

## LESSONS 3 AND 4

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# Position

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### LESSON 3

*Nihil legebat quod non exciperet.*

He read nothing from which he did not pluck something.

—PLINY THE YOUNGER

Key Words		
compound	exonerate	impose
excerpt	exorbitant	impostor
exhilarate	exposition	proponent
	expound	

### EX <L. "from," "out of"

1. **excerpt** (ĕk'sûrpt) [*carpere* <L. "to pick," "to pluck," "to seize"]  
*n.* A passage selected from a book, play, piece of music, etc.

Our anthology contains thousands of **excerpts** from literature around the world.

*tr. v.* To take a passage from a book, etc.; to quote.

The students **excerpted** their favorite numbers from *Cats* to perform at the variety show.

**Familiar Words**

exact  
 exaggerate  
 examination  
 excellent  
 exception  
 excite  
 exclaim  
 excrescence  
 excuse  
 exercise  
 exodus  
 expand  
 expect  
 experience  
 explain  
 expletive  
 express  
 extend  
 exult

**Challenge Words**

exalt  
 excavate  
 excise  
 exorcise  
 explicit  
 exploit  
 extant  
 extricate  
 exuberant

2. **exhilarate** (ĕg zĭl'ə rāt, ĭg zĭl'ə rāt)  
 [*hilaris* <L. "cheerful," "happy";  
*hilaros* <G. "cheerful," "happy"]  
*tr. v.* To cheer; to stimulate; to enliven.

Her critically acclaimed performance at the opening of the 1961 season of the Metropolitan Opera must have **exhilarated** Leontyne Price.

**exhilarated**, *adj.*; **exhilarating**, *adj.*; **exhilaration**, *n.*



3. **exonerate** (ĕg zŏn'ə rāt) [*onus* <L. "burden," "load"]  
*tr. v.* 1. To free from blame.

When new evidence **exonerated** the accused forger, the bank president reinstated him at a higher salary.

2. To relieve of a task.

As a reward for their hours of babysitting, their parents **exonerated** them from mowing the lawn.

**exonerated**, *adj.*; **exoneration**, *n.*

4. **exorbitant** (ĕg zŏr'bə tənt, ĭg zŏr'bə tənt) [*orbita* <L. "route"]  
*adj.* Excessive.

The rhinoceros is in danger of becoming extinct because of the **exorbitant** price poachers receive for the animals' horns.

**exorbitance**, *n.*; **exorbitancy**, *n.*; **exorbitantly**, *adv.*

## PONO, PONERE, POSUI, POSITUM <L. "to place," "to put"

5. **compound** (kŏm pound') [*com = cum* <L. "with," "together"]  
*tr. v.* To mix together; to combine two or more parts or elements.

The Kirov Ballet of the former Soviet Union **compounded** its traditional style with contemporary music and dance from other countries.

*adj.* (kŏm'pound) Having two or more parts or elements.

A **compound** sentence has two or more main clauses, as in "We ran fast, but they caught us."

*n.* A combination of elements, parts, or substances.

Steel is a **compound**, or alloy, of iron, carbon, and other substances such as copper, cobalt, and silicon.



**Familiar Words**

composition  
deposit  
dispose  
expose  
oppose  
positive  
postpone  
posture  
preposition  
proposal  
propose  
suppose  
transpose

**Challenge Words**

appositive  
component  
composite  
depose  
exponent  
interpose  
provost  
repository

6. **exposition** (ĕk' spə zĭsh'ən) [*ex* <L. "from," "out of"]  
*n.* 1. A precise statement or explanation.

With both written text and 1,065 colored illustrations, John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, published in 1838, remains a model **exposition** on the subject.

2. A public exhibit or show.

The first international **exposition** was held in London's Crystal Palace in 1851.



**expository**, *adj.*

7. **expound** (ĕk spound', ĭk spound') [*ex* <L. "from," "out of"]  
*tr.* and *intr. v.* To set forth an explanation or view of something in detail (usually used with *on*).

The travelers **expounded** on the animals they saw on their safari in Kenya.

8. **impose** (ĭm pōz') [*im = in* <L. "in"]  
*tr. v.* To set up, or to force something (or oneself) on others.

Under apartheid, the South African government **imposed** laws that granted different rights to people based on the color of their skin.

*intr. v.* To take unfair advantage of someone.

In the play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, a guest who breaks his hip when departing **imposes** on his hosts for six months.

**imposed**, *adj.*; **imposition**, *n.*

**NOTA BENE:** The adjective *imposing* has a different meaning from the forms given above, a favorable one: "impressive" and "awe-inspiring." For example, An *imposing* figure physically, Paul Robeson was even more impressive for his talents as scholar, athlete, actor, and singer.

9. **impostor** (ĭm pōs'tər) [*im = in* <L. "in"]  
*n.* One who deceives by using a false identity.

The wife of Martin Guerre wonders if the man claiming to be Martin is really her husband returning after eight years or an **impostor**.



10. **proponent** (prə pō'nənt) [*pro* <G. "before"]  
*n.* One who argues in support of something.

**Proponents** of recycling newsprint, glass, and aluminum have found citizens more willing to cooperate than they expected.

Antonym: **opponent**

**EXERCISE 3A**

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word(s) in bold-faced type).

1. **excerpts from** an opera a. artifices in b. characters in  
c. omissions from d. plots in e. portions of
2. to **expound on** one's success a. relive b. underestimate  
c. explain in detail d. brag about e. subvert
3. **exoneration** of an offender a. disbelief b. pursuit  
c. condemnation d. release e. imprisonment
4. **imposition** of a hardship a. infliction b. removal  
c. endurance d. defense e. annihilation

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

5. **exhilarating** evenings a. depressing b. cheering c. tiring  
d. unremarkable e. primordial
6. a(n) **proponent** of a vegetarian diet a. example b. opponent  
c. enthusiast d. inventor e. interpreter
7. **exorbitant** fees a. reasonable b. precise c. excessive d. basic  
e. very low

**EXERCISE 3B**

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. Although a creator and **proponent** of the atomic bomb, Robert Oppenheimer became an opponent of its use.  
b. Cinderella becomes the **proponent** character in the fairy tale when the matching slipper fits her foot rather than those of her stepsisters.  
c. Growing up poor and having no formal education, President Andrew Johnson became an enthusiastic **proponent** of public schools.  
d. Mother Jones was such a vocal **proponent** of child labor laws and concern for the poor that she sometimes went to jail for her beliefs.
2. a. Through friendship with James II, the English king, William Penn managed to arrange **exoneration** of religious prisoners.  
b. Some food specialists have **exonerated** chocolate as the cause of headaches and acne.  
c. Enrolling in a cooking class **exonerated** her from her dream of becoming a chef.  
d. Falsely accused of treason and imprisoned on Devil's Island, Captain Alfred Dreyfus received full **exoneration** after Emile Zola and others challenged the verdict.

3.
  - a. Before she was eighteen Adela Rogers St. Johns was **expounding** on the “police beat, sports, sin, and society” for a daily newspaper.
  - b. When baseball fans start talking about teams and heroes, they can **expound** all night.
  - c. I have a math test; **expound** me on quadratic equations.
  - d. Although shy, the artist was willing to **expound** upon her watercolors displayed in the exposition.
4.
  - a. **Excerpts** of clothing were strewn around the room.
  - b. In the drum and bugle corps competition, the champions performed **excerpts** from *The Phantom of the Opera*.
  - c. Before copyright laws, people **excerpted** freely from the work of others without acknowledging authorship.
  - d. A preacher’s homily, or sermon, often contains **excerpts** from religious and literary works.
5.
  - a. Set to music, the poem “Lift Every Voice and Sing” has become an **exhilarating** African American national anthem.
  - b. **Exhilarating** vigorously, the tourists described the eerie emptiness of the Black Hills of South Dakota and their escape from the forest fire that swept through Yellowstone National Park.
  - c. Sea literature contains many scenes of sailors **exhilarated** by riding the waves with wind-filled sails.
  - d. After returning from the North Pole, Admiral Robert Peary wrote that “**exhilaration** of success lent wings to our sorely battered feet.”
6.
  - a. Although the Russian Dowager Empress accepted the self-proclaimed Anastasia as her granddaughter, most people believed her to be an **impostor**.
  - b. Rudyard Kipling says, “If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster/ And treat those two **impostors** just the same,” you show good judgment.
  - c. Performers who substitute for actors in scenes requiring dangerous stunts are called **impostors**.
  - d. A successful **impostor**, Deborah Sampson passed as an infantry volunteer for eighteen months during the Revolutionary War without being detected.
7.
  - a. José Orozco was invited in 1940 to paint a mural for the Golden Gate International **Exposition** in San Francisco.
  - b. A complex **exposition** by the physicist Stephen Hawking shows that the way the universe began is determined by the laws of science.
  - c. Her carefully chosen **exposition** offered an excellent view of the stage.
  - d. Although complete records of eating habits are rare, one Franciscan friar offers **expository** proof, with recipes, that Aztec noblemen in the sixteenth century ate tortillas every day.

8. a. The damage done by Hurricane Hugo was **compounded** by the simultaneous arrival of high tides.
- b. The skier's **compound** fracture of the tibia will require more time to mend than would a clean break.
- c. The hacienda in Latin American countries, like the plantation in the American South, is a **compound** of buildings for living, working, and storing supplies.
- d. A baker develops muscular strength through years of **compounding** bread dough.

### EXERCISE 3C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 3. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ cost of houses in some parts of the country makes purchase of a first home difficult for many families.
2. Makers of perfume create a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of oils from flowers and other plants, animal substances such as musk (from deer), alcohol, and water.
3. A frequently quoted \_\_\_\_\_ from Shakespeare begins, "All the world's a stage,/ And all the men and women merely players."
4. The coloration of the scorpionfish turns it into a successful \_\_\_\_\_: it appears to be a lump of coral before gulping down its unsuspecting prey.
5. Charged with faithlessness to her finance, Hero is fully \_\_\_\_\_d when the misunderstanding is explained in the play *Much Ado about Nothing*.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ essay is a form students will often practice, especially if they plan to attend college.
7. As actors gain experience and prestige, they can more forcefully \_\_\_\_\_ their wills upon directors of plays and films.

## LESSON 4

*In medias res.*

In the middle (the thick) of things.—HORACE

### Key Words

extraneous  
extraterrestrial  
extrovert

mediate  
mediocrity  
medium  
non sequitur

obsequious  
sequester  
subsequent

### Familiar Words

extracurricular  
extramural  
extraordinary  
extrasensory  
extravagant  
extravaganza

### Challenge Words

extragalactic  
extrajudicial  
extraterritorial

## EXTRA <L. "on the outside"

1. **extraneous** (ĕk strā'nē əs)  
*adj.* 1. Coming from outside; foreign.

To study a virus, laboratory technicians must remove all **extraneous** matter.

2. Not essential or vital.

Our history teacher said, "Keep to the subject; no **extraneous** details, please."

2. **extraterrestrial** (ĕk strə tər əs'trē əl) [*terra* <L. "earth"]  
*adj.* Outside or originating outside the limits of the earth's atmosphere.

According to some scientists, the impact of an **extraterrestrial** object, such as a comet, caused conditions that led to the extinction of dinosaurs.



3. **extrovert** (ĕks trə vûrt) Also **extravert**. [*vertere* <L. "to turn"]  
*n.* A person chiefly interested in things outside the self, directing thoughts outward rather inward.

Some **extroverts** express their social ease with facile talk and colorful clothing.

**extroverted**, *adj.*

Antonym: **introvert**