

repertoire
rep' ar twär

n. The list of pieces an actor, musician, etc. is ready to perform; the skills or accomplishments of a person or group.
[The band knew most of the requests, but several songs were not part of its *repertoire*.]

rudiment
röö' də mənt

n. (usually plural) 1. A basic principle or skill.
[This book teaches the *rudiments* of cooking, but it will not make you a master chef.]
2. An undeveloped or beginning stage.
[The *rudiments* of the club's plan to raise money seemed promising until we discussed them more, at which point we realized how unrealistic they were.]

undermine
un' dər mīn

v. 1. To weaken or ruin by degrees.
[His smoking habit seriously *undermined* his health.]
2. To attack by indirect, secret, or underhanded means.
[During World War II the French underground sought to *undermine* the Nazi occupation.]

unremitting
un rē mit' iŋ

adj. Not stopping or slowing down; constant.
[The *unremitting* sounds of the city kept me awake in my hotel room all night.]

1A Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences in each group below. If a sentence correctly uses the word in boldface, write C on the line of the corresponding number below the group. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in boldface is used correctly.

- 1. A **doleful** tale is one that expresses sadness or gloom.
- 2. A **penchant** is a fondness for something.
- 3. One's **repertoire** is one's range of skills or accomplishments.
- 4. An **unremitting** effort is one made in a halfhearted manner.
- 5. **Asperity** is abrasive behavior.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- 6. A **rambunctious** crowd is one that is excessively exuberant.
- 7. **Rudiments** are basic skills.
- 8. A **buffoon** is a person who tries to amuse people with tricks and silliness.
- 9. A **hierarchy** is a group that is organized according to status.

10. To **undermine** a plan is to work subtly to make sure that it isn't executed.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

■ 11. An **extrovert** is an effort that goes beyond what is expected.

12. To be **imbued** with a quality is to have it in abundance.

13. To **instigate** something is to examine it closely.

14. A **garish** display is one that is showy to the point of gaudiness.

15. A **baneful** policy is one that is full of hate.

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

1B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in boldface fits in a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

1. **garish**

(a) Walter gave me a _____ look when I mistook his wife for his daughter.

(b) The school gym was covered with _____ decorations for the dance.

(c) The multicolored sequined dress was a little too _____ for my taste.

2. **penchant**

(a) Trina's _____ for long words sometimes makes her sound pretentious.

(b) Isolation from the company of others had made him increasingly _____.

(c) A _____ for stretching the truth gave Jamie a reputation for being unreliable.

3. **buffoon**

(a) With his ill-fitting suit and mismatched socks, he looked like a _____.

(b) The salesperson tried to _____ us into paying twice what the watch was worth.

(c) Whenever Angela tried to _____ her brother, he got annoyed and walked away.

4. **bane**

- (a) Our neighbors caused us so much _____ we were forced to move.
 (b) Mosquitoes are the _____ of people camping in the northern woods this season.
 (c) The _____ effects of DDT led to the banning of this toxic pesticide in the United States.

5. **repertoire**

- (a) The magician's _____ included making rabbits disappear into thin air.
 (b) The 1929 Bentley was the prize object in the antique car collector's _____.
 (c) Kevin demonstrated for us his incredible _____ of bird calls.

6. **undermine**

- (a) Your constant criticism will seriously _____ his confidence in his ability.
 (b) Reports of mismanagement _____ the public's confidence in the agency.
 (c) Interfering with her practice sessions will _____ her chances of winning the cello competition.

7. **instigate**

- (a) A mutiny doesn't start by itself; someone has to _____ it.
 (b) The amateur detective vowed to _____ the dreadful crime.
 (c) The college will _____ its new admissions policy immediately.

8. **imbued**

- (a) The stump was so deeply _____ in the ground that we couldn't remove it.
 (b) All their children were _____ with a deep love of learning.
 (c) She _____ in her followers a deep loyalty to her beliefs.

1C Synonyms, Antonyms, Analogies

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|---|---|
| 1. BANEFUL | ECSTATIC | | |
| DOLEFUL | QUESTIONABLE | S | A |
| 2. FILL | INSTIGATE | | |
| RECALL | IMBUE | S | A |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 3. HIERARCHY AVERSION | PENCHANT DESCRIPTION | S | A |
| 4. ROUGHNESS CLARITY | INSTIGATION ASPERITY | S | A |
| 5. DOCILE RAMBUNCTIOUS | GARISH CLEVER | S | A |

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

6. UNDERMINE : SUPPORT ::
 (a) judge : consider (c) listen : hear
 (b) protest : promote (d) hope : examine
7. BANEFUL : HARM ::
 (a) garish : display (c) angry : rage
 (b) unsafe : injury (d) massive : size
8. RAMBUNCTIOUS : PEACEFUL ::
 (a) angry : sad (c) wild : serene
 (b) blue : green (d) tired : sleepy
9. EXTROVERT : SHY ::
 (a) balloon : light (c) athlete : athletic
 (b) sky : blue (d) ballerina : clumsy
10. UNREMITTING : ENDLESS ::
 (a) faulty : perfect (c) alert : distracted
 (b) tiny : petite (d) sad : pleased

1D Images of Words

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered boldface vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

1. extroverted

- (a) No matter what I say, you seem to take pleasure in disagreeing with me.
 (b) I notice that Sandy spends more and more time alone in her room.
 (c) Ever since he was a child, James has liked to take part in all group activities.

1E Narrative *Read the narrative below; then complete the exercise that follows it.*

CLOWN COLLEGE

When Irvin Feld purchased Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1967, he was concerned that the number of clowns in his circus was dwindling. The circus had only about a dozen clowns and the average age of the group was about sixty. After seeing some clowns perform, Feld remarked with **asperity**, “They can fall down, but can they get up?”

Feld found a solution to his problem in 1968 when he started a school that would train a new generation of clowns. It ran for thirty years and at its peak was receiving thousands of applications from those **imbued** with a desire to make people laugh. During their audition, applicants might be asked to walk like a lizard or to pretend they’re on a planet with too much gravity and then on one with too little. Only about thirty were accepted each year, usually the most **extroverted**. Shyness had to be overcome or it would **undermine** their chances of success. The college’s director once said what he looked for in a clown was “a heart as big as Alaska and [a willingness] to give it away on a daily basis.”

Those accepted to the program faced eight weeks of **unremitting** hard work. From 8 A.M. to 10 P.M., six days a week, they learned the **rudiments** of clowning. Typically, classes were taught by veteran clowns, many of whom were big-name circus performers at the top of the circus **hierarchy**. Students practiced various aspects of clowning, including acrobatics, walking on stilts, riding a unicycle, juggling, applying makeup, and arena choreography. They also worked on developing their own **repertoire** of tricks and stunts and decided which type of clown they aspired to be.

The **auguste** is a type of clown who is particularly **rambunctious**, wearing **garish** clothes several sizes too big, makeup that is greatly exaggerated, a bright red fake nose, and usually an orange fright wig. The **auguste** specializes in slapstick comedy and is the **bane** of the other clowns, **instigating** mischief and acting like a **buffoon**. Such acts often involve the **auguste**’s clumsily running in oversized boots in an attempt to escape the clutches of an annoyed clown police officer.

Students with a **penchant** for mime are often drawn to the other basic type, known as the whiteface clown. Makeup for the whiteface is applied sparingly around the eyes and mouth, over a white base. The shoes are small and the costume is loose-fitting. The hair is completely hidden under a skullcap, over which the whiteface wears a neat, cone-shaped hat. Much circus comedy is based on interactions between the **auguste** and the whiteface clowns. The whiteface is often a victim of the **auguste**’s antics and, therefore usually has a **doleful** expression.

In 1995 Clown College moved from Florida to Wisconsin, and two years later, as a result of cost-cutting measures, it closed its doors permanently. During its thirty years it graduated about fifteen hundred clowns. Class reunions are held every year when about three hundred present and former clowns get together to swap stories of circus life. With no more clowns being graduated, many of them tell of receiving calls from the circus, inviting them to return. But the work is hard, the pay is low, and the turnover is high. Not many are tempted by such offers. All agree, however, that their experience with the circus was an exciting time of their lives. They had lived a childhood dream: they ran away to join the circus.

Answer each of the following questions in a sentence. Whenever a vocabulary word does not appear in the question, try to use one (or a form of one) in your answer. In a few cases, both question and answer may contain vocabulary words.

1. How did Feld express his opinion of the state of the clowns in his circus in 1967?

2. What kind of person is likely to apply to Clown College?

3. Why would shyness **undermine** an audition to Clown College?

4. Is Clown College all fun and games?

5. What do students learn at Clown College?

6. Why might one conclude that students at Clown College get a good education in clowning?

7. What kind of student might be interested in becoming a whiteface clown?

8. How does the auguste's makeup and hair differ from those of the whiteface clown?
