

EXERCISE 7C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 7. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. After persuading gullible victims to hand over their life savings, the trickster _____ed.
2. Uninvited sales pitches over the telephone _____ upon our time and privacy.
3. Although the confidante of many friends, she was always _____, never revealing any secrets.
4. Hosts who have prepared a grand dinner do not want their guests to be _____.
5. Driving above the speed limit is a(n) _____ which, if it goes on file, may increase the cost of car insurance.
6. Although American citizens are eligible to vote at age eighteen, a sizeable number of them do not exercise their right of _____.
7. Only when the fog lifted could we begin to _____ the outlines of New York's skyscrapers.

LESSON 8

Toto caelo.

(Separated) by the whole heavens (diametrically opposite).

Key Words		
absolve	concise	resolve
analyze	herbicide	superfluous
catalyst	precise	superlative
	resolute	

Familiar Words

superabundant
superficial
superior
superman
supermarket
supernatural
superstar
superstition
supervise
supreme

SUPER <L. "above"

1. **superlative** (sōō pūr'lə tīv) [*latum* <L. "carried"]
adj. The highest; above the rest.

Superlative builders of irrigation systems, the Pueblo peoples had much to teach seventeenth-century colonists in New Mexico.

NOTA BENE: *Superlative* is also a grammatical term used to describe the third form in a series of adjectives: *tall* (positive); *taller* (comparative); *tallest* (superlative).

Challenge Words

superannuate
supercilious
superimpose
supersonic
supernal
supernova
superscribe

2. **superfluous** (sōō pûr'flōō əs)
[*fluere* <L. "to flow"]
adj. Beyond what is required; extra.

Because it no longer serves a purpose, the appendix has become **superfluous** in human beings.

superfluity, *n.*; **superfluously**, *adv.*

**Familiar Words**

cement
chisel
decide
pesticide
scissors
suicide

CAEDO, CAEDERE, CECIDI, CAESUM <L. "to cut"

3. **concise** (kən sīs') [*con* = *cum* <L. "with"]
adj. Saying or writing much in few words.

"Experience teaches" is a **concise** way to say that what happens in our daily lives guides us in subsequent actions.

concisely, *adv.*; **conciseness**, *n.*

4. **herbicide** (hûr'bī sīd) [*herba* <L. "grass," "plants with stems"]
n. A substance for killing plants, especially weeds.

The **herbicide** known as Agent Orange was used in Vietnam to kill vegetation.

herbicideal, *adj.*

5. **precise** (prī sīs') [*pre* = *prae* <L. "before," "in front of"]
adj. Clearly expressed; exact; accurate in every detail.

Sending a satellite to photograph the planet Neptune millions of miles from Earth requires **precise** calculations.

precisely, *adv.*; **precision**, *n.*

Antonym: **imprecise**

NOTA BENE: Another word that means "to cut" or "to split" is the Greek word *skhizein*, which gives us the English word *schism* (sīz'm, skīz'm), "a separation or division into factions," as in "A *schism* exists between Democrats and Republicans." Another derivative from *skhizein* is the term *schizophrenia*, "a mental disturbance that separates one from reality."

Challenge Words

Caesarean section
caesura
excise
fratricide
genocide
homicide
incisive
matricide
patricide
regicide

Familiar Word

paralyze

LUEIN <G. "to loosen," "to untie"
LUTOS <G. "capable of being untied"

6. **analyze** (ăn'ə līz) [*ana* <G. "on," "up"]
tr. v. To look at something carefully by attention to its parts.

When doctors analyze the nature of cells, they find ways to fight disease.

Challenge Words

dialysis
proselytize

analysis (plural **analyses**), *n.*; **analytical**, *adj.*

7. **catalyst** (kăt'əl ĭst) [*cata* <G. "down from"]

n. A force or person causing action, especially without being involved or changed by the consequences.

Mahatma Gandhi served as the **catalyst** for the nonviolent political change adopted by Martin Luther King, Jr.

NOTA BENE: In chemistry, a *catalyst* is a substance that causes or accelerates change but remains unaffected itself.

catalysis, *n.*; **catalytic**, *adj.*; **catalytically**, *adv.*; **catalyze**, *v.*



Familiar Words

absolute
dissolve
soluble
solution
solve

SOLVO, SOLVERE, SOLVI, SOLUTUM <L. "to loosen," "to untie"

8. **absolve** (ăb zôlv', äb sölv') [*ab* <L. "away from"]
tr. v. To relieve of blame or obligation; to pardon a sin.

Although we were sequestered with the culprits for questioning, our innocence **absolved** us from punishment.

absolution, *n.*; **absolved**, *adj.*

9. **resolute** (rĕz'ə lööt) [*re* <L. "back," "again"]
adj. Determined; unshakable.

Resolute even though paralyzed and in a wheelchair, Ruth Rosenbaum has won Olympic medals in slalom, shot put, discus, and javelin.

resolutely, *adv.*; **resolution**, *n.*

Antonym: **irresolute**

10. **resolve** (rĭ zölv') [*re* <L. "back," "again"]
tr. v. 1. To make a firm decision about.

She **resolved** to run five miles every morning.

NOTA BENE: In formal debate, issues appear in the following form:
Resolved: that the social committee will stay within its budget.

2. To find a solution.

The mediator **resolved** the conflict.

resolution, *n.*; **resolved**, *adj.*

Challenge Words

dissolution
resoluble

EXERCISE 8A

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

1. **resolute** in completing her legal studies a. capricious b. perverse
c. persevering d. erratic e. concise
2. **precision** in speaking a. ineptitude b. exactness c. volubility
d. deception e. haste
3. a(n) **catalyst** for change a. precursor b. reason c. procedure
d. force e. adjunct
4. **analysis** of the crime a. investigation b. catalyst c. premonition
d. depiction e. evidence
5. an efficacious **herbicide** a. insect repellent b. grass seed
c. plant food d. fungus e. weed killer

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

6. expectation of **absolution** a. exoneration b. freedom
c. blame d. infringement e. adversity
7. **superfluity** of goods a. excess b. sufficiency c. transitoriness
d. worthlessness e. inadequacy
8. to **resolve** a conflict a. inflame b. conclude c. reconsider
d. mediate e. resume
9. **superlative** performances a. contorted b. extraneous
c. mediocre d. exorbitant e. superior
10. **concise** statements a. voluble b. brief c. expository
d. summary e. abrasive

EXERCISE 8B

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

1. a. When the electricity fails, students may feel **absolved** from completing their homework.
b. Martin Luther so abhorred the sale of "indulgences," certificates that **absolved** sins with money, that he made a public protest against church policy.
c. The balloon slowly **absolved** from its ropes and floated away.
d. People sometimes hope that a winning lottery ticket will **absolve** them from debts.
2. a. Following the uproar in 1939 over her being barred from singing at Constitution Hall, Marian Anderson served as a **catalyst** for African-American female singers.
b. Water often acts as a **catalytic** agent.

- c. The American Revolution served as a **catalyst** for French revolutionists.
- d. My dog is **catalytic**; he is terrified of felines.
- 3. a. **Analysis** of well water near the manufacturing plant showed the presence of toxic material.
- b. When **analyzed**, her handwriting revealed that she is neat and discreet.
- c. Literary **analysis** explains ideas, gives examples, and generalizes about the author's main point.
- d. Scientists were asked to **analyses** the gases permeating the air around the volcano.
- 4. a. Mexican *curanderos*, or folk doctors, acquire a **precise** knowledge of medicinal herbs, roots, and wild flowers having curative powers.
- b. Only through years of practice do the great ballerinas develop the **precision** necessary for dancing *Swan Lake* and *Romeo and Juliet*.
- c. Manufacturers act **precisely** when they cut out high fat and calorie content in food products.
- d. The appearance of "Error" on a computer screen jolts the user into giving more **precise** commands.
- 5. a. According to automobile enthusiasts, the Dusenbergs of the 1920s and 1930s remains the **superlative** classic car.
- b. There is only one Eiffel Tower, and it is **superlative**.
- c. Two **superlative** jazz singers, renowned for their vocal flexibility and individual styles, are Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan.
- d. Anyone who has watched the tennis champion Martina Navratilova knows her to be a **superlative** player: flexible, controlled, and accurate.

EXERCISE 8C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 8. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. In a series of victories against Spanish forces, Simon Bolivar was a(n) _____ for the drive toward independence of South American countries and is significantly remembered in the name of one of them, Bolivia.
2. Packing for an airplane trip usually forces us to leave _____ possessions at home.
3. The Australian pediatrician Helen Caldicott has remained _____ in her opposition to nuclear weapons, believing that the human race is gravely endangered.
4. Every ice cream company contends that its product is _____.

5. Environmentalists deliver injunctions against harmful pesticides and _____s.
6. Your _____ directions brought us to your house without a moment of indecision—and in so few words!

REVIEW EXERCISES FOR LESSONS 7 AND 8

1 Fill in the blank or circle the letter of the best answer.

1. *frangere* : to break : : *caedere* : _____
2. *cernere* : to separate : : *solvere* : _____
3. abscond : run and hide : :
 - a. ascertain : guess
 - b. discern : fail to see differences
 - c. resolve : find a solution
 - d. infringe : respect boundaries
 - e. abhor : maintain tolerance
4. abstemious : moderation : :
 - a. resolute : indecision
 - b. abhorrent : adoration
 - c. superfluous : excess
 - d. discreet : disrespect
 - e. concise : superfluity
5. Which of these English words does *not* have “loosen” or “untie” in its Latin root?
 - a. analysis
 - b. paralyze
 - c. resolve
 - d. abstemious
 - e. absolution
6. Which of these English words does *not* contain a root meaning “separate” or “break”?
 - a. infraction
 - b. discern
 - c. abound
 - d. suffrage
 - e. discreet

2 Writing or Discussion Activities

1. Imagine yourself on a camping trip. Use at least four of the following words in a brief paragraph describing people and situations that you are enjoying and that make you feel positive about them. Give concrete details so that your reader can picture the people and the scene.

abound	concise	discreet	absolve
abstemious	discern	resolve	catalyst

2. On the same camping trip you meet people who stimulate unpleasantness or conflict. Use two of the following words in a brief paragraph. Describe a specific incident to show the words in action.
abscond infraction superfluous
abrasive resolve
3. Which one of the words or phrases in the following list best describes you or expresses something that you are not? Write a sentence using your word and giving specific details to support your choice of word.
discreet abounding in energy (or some other quality)
infringing abstemious
analytical concise
catalytic discerning