

UNIT THREE

PULS

Latin PELLERE, PULSUM "to push, to drive"

COMPEL (kəm pel') v. To force or strongly persuade; coerce

L. com, "along with," + pellere = *to drive along with*

The pressures of poverty *compel* many people to do things they would not do otherwise.

syn: sway

IMPULSE (im' puls) n. A sudden, involuntary urge to do something

L. in, "within," + pulsum = *pushed from within*

When Nick saw the rows and rows of candy, he was seized by an *impulse* to spend all of his money.

syn: whim, spur

EXPEL (ik spel') v. To send out or away

L. ex, "out of," + pellere = *to push out*

The council took a vote on whether to *expel* the treasurer for his accounting mistakes.

syn: eject

ant: admit

JAC/JEC

Latin JACERE, JECTUM "to throw, to cast"

CONJECTURE (kən jek' chər) n. A guess, often one based on inadequate or faulty evidence

L. com, "together" + jectum = *thrown together*

Because you do not know where I was on the night in question, your assertions about what I did are pure *conjecture*.

syn: theory

ant: fact

DEJECTED (di jek' tid) adj. Downcast or sad; depressed

L. de, "down," + jectum = *cast down*

After Mac lost the race, he sat in the corner, abandoned and *dejected*.

syn: dispirited

ant: animated

ABJECT (ab' jekt) adj. Lowly, miserable and wretched

L. ab, "away," + jectum = *thrown away*

Even in the wealthiest countries, some people are forced to live in *abject* poverty.

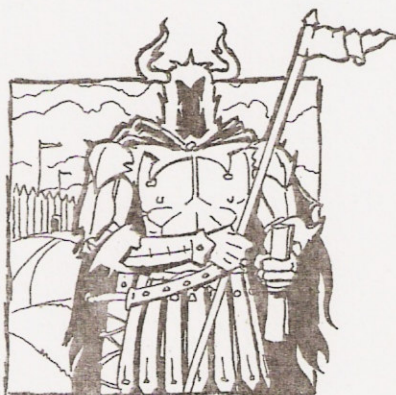
syn: degraded

ant: exalted

Modern psychology defines compulsive behavior as that which a person feels forced to act out and powerless to stop or control. On the other hand, if a person is impulsive, he or she acts immediately upon urges and desires, without any thought of the consequences.

MIT/MIS

Latin MITTERE, MISSUM "send"

EMISSARY (em' ə ser ē) *n.* An agent sent on a missionL. ex, "out," + missum = *one sent out*During the peace talks, the young Italian diplomat was sent as an *emissary* to Beijing.
syn: go-between

We sent out a SCARY-looking EMISSARY to speak with the enemy.

DISMISSIVE (dis mis' iv) *adj.* Showing little regard; scornfulL. dis, "apart, away," + missum = *sending away*The professor responded to my confused question with a *dismissive* wave of his hand.

syn: contemptuous

REMISS (ri mis') *adj.* Failing to fulfill one's duty; negligentL. re, "back," + missum = *sent back*Do you think I was *remiss* in not cleaning up after the party?

syn: delinquent

ant: prudent

MOT

Latin MOVERE, MOTUS "to move"

MOTIVE (mō' tiv) *n.* Cause for actionL. motus = *moving (reason or idea)*The detective had the difficult job of establishing a *motive* for the murder of a popular businessman.

syn: incentive

MOTIF (mō tēf') *n.* A recurring theme, subject or ideaFrench *motif*, "dominant idea," originally from Latin *motus*The recurring father-son *motif* in this novel makes me wonder about the author's relationship with his own father.**EMOTE** (ē mōt') *v.* To dramatically express emotionsL. e, "out of," + motus = *to move out of (oneself)*My sister tended to *emote* more than the other members of our shy, socially awkward family.

syn: dramatize

iii The verb remit means "to send back" and can also mean "forgive." How do you think the adjective remiss, which is related to remit, acquired its current meaning?

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

motive emissary abject motif expel

5. During the negotiations, the vice-president of one company was sent as a(n) _____ to the other company.
6. The _____ for the theft of the statue has not yet been determined.
7. The baby birds, motherless and unprotected from the rain, looked _____ and pathetic.
8. If you _____ the student from school for simply stating her beliefs, you will set a bad example.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

compelled emoted conjecture abject motif

9. Some of the children in the play _____ too much, while others read their lines with no emotion at all.
10. Since the critic has not read the book, anything he says about it must be considered pure _____.
11. The high winds and cold rain _____ us to postpone the picnic.
12. The central _____ of despair over lost love in the opera is introduced when the heroine takes the stage.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. The scientific community is usually _____ of new theories at first, saying they are mere _____ instead of fact.
 - A. emotive; conjecture
 - B. dismissive; conjecture
 - C. dejected; motive
 - D. dismissive; motive
2. The sea captain was almost overwhelmed by the _____ to abandon his ship, but he knew he would be _____ in his duties to the passengers if he did not help them.
 - A. conjecture; dismissive
 - B. motif; emotive
 - C. emissary; dejected
 - D. impulse; remiss

EXERCISES - UNIT THREE

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the italicized vocabulary word.

If the principal *expels* the students responsible for the fire, they will...

The sergeant sent Dan as an *emissary* to the rebel troops in order to...

The actor who *emotes* too much will find that the audience...

After she broke up with Ronnie, Francine, in an *abject* state, told her mother that...

When the policeman at the desk answered my questions with just a few short, *dismissive* sentences, I felt...

Since many of our ideas about other galaxies are nothing but *conjecture*, we should...

A repeated anti-war *motif* in a poem might suggest that the poet...

The documentary about hunger that Henry saw on television *compelled* him to...

A doctor would be *remiss* in his ethical responsibilities if he did not...

The *motive* for the theft of the football mascot's costume was probably...

Whenever she felt the *impulse* to run away from her problems, Mariah...

When Stacy was feeling *dejected*, her sister suggested she...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

dismissive motive dejected remiss impulse

1. There was a heated debate over whether the cabinet official had been _____ in his duties when he did not report the accounting error.

2. I felt so _____ when I did not get admitted to the university that I did not leave my room for days.

3. Although the champion golfer was _____ of his caddy's suggestions at first, he eventually gave them a try.

4. Suddenly, Henry was seized by the _____ to leap from the boat.

3. While no _____ for the theft of the money has been established, we know that the thief was living in _____ poverty and could not even afford food for his family.
- conjecture; abject
 - motif; remiss
 - motive; abject
 - emissary; emotive
4. The _____ look on the face of our _____ to the opposing army told me he had failed to deliver his message.
- dismissive; conjecture
 - emotive; emissary
 - abject; motif
 - dejected; emissary
5. I wanted to finish my paper on the recurring _____ I had found in the novel, but other factors _____ me to give it up.
- conjecture; expelled
 - emissary; compelled
 - motif; compelled
 - emissary; expelled

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by drawing an inference about the *italicized* word from its context.

- If Roy learns that Sarah is *dejected*, he might call her in order to...
- If Jeff, walking through the office, overhears Lucia say he has never been *remiss* in anything, he will probably feel...
- If a scientist records some *conjecture* as documented fact, other scientists will probably...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

A Discouraging Trend In Public Schools

If you were offered \$120 to sit in a classroom for six to seven hours, and all you had to do was start and stop videotapes, would you do it? If you were offered \$40,000 to take a job straight out of college that gave you two weeks of vacation at Christmas, a week for spring break, and two months off in the summer, would your first _____ (PULS) be to jump at it? These are the opportunities awaiting substitute and certified teachers in the public schools. While the salaries offered would hardly make a person wealthy, the money is certainly not unreasonable for the level of education and preparation required. Why, then, are so many school districts experiencing teacher shortages? Why are so many college graduates _____ (MISS) of the opportunity to teach young minds? Why are so many veteran teachers leaving the education field, too

_____ (JECT) to prepare for another day of chaos in the halls and classrooms?

Experts point to the increasing lack of control felt by educators. Schools face the prospect of violence and mayhem unimaginable a generation ago. In recent years, the following incidents have occurred in the state of Texas alone: a former student returned to his high school, poured gasoline around a cafeteria filled with terrified students, and was about to strike a match when he was tackled by the principal; a student drew a handgun in the middle of his classroom and pointed it at his teacher; several school districts were so wracked with after-school fighting that rumors spread about a district-wide shutdown of school until tempers could ease.

The fistfights and scuffles of forty years ago and the knife

fighters of twenty years ago have become the shootings of today. Some observers of this trend blame principals and teachers for being _____ (MISS) in the teaching of ethical principles, while others warn that parents are too casual in monitoring their children's behavior. Whatever the beliefs, just about everyone agrees that new measures must be taken to prevent future incidents. Many districts are

adopting "zero tolerance" policies for weapons on campus, installing metal detectors, and creating special police forces of their own, but will that be enough to stop the escalating violence? Or will society's priorities and values adjust again, this time making violence a less glamorous option? A generation of potential teachers—and our nation's schoolchildren—awaits an answer.

1. According to the passage, most people agree that
 - A. teachers get too much vacation time.
 - B. there should be "zero tolerance" for weapons on campus.
 - C. teachers are paid too little.
 - D. something must be done to prevent future violence in schools.

2. In the sentence including, "several school districts were so wracked with after-school fighting," what could be used as a *synonym* for the word "wracked"?
 - A. blessed
 - B. plagued
 - C. twisted
 - D. crashed

3. With which of the sentences below would the author probably agree?
 - A. While school violence may seem high now, it is likely to lessen in the future.
 - B. Teachers need to be less concerned with personal or financial gain and more concerned with the welfare of their students.
 - C. Unless schools deal with the cycle of violence, there will be fewer and fewer college graduates interested in teaching.
 - D. Students do not engage in fistfights any more.

Exercise VI. Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the *italicized* words. Note that the prefix *inter* means "among, into," and *re* means "against, away." If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary.

Mrs. Harris' classroom environment was quiet and conducive to learning. However, the tranquil setting was disturbed on Monday when Heather rudely interrupted Randy's speech on the slave trade. Before things got out of hand, Mrs. Harris *interjected* that Randy's comments were simply opinion, and that Heather's *repulsive* behavior was nothing more than the angry response of an ex-girlfriend.