



Lesson 5 Using Synonyms

For some people, freedom means the opportunity to do new things. For others, freedom means being free from negative things. Freedom also implies responsibility—the responsibility to make the most of your freedom. In this lesson, you’ll learn words that relate to the idea of freedom.

Word List

alleviate	disparage	loathsome	subjugation
arduous	emphatic	onslaught	usurpation
belittle	extricate		

EXERCISE A Synonyms

Each boldfaced word is paired with a synonym whose meaning you probably know. Think of other words related to the meaning of the synonym and write your ideas on the line provided. Then, look up the vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning.

1. **extricate** : untangle _____
 Dictionary definition _____
2. **arduous** : difficult _____
 Dictionary definition _____
3. **subjugation** : slavery _____
 Dictionary definition _____
4. **onslaught** : attack _____
 Dictionary definition _____
5. **alleviate** : relieve _____
 Dictionary definition _____
6. **disparage** : criticize _____
 Dictionary definition _____
7. **usurpation** : takeover _____
 Dictionary definition _____
8. **belittle** : make light of _____
 Dictionary definition _____
9. **emphatic** : forceful _____
 Dictionary definition _____



Vocabulary Power *continued*

10. **loathsome** : disgusting _____
Dictionary definition _____

EXERCISE B Usage

Based on your understanding of the boldfaced vocabulary word, answer each question.

1. What sale item is likely to cause an **onslaught** of customers?

2. Name something about which you are **emphatic** in your approval.

3. Which one of your classes requires the most **arduous** preparation?

4. How would you feel if someone were to **belittle** an accomplishment of which you were proud?

5. Name an animal that you feel is especially **loathsome**.

6. What are your feelings about the **subjugation** of ethnic groups in various countries?

7. Why is it not acceptable to **disparage** other people's accomplishments?

8. How might people **extricate** themselves from awkward conversations?

9. What is the best way for leaders to avoid the **usurpation** of their rule?

10. What is a technique you use to **alleviate** stress?



Lesson 6 Word Families

Word families are groups of words that contain the same roots or base words. Base words are roots that are complete words. The root or base word gives a word its main meaning. A prefix or suffix combined with the root or base word gives the word a different meaning. In this lesson, you'll learn words in the same word families.

Word List

consecrate

irrevocable

revoke

vocation

desecrate

moribund

sacrilege

vociferous

immortality

mortify

EXERCISE A Root and Base Words

Look up each boldfaced word in a dictionary and write its meaning. Use the dictionary entry to underline the root or base word. Then, on the line provided, write a sentence using the word.

1. **sacrilege** Dictionary definition _____

2. **desecrate** Dictionary definition _____

3. **consecrate** Dictionary definition _____

4. **mortify** Dictionary definition _____

5. **moribund** Dictionary definition _____

6. **immortality** Dictionary definition _____

7. **vocation** Dictionary definition _____

8. **revoke** Dictionary definition _____

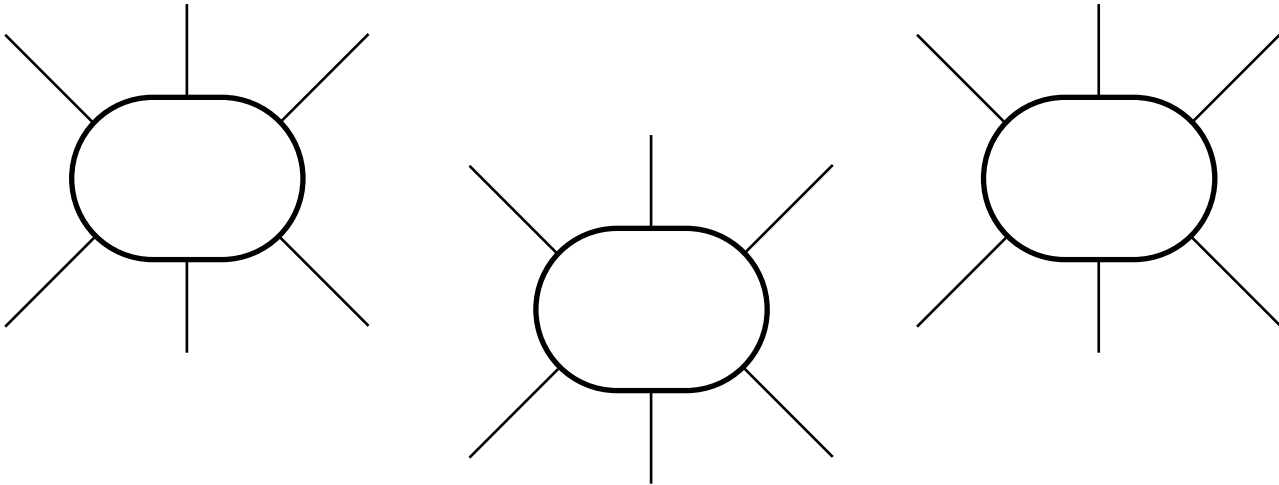
9. **irrevocable** Dictionary definition _____

10. **vociferous** Dictionary definition _____

Vocabulary Power *continued*

EXERCISE B Word Webs

Use the following three webs to note other words in the word families in this lesson. First, write the three roots, one in each center circle. Then, add other words that contain the same root to each web. Underline the root in each new word. Use a dictionary to find words in the word families.



EXERCISE C Multiple-Meaning Words

Many words in English have more than one meaning. Each meaning, however, is based on the root word. The word *exploit*, for example, is from the Latin root *explicitum*. As a noun, *exploit* means "an achievement, a feat, or a great or heroic deed." As a verb, *exploit* has both favorable and unfavorable connotations. Use a dictionary to help you write sentences for the noun and the verb.

EXERCISE D Sentence Composition

On a separate sheet of paper, write a sentence for each boldfaced vocabulary word in this lesson.



Lesson 7 Connotation and Denotation

Many words have both connotations and denotations. A word's denotation is its dictionary meaning. The word's emotional overtones are its connotation. For example, if you are writing about a flower or a perfume, you might choose the word *fragrance*, since that word is associated with pleasant smells. If you are writing about a barnyard or garbage dump, however, you might choose the word *odor*, a word associated with unpleasant smells. A word like *smell* is neutral. Both flowers and barnyards smell. In this lesson, you'll learn about the connotations and denotations of words.

Word List

acquiesce	ecstatic	mammoth	spurn
captivate	exploit	petrified	tantalizing
conspire	ludicrous		

EXERCISE A Denotations

Look up each boldfaced vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning. Then, on the line provided, write a sentence using the word.

1. **captivate** Dictionary definition _____

2. **acquiesce** Dictionary definition _____

3. **ludicrous** Dictionary definition _____

4. **conspire** Dictionary definition _____

5. **ecstatic** Dictionary definition _____

6. **exploit** Dictionary definition _____

7. **mammoth** Dictionary definition _____

8. **tantalizing** Dictionary definition _____

9. **spurn** Dictionary definition _____

 **Vocabulary Power** *continued*

10. petrified Dictionary definition _____

EXERCISE B Synonyms

Use a dictionary to help you find several synonyms for each word below. Write a *plus* sign (+) above the synonym if you feel it has a positive connotation. Write a *minus* sign (–) above it if you feel it has a negative connotation. If you feel the word is neutral, with *neither* a positive *nor* a negative connotation, write an *X* above it.

1. captivate _____
2. acquiesce _____
3. ludicrous _____
4. conspire _____
5. ecstatic _____
6. exploit _____
7. mammoth _____
8. tantalizing _____
9. spurn _____
10. petrified _____

EXERCISE C Connotations

Journalists generally try to be neutral, that is, they avoid words with either strong positive or negative connotations. Novelists and other authors, however, usually want to use words with powerful connotations to evoke certain emotions in their readers. Choose one newspaper story and one page from a favorite novel or short story. Make a list of six words from each piece of writing. Use the back of this page if necessary. On the basis of each word's positive, negative, or neutral connotation, rate the words using a *plus* sign, *minus* sign, or *X*.



Vocabulary Power

Lesson 8 Using Reference Skills

Using a Dictionary: Word Origins

Many English words have their origins in other languages. In the dictionary, the origin of a word is usually given in brackets at the beginning or end of the definition. Here are several dictionary entries.

bonanza	(bə nan' zə) <i>n.</i> [Spanish <i>bonanza</i> , calm sea] : 1. a rich mine or pocket of ore 2. source of great wealth or prosperity
bric-a-brac	(brik' ə brak') <i>n.</i> [French <i>bric-à-brac</i> , expression signifying confusion] : small ornamental objects prized for their age, rarity, or sentimental value
flay	(flā) <i>v.</i> [from Old Norse <i>fle</i> to whip] : 1. to strip off the bark or skin 2. to whip 3. to harshly criticize
hypocrisy	(hi pok' rə sē) <i>n.</i> [from Greek <i>hupokrinesthai</i> , to play a part, pretend] : professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not really have
lithe	(līth) <i>adj.</i> [from Old English <i>lithe</i> , flexible, mild] : 1. easily bent, supple 2. marked by effortless grace
mercurial	(mər kyoor' ē əl) <i>adj.</i> [from the Latin <i>Mercurius</i> , of the god Mercury] : 1. having characteristics associated with the Roman god Mercury: shrewdness, swiftness, and thievishness 2. quick and changeable in temperament
rectitude	(rek' tə tōōd') <i>n.</i> [from Latin <i>rectus</i> , straight] : moral uprightness, honesty

EXERCISE

Use the sample entries above to answer each question.

- Which word comes from the name of a Roman god? What can you infer about this god's personality from the modern meaning of the word? _____

- How does the meaning of **hypocrisy** relate to the ancient Greek word on which it is based? _____

- How might a collection of **bric-à-brac** relate to the original meaning of the French phrase? _____

- How has the meaning of the Latin word *rectus* been expanded in the English word based on it? _____



Vocabulary Power



Review: Unit 2

EXERCISE

Circle the letter of the word that is most similar to the boldfaced word.

1. **disgusting**

- a. irrevocable b. loathsome c. moribund d. ludicrous

2. **terrified**

- a. ecstatic b. vociferous c. arduous d. petrified

3. **lighten**

- a. alleviate b. spurn c. exploit d. revoke

4. **declare to be sacred**

- a. mortify b. desecrate c. consecrate d. extricate

5. **ridiculous**

- a. emphatic b. vociferous c. ludicrous d. arduous

6. **demanding**

- a. emphatic b. arduous c. tantalizing d. loathsome

7. **almost dead or obsolete**

- a. moribund b. loathsome c. vociferous d. irrevocable

8. **reject**

- a. desecrate b. exploit c. belittle d. spurn

9. **slavery**

- a. subjugation b. onslaught c. immortality d. usurpation

10. **fascinate**

- a. alleviate b. mortify c. captivate d. acquiesce