season, with the first cases of influenza A (H1N1) in December 2011, the first cases of influenza A (H2N2) in January 2012, the first cases of influenza A (H3N2) in February 2012, and the first cases of influenza B in March 2012.

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[illegible]

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**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: flinch—**unflinching**

\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Age Group	Percentage
18-24	10%
25-34	20%
35-44	25%
45-54	20%
55-64	15%
65-74	10%
75-84	5%
85+	5%

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# Word Associations

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

1. citizen of a foreign country  
a. brigand      b. pauper      c. adherent      d. alien
2. noisy, heated quarrel  
a. semblance      b. altercation      c. muddle      d. expulsion
3. careful to consider all possibilities  
a. cumbersome      b. circumspect      c. spurious      d. perennial
4. seize for military purposes  
a. sully      b. pilfer      c. commandeer      d. diffuse
5. loose in one's morals or behavior  
a. spasmodic      b. dissolute      c. comely      d. erratic
6. one who lives by plunder or robbery  
a. pauper      b. alien      c. adherent      d. brigand
7. bring to a conclusion  
a. terminate      b. relinquish      c. compensate      d. jeer
8. rescue property in danger  
a. proliferate      b. salvage      c. abridge      d. usurp
9. make indistinct by wearing away  
a. fabricate      b. breach      c. efface      d. adjourn
10. rise superior to  
a. usurp      b. surmount      c. fabricate      d. exorcise
11. distract attention from the intended point of attack  
a. condone      b. admonish      c. feint      d. tantalize
12. holding stubbornly to one's own judgment  
a. cherubic      b. opinionated      c. trite      d. predisposed
13. choice between two undesirable courses of action  
a. salvage      b. brigand      c. obesity      d. dilemma
14. without unnecessary words  
a. unbridled      b. terse      c. lucrative      d. mediocre
15. differ in opinion  
a. tantalize      b. fortify      c. compensate      d. dissent
16. something to be consumed  
a. breach      b. expulsion      c. fodder      d. pauper
17. bring to a standstill  
a. proliferate      b. dissent      c. deadlock      d. subjugate
18. one who invades the territory of another  
a. marauder      b. alien      c. pauper      d. adherent
19. wink at  
a. muddle      b. abridge      c. condone      d. subjugate
20. characterized by anger  
a. illegible      b. unflinching      c. irate      d. terse


**Building with  
Classical Roots**

**pon, pos**—to put, place

This root appears in **predispose** (page 23). The literal meaning is "to put away before" but the word now means "to incline" or "to make susceptible." Some other words based on the same root are listed below.

**component**  
**composite**

**depose**  
**disposition**

**impose**  
**juxtapose**

**repository**  
**transpose**

*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. made up of distinct parts; combining elements or characteristics; such a combination ("put together")  
The forensic artist made a \_\_\_\_\_ drawing of the primary suspect.
2. one's temperament; a tendency, inclination; a settlement, arrangement  
That pony's pleasing \_\_\_\_\_ makes it a perfect choice for children.
3. to put out of office; to declare under oath ("to put down")  
She was shocked to learn of a secret plot to \_\_\_\_\_ the king.
4. to interchange positions; to shift  
Jeff will \_\_\_\_\_ the harmony into a different key that better suits the singer's voice.
5. a part, element  
At the last minute we replaced one of the central \_\_\_\_\_ of our presentation.
6. a place where things are stored or kept  
They rented an off-site warehouse as a \_\_\_\_\_ for company records.
7. to place side by side or close together ("to place next to")  
They will \_\_\_\_\_ incongruous celebrity photos in order to make a lampoon.
8. to put or place upon or over something else  
Digital software allows creative photographers to \_\_\_\_\_ a second image over the first to create an original picture.

From the list of words on page 49, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. The attic is our family \_\_\_\_\_ for anything we are unwilling to part with.
2. You won't be able to repair this old television set until you discover which of its \_\_\_\_\_ is not in working order.
3. I could never remain friends with a person who has such an intolerant \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When her misconduct was discovered, she was \_\_\_\_\_ from her office as president of the association.
5. The novel's main character is actually a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ portrait of several of the author's college friends.
6. When she mistypes a word, she usually includes all the correct letters, but she often \_\_\_\_\_ a few of them.
7. Like many great cities of the world, New York is a place where wealth and poverty are strikingly \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When the class discussion deteriorated into an argument, the teacher \_\_\_\_\_ his own set of possible solutions.

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

1. Jane Grey, the young Queen of England, was (**deposed, imposed**) after only nine days.
2. Some funny political cartoons (**juxtapose, depose**) oppositional election candidates in unlikely settings.
3. The kitchen contractor recommended a (**component, composite**) material that looks like granite but is made of slate and marble.
4. The court is authorized to (**juxtapose, impose**) stiff penalties upon repeat offenders.
5. Investigators are focusing on a particular (**component, repository**) in the navigational system, which they suspect may have malfunctioned.
6. Dogs of that breed generally have a calm (**transposition, disposition**).
7. I'm afraid you must have (**deposed, transposed**) some of the numbers when you dialed," she said patiently, "because this is *not* the Public Library."
8. My brother turned his old toy chest into a (**repository, composite**) for his growing collection of woodworking tools.