



Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in Units 7-9 appear in boldface type. Then answer questions 1-12 on page 106 on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage and in the introductory statement.

The state of Louisiana has an abundance of nutrias.
The following passage explains why.

(Line)

A nutria is not a vitamin, a Japanese car, a cancer-preventing vegetable, nor even a subatomic particle. No, no, no. Nutrias are **pugnacious** twenty-pound, semiaquatic rodents with webbed feet. Their whiskered faces resemble those of a beaver, while the **sparse** hair on their tails is more reminiscent of a rat's.

Nutrias are indigenous to South America but were introduced to the United States in the 1930s by fur traders looking for a cheap version of mink. In 1937 tabasco sauce tycoon I. A. McIlhenny imported thirteen pairs of nutrias to Avery Island, Louisiana, to start a fur farm. But nutria fur never caught on, and all the animals were released into the wild. With a reproductive rate of five to eight young per litter and up to three litters yearly, the North American nutria population did not **dwindle**.

Before long, there were a million "giant rats" in Louisiana, and they spread to Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Florida. In addition, nutrias were introduced throughout the Gulf of Mexico region to control specific types of aquatic vegetation in lakes and ponds; but since nutrias are consumers of all vegetation, this process failed. At their population

apex, the **horde** of nutrias numbered about ten million nationwide.

Many North American ecosystems cannot **assimilate** nutrias, and they damage wetlands and beach dunes, compete with indigenous species such as muskrat and waterfowl for food, and eat farmers' crops.

They make their nests out of plant materials in burrows dug into river banks and can eat up to twenty-five percent of their body weight per day. In Louisiana, people are being urged to "Save the Coast, Eat Nutrias"—as in nutria sausage, barbequed nutria, and nutria chili.

The nutria explosion reminds us that with a global transportation network, it is becoming increasingly easy for people and animals to move from place to place—sometimes with unexpected results.

1. Which of the following titles best summarizes the content of the passage?
 - a. Nutria Sausage
 - b. Order Rodentia
 - c. The Nutria Explosion
 - d. Save the Nutria
 - e. The Meaning of Nutria
2. In the first paragraph (lines 1–9), the nutria is described as a
 - a. form of *neutrino*
 - b. cross between a pug and a duck
 - c. cross between a beaver and a rat
 - d. relative of a mink
 - e. kind of waterfowl
3. **Pugnacious** (line 4) most nearly means
 - a. inquisitive
 - b. active
 - c. adventurous
 - d. amicable
 - e. combative
4. **Sparse** (line 8) is best defined as
 - a. scanty
 - b. silky
 - c. dense
 - d. coarse
 - e. thick
5. Paragraph 2 (lines 10–35) focuses mainly on
 - a. nutria biology
 - b. nutria history
 - c. fur industry statistics
 - d. wetland damage
 - e. nutria control
6. Apparently nutrias have overrun North America primarily because of their
 - a. ability to live on land
 - b. ability to nest in water
 - c. popularity as a source of fur
 - d. high reproductive capacity
 - e. ravenous appetites
7. The meaning of **dwindle** (line 23) is
 - a. explode
 - b. vanish
 - c. stabilize
 - d. swell
 - e. shrink
8. **Horde** (line 34) most nearly means
 - a. multitude
 - b. group
 - c. family
 - d. species
 - e. handful
9. **Apex** (line 34) is best defined as
 - a. nadir
 - b. peak
 - c. median
 - d. plateau
 - e. core
10. The evidence presented in the third paragraph (lines 36–49) suggests that
 - a. nutrias cannot thrive in the Louisiana wetlands
 - b. nutrias can comfortably coexist with muskrats and waterfowl
 - c. there is more room for nutrias in the Gulf of Mexico than in Louisiana
 - d. there is a need to reduce the nutria population
 - e. nutrias are likely to become an endangered species
11. The meaning of **assimilate** (line 37) is
 - a. incorporate
 - b. segregate
 - c. adopt
 - d. withstand
 - e. like
12. According to the passage, all of the following statements about nutrias are true EXCEPT
 - a. Nutrias are not indigenous to North America.
 - b. Nutrias have the ability to eat large quantities of aquatic vegetation.
 - c. Nutrias compete with native species for food.
 - d. Nutrias have a negative impact on many South American ecosystems.
 - e. Nutrias are a significant threat to the wetlands in Louisiana.

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Grammar in Context

In the opening sentence "A nutria is not a vitamin, a Japanese car, a cancer-preventing vegetable, nor even a subatomic particle" (lines 1-3 on page 105), the author uses several **modifiers**. Each gives information about the word it describes. The modifiers "Japanese," "cancer-preventing," and "subatomic" are all adjectives. An **adjective** is a word that modifies a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives can appear either before or after the noun or pronoun and answer questions such as *What kind? How many? How much?* or *Which one?* The word "Japanese" in the sentence is a proper adjective. The indefinite articles *a* and *an* are adjectives too, as is the definite article, *the*. An adjective may appear after a linking verb, as in the sentence "The nutria sausage was tasty."

Do not confuse adjectives with **adverbs**, which modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, and prepositional phrases (as in "almost to the end"). Adverbs can also modify complete sentences and subordinate clauses. They tell *how, when, where, to what extent, in what manner, and how much*. Negatives, such as *not, never, and hardly* are adverbs, too, as in "I should never have eaten that second piece of cake."

When you need to decide whether to use an adjective or an adverb, use what you have learned thus far plus the following ideas and rules: (1) Don't count on the *-ly* ending to identify a modifier as an adverb; words like *friendly* and *elderly* are adjectives. (2) *Good* and *bad* are always adjectives. (3) *Badly* and *well* are adverbs, although *well* can be used as an adjective to describe a person's health.

Choose the modifier in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence, and write it on the line provided.

- Sometimes, when new animals are introduced to a region, they cause (**great, greatly**) damage.

- It can be argued (**strong, strongly**) that the nutria explosion has been a disaster.

- The nutria chili tastes (**bad, badly**).

- A forkful of barbecued nutria goes down (**smooth, smoothly**).

- In spite of its weight and webbed feet, the nutria moves quite (**graceful, gracefully**).

- Nutrias were first brought to the United States (**near, nearly**) seventy-five years ago.

- Do you suppose that (**instant, instantly**) nutria is available in the grocery store?

- People down there in Louisiana will (**sure, surely**) be happy when the nutria population begins to drop.

Two-Word Completions

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

1. "Over the years, consumer prices have soared, while the real purchasing power of the dollar has _____," the speaker said. "If the cost of living continues to _____, the value of our money must surely shrink even more."
 a. dwindled . . . dwindle
 b. escalated . . . dwindle
 c. escalated . . . escalate
 d. dwindled . . . escalate
2. "They're asking far too much for this _____ merchandise," I remarked. "I'd be a fool to pay such an _____ price for goods that are so badly made."
 a. bogus . . . rasping
 b. sterling . . . expedient
 c. shoddy . . . exorbitant
 d. grievous . . . auxiliary
3. Roman governors had at their command both regular legionary troops and _____ units drawn from the native population to repel the _____ of savage barbarians that from time to time swarmed into the provinces of the Empire like an invasion of locusts.
 a. pugnacious . . . tirades
 b. heterogeneous . . . envoys
 c. vagrant . . . realms
 d. auxiliary . . . hordes
4. Some people really enjoy doing all the tiresome and time-consuming chores associated with housework, but to me such _____ is truly _____.
 a. drudgery . . . repugnant
 b. immunity . . . obstreperous
 c. liability . . . boorish
 d. assurance . . . pensive
5. After fighting my way all year along the noisy, crowded streets of a bustling modern _____ like Tokyo or New York, I find it quite a pleasure to _____ aimlessly along a winding country road.
 a. realm . . . dilate
 b. metropolis . . . meander
 c. asylum . . . impel
 d. cubicle . . . venture
6. As soon as the robins and the crocuses herald the _____ of spring, our personnel department is _____ with a veritable deluge of letters from college students asking about summer employment.
 a. interim . . . impelled
 b. advent . . . inundated
 c. prognosis . . . rejuvenated
 d. flair . . . consoled
7. Does the old saying, "Nothing _____, nothing gained," mean that someone who expects to be _____ well for his or her efforts must be prepared to take some risks?
 a. scuttled . . . maligned
 b. feigned . . . impelled
 c. ventured . . . remunerated
 d. assimilated . . . inundated

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Choosing the Right Meaning

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

"I should have been a pair of ragged claws
Scuttling across the floors of silent seas."

(T. S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock")

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

- a. slinking b. scraping c. scurrying d. salvaging

As a longtime friend of one of the participants, I don't think I can be an entirely candid judge of the debate.

2. The word **candid** in line 2 is used to mean

- a. forthright b. sincere c. unposed d. impartial

The rich flavor of the fish was heightened by the sprightly sauce with which it was served.

3. In line 1 the word **sprightly** is best defined as

- a. spicy b. secret c. animated d. frisky

Scouts came upon a Pawnee hunting party encamped near a meander of the Platte River.

4. In line 1 the word **meander** most nearly means

- a. incline b. turn c. rapids d. wandering

Though the few defenders remaining fought bravely and well, they were inundated by wave upon wave of shock troops.

5. In line 1 the word **inundated** is best defined as

- a. overwhelmed b. saturated c. relieved d. harried

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. **monologue**

- a. convention
b. recitation
c. conversation
d. invocation

3. **sparse**

- a. lasting
b. first
c. plentiful
d. important

5. **repugnant**

- a. peaceful
b. brief
c. attractive
d. expensive

7. **drudgery**

- a. dull work
b. hard work
c. artistry
d. fun

2. **obstreperous**

- a. kind
b. docile
c. selfish
d. disorderly

4. **flippant**

- a. respectful
b. brief
c. attractive
d. expensive

6. **malign**

- a. hide
b. pretend
c. praise
d. repulse

8. **heterogeneous**

- a. scientific
b. variegated
c. contrary
d. uniform

9. bogus

- a. mandatory
- b. homemade
- c. machine-made
- d. genuine

11. rabid

- a. slow
- b. restrained
- c. extreme
- d. foolish

13. dwindle

- a. diverge
- b. decrease
- c. increase
- d. ignite

15. liability

- a. truth
- b. advantage
- c. impossibility
- d. drawback

10. surly

- a. clean
- b. clear
- c. clever
- d. polite

12. incredulous

- a. skeptical
- b. gullible
- c. faithful
- d. disloyal

14. scuttle

- a. sink
- b. rescue
- c. torpedo
- d. drift

16. advent

- a. preparation
- b. arrival
- c. interim
- d. departure

Word Families

A. On the line provided, write the word you have learned in Units 7–9 that is related to each of the following nouns.

EXAMPLE: dilation—**dilate**

1. expediency, expedience

2. institution, institutionalization, institutor

3. repugnance, repugnancy

4. escalation, escalator

5. assimilation, assimilator

6. consolation, consoler

7. candor, candidness

8. surliness

9. remuneration, remunerator

10. sprightliness

11. inscription, inscriber

12. inundation

13. rejuvenation, rejuvenator

14. flippancy

15. exorbitance

B. On the line provided, write the word you have learned in Units 7–9 that is related to each of the following verbs.

EXAMPLE: expedite—**expedient**

16. assure

17. prognosticate

18. imperil

19. immunize

20. rasp

Word Associations

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

1. farewell
a. interim b. immunity c. prognosis d. adieu
2. Leave the dregs behind
a. realm b. liability c. envoy d. dross
3. bend out of shape
a. inundate b. warp c. assimilate d. meander
4. causing severe pain or suffering
a. candid b. heterogeneous c. momentous d. grievous
5. extremely unpleasant
a. candid b. sprightly c. repugnant d. expedient
6. having no fixed course
a. rasping b. vagrant c. bogus d. pugnacious
7. suitable for achieving a desired end
a. flippant b. expedient c. exorbitant d. pensive
8. person who represents one government in dealings with another
a. dross b. envoy c. liability d. console
9. hastily or poorly done
a. rabid b. obstreperous c. surly d. shoddy
10. utter false reports
a. feign b. dilate c. malign d. meander
11. undertaking involving risk or danger
a. institute b. auxiliary c. venture d. envoy
12. long, violently critical speech
a. advent b. tirade c. dross d. horde
13. enter on a list
a. escalate b. scuttle c. impel d. inscribe
14. the very summit
a. auxiliary b. console c. cubicle d. apex
15. urge forward
a. impel b. rejuvenate c. warp d. venture
16. the time between dusk and dawn
a. interim b. dross c. envoy d. realm
17. area of control
a. monologue b. cubicle c. flair d. realm
18. provide payment
a. dwindle b. remunerate c. assimilate d. institute
19. involving danger
a. flippant b. sterling c. perilous d. incredulous
20. contrary to common sense
a. pensive b. sparse c. sterling d. preposterous

Building with Classical Roots

pol—city, state; **ly**—to loosen, to set free

The root **pol** appears in **metropolis**, “a large city” (page 85). The root **ly** appears in **catalyst**, “any agent that causes change” (page 58). Some other words based on these roots are listed below.

**acropolis
analysis**

**cosmopolitan
electrolysis**

**metropolitan
paralysis**

**political
psychoanalysis**

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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.

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1. the breaking apart of a complex whole into its simpler parts for closer study; a statement of the results of this process; a brief summary or outline
Chemical _____ of the debris can help to establish the cause of the fire.

2. common to or representative of the whole world; not national or local; at home everywhere, widespread; conversant with many spheres of interest
Music is truly a _____ art form.

3. partial or complete loss, or temporary interruption, of the ability to move or experience sensation in part or all of the body; any condition of helpless inactivity or powerlessness
A serious spinal cord injury can result in permanent _____.

4. concerned with the structure or affairs of government, politics, citizens, or the state; involving politicians, governmental organizations, or parties on distinct sides in an issue
When I register to vote, I may align myself with a particular _____ party.

5. the fortified upper part or citadel of an ancient Greek city
While in Greece, we visited the “Sacred Rock of Athens” to see the ruins of the ancient _____.

6. decomposition of an electrolyte caused by electric current passing through it; removal of excess hair or other living tissue by destroying it with a needle-like electrode
The first practice of _____ took place in 1869, when St. Louis eye doctor Charles Michel sent a current through a gold needle to remove a swollen ingrown eyelash.

7. relating to a major city; comprised of a central city and its adjacent suburbs and communities
Most _____ newspapers include extensive arts and entertainment listings.

8. a therapeutic examination of the mind, developed by Freud, to discover the unconscious desires, fears, and anxieties that produce mental and emotional disorders; psychiatric treatment based on this theory and its methodology

The man will undergo _____ to try to determine the cause of his emotional confusion.

From the list of words on page 112, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the blank space provided.

1. The banker advised us to do a thorough _____ of our family budget.
2. The _____ of President Franklin Roosevelt's legs as a result of polio was hidden from the public for many years.
3. I enjoy seeing the clever _____ cartoons that poke fun at public issues.
4. It may be challenging for so _____ a person to adjust to small-town life.
5. Many city states in ancient Greece were built around a towering _____, which provided a place of refuge for local residents during times of invasion.
6. The new spa includes a hydrotherapy center and a modern _____ clinic.
7. After years of deep _____, the patient developed effective strategies to manage her emotional distress.
8. It is the editorial mission of *New Yorker* magazine to publish articles, stories, and reviews that reflect _____ life in that great city.

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

1. Throughout Greek history, the (**acropolis**, **electrolysis**) alternately served as a fortress, a religious center, and a political hub.
2. U.S. anarchist Emma Goldman once complained that "the (**political**, **metropolitan**) arena leaves one no alternative—one must either be a dunce or a rogue."
3. The doctor recommended (**paralysis**, **electrolysis**) as a means of removing hair.
4. To appeal to the sophisticated palates of their clientele, certain (**political**, **cosmopolitan**) restaurants serve items that feature a broad range of culinary influences.
5. In the final (**analysis**, **psychoanalysis**), I hope to be judged by the friends and family I've loved and the kindnesses I've shown, not by the possessions I may have acquired.
6. Crowds, noise, high prices, and a relentless pace are common complaints about (**cosmopolitan**, **metropolitan**) life.
7. Sometimes even (**analysis**, **paralysis**) can be better than actions made in haste.
8. During a recent session of (**psychoanalysis**, **acropolis**), the patient experienced a dramatic moment of self-discovery.