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Let's be realistic about vocabulary study. Learning words cannot guarantee you admission to college or propel you toward automatic success. But knowing the meanings of important words can be useful. If a word you don't understand keeps cropping up in your reading, you must stop to look it up or sacrifice understanding the text. If you find yourself having to make do with a general word like *nice* or *pleasant* because you don't know a more specific word, you may feel frustrated, and your speaking and writing will lack precision.

Vocabulary study, therefore, can be of value to you if the words you learn are commonly used in the kind of reading you'll be doing or will help you say what you mean in more interesting ways. Learning the meanings of obscure words may make you feel sophisticated but will do little to enhance your ability to read and communicate.

VOCABULARY 1 is a book that avoids the pitfalls of teaching obscure words. It presents words that have use in the real world. It requires that you learn only two words per lesson and furnishes you with what you need to know about using the words.

After reading the explanatory matter, you confront two kinds of practice with the new words. In the first kind of practice (Exercise A, Focus on Meaning), you test your ability to *recognize* the meanings of the words as you must do when you encounter them in reading a magazine or a newspaper article. In the second kind of practice (Exercise B, Words in Context), you test your ability to *recall* the words and use them in the proper way. This practice prepares you to use the new words in your own speaking and writing.

Words from previous lessons keep showing up in the practice exercises, and so you never have a chance to forget them. By devoting ten minutes a day to this kind of vocabulary study, you will take command of approximately two hundred useful new words as well as hundreds of synonyms and antonyms of the vocabulary words.

But that's not all. As a bonus, this book includes lessons that introduce you to over forty Latin and Greek word parts on which several hundred English words are based. Learning these word parts will give you the keys to the meanings of countless other unfamiliar words.

lesson 1

snug ■ falter

snug (adj) (snəg)

ORIGIN: Perhaps Scandinavian-Swedish *snugg* (tidy)
MEANING: Warmly comfortable or cozy; fitting closely, as a garment
CONTEXT: "You will never be able to wear that *snug* jacket another year, for it will be too small."
SYNONYMS: cozy, secure, close-fitting, comfortable
ANTONYMS: uncomfortable; loose, roomy
OTHER FORMS: snugness (n.), snugly (adv.)

falter (v) ('fɒl-tər)

ORIGIN: Scandinavian *faltrast* (to be uncertain)
MEANING: To walk, move, act, or speak unsteadily
CONTEXT: "Although faced with hardships, she did not *falter* in her determination to get an education."
SYNONYMS: hesitate, waver, vacillate
ANTONYM: resolve
OTHER FORMS: falteringly (adv.)

A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

- snug: a) nasty b) close-fitting c) elaborate d) quiet
- falter: a) hurry b) stampede c) totter d) tumble
- snugly: a) securely b) roughly c) noisily d) neatly
- snuggs: a) warmth b) difficulty c) cooperation d) coziness
- falter: a) fear b) tear c) hesitate d) run
- falteringly: a) waveringly b) wishfully c) openly d) badly

B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

falter snug

- Noticing that Joe's blue jeans had shrunk slightly, his mother commented on their _____ fit.
- Upset and confused, Lisa answered the questions _____.
- The _____ of the sleeping bag made the youngster feel warm and cozy.
- "Don't _____ when crossing the stream, or you may be swept away by the current," warned the guide.
- Experienced mountain climbers always fasten their packs _____ so that nothing can fall out.
- In a steeplechase, a good horse does not _____ as it approaches a fence.

Shades of Meaning

- falter
- waver
- vacillate

Falter, *waver*, and *vacillate* express uncertainty or indecision. *Falter* means acting indecisively or weakly and implies turning away from a course decided on or the lack of ability to carry it out. *Hesitate* implies pausing because of uncertainty before doing or saying or choosing something. *Waver* implies hesitation after seeming to decide and so suggests weakness or retreat. *Vacillate* implies long inaction from considering conflicting courses of action without reaching a firm decision.

Lesson 2

myth ■ survey

myth (n) (mith)

ORIGIN: Greek *mythos* (story)

MEANING: A legendary story; an imaginary or fictitious idea

CONTEXT: "The stories of the Greek gods are *myths*."

SYNONYMS: legend, fantasy

ANTONYMS: truth, fact

OTHER FORMS: mythical (adj.), mythically (adv.), mythology (n.)

survey (v) (sər-vā)

ORIGIN: Middle French *sur* (over) + *veir* (to see)

MEANING: To look over and examine closely to learn certain facts

CONTEXT: "A committee has been appointed to *survey* the school systems of the state to find out how many black studies programs are available."

SYNONYMS: scan, scrutinize, observe

OTHER FORMS: surveillance (n.), surveyor (n.), survey (n.)

A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

1. myth: a) goddess b) fantasy c) history d) opera
2. snug: a) pretty b) interesting c) alone d) cozy
3. surveillance: a) observation b) display c) copy d) opposite
4. survey: a) count b) examine c) steal d) scorn
5. falter: a) crumble b) toss c) hesitate d) describe
6. mythical: a) legendary b) funny c) unpleasant d) cowardly

B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

cozy falter myth snug survey

1. The mayor decided to _____ the community to find out if the public supported the proposed law.
2. "If you _____, all is lost," warned the captain when he saw the crew hesitate to use the lifeboats.
3. In Greek _____, Zeus was the greatest of the gods.
4. Although the jacket fit _____, Manuel did not think it was too tight.
5. I conducted a(n) _____ to see how many seniors planned to attend college.
6. As children grow older, they realize that even though the story of Santa Claus is a(n) _____, the good feelings associated with the jolly old elf are very real.
7. Our parks department hired a _____ to lay out the new baseball field.
8. The _____ little library was the perfect place to study for the math test.
9. The debate still goes on. Is the Loch Ness monster real or _____?
10. There's an old saying, "Those who _____ are lost."

lesson 3

throttle ■ froth

throttle (n) (ˈθræt-l)
ORIGIN: Middle English *throtlen* (to cut the throat of, strangle)
MEANING: A lever, pedal, or handle for controlling the flow of fuel to an engine
CONTEXT: "Pull out the *throttle* to give the engine more gas."
SYNONYM: accelerator
OTHER FORM: throttle (v. meaning "to choke, suffocate")

froth (n) (frɒθ)
ORIGIN: Middle English *frotha*; perhaps from Old English *afreothan* (to foam)
MEANING: Bubbles formed in or on a liquid; foam
CONTEXT: "The *froth* of the lemonade was made by adding soda and whipping the mixture in the blender."
SYNONYM: foam
OTHER FORM: frothy (adj.)

A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

1. throttle: a) control lever b) gas engine c) speed limit d) hardware
2. froth: a) liquid b) steam c) rabies d) foam
3. surveyor: a) seamstress b) examiner c) salesclerk d) artist
4. falter: a) decide b) waver c) promise d) leap
5. froth: a) mold b) mud c) bubbles d) snow
6. throttle: a) accelerator b) pipe c) racing car d) piston

B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

froth myth snug survey throttle waver

1. With the _____ wide open, the midget racer roared into the lead.
2. Root beer usually has a delicious _____ on top of it.
3. The captain eased up on the _____ as the cruiser approached the shallow, rocky inlet.
4. The _____ waves, churning and foaming, curled over the surfer's head.
5. Camelot is a(n) _____ kingdom described in the legend of King Arthur.
6. "_____ the property lines carefully because we must not drill on the wrong land," said the engineer to the crew.
7. The fluffy, white clouds looked like _____ blowing off the top of Pikes Peak.
8. The lioness, desperate to feed her cubs, was attempting to _____ the antelope.
9. With the cold wind howling as Tim waited for the bus, he wished that he were home _____ in his warm bed.
10. Anteus never _____ in his love of the land.

lesson 4

swoon ■ apt

SWOON	(v) (swūn)
ORIGIN:	Middle English <i>swounen</i> (faint)
MEANING:	To enter a state of hysterical rapture or ecstasy; to have a fainting spell
CONTEXT:	"Several fans <i>swooned</i> when the rock star sang."
SYNONYM:	faint
OTHER FORM:	swooner (n.)

apt	(adj) (apt)
ORIGIN:	Latin <i>aptus</i> (fastened)
MEANING 1:	Skillful; quick to learn
CONTEXT 1:	"She is an <i>apt</i> carpenter, doing beautiful cabinet work."
MEANING 2:	Tending or inclined toward something; likely
CONTEXT 2:	"People who touch bare electric wires are <i>apt</i> to receive a shock."
SYNONYM:	handy, dexterous, quick; prone, likely, liable
ANTONYMS:	awkward, clumsy, inept; unlikely
OTHER FORM:	aptly (adv.), aptness (n.), aptitude (n.)

A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

- swoon: a) cry b) cough c) faint d) dance
- apt: a) likely b) awkward c) clumsy d) pretty
- throttle: a) release b) connect c) qualify d) choke
- aptly: a) skillfully b) curiously c) completely d) harshly
- surveillance: a) document b) detective c) escape d) scrutiny

B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

apt falter froth myth survey swoon vacillate

- Vocational tests help determine a person's _____ for particular occupations.
- The _____ on the dog's muzzle, together with its alarming behavior, warned that the animal might have rabies.
- The medical student _____ while observing the operation.
- Many people believe the legend of the lost continent of Atlantis; others consider it a(n) _____.
- A student who is particularly _____ in mathematics and likes to work with numbers should consider a career in the field of computer science.
- The heat and humidity caused the old man to _____ on the sidewalk, where he had been waiting for a bus.
- For two years Michael _____ about whether or not to go to college.
- The FBI had kept the airport under close _____ for several months.
- Ben Franklin said it _____: "A penny saved is a penny earned."

Lesson 5

flaw ■ apprehend

flaw (n) (flò)

ORIGIN: Middle English *flage* (flaw)

MEANING: An imperfection, a faulty part

CONTEXT: "I checked that sweater carefully and found only one *flaw*, a break in the yarn on one sleeve."

SYNONYMS: imperfection, defect, fault, blemish

ANTONYMS: perfection

OTHER FORMS: flawless (adj.), flawlessness (n.), flawlessly (adv.)

apprehend (v) (.ap-ri-'hend)

ORIGIN: Latin *ad* (to) + *prehendere* (seize)

MEANING: To take into custody, to arrest

CONTEXT: "The police *apprehended* the thief fifty miles from here."

SYNONYMS: seize, capture, arrest

ANTONYMS: release

OTHER FORMS: apprehension (n. meaning "a feeling of fear or anxiety"), apprehensive (adj.), apprehensively (adv.)

A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

1. flaw: a) stream b) fault c) thread d) fear
2. apprehend: a) recognize b) enter c) describe d) capture
3. aptness: a) skill b) tardiness c) complaint d) apartment
4. flaw: a) defect b) location c) direction d) collar
5. throttle: a) suspect b) garage c) control pedal d) speed

B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

apprehend flaw swoon

1. After months of practice, Elizabeth was able to play the difficult solo _____.
2. A reward of \$500 was offered to anyone who helped _____ the escaped criminal.
3. It was obvious from his nervous chatter that Jim Jennings was _____ about the success of the play.
4. Rosa tried desperately to control her dizziness because she knew she would be embarrassed if she _____ in the crowded auditorium.
5. Merchandise that has _____ is sometimes labeled "Imperfect" and sold at a reduced price.
6. The police wanted to _____ the suspect in order to find out more about the smuggling ring.

Shades of Meaning

- defect
- fault
- blemish

All three words refer to imperfection. *Defect* implies a lack or want that is often hidden and essential to the proper functioning of something. *Fault* implies some failure of character to achieve some standard of perfection. *Blemish* suggests something that effects only the surface or appearance.

lesson 6

pare ■ fraud

pare (v) (pa[ə]r)

ORIGIN: Latin *parare* (to prepare)

MEANING: To trim or shave off, to reduce or remove as by cutting

CONTEXT: "After Dad's illness, it was necessary for us to *pare* down our expenses in order to pay his medical bills."

SYNONYMS: peel, clip, shave, lessen

ANTONYMS: increase, augment

fraud (n) (frôd)

ORIGIN: Latin *fraud* (deceit, injury)

MEANING: Any deception, trick, or dishonest practice used to gain unfair advantage

CONTEXT: "That get-rich-quick offer is nothing but a *fraud*, so you had best forget it."

SYNONYMS: deceit, deception, hoax, swindle

ANTONYMS: honesty, truth, fairness

OTHER FORMS: fraudulent (adj.), fraudulently (adv.)

A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

1. fraud: a) trick b) bargain c) investment d) lottery
2. flaw: a) fabric b) imperfection c) grill d) shirt
3. pare: a) increase b) lessen c) multiply d) destroy
4. apprehensive: a) calm b) arrested c) fearful d) strong
5. fraud: a) disclosure b) frown c) robbery d) deception

B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

apprehend apt flaw fraud hoax pare

1. When making an apple pie, you must _____ the apples to remove the skins.
2. Detective Carson was injured trying to _____ the suspect.
3. The _____ financial statements issued by the Ace Mining Company persuaded many unsuspecting people to invest in the near-bankrupt company.
4. The doctor warned the patient to _____ down her weight because extra pounds can worsen a heart condition.
5. The student who is _____ to succeed is the one who studies regularly and plans ahead.
6. "Quacks" commit _____ by pretending to be licensed doctors in order to sell sick people useless cures and remedies.
7. Sandy was at first very _____ about going off the high dive, but after her first dive she performed _____.
8. The reported Elvis sighting on Main Street turned out to be a _____; it was an Elvis look-alike.

lesson 7

dialect ■ pivot

dialect (n) ('dī-a-.lekt)

ORIGIN: Greek *diagesthai* (to converse)

MEANING: A variety of language particular to a region or group that is distinguished from that of another region or group by features of grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary

CONTEXT: "The *dialect* of the South is quite different from that of the North."

SYNONYMS: idiom, speech

OTHER FORMS: dialectal (adj.), dialectally (adv.)

pivot (n) ('piv-ət)

ORIGIN: Italian *pivolo* (peg)

MEANING: The shaft or pin or something (part, member, point) on which something else turns or depends

CONTEXT: "Juan, in this formation you will stand and mark time, acting as a *pivot* around which the other members of the marching band will turn."

SYNONYM: axis

OTHER FORMS: pivot (v. meaning "to turn")

A. Focus on Meaning

Circle the letter of the best meaning for each vocabulary word.

1. dialect: a) locality b) speech c) debate d) confusion
2. pare: a) clip b) create c) diagram d) link
3. dialect: a) telephone b) region c) assembly d) idiom
4. froth: a) foam b) fuzz c) wrinkle d) fur
5. pivot: a) educate b) turn c) puncture d) excite

B. Words in Context

Supply the proper form of the most appropriate vocabulary word.

dialect fraud pivot

1. Although French is spoken throughout France, different _____ are spoken in different provinces.
2. Some _____ spoken in Pennsylvania evolved from the speech patterns of the Dutch and Germans who settled there.
3. The company did not discover the _____ until after the accountant had skipped town with the money.
4. "This part," said the mechanic, "is not turning; the rust keeps it from _____ on its shaft."
5. The forger _____ endorsed the check with the name of the heir.

C. Antonyms

Circle the letter of the word whose meaning is most nearly opposite the vocabulary word.

1. snug a) tidy b) loose c) inept d) broad
2. myth a) story b) fraud c) fact d) axis
3. apt a) inept b) opening c) flaw d) roomy
4. fraud a) release b) survey c) hoax d) truth