

UNIT FIVE

VID

Latin VIDERE, VISUM "to see"

ENVISAGE (en viz' ij) v. To imagine; to conceive of
L. in, "in," + visum = *to see into*

No matter how she tried, Lorraine could not *envisage* living anywhere but California.

syn: perceive

VISAGE (viz' ij) n. Face; facial expression

The twisted *visage* of the monster costume frightened the toddlers in the room.

syn: expression

PARI

Latin PARERE, PARITUM "be visible, appear"

APPARITION (ap ər ish' ən) n. An unreal figure; a ghost

L. ad, "to," + parere = *appear to*

The first time Hamlet sees the *apparition* of his dead father, he can hardly believe his eyes.

syn: specter

PARA

Latin PARARE, PARATUM "to prepare, order"

IMPERATIVE (im per' ə tiv) adj. Absolutely necessary; crucial

L. in, "in," + paratum = *ordered into*

It is *imperative* that you have the papers to me by noon.

syn: critical

ant: unimportant

DISPARATE (dis' pər it) adj. Different or diverse

L. dis, "apart," + parare = *prepared apart*

The recipe manages to combine many *disparate* elements into a delicious dinner.

syn: inconsistent

SPEC

Latin SPECERE, SPECTUM "to look"

PERSPICACIOUS (pър spi kār shəs) adj. Wise; insightful; acutely intelligent

L. per, "through," + specere = *seeing through*

Having praised Kate for her *perspicacious* decisions as treasurer, Nigel went on to warn her of the obstacles ahead.

syn: perceptive

ant: dim-witted; short-sighted

III Words from the two roots parere and parare can be easy to confuse. Parere means "to appear," and words from it will always have to do with seeing or appearing.

Parare means "get ready, put in order;" from it we get words like emperor and compare.

RETROSPECTIVE (re trə spek' tiv) *adj.* Looking backward over a period of time
 L. retro, "backwards," + spectum = *looking backward*
 The museum will be showcasing a *retrospective* exhibit of the sculptor's works.

ASPECT (as' pekt) *n.* A part that can be considered or viewed
 L. ad, "toward," + spectum = *seen toward*
 Not every *aspect* of this situation is negative; though we have made mistakes, we can learn from them.
 syn: facet

INTROSPECTIVE (in trə spek' tiv) *adj.* Contemplating one's own thoughts and feelings
 L. intro, "within," + spectum = *looking within*
 The *introspective* poet enjoyed taking long walks alone.
 syn: meditative ant: shallow

PHAN

Greek PHANEIN "to appear, to show"

PHENOMENON (fə nām' ə non) *n.* A fact or event which can be observed and/or documented
 We observed the same *phenomenon* numerous times among the songbirds.

DIAPHANOUS (dī af' ən əs) *adj.* Lightweight and transparent
 G. dia, "through," + phanein = *to show through*
 The *diaphanous* curtains were lightly lifted by any breeze, no matter how slight.
 syn: opaque

EPIPHANY (i pif' ə nē) *n.* A moment of great insight; revelation
 G. epi, "near to," + phanein = *appearing near to*
 The doctor's *epiphany* eventually led to a breakthrough vaccine.



TIFFANY had an EPIPHANY while studying.

SYCOPHANT (si' kə fent) *n.* A person who flatters; a yes-man
 G. sukos, "fig," + phanein = *fig-displayer*
 The new president of the company was surrounded by *sycophants* who never disagreed with him.

III The word diaphanous often applies to fabric; for instance, it might describe a silky, flowing robe.

III In ancient Athens, there was a seldom-enforced law against exporting figs. Men who turned in violators of this law were thought to be pawns of the government. From a general meaning of "pawn, subservient person" we get our meaning, "flatterer."

EXERCISES - UNIT FIVE

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

1. Since the pilot knew it was *imperative* for him to be in communication with his crew, he...
2. When Kaylee had an *epiphany* about a difficult math problem she had been working on, she...
3. You can tell that Bailey is in an *introspective* mood when he...
4. Bernard's *perspicacious* handling of his client's trial earned him a reputation as...
5. The appearance of a comet is a *phenomenon* that can be...
6. Because we could not tell whether the figure was a human being or an *apparition*, we...
7. One *aspect* of the current educational system that students feel strongly about is...
8. Debbie accused Ruben of being a *sycophant* because he...
9. Michelle *devised* a way to solve the math problem by first...
10. The *diaphanous* scarf falling over my thick, bulky army coat seemed...
11. The sunken, wasted *visage* of the starved shipwreck victim made us feel...
12. The *disparate* parts of the quilt must have been gathered from...
13. The new collection of works by the author is a *retrospective*, intended to...

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

disparate introspective envisage imperative sycophant

1. The city council does not _____ making any changes to the existing law.
2. The many _____ stories in the novel somehow come together at the end to form one complete narrative.
3. Because Jay was concerned about making a good impression at work, he felt it was _____ that he be on time every day.
4. George was _____ by nature and would spend hours alone, lost in thought.

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

retrospective diaphanous epiphany visage phenomenon

5. The exhibit takes us on a _____ journey through all the films made by the director in the past thirty years.
6. One _____ that has repeated itself is the revolt of young people against their parents' music.
7. King William's _____ was peaceful in death, but also bore the lines of many years of worry.
8. Lilah's _____ evening dress was thought by some to be too slinky and revealing.

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

apparition diaphanous aspects perspicacious epiphany

9. Several _____ of the current financial crisis are misunderstood by the majority of the population.
10. Was this lovely figure before me a dream, a(n) _____, or a human being?
11. Suddenly, Rachel was struck by a(n) _____ about why we lost the game.
12. Ashley believes that saving every penny is _____, because it will protect her from hard times in the future.

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

1. If our group leader can _____ a way to unite the many _____ elements of the group, we can accomplish a lot.
 - A. apparition; retrospective
 - B. envisage; disparate
 - C. aspect; imperative
 - D. envisage; diaphanous
2. In his half-awake state, the young boy wondered if the ghostly _____ in the _____ robe was real.
 - A. imperative; visage
 - B. introspective; aspect
 - C. apparition; diaphanous
 - D. perspicacious; phenomenon
3. The geologist, working late into the night, suddenly had a(n) _____ about a(n) _____ that he had never before understood.
 - A. apparition; epiphany
 - B. phenomenon; imperative
 - C. epiphany; visage
 - D. epiphany; phenomenon

4. The _____ parts of the rag doll gave it an especially funny _____; it had one red eye, one blue eye, and an orange mouth.
- perspicacious; apparition
 - disparate; visage
 - perspicacious; phenomenon
 - imperative; retrospective
5. It is _____ that we study every _____ of the situation before we make our decision.
- disparate; aspect
 - visionary; visage
 - imperative; aspect
 - diaphanous; visage

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

- If Horace makes many *perspicacious* decisions as the manager of a business, the business will probably...
- When one of the king's assistants is despised for being a *sycophant*, the assistant probably does things like...
- If Leo says that Beth should look at every *aspect* of a situation, he probably thinks that Beth should not...

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.

Some congressmen and senators who claim they want a cleaner atmosphere also support relaxing the rules on factory emissions. Rather than reducing threats to the environment on a commercial and industrial level, which is _____ (PARA), they devote their attention to initiatives like the ban on public cigarette smoking. Smoking is certainly a health hazard, but it does not impose the same danger on the public as the threat of industrial emissions. Many factories have been dumping waste in lakes and streams for years, while the government closes its eyes and ears.

One example of this _____ (PHAN) occurred in New York State in the 1970s, at the site now known as Love Canal. A dumping ground for hazardous wastes was covered and used for, among other purposes, an elementary school. The chemicals that leaked out of the site caused numerous health problems among local residents, and the entire town eventually had to be abandoned. Public outrage finally made the government take a good look at Love Canal, and authorities opened an investigation into waste disposal. In response to this and other environmental disasters, the government also established the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

However, still trying to protect industrial progress, the government gave large firms years to implement tougher air and water purification standards. Federal and state governments should have enforced much stricter guidelines for reducing risks to the health of the general public.

The government's refusal to acknowledge pollution problems has forced many small towns to take charge of cleaning their own water without federal funding. These towns have been building plants that turn waste products into natural fertilizer, with which they cultivate their crops. Such plants must often be built and maintained with little or no help from the federal government.

This _____ (SPEC) of the problem should be recognized, and the government needs to allocate more funds to assist states in dealing with pollution. Moreover, authorities should insist that any factory be shut down if it refuses to control harmful emissions. As it stands, many elected representatives openly voice the need for stricter regulations, but inevitably succumb to corporate influence in exchange for campaign support. Overlooking the needs of the general population in favor of corporate interests is clearly unforgivable.

1. What idea can you infer from the article?
 - A. People are not as important as factories.
 - B. Politicians need to make pollution a priority.
 - C. Factories are good for the environment.
 - D. A clean atmosphere is not vital to the economy.

2. What would be the best headline for this article?
 - A. Water Pollution on the Rise
 - B. Politics Makes Strange Bedfellows
 - C. People Take Initiative for Pollution
 - D. Pollution: The Big Political Problem

3. Small towns have taken the initiative to clean up their water supplies by
 - A. building plants to treat the sewage.
 - B. installing water faucet filters in every home.
 - C. building better sewers.
 - D. electing officials who will take an interest in clean water.

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 *grandi* comes from the Latin *grandis*, meaning "big, great." If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary.

In 1969, families across the country gathered around their television sets to watch one of the defining moments in American history. Through the blurred lines on their screens, millions witnessed an astonishing *spectacle*: members of the first crew to reach the moon hopped from their craft and began exploring the strange surface. Astronaut Neil Armstrong, in a speech that was lofty without being *grandiloquent*, spoke the now-famous line, "That's one small step for man, and one giant leap for mankind."