

BARRON'S

601

WORDS

**You Need to Know
to Pass Your Exam**

Fifth Edition

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**40 Vocabulary-Expanding Lessons
that will help you score high on standardized tests**

MURRAY BROMBERG AND JULIUS LIEBB

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MURRAY BROMBERG

Principal Emeritus
Andrew Jackson High School
Queens, New York

JULIUS LIEBB

Former Assistant Principal, English
Andrew Jackson High School
Queens, New York

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INTRODUCTION

People who are planning to take Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs, PSATs), Graduate Record Exams (GREs), Miller Analogies Tests (MATs), and other standardized tests commonly study long lists of vocabulary words in preparation for the verbal portion of such tests. Although that is commendable, it is not economical. There are just too many words to study—and not enough time before a test to master all of them.

With that challenge in mind, we have carefully chosen 601 words that testmakers are fond of using. By concentrating on words at the level most commonly tested on the major exams, we have been able to produce a compact, manageable assortment of functional vocabulary words. Naturally, no one—not even the testmakers themselves—can predict precisely which words will turn up on a specific exam, but the words we've selected deal with topics and concepts considered vital for today's students. Mastering them will be a valuable step toward readiness for your upcoming exam.

This book was designed for the high school or college student who wants to be ready for an upcoming standardized test. It is also useful for the adult who is seeking self-improvement through independent study. This fifth edition contains expanded exercises, updated sample sentences, new illustrations, a Vocabulary Roundup, and the bonus feature "Panorama of Words" that displays the new words in context in interesting sentences.

Testmakers who thought they could stump you with *etiology*, *jejune*, *leitmotif*, and *baleful* will be in for a surprise when you get through with *601 Words You Need to Know to Pass Your Exam*.

NOTE: The answers to all exercises are at the back of the book.

PRONUNCIATION KEY*

a	<u>a</u> sp, <u>f</u> at, <u>p</u> arrot	ə	represents
ā	<u>a</u> pe, <u>d</u> ate, <u>pl</u> ay, <u>b</u> reak, <u>f</u> ail	<u>a</u>	in ago
ä	<u>a</u> h, <u>c</u> ar, <u>f</u> ather, <u>c</u> ot	<u>e</u>	in agent
e	<u>e</u> lf, <u>t</u> en, <u>b</u> erry	<u>i</u>	in sanity
ē	<u>e</u> ven, <u>m</u> ee <u>t</u> , <u>m</u> oney, <u>f</u> lea, <u>g</u> rieve	<u>o</u>	in comply
i	<u>i</u> s, <u>h</u> it, <u>m</u> irror	<u>u</u>	in focus
ī	<u>i</u> ce, <u>b</u> ite, <u>h</u> igh, <u>s</u> ky	ər	per <u>h</u> aps
ō	<u>o</u> pen, <u>t</u> one, <u>g</u> o, <u>b</u> oat	ch	<u>ch</u> in, <u>c</u> atch <u>e</u> r, <u>ar</u> ch, <u>n</u> ature
ô	<u>a</u> ll, <u>h</u> orn, <u>l</u> aw, <u>o</u> ar	sh	<u>sh</u> e, <u>c</u> ush <u>i</u> on, <u>d</u> ash, <u>m</u> ach <u>i</u> ne
ōō	<u>o</u> oze, <u>t</u> ool, <u>cr</u> ew, <u>r</u> ule	zh	<u>z</u> hure, <u>l</u> e <u>i</u> sure, <u>b</u> eige
oo	<u>l</u> ook, <u>p</u> ull, <u>m</u> oor, <u>w</u> olf	ŋ	ring, <u>a</u> ng <u>e</u> r, <u>d</u> ri <u>ng</u>
yōō	<u>u</u> se, <u>c</u> ute, <u>f</u> ew	H	German <u>i</u> ch
yoo	<u>c</u> ure, <u>g</u> lob <u>u</u> le		
oi	<u>o</u> il, <u>p</u> oint, <u>t</u> oy		
ou	<u>o</u> ut, <u>c</u> rowd, <u>pl</u> ow		
u	<u>u</u> p, <u>c</u> u <u>t</u> , <u>c</u> olor, <u>f</u> lood		

*Pronunciation Key, excerpted with permission of Macmillan USA, a Simon & Schuster Macmillan Company, from WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY, Third College Edition. Copyright © 1988, 1991, 1994 by Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Words from Proper Names

Should you be pleased to be called a *maverick*?

Who might issue a *philippic* against a *philanderer*?

Why would *Procrustean* be an interesting name for a mattress company?

Is it acceptable to boast about a *Pyrrhic* victory?

Which literary figure do you recognize in the word *quixotic*?

jingoist
lothario
maverick
nemesis
philanderer
philippic
procrustean
protean
Pyrrhic
quixotic
saturnine
solecism
spoonerism
sybarite
tawdry

- jingoist** (jɪŋ-'gō-ist)—one who boasts about his patriotism and favors a warlike foreign policy. In 1877, British Prime Minister Disraeli sent the fleet to Gallipoli to slow up the Russians. A singer wrote a ditty called “By Jingo” in honor of that action.
 - The senator lost because his constituents rejected his *jingoistic* policies.
 - “*Jingoism*,” to paraphrase Samuel Johnson, “is the last refuge of a scoundrel.”
- lothario** (lō-ther-'ē-ō)—rake; seducer; lover. Lothario was an amorous character in an eighteenth-century play, *The Fair Penitent*.
 - The aging playboy thought of himself as a sophisticated *lothario*.
 - I tried out for the role of the young *lothario*, but they cast me as the butler.
- maverick** (mav-'ər-ik)—one who acts independently. Samuel Maverick was a Texas rancher who refused to brand his cattle as others were doing.
 - When you defend unpopular causes, you get the reputation of being a *maverick*.
 - The president said that he didn't want yes-men or *mavericks* in his cabinet.
- nemesis** (nem-'ə-sis)—agent of retribution; just punishment. In Greek mythology, the goddess Nemesis punished pretentiousness with her sword and avenging wings.
 - No matter how great a team we fielded, little Calhoun Tech always proved to be our *nemesis*.
 - Math is my *nemesis*, constantly reminding me that I'm not as bright as I think I am.
- philanderer** (fi-lan-'dər-er)—one who makes love insincerely; one who engages in passing love affairs. The word comes from the Greek *philandros* (“man-loving”) but gained its current usage because many English playwrights gave the name to their romantic leads.
 - When Mrs. Greene wanted to find out if her husband was a *philanderer*, she hired a detective.
 - At the age of 40, Eric switched from part-time *philanderer* to full-time, domesticated husband.

6. **philippic** (fi-lip'-ik)—bitter verbal attack. Philip II of Macedon wanted to make Greece into a monarchy. He was opposed by the great orator, Demosthenes, who denounced Philip in devastating speeches that came to be known as *philippics*.
- My *philippic* against higher taxes was reported on the local radio station.
 - The leader of the rent strike mounted the platform to deliver an effective *philippic* against the management.
7. **procrustean** (prō-krus'-tē-ən)—designed to secure conformity; drastic. An ancient Greek robber named Procrustes tied his victims to a bed and then, to make them fit the bed, stretched the short ones and hacked off the limbs of the taller ones.
- Our mayor takes various suggestions and gives them a *procrustean* treatment to fit his philosophy.
 - Your *procrustean* attitude does not allow for disagreement.
8. **protean** (prōt'-ē-ən)—changeable; taking on different forms. In Greek mythology, Proteus was a sea god who could change his appearance at will.
- I resent your *protean* propensity for changing your mind whenever you feel like it.
 - The stage designer received an award for his *protean* construction that lent itself to the play's various moods.
9. **Pyrrhic victory** (pir'-ik)—a victory that is exceptionally costly. Pyrrhus defeated the Romans in 279 B.C. but his losses were terribly heavy.
- The workers seemed to triumph at the end of the strike but it was a *Pyrrhic victory*.
 - Although we won the championship, it was a *Pyrrhic victory* because of the crippling injuries we suffered.
10. **quixotic** (kwik-sät'-ik)—romantically idealistic; impractical. The Spanish novelist, Cervantes, brought this word into our language when he wrote *Don Quixote*. His hero went forth foolishly to tilt against windmills and help the downtrodden.
- Margo's *quixotic* behavior was upsetting to her family because she had always been so level-headed.
 - The City Planning Commission's ideas were labeled *quixotic* by the skeptical editors.
11. **saturnine** (sat'-ər-nīn)—sluggish; gloomy; grave. The planet Saturn is so far from the sun that it was thought of as cold and dismal.
- Uncle Dave's constant *saturnine* expression drove my lively Aunt Pearl up the wall.
 - While awaiting the jury's verdict, my pessimistic client had a *saturnine* appearance.
12. **solecism** (säl'-ə-siz'm)—substandard use of words; violation of good manners. This word derives from the Greek inhabitants of the colony of Soloi who used a slangy dialect.
- There are some word forms that my teacher rejects as *solecisms* but I feel are acceptable.
 - "Ain't she sweet" is a *solecism*—ain't it?
13. **spoonerism** (spōon'-ər-iz'm)—an unintentional exchange of sounds. Reverend Spooner of New College, Oxford, occasionally twisted his words around when he got excited so that "conquering kings" came out as "kinkering congs."
- My cousin collects *spoonerisms* that he hears on the radio, and he hopes to publish them.
 - The candidate's unfortunate *spoonerism* shocked his elderly audience and cost him their votes.
14. **sybarite** (sib'-ə-rīt)—one who is fond of luxury and soft living. Sybaris was a fabulously wealthy Italian city, symbolic of the good life.
- Rudy was criticized for living as a *sybarite* while others of his family were starving.
 - The *sybarites* in Roman depictions are often eating grapes.
15. **tawdry** (tō'-drē)—cheap; gaudy; showy. This word can be traced to St. Audrey. Scarves called "St. Audrey's laces" were sold in England where the local people changed the pronunciation to *tawdry*. The quality of the scarves, which at first was good, deteriorated when they were mass produced for the peasant trade.
- Marlene's *tawdry* taste in clothing was an embarrassment to her boyfriend.
 - The jewelry at Tiffany's can hardly be described as *tawdry*.

EXERCISES

I. Which Word Comes to Mind?

In each of the following, read the statement, then circle the word that comes to mind.

1. You want to rip into your neighbor for his bigoted remarks

(*philanderer, philippic, protean*)

2. A newspaper editorial calls for us to send the fleet to intimidate a Caribbean country

(*jingoism, spoonerism, solecism*)

3. All the girls wear pantsuits except Betsy who prefers dresses

(*maverick, saturnine, nemesis*)

4. I heard of a scheme on Twitter that would provide \$10,000 for each American family

(*lothario, Pyrrhic victory, quixotic*)

5. Everyone at the meeting was forced to change his or her mind in order to agree with the chairperson's philosophy

(*tawdry, sybarite, procrustean*)

6. It's unusual for a fashion editor to have such gaudy taste in jewelry

(*tawdry, saturnine, protean*)

7. Mark boasted of having been engaged seven times

(*philippic, lothario, jingoist*)

8. The singer was fond of saying he always did it his way

(*maverick, solecism, spoonerism*)

9. Ted likes caviar and imported champagne

(*sybarite, nemesis, philanderer*)

10. The senator blasted his opponent in a fiery speech

(*quixotic, procrustean, philippic*)

II. True or False?

In the space provided, indicate whether each statement is true or false.

- _____ 1. No one welcomes a *Pyrrhic victory*.
- _____ 2. A *jingoist* is a hawk rather than a dove.
- _____ 3. "I don't know nothing" is a *spoonerism*.
- _____ 4. A *nemesis* is something like a jinx.
- _____ 5. Going along with the majority is a *maverick's way*.
- _____ 6. A *tawdry* garment is tasteful.
- _____ 7. By Ed's *saturnine* expression, we knew that the news was bad.
- _____ 8. The prison diet of bread and water was in keeping with the *sybarite's* lifestyle.
- _____ 9. The class was shocked at the professor's use of a *solecism*.
- _____ 10. Placing a man on the moon was once considered a *quixotic* idea.

III. Fill in the Blank

Insert one of the new words in the proper space in each sentence below.

1. My cousin tried to diet, but desserts proved to be his _____.
2. Charley, a born _____, always votes against the majority.
3. The usually level-headed Kyra came up with a _____ suggestion that was totally out of character.
4. Andrea thought she looked elegant, but we found her appearance to be _____.
5. At the end of a one-hour _____ against taxes, the candidate received thunderous applause.
6. The _____ had contempt for anyone he thought lacked patriotic spirit.
7. After my tongue-tied _____, I apologized to our hostess and left.
8. With fifty servants to wait on him, the Roman emperor was a true _____.
9. Considering himself a _____, Uncle Don proposed to every widow in town.
10. Myrtle's _____ expression was the result of a chronic stomach condition.

IV. What's the Antonym?

Which of the new words is most nearly *opposite* in meaning to the one provided?

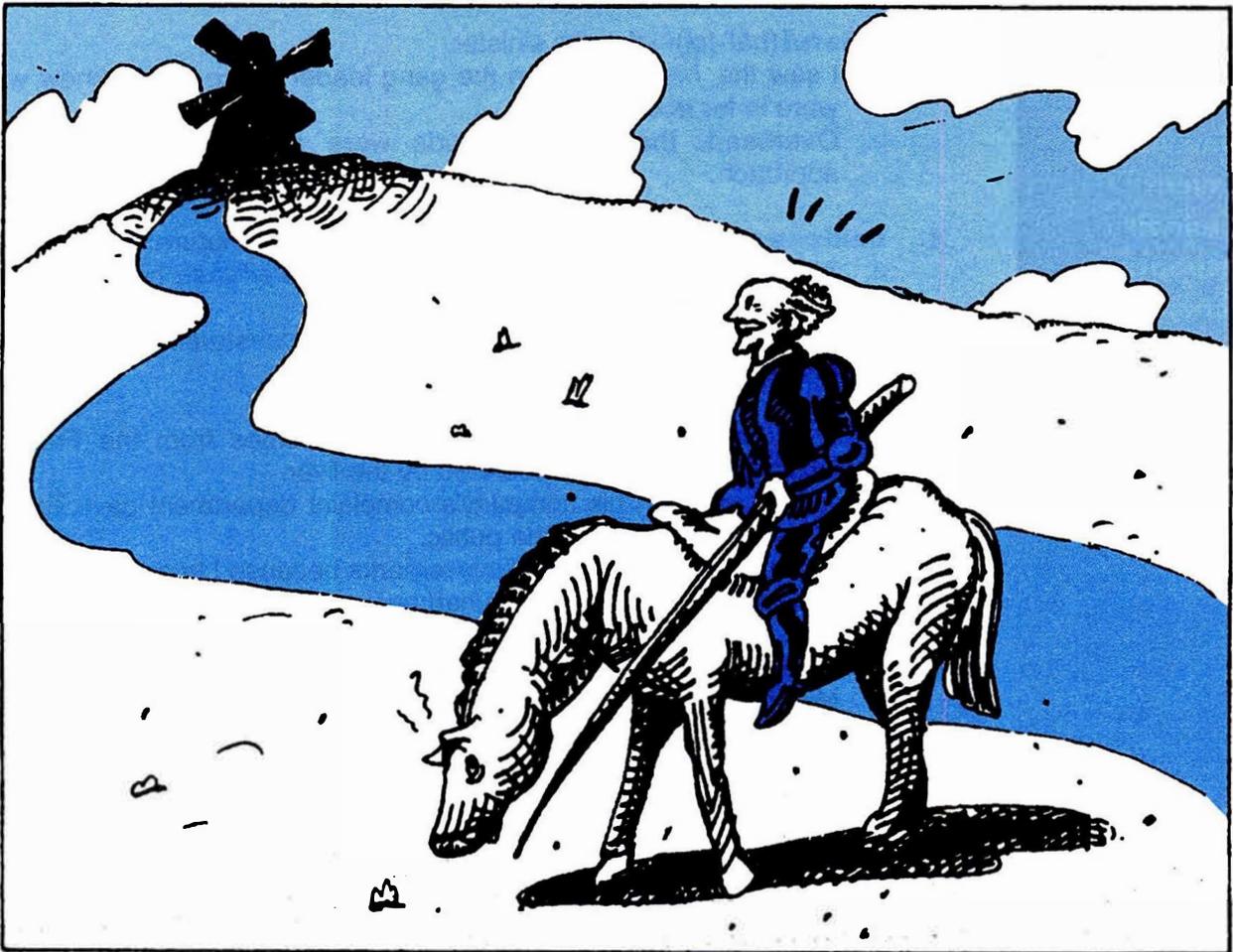
1. conformist _____
2. eulogy _____
3. tasteful _____
4. lively _____
5. practical _____
6. constant _____
7. faithful husband _____
8. conservative _____
9. political dove _____
10. democratic _____

V. Matching

Match the word in column A with its correct definition in column B by writing the letter of that definition in the space provided.

- A**
- ___ 1. jingoist
 - ___ 2. lothario
 - ___ 3. maverick
 - ___ 4. nemesis
 - ___ 5. philanderer
 - ___ 6. philippic
 - ___ 7. procrustean
 - ___ 8. protean
 - ___ 9. Pyrrhic victory
 - ___ 10. quixotic
 - ___ 11. saturnine
 - ___ 12. solecism
 - ___ 13. spoonerism
 - ___ 14. sybarite
 - ___ 15. tawdry

- B**
- a. interchange of initial sounds
 - b. changeable
 - c. super-patriot
 - d. nonconformist
 - e. impractical
 - f. language error
 - g. retribution
 - h. fond of high living
 - i. unfaithful lover
 - j. rake
 - k. gaudy
 - l. too costly
 - m. designed to secure conformity
 - n. bitter verbal attack
 - o. sluggish



Don Quixote = quixotic

Appearances and Attitudes (I)

What is the relationship of *bilious* to a body fluid?

Why might a *lachrymose* person need tissues?

Would you prefer a waiter who was *complaisant* or *churlish*?

Should we applaud or hiss *craven* actions?

Is it a good idea to submit your manuscript to a *captious* editor?

acidulous
avaricious
baleful
bellicose
bilious
bumptious
captious
churlish
complaisant
contrite
convivial
craven
debonair
dyspeptic
lachrymose

- acidulous** (ə-sij'-oo-ləs)—somewhat acid or sour.
 - Joan's father took an *acidulous* view of her plans to get married.
 - He is the kind of *acidulous* critic who hates every new book that is published.
- avaricious** (av-ə-rish'əs)—excessively greedy.
 - The *avaricious* broker was prosecuted by the attorney general.
 - In the first part of *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge is portrayed as an *avaricious* employer.
- baleful** (bāl'-fəl)—deadly; sinister.
 - I saw the *baleful* look on the gang leader's face, and I knew we were in for trouble.
 - Overhead, the *baleful* clouds were announcing a storm's approach.
- bellicose** (bel-ə-kōs)—warlike; of a quarrelsome nature.
 - Although our landlord sometimes sounds *bellicose*, he is actually very soft-hearted.
 - Our ambassador often has to ignore *bellicose* statements from the prime minister.
- bilious** (bil'-yəs)—bad-tempered; bitter. It comes from the French word *bilis* ("bile"), the fluid secreted by the liver.
 - Twenty years in his company's complaint department gave Ted a *bilious* attitude toward the public.
 - I overlooked Cynthia's *bilious* remarks because I know that she is bad-tempered until she has had her morning coffee.
- bumptious** (bump'-shəs)—arrogant; disagreeably conceited.
 - My uncle's *bumptious* personality has caused him to be fired from several good jobs.
 - In his *bumptious* fashion, Mario felt that every girl was madly in love with him.
- captious** (kap'-shəs)—critical; quick to find fault; quibbling.
 - I don't mind criticism from Professor Torres, but his *captious* comments about my term paper did not endear him to me.
 - The gardeners hate to work for Mrs. Lyons because of her *captious* eye.

8. **churlish** (churl'-ish)—rude; surly. This adjective comes from “churl,” the old word for a peasant.
- We were barred from the restaurant because some of our team members had behaved in a *churlish* fashion.
 - Harry’s allowance was cut off by his parents as punishment for his *churlish* table manners.
9. **complaisant** (kəm-pla'z'nt)—willing to please; tending to consent to others’ wishes.
- Every employee at the state agency acts in an admirable, *complaisant* way.
 - Uriah Heep adopted a *complaisant* pose as a cover-up for his hostility.
10. **contrite** (kən-trī't)—crushed in spirit by a feeling of guilt.
- Because Judge Dooly believed that the prisoner was *contrite*, he gave him a light sentence.
 - When the fraternity members realized the horror of their actions, they were truly *contrite*.
11. **convivial** (kən-viv'-ē-əl)—festive; sociable.
- All of the shoppers contributed to the *convivial* atmosphere at the mall.
 - New Orleans at Mardi Gras time is world-famous for its *convivial* qualities.
12. **craven** (kra'-vən)—cowardly.
- Even the most *craven* animal will turn courageous when its young are threatened.
 - Lieutenant Rader’s *craven* behavior under fire resulted in his court-martial.
13. **debonair** (deb-ə-ner')—courteous, gracious and having a sophisticated charm; suave; urbane. In Old French the words were *de bon aire* (“of a good race or breed”).
- Uncle Edward, with his top hat at a jaunty angle, was the model of a *debonair* gentleman.
 - Driving up in a sporty foreign car, my brother impressed the neighbors with his *debonair* appearance.
14. **dyspeptic** (dis-pep'-tik)—grouchy; gloomy; a person who suffers from dyspepsia or indigestion.
- Eric’s *dyspeptic* analysis of our chances for success was discouraging.
 - Our local newspaper features two columnists—one with a *dyspeptic* viewpoint, the other with an incurable optimism.
15. **lachrymose** (lak'-rə-mōs)—sad; mournful; inclined to shed many tears.
- Most television soap operas have *lachrymose* themes.
 - The funniest Ringling Brothers Circus clown has a *lachrymose* expression painted on his face.

EXERCISES

I. Which Word Comes to Mind?

In each of the following, read the statement, then circle the word that comes to mind.

- A defendant’s attitude that impresses the jury

(*debonair, contrite, acidulous*)

- An ill-tempered waiter

(*complaisant, craven, churlish*)

3. Scrooge

(*baleful, avaricious, bumptious*)

4. A person suffering from indigestion

(*dyspeptic, bellicose, captious*)

5. An angry boss insulting his workers

(*lachrymose, bilious, convivial*)

6. Someone with a chip on his or her shoulder

(*bellicose, craven, complaisant*)

7. A tearful movie

(*captious, lachrymose, churlish*)

8. Stealing from the blind man

(*bumptious, craven, dyspeptic*)

9. After the prank, the college boys apologize

(*contrite, convivial, bilious*)

10. Giving someone a hotfoot as a practical joke

(*churlish, debonair, acidulous*)

II. True or False?

In the space provided, indicate whether each statement is true or false.

- ___ 1. A *craven* leader inspires respect in his followers.
 ___ 2. Citizens are pleased to see a criminal who is *contrite*.
 ___ 3. *Captious* people often split hairs.
 ___ 4. It's difficult for a gawky 14-year-old to look *debonair*.
 ___ 5. By displaying proper etiquette, one can expect to be praised for one's *churlishness*.
 ___ 6. The children's *lachrymose* behavior at the funeral was understandable.
 ___ 7. Arthur's *bumptious* remarks at the dinner embarrassed his roommate.
 ___ 8. We always maintained a *bellicose* relationship with our good neighbor, Canada.
 ___ 9. The *acidulous* reviews led the producers to close the play after two performances.
 ___ 10. The tone at most New Years parties is quite *convivial*.

III. Fill in the Blank

Insert one of the new words in the proper space in each sentence below.

- The entire audience was sobbing as the curtain came down on the _____ ending.
- Some patriots labeled the refusal to join the army as a _____ action.
- I hate dining with _____ people who criticize everything the chef prepares.
- Our normally peaceful terrier turns _____ whenever the letter carrier arrives.
- The choral singing and the beautiful decorations lent a _____ flavor to our party.

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| V. 1. k | 6. f | 11. c |
| 2. d | 7. o | 12. n |
| 3. m | 8. a | 13. e |
| 4. h | 9. b | 14. i |
| 5. j | 10. l | 15. g |

Unit IV Mini Review (Lessons 31–35)

- I. 1. c 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. a
- II. 1. b 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. a
- III. 1. mellifluous 2. subversive 3. trek 4. metaphor 5. resonant

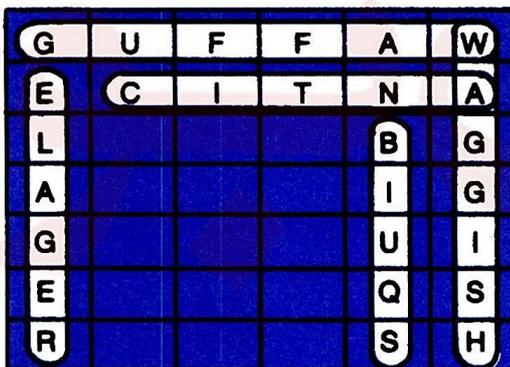
Lesson 36: Fun and Frolic

- I. 1. divertissement 2. guffaw 3. regale 4. waggish 5. squib 6. insouciance 7. congenial
 8. roguish 9. bonhomie 10. dalliance

- II. 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F 6. T 7. T 8. F 9. T 10. T

- III. elfin

- IV.



- | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| V. 1. d | 6. k | 11. l |
| 2. m | 7. a | 12. n |
| 3. o | 8. c | 13. j |
| 4. e | 9. i | 14. h |
| 5. f | 10. b | 15. g |

Lesson 37: History and Government (II)

- I. 1. schism 2. partisan 3. imperialism 4. ethos 5. demagogue 6. bureaucracy 7. muckraker
 8. reactionary 9. totalitarianism 10. suffrage

- II. 1. T 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F 6. F 7. F 8. T 9. T 10. T

- III. 1. narcissism 2. pedant 3. coherent 4. quarry 5. artistic

- IV. canon

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| V. 1. d | 6. o | 11. g |
| 2. j | 7. h | 12. i |
| 3. m | 8. l | 13. k |
| 4. a | 9. b | 14. c |
| 5. f | 10. e | 15. n |

Lesson 38: Legal Language (III)

- I. 1. abscond 2. contumacious 3. cause célèbre 4. contraband 5. bequest 6. battery
7. affidavit 8. abnegation 9. jurisprudence 10. contraband

- II. 1. T 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. F 8. T 9. T 10. F

- III. 1. bequest 2. caveat emptor 3. jurisprudence 4. abscond 5. contraband 6. battery
7. caveat emptor 8. contumacious 9. disenfranchise 10. injunction

- IV. 1. contumacious 2. altercation 3. injunction 4. abnegation 5. disenfranchise 6. contiguous
7. contraband 8. cause célèbre 9. bequest 10. codicil

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| V. 1. g | 6. l | 11. n |
| 2. o | 7. f | 12. m |
| 3. a | 8. k | 13. e |
| 4. b | 9. i | 14. j |
| 5. c | 10. d | 15. h |

Lesson 39: Philosophy and Logic

- I. 1. epistemology 2. syllogism 3. candor 4. hedonism 5. predestination
6. utilitarian 7. dogma 8. empirical 9. pragmatism 10. syllogism

- II. 1. T 2. T 3. T 4. F 5. F 6. F 7. T 8. T 9. T 10. F

- III. 1. utilitarian 2. document 3. romantic 4. conjectural 5. hedonism

- IV. empirical, theosophy, teleology, syllogism

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| V. 1. d | 6. o | 11. e |
| 2. j | 7. f | 12. i |
| 3. k | 8. a | 13. n |
| 4. l | 9. m | 14. g |
| 5. h | 10. b | 15. c |

Lesson 40: Beliefs and Religion

- I. 1. blasphemy 2. pantheism 3. infidel 4. theodicy 5. deist 6. apotheosis 7. apocalyptic
8. pantheist 9. benediction 10. apocryphal

- II. 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T 6. F 7. F 8. T 9. T 10. T

- III. 1. apostate—heretic (S) 2. apotheosis—degradation (A) 3. mantra—invocation (S)
4. canonical—orthodox (S) 5. benediction—anathema (A)

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