

UNIT FOUR

VIA

Latin VIA "road, way"

The Romans built an elaborate system of aqueducts (literally, "water-leaders") to supply their cities and towns with water. A viaduct, rather than carrying water, carries a road or path over an obstacle. Look for one the next time you take a trip in a car.

▮ The original meaning of obviate was to meet something that was in the way (like an obstacle) and get rid of it. Now obviate often simply means "go around" or "make unnecessary."

VIADUCT (vī ə dukt) *n.* A bridge that carries a road or railroad over a valley
L. via + ductum, "leading" = road leading
The ancient viaduct washed out in the heavy rains.

IMPERVIOUS (im pūr vē əs) *adj.* Unable to be affected
L. in, "not," + per, "through," + via = no way through
Andy seems impervious to criticism, but his feelings are very easily hurt.
syn: invulnerable

DEVIATE (dē vē āt) *v.* To depart, especially from a path or plan
L. de, "off, away from," + via = off the path
Once Rick decides on a plan for his business projects, he never deviates from it.
ant: continue
syn: stray

OBVIATE (ob vē āt) *v.* To make unnecessary; to avoid
L. ob, "in the way of," + via
If you take safety precautions now, you can obviate some future medical expenses.
syn: prevent

FER

Latin FERRE "to carry, to bring"

DEFER (dif ūr) *v.* To put aside until later
L. de, "off, away," + ferre = to put off
If Mahmoud decides to travel to France, he will have to defer his examinations until April.
ant: hasten
syn: postpone

DEFERENCE (def ər əns) *n.* Act or practice of yielding to another's authority
L. de, "off, away from," + ferre = to put off (as an opinion)
As new soldiers, we were warned to show deference to our commander in all matters.
ant: rebellion
syn: submission

CONFER (kən fūr) *v.* To discuss something with someone else; consult
L. con, "together," + ferre = to carry together
The trivia show contestant conferred with the other members of her team before answering the question.

INFERENCE (in' fər əns) *n.* A conclusion not directly provided by evidence, but able to be drawn from the facts at hand

L. in, "in," + ferre = *to bring in*

When I saw the horse tracks across the snow, I made the *inference* that someone had left the gate open, allowing the horses to escape.

PROFFER (prof' ər) *v.* To present or offer

L. pro, "forward," + ferre = *to bring forward*

When the reporter asked for more information, the policeman *proffered* a ten-page document.

ant: withhold

PROLIFERATE (prə lif' ər āt) *v.* To increase greatly in number; multiply

L. proles, "offspring," + ferre = *to bring forth offspring*

Without natural predators, a species will *proliferate* until it overwhelms its environment.

syn: reproduce

PORT

Latin PORTARE, PORTATUM "to carry, to bring"

COMPORIMENT (kəm pōrt' mənt) *n.* Manner in which one acts or behaves

L. com, "with," + portare = *carry (oneself) with*

No fault could be found with my *comportment* during the awards ceremony.

syn: demeanor

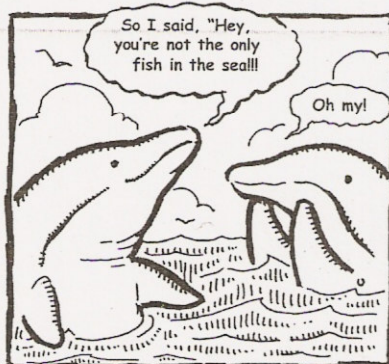
PURPORTED (pər pōr' tid) *adj.* Claimed as true, but probably false

L. pro, "forward," + portare = *brought forth*

Tim's *purported* illness kept him out of school on the day of the test.

syn: alleged

ant: definite



It was once *PURPORTED* that *PORPOISES* could talk.

EXERCISES - UNIT FOUR

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

1. As the plants not native to this forest *proliferate* at a fast rate, the other plants will probably...
2. Although Lewis was a *purported* basketball star, we did some checking around and found that...
3. The President will *confer* with the Prime Minister in order to...
4. When Donna kept looking at her watch and tapping her foot, I made the *inference* that...
5. The judges could tell that the skater was not *impervious* to the audience's booing when the skater...
6. The orchestra showed its *deference* to the master conductor by...
7. The opening ceremonies of the library were *deferred* because...
8. You can *obviate* arguments with your friends and family by...
9. Mark's *comportment* in front of the scholarship committee will determine if...
10. Although Richard and Leah had agreed to save their money, Leah *deviated* from the plan by...
11. The army's plans for building the *viaduct* were interrupted when...
12. When the attorney *proffered* a written statement by the witness, the judge...

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

deviate deference impervious inference obviate

1. Maddie seemed _____ to the insults she received in the press.
2. Frank showed his _____ to his boss by allowing him to speak first.
3. The _____ you have drawn from the suspect's story is supported by new evidence we have just received.
4. If the basketball team members work on their passing, they can _____ some of the problems they have encountered in the past.

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

proliferate impervious defer viaduct purported

5. A(n) _____ was constructed to carry the train over the river.
6. The _____ prize employee was discovered loading his bag with computer equipment from the supply closet.
7. The doctors decided to _____ the surgery until the patient was strong enough to withstand it.
8. If the polluting corporations, already great in number, continue to _____ in this area, the ecosystem could be severely damaged.

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

proffered conferred deviate comportment obviate

9. When I _____ with the other members of the team, I found we all had different ideas about what to do.
10. If the travelers decide to _____ from their original schedule, they may add several days to the trip.
11. The tax attorney _____ several documented transactions to the officials who were investigating.
12. Dr. Jones' _____ in the operating room is never less than completely dignified.

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

1. Bill's employer said that Bill's _____ was not appropriate for the situation and that he did not show _____ to his superiors.
 - A. inference; viaduct
 - B. comportment; deference
 - C. viaduct; comportment
 - D. inference; impervious
2. The candidate's advisors tried to _____ with him, but he was completely _____ to their suggestions.
 - A. obviate; proliferate
 - B. proliferate; purported
 - C. deviate; purported
 - D. confer; impervious

3. The _____ benefits of the diet disappear the minute you _____ from a strict eating plan.
- impervious; confer
 - purported; deviate
 - proliferate; obviate
 - impervious; defer
4. Sam could not _____ his project any longer, nor could he _____ a confrontation with his teacher.
- defer; obviate
 - deviate; proffer
 - proliferate; defer
 - confer; proffer
5. The scientists drew a(n) _____ from their data about how fast the species of waterfowl would _____.
- viaduct; proliferate
 - inference; proliferate
 - comportment; defer
 - deference; obviate

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

- If a forest ranger finds that a certain species of flower is not *proliferating*, he might expect that...
- When Arnold declares that he will never *deviate* from his budget, we can infer that...
- If the September book sale is *deferred*, it will probably take place...

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.

Hybrids: The New Generation of Cars

"One engine is good, but two are better." So goes the new mantra of car manufacturers, and it has resulted in the growth in popularity of the hybrid automobile. With new, dual-engine systems that rely on both gas and electricity for power, hybrid cars are beginning to replace the all-gas cars of the past. Among the numerous reasons for the global trend toward a dual-powered car are a shrinking supply of petroleum, a slowly disintegrating atmosphere, and the need of a growing world population for reliable transportation. For Americans and drivers throughout the world looking to _____ (VIA) the effects of pollution, hybrids provide a perfect solution: they are popular, inexpensive, and virtually harmless to the environment.

Hybrid cars are not electric cars, nor are they traditional

gasoline-powered automobiles. Rather, these new models combine the power of gas engines with the energy efficiency of battery engines. In this dual-engine system, electric motors are used to propel the car at low speeds and to assist the gasoline engine at higher speeds. Most hybrids also use electric motors during rests at stoplights, or when idling in heavy traffic. This innovation allows car exhaust to be substantially reduced, causing less air pollution and less noise.

The electric motors in hybrid cars run on batteries that are charged every time the car brakes. The batteries are able to store energy from braking or from the gasoline engine, much like the batteries in traditional cars do. Stored energy allows for a greater ratio of miles per gallon of gas, with hybrids able to achieve distances twice as great as gasoline-

powered cars. Fuel efficiency is an important reason for the growing popularity of hybrids, as they save drivers money at the gas pump and help to reduce a growing reliance on shrinking oil reserves.

Drivers of hybrid vehicles are also doing their part to reduce the threat of global warming. The reduced use of gasoline, combined with lower emissions, has given envi-

ronmentalists much to cheer about. As one driver noted, "I pay less, and my air is cleaner. Who can ask for anything more?" The recent _____ (FER) of hybrid automobiles on the market and on roadways seems to point towards the realization of this goal. People are driving more, spending less, and breathing easier thanks to the hybrid car.

1. In the last paragraph, the author suggests that
 - A. the cost of electricity makes hybrid cars a more expensive means of transportation than gasoline-powered automobiles.
 - B. drivers of hybrid cars are better drivers because they have healthier lungs.
 - C. hybrid cars are good for the environment and the wallet.
 - D. hybrid cars are adding to the harmful effects of global warming.

2. With which of the following statements would the author most likely agree?
 - A. Hybrid cars are economically sound, but environmentally flawed.
 - B. The reason hybrid cars are so popular is because of their futuristic look.
 - C. Traditional cars are safer for our environment because they are able to travel at faster speeds than hybrid cars.
 - D. Hybrid cars allow motorists to decrease air pollution without sacrificing reliable and fast transportation.

3. Which sentence best conveys the main idea of the passage?
 - A. After years of choosing larger, less efficient cars, people now seem determined to stop wasting natural resources.
 - B. The fuel efficiency of hybrids is an important reason for the growing popularity of hybrids, as they save drivers money at the gas pump and help to reduce a growing reliance on shrinking oil reserves.
 - C. Hybrids are popular, inexpensive, and virtually harmless to the environment.
 - D. With new, dual-engine systems that rely on both gas and electricity for power, hybrid cars are beginning to replace the all-gas cars of the past.

4. The purpose of the second paragraph is
 - A. to argue that gasoline-powered automobiles are slower than hybrid cars.
 - B. to explain the main features of hybrid cars.
 - C. to define the main similarities between gasoline and hybrid cars.
 - D. to encourage drivers to not stop at stoplights and not to slow down in heavy traffic.

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 *de* means "away from," *col* (from *con*) means "together," and that *latum* (an irregular relative of *ferre*) means "carried." If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary.

Many illegal immigrants live in constant fear of *deportation*. In order to be able to remain in America, they try to find ways of earning a living that are not reported to the government. With tougher immigration laws, though, the government has made it easier to oversee the *collation* of numerous documents which help to track immigrants. The administration hopes that these new measures will lower the number of illegal aliens in America.