

prescience pre' shē ənt	<i>n.</i> Foresight; knowledge beforehand of events. [The ancient Greeks consulted oracles because they believed them to have the power of <i>prescience</i> .] prescient <i>adj.</i>
protagonist prō ta' gə nist	<i>n.</i> The chief character in a drama or story. [The <i>protagonist</i> in Shakespearean tragedy is usually a person destroyed by a character flaw such as jealousy or excessive ambition.]
sedulous se' jə ləs	<i>adj.</i> Completed with careful perseverance; diligent. [Through their <i>sedulous</i> efforts, workers in Project HOPE delivered medicine and supplies to doctors and patients in the disaster zone.]
trenchant tren' chənt	<i>adj.</i> Expressed with vigor and penetrating insight; keenly perceptive. [The reviewer's <i>trenchant</i> criticism did not please the book's author.]
utopia yoo tō' pē ən	<i>n.</i> A place or state of perfect social and political conditions. [The <i>utopia</i> promised by communism failed to materialize in Eastern Europe.] utopian <i>adj.</i>
valedictory va lə dik' tə rē	<i>n.</i> A farewell address, especially one given at a graduation ceremony. [The <i>valedictory</i> is usually given by a student who has achieved great distinction.] <i>adj.</i> Of or relating to such a farewell address. [General Lee's <i>valedictory</i> remarks to the Army of Virginia were tinged with sadness.] valediction <i>n.</i>

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. To **delineate** something is to describe it.
- 2. A **bibulous** gathering is one at which alcohol is consumed to excess.
- 3. A **utopia** is a false promise.
- 4. An **obdurate** person is one who sticks stubbornly to a position.
- 5. A **covert** act is one that is open for all to see.

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

- 6. An **encomium** is an expression of displeasure.
- 7. An **acolyte** is anything that brings about change.
- 8. **Demagoguery** is appealing to people's prejudices in pursuit of power.
- 9. A **prescient** person is one who is able to foresee what might happen.
- 10. A **valedictory** is a farewell address.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

- 11. A **sedulous** effort is one that is halfhearted.
- 12. A **protagonist** is a person who is quick to criticize.
- 13. To **declaim** something is to deny having anything to do with it.
- 14. A **trenchant** comment is one that is vigorously expressed.
- 15. To **coalesce** is to come together into a single body.

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. **declaim**

- (a) Pam said she would _____ the reward because she did not really need the money.
- (b) Sultan loves to _____ his views on educational reform to anyone who will listen.
- (c) "I didn't quite catch what you said, so would you please _____ it?"

2. **obdurate**

- (a) In winter, heavy frosts make the soccer field too _____ to play on.
- (b) Kumiko begged her parents to change their mind, but they were _____.
- (c) Pulling out weeds was such _____ work that we soon quit.

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. VALEDICTION | PRAISE | | |
| DEMAGOGUE | SALUTATION | S | A |
| 2. SECRET | COVERT | | |
| OBDURATE | SILENT | S | A |
| 3. FLEXIBLE | PRESCIENT | | |
| OBDURATE | HONEST | S | A |
| 4. FOLLOWER | BULLY | | |
| ACOLYTE | PROTAGONIST | S | A |
| 5. UTOPIAN | ENORMOUS | | |
| VAGUE | TRENCHANT | 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. DECLAIM : VOICE ::
 (a) strike : bat
 (b) drink : thirst
 (c) hear : ear
 (d) gesture : hand
7. BIBULOUS : ALCOHOL ::
 (a) scrupulous : care
 (b) gluttonous : food
 (c) ferocious : tiger
 (d) gregarious : words
8. ENCOMIUM : PRAISE ::
 (a) agility : speed
 (b) mile : distance
 (c) valedictory : farewell
 (d) antidote : harm
9. SEDULOUS : DILIGENT ::
 (a) responsible : reliable
 (b) utopian : city
 (c) priestly : religious
 (d) trenchant : dull

10. COALESCE : SCATTER ::

(a) converse : talk

(c) unite : divide

(b) delineate : describe

(d) disclaim : proclaim

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. demagoguery

- (a) The man claimed to be a doctor, but actually he knew little about medicine.
- (b) The speaker argued that improving government-sponsored health-care benefits to older citizens would cost too much.
- (c) Making subtle appeals to racial prejudice in order to get votes is shameful.

2. covert

- (a) The overthrow of the Bokhari government took most people by surprise.
- (b) Though they try to hide it, it's obvious that Terry and Marcel are in love.
- (c) The agents were disappointed when their sting to catch the smugglers failed.

3. acolyte

- (a) The tree was just four feet high when we planted it.
- (b) Although the neurosurgeon performed the crucial procedures, the resident helped throughout the operation with the routine ones.
- (c) The apprentice watched as the mason began constructing the curved wall.

4. delineate

- (a) With a few quick pencil strokes, Roz captured Sean's bemused expression.
- (b) Roberta repeated that she had been home since eight o'clock and knew nothing about the theft.
- (c) Charles Dickens' ability to portray characters vividly is widely acknowledged.

5. encomium

- (a) "They didn't give me enough time to do the job properly."
- (b) "Be careful! Look where you're going!"
- (c) This humidifier has received the highest ratings from an independent testing center.

6. valediction

- (a) "Everything I am I owe to my angel mother" is one of Abraham Lincoln's better known quotes on his personal life.
- (b) "A plague on both your houses!" cried Mercutio.
- (c) "Pisa Pizza has the best calzones in town."

7. utopian

- (a) My grandparents came to this country, seeking a new life.
- (b) Our group is monitoring the water quality in the bay.
- (c) One day, poverty and crime and disease will be banished from the earth.

8. protagonist

- (a) David Ho, M.D., *Time* magazine's 1996 Man of the Year, works fastidiously in his fight to defeat the AIDS virus.
- (b) Audrey Hepburn played the leading role in the Broadway musical *My Fair Lady*.
- (c) Isaiah moved his queen and without looking up said, "Checkmate."

9. trenchant

- (a) The soldiers positioned themselves in a way that prevented a surprise attack.
- (b) Caroline did not think much of Stephen King's latest book.
- (c) "The negotiator's comment cut right to the heart of the matter in the dispute between management and labor."

10. prescience

- (a) "I think I'm going to be ill," Helen murmured.
- (b) Harry felt certain the car would break down as soon as the warranty expired.
- (c) The next full moon will be on the ninth of October.

1E Narrative

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

INVISIBLE MAN

During the summer of 1945, Ralph Ellison lived on a friend's farm in Vermont, recuperating from a stress-related illness, a result of his wartime service in the Merchant Marine. He hoped to use the time to write. Even though he was little known as an author, he had written essays about literature for years. One day as he sat at his typewriter, he pecked out the words, "I am an invisible man."

At first, he was unsure what the sentence meant, but as he pondered it, a number of ideas relating to his identity as an African American began to coalesce for him. Although at the time he was unaware of the impact his book would have, he had begun writing one of the most significant novels of the twentieth century. It took him seven years. When the work was published in 1952 as *Invisible Man*, the encomiums that greeted it (including the National Book Award for fiction in 1953) ensured its instant status as a classic American novel. It has held this position ever since. One frequently mentioned feature of the book is the use Ellison makes of the richness and diversity of African-American speech and experience. Another feature often noted is the prescience of the book. Many of the events delineated in the novel have parallels

uscript pages kept in no particular order in several cardboard boxes. Ellison's widow invited his longtime friend John Callahan, a professor of literature, to shape this material into a novel. The resulting 368-page work, titled *Juneteenth*, was published in 1999 to mixed reviews. *Invisible Man* had set an extraordinarily high standard that the second book, in the view of some critics, failed to match. Ellison once said, "I would rather write one good book than five bad ones." In the end that is, perhaps, what he did.

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 would it be inaccurate to say that Ellison presents a **utopian** view of African-American life in *Invisible Man*?

2. Why is it unusual for a **protagonist** to have no name?

3. Why can we assume that the gathering of white citizens grew more raucous as the evening progressed?

4. What effect did the sentence "I am an invisible man" have on Ralph Ellison?

5. What kind of work do you think Invisible Man did for Brother Jack?

6. What details in the story suggest that Ras probably **declaimed** his ideas to those who would listen?

7. Why would the **prescience** of the ideas in the book not have been apparent on publication?

8. What details suggest that Invisible Man was **sedulous** in his studies?

9. How does the narrative indicate that Ellison's response to his critics was not covert?
