

Lesson Four

1. **bilk** (bīlk) *verb* to cheat or swindle; to thwart or frustrate
The crooks tried to *bilk* older homeowners by charging them for work the homeowner never authorized.
syn: to defraud, elude

2. **blatant** (blāt' nt) *adjective* offensively noisy; obvious, too conspicuous
His *blatant* efforts to get the girl's attention were embarrassing to everyone.
syn: vociferous

3. **blight** (blīt) *noun* anything that destroys, prevents growth, or causes devaluation
My tomato plants were all affected with *blight*.
syn: disease

4. **cache** (kāsh) *noun* a hiding place; or things hidden, usually valuables
They used a hole in a hollow tree, known to only the three of them, as their *cache*.

5. **cadaverous** (kə dāv' əv əs) *adjective* of or like a corpse; pale, gaunt, thin
The old pirate's *cadaverous* face made the young sailor tremble involuntarily.
syn: ghastly *ant:* robust, healthy

6. **calumny** (kāl' əm nə) *noun* a false and malicious accusation
The old politician said that he was retiring from public life because he could no longer stand the *calumnies* heaped upon him by his enemies.
syn: slander, trickery

7. **careen** (kə rēn') *verb* to lean sideways; to lurch from side to side while in motion
The torrential winds caused the ship to *careen* violently.
syn: tilt

8. **caricature** (kār' ĩ kə choor) *noun* an exaggerated portrayal of one's features
In his political cartoons, he exaggerates a prominent feature of the person in order to make the *caricature* easily recognized.
syn: mockery

9. **carnage** (kār' nīj) *noun* a bloody and extensive slaughter
It was a stupid war that resulted only in the *carnage* of many innocent civilians.
syn: massacre

10. **carp** (kärp) *verb* to complain or to find fault in a petty or nagging way
One reason you are not very popular is that you *carp* about every little thing.
syn: nag, nitpick *ant:* praise, laud

Exercise I—Words in Context

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

careen *caricature* *carp* *bilked* *cadaverous*

- A. After his prolonged illness, old Mr. Johnson looked positively _____. He was so thin and pale that he looked like a _____ of his former self. His hollow cheeks were extremely sunken and his deep eyes, even deeper. He was so weak that whenever he tried to walk, he would _____ down the hallway. But the strangest thing about his illness was that his mind was altered. Mr. Johnson was positive that his doctor was a fraud who had _____ his friend and murdered his mother.
- B. While the coach generally did not like to _____ or find fault with his players, he did spend forty minutes after this game pointing out their shortcomings.

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

cache *carnage* *blight* *blatant* *calumny*

- C. After the shelling stopped, the battlefield was a scene of mutilation and _____.
- D. He said that he didn't mind criticism, but that he objected strenuously to the _____ distortions and _____ spread by his opponent.
- E. Most of the elm trees in America were destroyed by a _____ known as Dutch elm disease.
- F. Before banks became secure, people used to hide their life savings in a _____ underneath their mattresses.

Exercise II—Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes

Study the entries and answer the questions that follow.

The root *term* means *end*.

The root *ver* means *true*.

- A. Without using a dictionary, try to define the following words:
- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. terminal | 4. verify |
| 2. terminate | 5. verity |
| 3. exterminate | |
- B. The end of the bus route is at the city's largest _____.
- C. List as many words as you can think of that contain the roots *term* or *ver*.

Exercise III—Analogies

Complete the analogy by choosing the most appropriate word.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. sketch : portrait :: | 2. carp : criticize :: | 3. cartographer : maps :: |
| A. snack : dinner | A. paste : glue | A. cowboy : horse |
| B. chocolate : cake | B. swindle : bilk | B. potter : pots |
| C. friend : wife | C. dew : rain | C. writer : newspapers |
| D. noisy : quiet | D. wing : airplane | D. doctor : patients |

Exercise IV—Reading Comprehension

Read the selection and answer the questions.

If the Greek classics are to be read with any benefit by modern men, they must be read as the work of men like ourselves. Regard must be had to their traditions, their opportunities, and their limitations. There is a disposition to exaggeration in all human admiration; most of our classical texts are very much mangled, and all were originally the work of human beings in difficulties, living in a time of such darkness and narrowness of outlook as makes our own age by comparison a period of dazzling illumination. What we shall lose in reverence by this familiar treatment, we shall gain in sympathy for that group of troubled, uncertain, and very modern minds. The Athenian writers were, indeed, the first of modern men. They were discussing questions that we still discuss; they began to struggle with the great problems that confront us today. Their writings are our dawn.

H. G. Wells

- In this selection, the author's main point is that
 - the Greeks had their problems, too.
 - the ancient Greek writers were men just like us, not super beings.
 - reading the Greek classics can benefit modern man.
 - the Greeks lived in an age of darkness and uncertainty.
- The author states or implies that modern man
 - is not as strong as the ancients.
 - has an exaggerated admiration for the ancient writers.
 - has underrated the ancient writers.
 - has little to learn from reading the works of ancient writers.
- It appears that this writer
 - greatly admires the ancient writers.
 - has little respect for the ancient writers.
 - thinks that we have to recognize our common humanity with the ancients.
 - Both A and C are correct.
- The selection states or implies that
 - our own age, by comparison, is more intellectually enlightened than ancient times.
 - the classics have little to say to modern man.
 - everything that needs to be said about life has already been said by the ancients.
 - the classics come to us in pure and uncorrupted versions.

V. Vocabulary Word Concepts

A word, gesture, or action that is both offensive and obvious.

A description or picture of a person or thing in which one's distinctive features are greatly exaggerated or distorted, usually to produce a comic effect.

The act of cheating, defrauding, or swindling someone or some organization. A person who loses money in a telephone scam may be said to have been _____ ed.

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

1. Carnage is most likely to occur
 - A. at a ball game.
 - B. during a great economic depression.
 - C. during a war.
 - D. after a war ends.
2. At a party, one who carps frequently would most likely
 - A. be very popular.
 - B. be very interesting.
 - C. be very dull.
 - D. be avoided by others.
3. The most likely place to see a cadaver is
 - A. in a classroom.
 - B. in a morgue.
 - C. at a dance.
 - D. at a football game.

VII. Grammar: See Answer Document