

Name _____
Vocabulary List 1

Date _____
Mrs. Stephens

Due Date/Quiz Date _____

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefix: *in-* means "in" or "not"

Suffix: *-ful* means "full of" or "having"

Suffix: *-ion* means "act of", "state of", or "result"

Suffix: *-ity* means "state of" or "quality of".

Vocabulary List 1

(see next page for definitions and activities)

articulate

crux

debris

decry

eminent

harass

milieu

opportune

refuse

skeptical

successor

sullen

trivial

tinge

unkempt

Pronunciation Guide

a — track
ā — mate
ä — father
â — care
e — pet
ē — be
i — bit
ī — bite
o — job
ō — wrote
ô — port, fought
ōō — proof
ö — book
u — pun
ū — you
û — purr
ə — about, system, circus
îr — steer
oi — toy

Lesson One

1. **articulate** (är tik' yə lit) *adj.* well-spoken; clear
(är tik' yə lāt) *v.* to speak clearly and distinctly
(*adj*) The *articulate* woman made a living narrating for radio and television advertisements.
(*v*) Please *articulate* the instructions so there is no confusion over what to do.
(*adj*) *syn: eloquent; coherent* *ant: tongue-tied; unclear*
(*v*) *syn: enunciate; pronounce* *ant: mumble; murmur*
2. **crux** (kruks) *n.* the main or most important point or feature
Sam's refusal to admit his responsibility was the very *crux* of the dilemma.
syn: core; root; center
3. **debris** (də brē') *n.* scattered remnants; rubble
The typhoon destroyed buildings and filled the streets with *debris*.
syn: ruins; waste
4. **decry** (dē krī') *v.* to condemn or disapprove openly
Citizens *decried* the new law until a court ruled it unconstitutional.
syn: denounce; condemn *ant: applaud; praise*
5. **eminent** (em' ə nənt) *adj.* famous; prominent
The *eminent* architect received numerous awards for her latest skyscraper design.
syn: renowned; celebrated *ant: unknown; common*
6. **harass** (hə ras') *v.* to torment continually; to irritate
Damian's mother *harassed* him until he finally cleaned up his room.
syn: hound; hassle *ant: soothe; please*
7. **milieu** (mil yoo') *n.* an atmosphere or setting
Frank enjoys the Victorian *milieu* of Sherlock Holmes novels.
syn: environment; domain
8. **opportune** (op ər tōōn') *adj.* happening at a convenient time; favorable
Monday was the *opportune* day for the party because most of the guests had the day off.
syn: appropriate; suitable *ant: inappropriate; undesirable*

9. **refuse** (rē fūz') v. to decline to accept or allow
(ref' ūs) n. discarded items; trash
(v) You will not be allowed to rent any more videos if you *refuse* to pay the late fees.
(n) All *refuse* must be taken to the city dump.
(v) syn: *reject; deny* ant: *accept; acknowledge*
(n) syn: *garbage; rubbish*
10. **skeptical** (skep' ti kəl) adj. doubting; disbelieving
Dan was *skeptical* about buying a watch from the vendor on the street.
syn: *doubtful; questioning* ant: *confident; certain*
11. **successor** (sək ses' ə) n. one who inherits, will inherit, or is next-in-line for a position or title
The *successor* to the late-night talk-show host was never as funny as the original host.
syn: *heir; descendent* ant: *predecessor*
12. **sullen** (sul' ən) adj. miserable; gloomy; somber
Her *sullen* poetry reflects her real-life depression and uncertainties.
syn: *dark; dismal* ant: *cheerful; bright*
13. **tinge** (tinj) v. 1. to tint 2. to affect slightly
n. a small amount of an added color or characteristic
(v.1) The black soot in the air *tinged* her white blouse gray.
(v.2) She worried that the unruly child would *tinge* the other students with a sense of defiance.
(n) Adding a *tinge* of blue to the white walls would improve this room.
(v.1) syn: *shade; color*
(v.2) syn: *influence*
(n) syn: *tint; shade*
14. **trivial** (triv' ē əl) adj. of little importance
After seeing what his friend endured, Ben felt that his own problems were *trivial*.
syn: *minor; insignificant* ant: *crucial; important*
15. **unkempt** (un kempt') adj. maintained poorly; untidy
The grass in the *unkempt* lawn stood two feet tall.
syn: *sloppy; messy* ant: *neat; trim*

EXERCISE I – Words in Context

Using the vocabulary list for this lesson, supply the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Residents _____ the construction of a landfill less than a mile from their new homes.
2. The morning before the rainstorm was not the _____ time to wash a car.
3. The rusty metal will _____ the white gloves a shade of brown.
4. The _____ of the sentence was the word “not.”
5. Miguel, who grew up in the country, dislikes the urban _____ of the city.
6. The damage to Brent’s car seemed _____ when he thought about how lucky he was to have survived the accident.
7. Linda plans on retiring, but not before she chooses a[n] _____ to take her place.
8. Sylvia’s _____ painting featured dead trees against a gray, winter sky.
9. The adult birds _____ the snake until it left the vicinity of the nest.
10. If you _____ your words, people will understand you.
11. Empty pizza boxes and old newspapers littered Tom’s _____ apartment.
12. Please throw your _____ in the trash bin outside.
13. The _____ juror felt certain that the defendant was lying.
14. After the earthquake, rescue workers used dogs to find victims trapped beneath the _____.
15. After winning a Nobel Prize, the _____ scientist became an advisor to the president.

EXERCISE II – Sentence Completion

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

1. Madeline determined that the *crux* of the matter is...
2. She thinks that 6:00 am is the *opportune* time to go jogging because...
3. The weeds growing in the lawn were a *trivial* problem until they...
4. The angry citizens *harassed* the corrupt mayor because...
5. The *articulate* student volunteered...
6. Someone who enjoys the oceanic *milieu* might decide to...
7. The loyal fan of the television series *decried* the network's decision to...
8. The white clothes will take on a red *tinge* if...
9. The bin overflowed with *refuse* because...
10. Robbie could not find anything in his *unkempt* locker because...
11. People cleaned up the *debris* after...
12. As she approached retirement age, she trained a *successor* who would...
13. We knew by her *sullen* expression that she...
14. Grandpa was always *skeptical* about...
15. The *eminent* scholar became famous when he...

The suffix *-ity* means “state of” or “quality of.”

Use the provided prefixes and suffixes to change each word so that it completes the sentence correctly. Then, keeping in mind that prefixes and suffixes sometimes change the part of speech, identify the part of speech of the new word by circling N for a noun, V for a verb, or ADJ for an adjective.

1. (successor) You need to practice every day if you want to have a[n] _____ career as a musician. N V ADJ
2. (opportune) When Caleb finally had a[n] _____ to see his favorite band live, a snowstorm caused the concert to be postponed. N V ADJ
3. (successor) Students in the British History class had to memorize the _____ of English monarchs. N V ADJ
4. (opportune) The star player incurred a[n] _____ injury just hours before the championship game. N V ADJ

EXERCISE IV – Critical Reading

The following reading passage contains vocabulary words from this lesson. Carefully read the passage and then choose the best answers for each of the questions that follow.

- 1 Upon hearing the name “Sherlock,” many people instantly picture the world’s most **eminent** fictional detective, complete with tweed, deerstalker cap, cape, magnifying glass, and pipe. A single glance at a footprint at the scene of the crime is all Sherlock Holmes needs to tell you the culprit’s weight, occupation, and what injuries he or she might have sustained as a child. For more than a century, Mr. Holmes has amazed readers with his deductive ability; that is, his ability to infer facts from clues that other investigators dismiss as being **trivial** to the case. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s creation would not have been complete, of course, without Sherlock’s dependable sidekick, Doctor Watson, whose skills compensated for those forfeited by the great Holmes to make room for his matchless intellect. Together, Holmes and Watson have become icons of the mystery—the model for countless detective tales that feature a genius and a trusty sidekick working together to solve crimes; however, it is with no little surprise that many learn that Sherlock Holmes is but a mere **successor** to the original detective genius. Those who are **skeptical** of this need only read the adventures of C. Auguste Dupin—the first detective—in Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Mystery of the Rue Morgue.”
- 2 The first of three Dupin mysteries appeared in 1841, forty-six years before Sherlock Holmes debuted in the magazine serial *A Study in Scarlet*. Narrated by an unnamed sidekick, Poe’s mysteries feature the extraordinary deductive abilities of the eccentric Auguste Dupin, an amateur detective in Paris. The brilliant Dupin uses his command of logic to reconstruct unsolvable crimes, twice at the request of police who overlook the clues at the **crux** of a mystery.
- 3 The Dupin mysteries establish several key elements that frequently appear in detective fiction. Dupin is the original deductive genius, a loner who relies upon his powers of logic and observation to decipher evidence. He trusts only his sidekick of lesser genius, and Dupin’s sidekick, like Dr. Watson, is also the narrator of the story. Since Dupin corrects mistakes of police investigations, Poe’s stories suggest a general lack of ability among police detectives. As a private detective, Sherlock Holmes also assists police who seemingly cannot perform their duties. Poe also introduces the concept of the wrongful accusation. In “The Mystery of the Rue Morgue,” Dupin must solve a case to prove the innocence of a wrongfully accused friend—a popular plot for modern mystery and drama. Finally, Poe invented the “locked-room” mystery, which

involves setting a crime in a closed environment from which the criminal could not possibly escape, thus baffling investigators. Modern readers hear this technique humorously mocked each time someone exclaims, "The butler did it! In the den! With the bread knife!"

- 4 From the popularity of Sherlock Holmes extends a long line of fictional detective geniuses: Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple; Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe; Perry Mason; Charlie Chan; Simon Templar; Mike Hammer; and Sam Spade, to name a few. The detective mystery has spread from literature to television, and it is now nearly impossible to turn on a television without seeing at least two mysteries in progress that involve either private investigators or police detectives; however, whether you read mysteries or watch them, remember to thank Edgar Allen Poe, and his invention of Auguste Dupin, for making the mystery one of the most popular forms of entertainment.

1. As used in paragraph 1, *eminent* most nearly means the opposite of
 - A. weak.
 - B. celebrated.
 - C. popular.
 - D. unknown.
 - E. quiet.
2. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is
 - A. the sidekick of the legendary Auguste Dupin.
 - B. the author who created Sherlock Holmes.
 - C. Auguste Dupin's unnamed narrator.
 - D. the author who created Auguste Dupin.
 - E. Dr. Watson's sidekick.
3. As used in paragraph 2, *crux* most nearly means
 - A. end.
 - B. crime scene.
 - C. heart.
 - D. topic.
 - E. evidence.
4. According to paragraph 3, which is *not* an element of the detective story?
 - A. deduction
 - B. ghosts and supernatural events
 - C. wrongful accusations
 - D. inept police
 - E. sidekick narrator