

<b>mortify</b> môr' tə fī	<i>v.</i> To embarrass or humiliate. [Jason's fall to the ice just as he was ready to fire the puck past the goalie <i>mortified</i> him for days.]
<b>periphery</b> pə rīf'ər ē	<i>n.</i> The area around the edges; the outermost part. [Hesitant to enter the walled garden, Joy made her way instead along the <i>periphery</i> .] <b>peripheral</b> <i>adj.</i> Relating to, involving, or forming an outer edge or boundary. [Bill Bradley's extraordinary <i>peripheral</i> vision allowed him to see more of the basketball court than his opponents.]
<b>raconteur</b> ra kăn tər'	(A French word now part of our vocabulary.) <i>n.</i> One who tells stories with skill and wit. [Aunt Clara knew so many stories and was such a superb <i>raconteur</i> that she could entertain us for hours.]
<b>reiterate</b> rē it'ər āt	<i>v.</i> To say or do over again; to repeat. [The signs posted at fifty-foot intervals <i>reiterate</i> the warning against hunting.]
<b>subterfuge</b> sub' tər fyooj	<i>n.</i> A deceptive scheme or strategy. [Friar Laurence's <i>subterfuge</i> to bring Romeo and Juliet together not only deceived their families, but also came to a terrible end.]
<b>vacillate</b> vas' ə lāt	<i>v.</i> 1. To move back and forth from lack of balance; waver. [The needle <i>vacillated</i> between 5 and 6 before registering 5.4 on the Richter scale.] 2. To alternate indecisively between opinions or courses of action. [Karen's summer plans are still not set because she is <i>vacillating</i> between a cross-country bike ride and an internship with the science museum.]

## 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. Persons who **convene** come together in a group.
- 2. An **imperturbable** person is one who gets upset easily.
- 3. **Peripheral** matters are those that are not central.
- 4. To **reiterate** a concern is to express it over and over again.
- 5. A **subterfuge** is a comment that is not intended to be heard.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

- 6. To **exude** confidence is to exhibit it in abundance.
- 7. **Incremental** changes are those made gradually.
- 8. A **raconteur** is a person who is skilled at deceiving others.
- 9. To **gesticulate** is to say or express something by making gestures.
- 10. An **expedient** is a means to accomplishing an end.

6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

- 11. To **mortify** someone is to cause that person's death.
- 12. **Levity** is a state of perfect balance.
- 13. An **arcane** theory is one that not many people understand.
- 14. To **vacillate** is to keep changing one's mind.
- 15. An **apocryphal** event is one of earth-shaking significance.

11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_

## 1B Using Words

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

1. **exude(d)**
  - (a) Moisture from the body is \_\_\_\_\_ through the pores of the skin.
  - (b) As soon as Tom \_\_\_\_\_ the speed limit, he was stopped by the highway patrol.
  - (c) The producer \_\_\_\_\_ such charm that it was hard to refuse his offer.

## 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. SUBTERFUGE<br>CHANNEL     | CENTER<br>PERIPHERY   | S | A |
| 2. VACILLATE<br>MASSACRE     | MORTIFY<br>WAVER      | S | A |
| 3. REDUCTION<br>INCREMENT    | LEVITY<br>FLUCTUATION | S | A |
| 4. INCONVENIENT<br>EXPEDIENT | APOCRYPHAL<br>UNSURE  | S | A |
| 5. SUMMON<br>ANNOUNCE        | REITERATE<br>CONVENE  | S | A |

*Complete the analogies by circling 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. GESTICULATION : HAND ::  
 (a) pedestrian : foot  
 (b) walk : leg  
 (c) nod : head  
 (d) glance : eye
7. SUBTERFUGE : DECEIVE ::  
 (a) obstacle : overcome  
 (b) legacy : inherit  
 (c) antic : amuse  
 (d) game : play
8. LEVITY : GRAVE ::  
 (a) happiness : joyful  
 (b) serenity : anxious  
 (c) fear : alarming  
 (d) apathy : indifferent
9. ARCANE : BAFFLE ::  
 (a) witty : amuse  
 (b) painful : enjoy  
 (c) prompt : annoy  
 (d) auspicious : frighten

10. CHAOS : IMPERTURBABLE ::

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) rigidity : flexible  | (c) frenzy : calm      |
| (b) enormous : minuscule | (d) combative : docile |

## 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. **imperturbable**

- (a) There was not enough breeze to fill the sails, so Carrie started the engine.
- (b) Robin studies, oblivious to her siblings playing loudly around her.
- (c) The little boy stuck out his tongue at me and then turned and ran.

### 2. **expedient**

- (a) When we heard that a blizzard was forecast, we decided to return home.
- (b) To guarantee that the package arrives tomorrow, you should use the express service.
- (c) The candidate reversed his position on gun control when he saw the latest polls.

### 3. **levity**

- (a) The new fighter jet soared to 20,000 feet in less than a minute.
- (b) I always enjoy reading the jokes in this magazine.
- (c) The banter and loud laughter emanating from the next table prevented us from enjoying our meal.

### 4. **reiterate**

- (a) When Pam got off the roller coaster, she wanted to get right back on again.
- (b) The sick child kept saying, "I want my mommy."
- (c) The phone rang repeatedly, but no one bothered to answer it.

### 5. **apocryphal**

- (a) George Washington, as a boy, did not chop down his father's cherry tree.
- (b) For three days in a row, the local weather forecast was wrong.
- (c) Mark Twain said that reports of his death had been "greatly exaggerated."

### 6. **increment(al)**

- (a) Last night's six inches of snow brings the month's total to 58 inches.
- (b) Men's jacket sizes are 36-inch, 38-inch, 40-inch, 42-inch, and 44-inch.
- (c) Her starting salary was \$34,000, but each year she received a \$1,000 raise until she was earning \$40,000 a year.

### 7. **vacillate**

- (a) The baby cried when the nurse gave her a measles shot.
- (b) Color variations make the bark of the sycamore tree distinctive.
- (c) The car skidded on the ice and went off the road into the guard rail.

8. **arcane**

- (a) Karl Marx's theory of labor is understood by very few people.
- (b) Gary has trouble understanding simple addition and subtraction.
- (c) Few people outside of south-central Chile can speak Araucan.

9. **peripheral**

- (a) Since she worked only one day a week, Ms. Dawson had little to do with the project.
- (b) Pluto, the most distant planet in our solar system, is billions of miles from the sun.
- (c) The story that Davy Crockett killed a bear when he was only three is false.

10. **subterfuge**

- (a) The fountain is supplied with water from an underground pipe.
- (b) The Greeks are said to have penetrated Troy's defenses by hiding inside a wooden horse.
- (c) The man entered the house by posing as an inspector for the gas company.

## 1E Narrative

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

### GOING, GOING, GONE!

A man attending an auction absent-mindedly scratches his ear and, within a few minutes, is **mortified** to learn that with this casual movement he has bought a stuffed and mounted moose head complete with antlers. The story, though **apocryphal**, is a staple of auction folklore and expresses the fear that some people have of being drawn unwittingly into the bidding fray. The fear is unjustified. Bidding in public auctions is usually done by **gesticulating** in the auctioneer's direction while holding a numbered card aloft. The possibility of anyone making an unintended offer under these circumstances is slight.

In the **arcane** world of private, fine art auction houses, events are conducted with conspicuous restraint. Most people attending such auctions are known to the auctioneer and to each other because many are dealers who come to buy for their own business or for private clients. As the **imperturbable** auctioneer presides over the sale of an item whose price may eventually reach tens of millions of dollars, a person may bid by doing nothing more than catching the auctioneer's eye. In contrast, tugging an ear or looking up at the ceiling may be signals arranged beforehand with the auctioneer to indicate a desire to withdraw from the bidding.

The success of any auction, whether public or private, depends to a great degree on the skill of the person conducting the auction. A good auctioneer must be something of a **raconteur**, with a fund of amusing stories to tell and the wit to keep them brief. Often, by using a little **levity**, he or she can relax the crowd and help the bids flow more freely.

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. Why might a very good **raconteur** make a poor auctioneer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What possibilities for training exist for people who want to become auctioneers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When do you think it would be most important for an auctioneer to be **imperturbable**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does the narrative make clear that the moose head story is untrue?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is one skill both ball players and auctioneers need to cultivate?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why would it be inaccurate to describe a Dutch flower auction as filled with **levity**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do auctioneers make sure their audiences know the last bid that was taken?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. According to the narrative, what is one way the bidding in a private art auction differs from that in a public auction?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Describe what you would consider a **mortifying** experience for a bidder.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is one way that auctions in the United States and in the Netherlands differ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why do you think the world of the fine art auction houses is described as **arcane**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What are some **expedients** bidders in fine art auctions use to withdraw from the bidding?  
\_\_\_\_\_