

Word List



alleviate [əlī:vīēt] *v.*

To alleviate pain or suffering means to make it less intense or severe.

→ *She needed something to alleviate the pain in her back.*



astrology [əsträlədʒi] *n.*

Astrology is the study of the stars in the belief that they influence people's lives.

→ *Jack, who studies astrology, believes that the stars can predict the future.*



differentiate [dīfərēnʃēit] *v.*

To differentiate things or people is to show the difference between them.

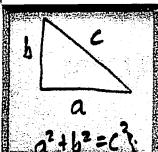
→ *It was hard to differentiate between the identical twins.*



disrupt [disrāpt] *v.*

To disrupt something or someone is to prevent them from working.

→ *The loud crash disrupted the class lecture.*



equation [i(:)kwēzhən] *n.*

An equation is a math operation to determine the value of something.

→ *I used the Pythagorean theorem to solve the equation.*



err [ə:r] *v.*

To err means to make a mistake.

→ *The pilot erred in his estimate of the time it would take to make the trip.*



erroneous [irōoniəs] *adj.*

When something is erroneous, it is incorrect or only partly correct.

→ *The child held the erroneous belief that time machines were real.*



frantic [fräntik] *adj.*

If people or things are frantic, they behave in a wild way because they are frightened.

→ *The cat became frantic when I tried to give it a bath.*



hull [hʌl] *n.*

The hull of a boat or tank is the main body of it.

→ *After the wreck at sea, the ship's hull was the last part to sink.*



inadvertent [inədvê:rənt] *adj.*

When an action is inadvertent, it is done without realizing what you are doing.

→ *She made an inadvertent error when she knocked over the nail polish.*



improvise [ímprəváiz] *v.*

To **improvise** something is to do it with whatever is available or without planning.

→ *There was no meat for the pizza, so we **improvised** with what was in the fridge.*



latitude [lætɪtjú:d] *n.*

The **latitude** of a place is its distance from the equator.

→ *The device was able to tell the traveler his exact **latitude**.*



mariner [mærəne:r] *n.*

A **mariner** is a sailor.

→ *The old mariner used his telescope to find the shore.*



multitude [mʌltɪtjú:d] *n.*

A **multitude** of things or people is a very large number of them.

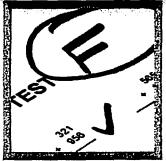
→ *A multitude of people were waiting at the airport.*



nuisance [nju:səns] *n.*

A **nuisance** is a person or thing that is annoying or causes a lot of problems.

→ *The teenager considered her noisy little brothers to be quite a **nuisance**.*



permanence [pé:r'menəns] *n.*

The **permanence** of something is its ability to last forever.

→ *Poor results will threaten the **permanence** of the new teaching system.*



revolve [rɪválv] *v.*

To **revolve** around something is to keep it as the main feature or focus.

→ *My life **revolves** around sports.*



soothe [su:ð] *v.*

To **soothe** means to calm someone who is angry or upset.

→ *The mother **soothed** her crying baby by rocking him in her arms.*



stranded [strændid] *adj.*

If someone is **stranded**, they are prevented from leaving a place.

→ *When the plane left, my sister and I were **stranded** in China.*



volatile [válətɪl] *adj.*

When something is **volatile**, it is likely to change suddenly and unexpectedly.

→ *The **volatile** volcano might explode at any moment.*

Exercise 1

Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

1. He chose to paint a picture on the main body of the boat.

2. When the plane crashed on the island, the passenger knew he was prevented from leaving.

3. I admired the very large number of stamps in his collection.

4. I took some aspirin to make less my back pain.

5. The countries were concerned about the treaty's ability to last forever.

6. Australia's distance from the equator is less extreme than I imagined.

7. I'm still not sure if the math operation I did was correct.

8. When the rats got out of the cage, the girl was behaving in a wild way because of fear.

9. The incorrect or partly correct information gave us the wrong idea about the president.

10. When he forgot his rope at home, he had to make one using whatever was available.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.

Word Bank

nuisance

latitude

soothed

multitude

mariners

frantic

hull

erroneous

volatile

stranded

When the heat was turned off, we became quite 1_____.

When it finally came back on, our concerns and fears were 2_____.

The iceberg caused severe damage to the ship's 3_____.

The motor stopped working, and the ship became 4_____.

When he has too much to drink, he can become quite 5_____.

His unpredictable behavior is not dangerous, but he is a 6_____.

During our journey, we arrived at the wrong 7_____.

I suppose our calculations were 8_____.

When the ship came in, I was surprised at the number of 9_____.

I thought there would only be a few sailors, but there was a 10_____.

Exercise 3

Write C if the italicized word is used correctly. Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

1. ___ She loves to *improvise* peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch.
2. ___ Ice packs are sometimes used to *alleviate* headaches.
3. ___ This math book is full of *equations* for students to practice.
4. ___ The expert in *astrology* went to work every day to study rocks and soil.
5. ___ This math problem is tricky, so be careful not to *err*.
6. ___ The *permanence* of the flood was gone in a couple of days.
7. ___ After months of planning, the *inadvertent* decision to sell the company was carried out.
8. ___ The Earth and other planets *revolve* around the sun.
9. ___ Two flat tires *disrupted* our drive to the countryside.
10. ___ What *differentiates* Dan from his brother is Dan's unmatched love of sports.

The North Star

Among the **multitude** of stars in the universe, there are a couple that are of great importance to people on Earth. The sun, of course, is one of them. The other is known as Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is special because it is the only star that always appears to be in the same place in the sky. Therefore, Polaris is a great compass. When people in the northern hemisphere of Earth look toward Polaris, they can be certain that they are facing north. The **permanence** of Polaris in the north sky has helped countless people find their destinations.

Before the invention of modern navigation tools, **mariners** relied on Polaris. From the top of their **hulls**, sailors would look for Polaris to figure out their place at sea. They figured out the angle between the star and the horizon to determine their **latitude**. As long as the **equations** weren't **erroneous**, the results were very reliable. Polaris also let sailors determine North, South, East, and West. By knowing directions and their location, mariners could easily navigate their ships.

To those who sail at night, **volatile** storms and dark clouds were more than **nuisances**. They could **disrupt** entire journeys by blocking the view of Polaris. A captain could **err** and make an **inadvertent** wrong turn. The ship could become **stranded** at sea, and the **frantic** captain would have no way to **improvise** to get the ship back on the right course. The mariner's fears wouldn't be **soothed** until the clouds cleared and Polaris came back into view. Even today, sailors sometimes opt to navigate by using Polaris on clear nights.

It's not difficult to **differentiate** Polaris from other stars. The Big Dipper, a constellation that is well known in **astrology**, appears to **revolve** around Polaris. The handle of the Big Dipper always points to the North Star. When people get lost, it's comforting to know that their problems can be **alleviated** by looking at the sky.

Reading Comprehension

PART A Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

1. Even today, sailors opt to improvise by using Polaris on clear nights.

2. A ship could become stranded if a captain erred and made an inadvertent wrong turn.

3. People who are lost can be alleviated by gazing up at a frantic sky.

4. Volatile storms were more than nuisances because they disrupted entire journeys.

5. It is not difficult to differentiate Polaris from the multitude of other stars in the universe.

PART B Answer the questions.

1. How did mariners determine their latitude from the top of their hulls?

2. What has the permanence of Polaris done for people?

3. How did sailors figure out latitude?

4. What well-known constellation in astrology revolves around Polaris?

5. On a cloudy night, when would a mariner finally feel soothed?

Word List



arduous [ár:dʒuəs] *adj.*

When something is **arduous**, it demands great effort or labor.

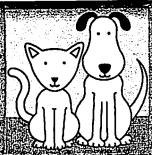
→ *The explorers began their **arduous** hike up the steep mountain.*



attain [átéin] *v.*

To **attain** something means to gain or achieve it, often after a lot of effort.

→ *In two more years, I will **attain** my high school diploma.*



coexist [kóuigzíst] *v.*

To **coexist** with something means to exist with it in the same time and place.

→ *Our pets **coexist** at our home with little or no problems.*



conceive [kənse:v] *v.*

To **conceive** something means to be able to imagine or believe it.

→ *The child could not **conceive** the actual size of the Earth.*



dubious [dʒú:bíəs] *adj.*

When something or someone is **dubious**, they are not considered honest.

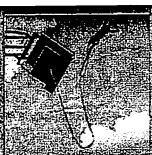
→ *The police thought that the man's description of the crime was **dubious**.*



ego [i:gou] *n.*

An **ego** is a person's sense of their own worth.

→ *Kelly's **ego** made her think that she was some kind of a superhero.*



elastic [iléastik] *adj.*

Elastic is a rubber that stretches when it is pulled.

→ *He attached the **elastic** bungee to his legs before he jumped off the platform.*



endeavor [endévər] *n.*

An **endeavor** is an attempt to do something, especially something new or original.

→ *The company's new advertising **endeavor** ended in a horrible failure.*



engrave [ingréiv] *v.*

To **engrave** means to cut a design or words into the surface of something.

→ *The couple **engraved** their names onto the old pine tree.*



excavate [ékskəvèit] *v.*

To **excavate** means to dig on land and remove dirt to look for something.

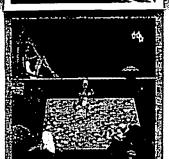
→ *The team wishes to **excavate** the site in hopes of finding fossils.*



jagged [dʒægid] *adj.*

When something is **jagged**, it has a tough, uneven shape or edge.

→ *The swimmer was hurt when he fell on the jagged rocks.*



locale [loukæl] *n.*

A **locale** is a small area or place where something specific happens.

→ *The spa was the perfect locale for my mother to relax and enjoy her vacation.*



mold [mould] *n.*

A **mold** is a hollow container that is used to make certain shapes.

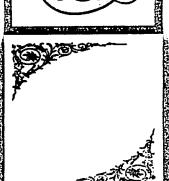
→ *Using a cupcake mold will ensure that they come out just right.*



outright [áutrāit] *adj.*

When something is **outright**, it is open and direct.

→ *Everyone knew that the boy's story was an outright lie.*



periphery [pərī:fēri] *n.*

The **periphery** of an area, place, or thing is the edge of it.

→ *A beautiful floral pattern is on the periphery of the stationery.*



plaster [plæstər] *n.*

Plaster is a smooth paste that gets hard when it dries.

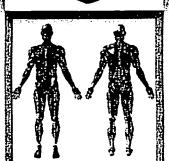
→ *He used plaster to fill in the cracks in the old walls.*



shovel [ʃʌvəl] *n.*

A **shovel** is a tool with a long handle that is used for digging.

→ *The boy grabbed his shovel and got all of the snow off of the sidewalk.*



skeletal [skélətl] *adj.*

When something is **skeletal**, it relates to bones in the body.

→ *We studied the skeletal system in anatomy class.*



terrestrial [tərēstriəl] *adj.*

If something is **terrestrial**, it relates to Earth.

→ *There are billions of terrestrial life forms.*



vicious [vījəs] *adj.*

When something or someone is **vicious**, they are violent and cruel.

→ *The vicious dog tried to bite the small child.*

Exercise 1

Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

1. He chose to make his sculpture out of a smooth paste that hardens when it dries.

2. Our violent and cruel boss forced us to work twelve hours in a row without a break.

3. The race was close, so it was difficult to determine an open and direct winner.

4. This is the perfect small area where something happens for a picnic.

5. Truck drivers often stay awake for many hours to make their difficult and tiring drives.

6. The salesperson's claim seemed quite dishonest, unsafe, and unreliable.

7. Mike was thrilled to pass the driving test and gain his driver's license.

8. Physics on the moon are much different than Earth-related physics.

9. The prisoners were unable to imagine and believe a plot for escaping the jail.

10. To plant these seeds, I will first need to buy a tool used for digging.

Exercise 2

Choose the answer that best fits the question.

1. What might a person with a large ego say?
a. "I am the best." b. "I can't do it." c. "I'm hungry." d. "I'm sorry."
2. Which is likely to be jagged?
a. A doll b. A cliff c. A cloud d. A pillow
3. Which is likely to be excavated?
a. Water b. A sofa c. A computer d. The ground
4. What is part of the skeletal system?
a. The skin b. The tongue c. The skull d. The fingernails
5. What is an example of an endeavor?
a. Waking up b. Inventing a new machine c. Making coffee d. Combing your hair

Exercise 3

Write C if the italicized word is used correctly. Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

1. The alarm clock was set to *endeavor* every morning at seven A.M.
2. Experts *excavated* the site in hopes of finding an ancient city buried underneath.
3. Everyone loved to hug and kiss the *vicious* baby.
4. The elephant is one of the largest *terrestrial* animals still in existence.
5. The *dubious* chocolate ice cream is a favorite treat at the restaurant.
6. The concerned owner built a fence along the *periphery* of the parking lot.
7. Preparing for the difficult test was an *arduous* task for the nervous students.
8. You'll need a *shovel* if you plan on getting on top of the roof.
9. The delicate flower was a *jagged* addition to the arrangement.
10. Children cheered as the circus clown *attained* balloons into different shapes.
11. He filled the ugly holes in the ceiling with *plaster*.
12. At the factory, the workers made screws by pouring liquid metal into a *mold*.
13. I hope she is able to *engrave* all of her homework before school tomorrow.
14. I cannot *conceive* the reason why he would act in such a mean way.
15. The small fights and arguments eventually led to an *outright* war.
16. When the glass vase fell to the floor, we heard an *elastic* sound.
17. She bought a cute new *ego* from the pet store today.
18. We need to choose a *locale* for Brian's birthday party.
19. Derrick bought a *skeletal* from that new clothing store downtown.
20. Although they were rivals, the stores were able to *coexist* in the same neighborhood.

The Fossil Hunters

Tim and Dean were great fossil hunters. They were the very best at finding dinosaur bones. Although Tim and Dean were quite similar, they were **outright** enemies. The two men got into **vicious** arguments all the time. They couldn't **coexist** peacefully because their **egos** were too large. Tim thought he was the best fossil hunter, while Dean was sure that he was much better than Tim.

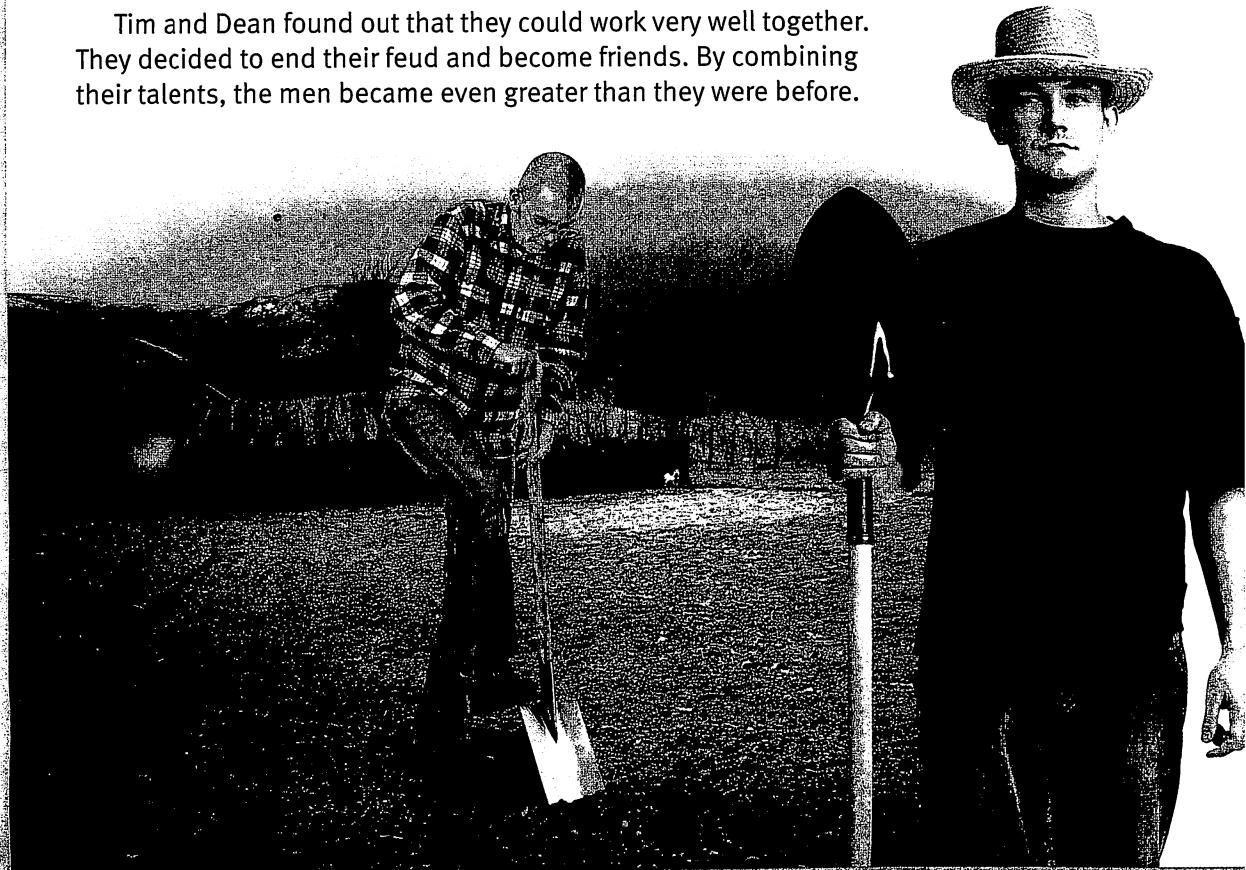
One day, Tim was searching for fossils on the **periphery** of the city when he discovered a huge bone. He had never seen anything like it! He took his **shovel** and carefully **excavated** the dirt around it. As he dug, he uncovered more **jagged** bones. He realized that he had found an entire dinosaur skeleton! Tim couldn't **conceive** a plan to remove the huge skeleton all by himself. Such an **endeavor** would be too **arduous**. He needed help. He tried to think of people who would be capable of helping him remove the skeleton without breaking it. The only person Tim could think of was Dean, his enemy.

Tim ran into the city to find Dean. Tim found him and said, "Dean, I've found the **skeletal** remains of a huge **terrestrial** animal. But I can't get the skeleton out by myself. Will you please help me?"

Dean thought that Tim's claim might be **dubious**. He replied, "If you're serious about the skeleton, I'll help."

Tim excitedly showed Dean the skeleton's **locale**. They worked together to carefully remove each bone. And to keep the bones together, they tied them with **elastic** strips. When they were finished, they had **attained** a perfect skeleton. They used **plaster** to make a **mold** of the dinosaur's skull. They **engraved** their initials into it and gave it to the curator of a local museum.

Tim and Dean found out that they could work very well together. They decided to end their feud and become friends. By combining their talents, the men became even greater than they were before.



Reading Comprehension

PART A Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

1. Tim and Dean were outright enemies who got into vicious arguments.

2. Tim and Dean removed the jagged bones and used elastic to attain them.

3. Tim couldn't conceive a plan to remove the bones because the endeavor would be too arduous.

4. Dean thought that Tim's ego might be dubious.

5. When Tim excavated the land, he uncovered many engraved bones.

PART B Answer the questions.

1. Why couldn't Tim and Dean coexist peacefully?

2. What did Tim use his shovel to do?

3. What was Tim doing on the periphery of the city?

4. What did the fossil hunters do to the plaster mold before they gave it to the curator?

5. What did Dean say before he went to the locale of the terrestrial animal's skeletal remains?



absurd [əbsé:rd] *adj.*

If something or someone is **absurd**, they are ridiculous.

→ *That group of people making animal noises sounds completely absurd.*



anemia [əní:miá] *n.*

Anemia is a blood condition that causes a person to be pale and tired.

→ *When she first developed anemia, she became tired often.*



aristocracy [ærístákrisí] *n.*

The **aristocracy** is the highest class of people in certain societies.

→ *Most members of the aristocracy were very well-fed.*



aristocrat [ærístákraèt] *n.*

An **aristocrat** is a person who is of the highest class in certain societies.

→ *The aristocrat did not need a job because his family was wealthy.*



attire [ətáiər] *n.*

Attire is nice or special clothing.

→ *Everyone wore their best attire to the president's daughter's wedding.*



craze [kreiz] *n.*

A **craze** is a brief and popular activity or object.

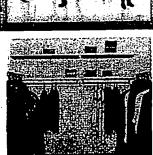
→ *Wearing bright red socks was a craze when I was in high school.*



enlarge [enlá:rdʒ] *v.*

To **enlarge** something means to make it bigger.

→ *The classrooms were enlarged over the summer to make room for more students.*



excess [ékses] *n.*

An **excess** is an amount of something that is more than needed or wanted.

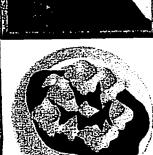
→ *Because it never got cold that winter, many stores had an excess of coats.*



feminine [féménin] *adj.*

If something is **feminine**, then it has qualities that are commonly related to women.

→ *Many of the older people thought his long hair made him look too feminine.*



hallmark [hó:lmark] *n.*

A **hallmark** is a unique characteristic of something.

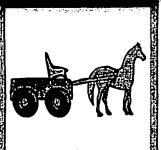
→ *Different types of pasta and tomato sauces are hallmarks of Italian food.*



pad [pæd] *n.*

A **pad** is a thick piece of soft material used to protect or clean things.

→ *Football players wear shoulder pads to keep them safe.*



predominant [prɪdəmənənt] *adj.*

If something is **predominant**, then it is the most important, common or strongest.

→ *Before cars were invented, horses were the predominant method of travel.*



reputable [rɪpjetəbəl] *adj.*

If someone or something is **reputable**, then they have a good reputation.

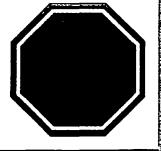
→ *The service from the less than reputable company made her angry.*



rouge [ru:ʒ] *n.*

Rouge is a red powder or cream used as makeup on the cheeks or lips.

→ *Even when she didn't wear rouge, her cheeks appeared red.*



signify [sɪgnəfɪ] *v.*

To **signify** means to be a symbol of something.

→ *A red octagon is used to signify to stop.*



strap [stræp] *n.*

A **strap** is a thin long piece of fabric used to fasten, carry, or hold something.

→ *She put the strap of her purse over her shoulder and walked out of the door.*



tangle [tæŋgəl] *n.*

A **tangle** is something or many things twisted together.

→ *The laces of his shoes were in such a tangle that he could not untie them.*



vanity [vænəti] *n.*

Vanity is excessive pride or love of one's own appearance or things one has done.

→ *Her vanity won't allow her to pass a mirror without looking at herself.*



vie [vai] *v.*

To **vie** for something means to compete against others for it.

→ *The three boys vied for the prize in the chemistry contest.*



vulgar [vʌlgər] *adj.*

If something or someone is **vulgar**, then they are rude or lacking in style.

→ *Her vulgar behavior got her into trouble with her parents.*

Exercise 1

Choose the one that is similar in meaning to the given word.

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. vanity | a. truck | b. pride | c. dusk | d. shelf |
| 2. aristocrat | a. noble | b. painting | c. weather | d. angel |
| 3. pad | a. pocket | b. cushion | c. alley | d. subject |
| 4. vulgar | a. young | b. faint | c. short | d. rude |
| 5. predominant | a. mysterious | b. gradual | c. superior | d. parallel |
| 6. attire | a. clothing | b. wheel | c. labor | d. smell |
| 7. tangle | a. knot | b. tint | c. slope | d. spice |
| 8. enlarge | a. fight | b. rent | c. greet | d. swell |
| 9. absurd | a. hungry | b. round | c. funny | d. polite |
| 10. signify | a. scribble | b. symbolize | c. consult | d. remove |

Exercise 2

Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

1. I broke the long piece of fabric that goes over my shoulder on my purse.

2. Matt's female appearances made everyone take notice of him immediately.

3. You must wear proper clothing if you plan on attending the formal dance.

4. He works for a well-respected firm downtown.

5. The soft materials in his helmet will protect him if he should fall and strike his head on an object.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.

Word Bank

strap

feminine

aristocracy

rouge

excess

hallmark

vie

reputable

craze

anemia

Beth's 1_____ had made her face lose a lot of its color.

She decided to use some 2_____ to make her cheeks look less pale.

All the girls had to own that style of purse with the yellow 3_____.

But Pam knew that it was just another 4_____.

John was not like the other members of the 5_____.

Though he had a(n) 6_____ of money, he gave it to help people.

Will had to 7_____ with other students for the respect of the teacher.

However, once he became a(n) 8_____ student, he stopped studying.

Some people thought the musician's lipstick made him look 9_____.

But others felt that this 10_____ is what made him so popular.

Exercise 4

Write C if the italicized word is used correctly. Write I if the word is used incorrectly.

1. ___ We all felt that the new office rules were completely *absurd*.
2. ___ The bushes were *tangled* with vine.
3. ___ Losing your memory as you get older is called *anemia*.
4. ___ A strong smell is the *hallmark* of a good cheese.
5. ___ It was easy to get lost in the big house. Its many hallways made it seem like a *craze*.
6. ___ The local *vanity* asked people to give old clothing and money.
7. ___ After putting on too much *rouge*, she looked like a clown.
8. ___ Everyone may attend *excess* those who have not finished their assignment.
9. ___ Talking to people with food in your mouth is not only gross. It is also quite *vulgar*.
10. ___ Because he was an *aristocrat*, he had to wash dishes in order to make enough money.

Dressed to Excess

If you traveled back in time to the 1700s in Europe, you would laugh when you saw how the **aristocracy** dressed. Soon you'd realize, though, that the **aristocrats** of Europe were very serious about their appearance.

The **predominant** style in women's **attire** was enormous dresses. They were often three times larger than the wearer. Ladies even used **pads** to **enlarge** the appearance of their hips and shoulders. On the other extreme, the aristocratic women made their waists appear extremely thin. It took several maids stretching fabric and pulling **straps** in order to get a lady's waist to the proper thinness. These ladies could barely breathe and often fainted.

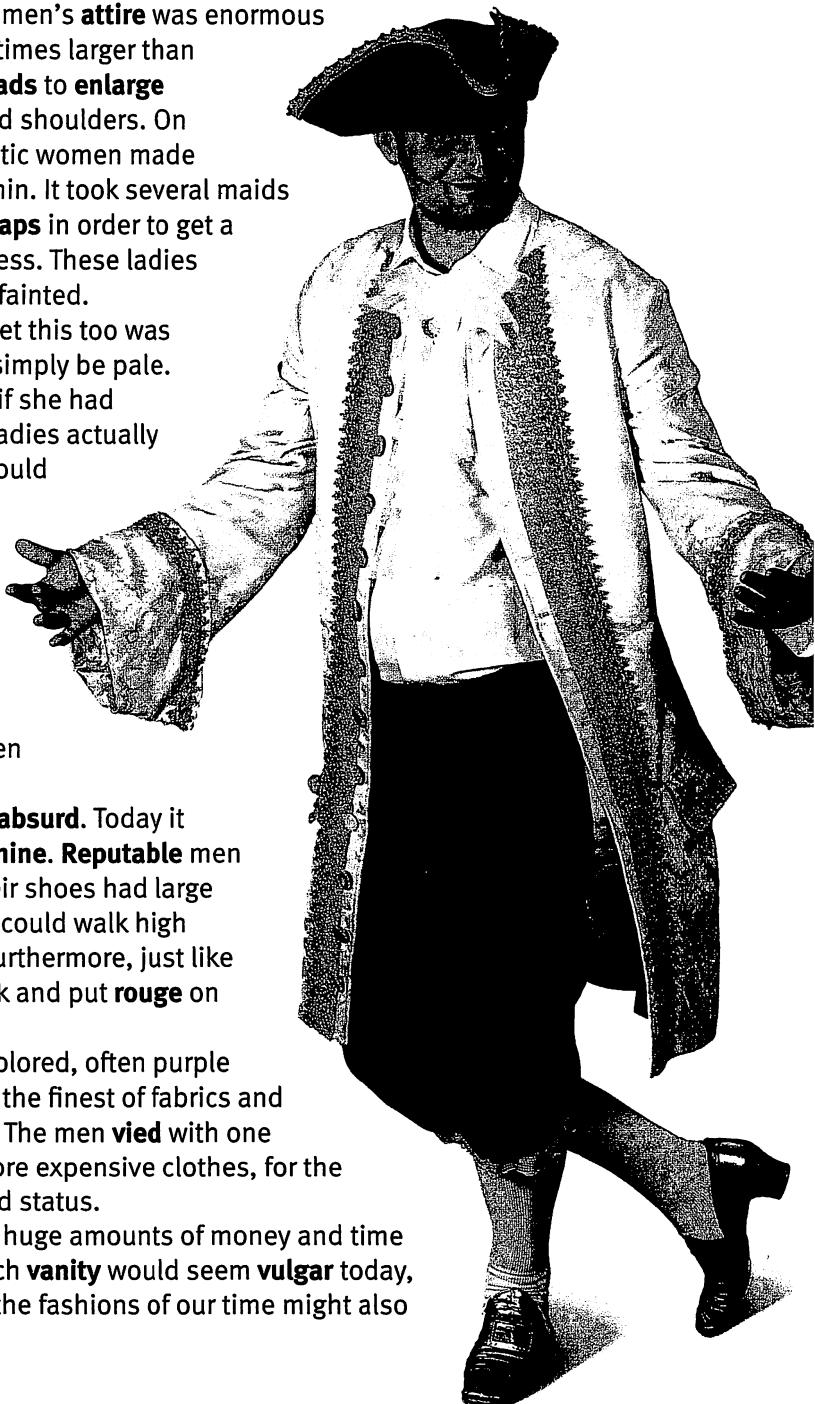
Pale skin was also a **craze**, yet this too was done in **excess**. One could not simply be pale. Instead, she needed to look as if she had **anemia**. In order to look paler, ladies actually cut themselves daily, so they would bleed.

The hairstyles, however, were the **hallmark** of women's fashion. These stood a meter high on the ladies' heads. The columns of hair were a ridiculous **tangle** of wigs, jewels, flowers, and even stuffed birds.

Men's fashion was similarly **absurd**. Today it would probably seem very **feminine**. Reputable men wore wigs of long curly hair. Their shoes had large soles or high heels so that they could walk high above the filth on the streets. Furthermore, just like the ladies, the men wore lipstick and put **rouge** on their cheeks.

Their clothes were brightly colored, often purple and pink. They were made from the finest of fabrics and decorated with jewels and lace. The men **vied** with one another to see who wore the more expensive clothes, for the clothing **signified** his wealth and status.

Both men and women spent huge amounts of money and time on how they looked. Though such **vanity** would seem **vulgar** today, three hundred years from now, the fashions of our time might also seem completely ridiculous.



Reading Comprehension

PART A Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

1. Ladies used pads to enlarge their hips and shoulders.

2. Only the ladies wore lipstick and rouge.

3. The aristocracy's vanity would seem vulgar today.

4. Women's hair was a tangle of wigs, straps, flowers, and stuffed birds.

5. Men's fashion was absurd and feminine.

PART B Answer the questions.

1. What was the predominant style in women's attire?

2. What did the clothing of an aristocrat signify?

3. What craze was done in such excess that women had to look like they had anemia?

4. What was the hallmark of women's fashion?

5. When reputable men vied with each other, what were they trying to see?
