

Lesson Six

1. **daub** (dôb) *verb* to paint coarsely or unskillfully
Bright colors were *daubed* randomly over the artist's easel.
syn: smear
2. **daunt** (dônt) *verb* to make afraid or discouraged
Although the waves were high and the wind bitterly cold, the treasure seekers were not *daunted*.
syn: dismay, intimidate, horrify *ant: encourage*
3. **dawdle** (dôd'1) *verb* to waste time
"Don't *dawdle* children," the governess called up the stairs. "We must hurry."
syn: tarry, loiter *ant: hasten, expedite*
4. **debonair** (dĕb ə nâr') *adjective* carefree and self-confident in manner; elegant and gracious
I expected to see an awkward young man, so I was quite surprised to see a *debonair* gentleman.
syn: charming, gracious, suave *ant: gauche, awkward*
5. **decadence** (dĕk' ə dəns) *noun* moral deterioration
It has often been suggested that the fall of Rome was a result of its *decadence*.
syn: decay, decline *ant: progress*
6. **declaim** (dĭ klām') *verb* to speak in a dramatic, pompous, or blustering manner
The judge told the actor to answer the questions simply and leave his *declaiming* for the stage.
ant: whisper
7. **defunct** (dĭ fŭngkt) *adjective* no longer in existence
I discovered too late that the bargain stock I had purchased was for a *defunct* corporation.
8. **deify** (dĕ' ə fī') *verb* to make a god of; to look upon or worship as a god
He *deified* her; then he was crushed when she turned out to be a mere human like all the rest of us.
syn: to idolize, adore, exalt *ant: abhor, detest*
9. **delete** (dĭ lĕt') *verb* to take out; cross out
Delete the second sentence; you already made your point, and the repetition only weakens your argument.
syn: erase, wipe out *ant: include, add*
10. **delude** (dĭ lōōd') *verb* to mislead; to fool
We were *deluded* into thinking we could trust the smooth-talking salesman.
syn: deceive *ant: enlighten*

Exercise I—Words in Context



From the words below, supply the words needed to complete the sentences.

delete *delude* *declaim* *deify* *decadence*

- A. Contemporary Americans would do well not to _____ themselves into believing that their way of life will last forever. Rather, we should remember that Greece and Rome, two once-great civilizations, are now remembered only by the ruins of their great buildings. Some social critics compare the _____ of Rome to the sexual permissiveness and widespread use of drugs in current society. Such critics _____ against our selfish, materialistic tendencies. They warn that if we continue to _____ ourselves, just as the Romans turned their own passions into gods, we will surely experience the downfall of our own society.
- B. Word processors are great because you can add, _____, or move paragraphs about with the greatest of ease.

From the words below, supply the words needed to complete the sentences.

daunt *dawdle* *debonair* *defunct* *daub*

- C. It's funny to watch how little children _____ on the way to school. Even rainy weather does not _____ their enthusiasm.
- D. After one last _____, the artist stood back and let Johnson look at the picture. Johnson was surprised to see not the _____ gentleman he thought he was, but rather a painting of a tired, bedraggled businessman.
- E. As a result of the popularity of the word processor, companies that had made only typewriters are now _____.

Exercise II—Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes



Study the entries and answer the questions that follow.

The root *poten* means *power*.

The prefix *psych* means *mind*.

- A. Without using a dictionary, try to define the following words:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. potential | 4. psychological |
| 2. potent | 5. psycho-drama |
| 3. potentate | 6. psyche |

- B. People who can read minds and predict the future are said to have _____ power.
- C. List as many words as you can think of that contain the root *poten* or the prefix *psych*.

Exercise III—Analogies

Complete the analogy by choosing the most appropriate word.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. speak : declaim :: | 2. delude : deceive :: | 3. neophyte : veteran :: |
| A. like : love | A. pink : red | A. auto : bicycle |
| B. keen : bright | B. hero : coward | B. bar : restaurant |
| C. leaf : tree | C. extinct : dead | C. zenith : nadir |
| D. water : pond | D. worry : frighten | D. affiliate : affiliation |

Exercise IV—Reading Comprehension

Read the selection and answer the questions.

A study funded by the Carnegie Corporation concluded that a majority of workers in the United States face a lifetime of low-paying jobs. As a result, this country will lose the global economic fight to other nations unless some changes are made in the training of the average worker. The report states: "What we are facing is an economic cliff of sorts. Unfortunately, the frontline working people of America are about to fall off that cliff."

The report goes on to say: "Seventy percent of the work force—the clerks, secretaries, machinists, drivers, farm workers, and other non college-educated front-line workers—will see their dreams slip away unless society invests far more in improving their skills in school and on the job."

The report—"America's Choice: High Skills Or Low Wages!"—calls on business, schools and government to totally overhaul the "haphazard, incoherent and bureaucratic" system of job training now in operation.

The report recommends that all students be required to work toward a "Certificate of Initial Mastery." This certificate would certify high levels of competence in math, English, and other job basics. Students would demonstrate their skills through performing specific tasks rather than taking standardized tests.

1. The main point in this selections is that
- other countries are doing a better job training workers than we are.
 - the present system of training workers in the United States is inadequate.
 - the standard of living for the average American worker is falling.
 - U.S. schools need to set higher standards for all students.

2. The tone of this piece is one of
 - A. quiet thoughtfulness.
 - B. angry denunciation.
 - C. concern or alarm.
 - D. sad reflection.

3. The selection states or implies that if action isn't taken
 - A. the U.S. will become an economically inferior country.
 - B. the U.S. worker will fall further and further behind.
 - C. the U.S. educational system, already behind other nations, will fall even further behind.
 - D. All the above are correct.

4. The selection states or implies that the way to change the situation is
 - A. to provide more technical education to non college-bound students.
 - B. to follow Europe's lead and set up a better apprenticeship program.
 - C. to hold all students to higher standards of performance.
 - D. All the above are correct.

Lesson 6

1. To raise to divine status, as in to make a god of someone or something.
2. No longer in existence, operation, or use — as in a law, company, or organization.
3. The process, condition, or period of deterioration or decline, as in morals or art.

II. Inferences: Choose the answer which best fits the situation.

1. The person you would least likely expect to delude you is
 - A. an auto mechanic.
 - B. a salesman.
 - C. a reporter.
 - D. a college professor.

2. That which most likely would make a company defunct would be
 - A. a large labor pool.
 - B. a surplus of capital.
 - C. advancing technology.
 - D. advanced management skills.

3. Most people would probably expect a debonair man to be engaged in the sport of
 - A. racquetball.
 - B. bowling.
 - C. swimming.
 - D. polo.