

Name _____
Vocabulary List 10

Date _____
Mrs. Stephens

Practice Due Date _____
Quiz Date _____

Prefixes and Suffixes

Suffix: *-er* means "one who does"

Suffix: *-ious* means "full of"

Suffix: *-ation* means "act of" or "result of"

Suffix: *-ism* means "system" or "system of"

Vocabulary List 10

(see next page for definitions and activities)

brash
buff
intemperate
interrogate
moot
opaque
pragmatic
prestigious
prodigy
savory
sedate
singular
spontaneous
usurp
whimsical

Lesson Ten

1. **brash** (brash) *adj.* hasty in thought; offensively bold
Carl is usually very polite, so his *brash* tone of voice surprised everyone.
syn: rash; careless *ant:* polite; thoughtful
2. **buff** (buf) *n.* an enthusiast
v. to polish with soft material
(*n*) The movie *buff* could quote lines from hundreds of old films.
(*v*) When you finish waxing the car, please *buff* it until it shines.
(*n*) *syn:* fan; aficionado *ant:* beginner; dabbler
3. **intemperate** (in tem' pər it) *adj.* excessive in behavior; unrestrained
One *intemperate* remark during the interview cost the applicant the job.
4. **interrogate** (in ter' ə gāt) *v.* to question formally
The detective *interrogated* the suspect until he was sure that the man was innocent.
syn: grill; quiz
5. **moot** (mōōt) *adj.* subject to debate; disputable; doubtful
The teacher began each class by making a *moot* statement about a sensitive topic.
syn: debatable; controversial *ant:* established; recognized
6. **opaque** (ō pāk) *adj.* impenetrable by light; not transparent or translucent
The *opaque* curtains in the bedroom block the bright morning sun.
syn: solid *ant:* transparent; clear; see-through
7. **pragmatic** (prag mat' ik) *adj.* practical; concerned with facts and observation rather than theory
When working on an engine, the *pragmatic* mechanic first eliminates the simplest causes of malfunction before opening manuals or disassembling the whole car.
syn: realistic; logical *ant:* idealistic
8. **prestigious** (pre stē' jəs) *adj.* esteemed widely; distinguished
I once received a *prestigious* award for my essay on politics.
syn: prominent; celebrated *ant:* unknown; obscure
9. **prodigy** (prod' ə jē) *n.* a person with extraordinary ability or talent
The musical *prodigy* composed his first symphony at the age of ten.
syn: genius

10. **savory** (sā' və rē) *adj.* 1. appetizing
2. pleasingly respectable
(1) The fast food looked *savory* in the advertisement, but it looked unappealing at the restaurant.
(2) To be an FBI agent, you must have a *savory* background that shows you can be trusted.
(1) *syn: flavorful; tasty* *ant: unpalatable*
(2) *syn: acceptable; wholesome* *ant: objectionable; distasteful*
11. **sedate** (si dāt') *v.* to tranquilize; to calm *adj.* calm and reserved
(v) The veterinarian *sedated* the dog before the operation.
(adj) The *sedate* colonel did not even blink as enemy bombs exploded around the bunker.
(v) *syn: anesthetize* *ant: stimulate; excite*
(adj) *syn: staid; demure* *ant: boisterous; unruly*
12. **singular** (sing' gyə lər) *adj.* exceptional; distinguished from others
Management honored the *singular* worker with a raise in salary.
syn: unique; uncommon *ant: ordinary; average*
13. **spontaneous** (spon tā' nē əs) *adj.* unplanned
The family took a *spontaneous* trip to the state park for a hike and a picnic.
syn: impulsive; impromptu; improvisational *ant: premeditated; planned*
14. **usurp** (ū sūrp') *v.* to take over illegally; to seize by force without right
Macbeth *usurped* the throne by murdering King Duncan.
syn: commandeer; grab *ant: surrender; relinquish*
15. **whimsical** (wim' si kəl) *adj.* playful; fanciful
Many children's books feature *whimsical* characters.
syn: capricious; droll *ant: solemn; grim*

EXERCISE I – Words in Context

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

1. The doctor _____ the hysterical patient who witnessed the traumatic event.
2. The rebels _____ the captured spy until they got the information they needed.
3. Only the brightest students gain entrance to the _____ university.
4. So that no one would be alerted to their presence in the abandoned house, the thieves covered all the windows with a[n] _____ film.
5. Johnny's _____ remark to his teacher bought him a week of detention.
6. Tracey likes very organized vacations, but Ben prefers _____ activities that require no planning.
7. The restaurant was famous for its _____ cuisine.
8. Kim painted _____ cartoon animals and shapes on the walls of the nursery.
9. The leader of the revolution _____ control from the king and ruled the country for three years.
10. The drill sergeant ordered the recruits to _____ the floor until it sparkled.
11. The poor service is the _____ reason why I do not go to that restaurant.
12. Her point is _____ because she's not even sure that it's true.
13. The _____ graduated from high school at the age of fourteen.
14. The _____ detective does not allow his personal opinions to interfere with his investigations.
15. His _____ lifestyle caught up with him when he was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

EXERCISE II – Sentence Completion

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

1. Contestants on the game show tried to *usurp* the title from...
2. The Collector's Outlet is the *singular* store for people who...
3. After years of hard work, Debbie was promoted to the *prestigious* position of...
4. Mentioning the *moot* subject in a public place never fails to...
5. When someone disturbs the *intemperate* neighbor's sleep, the neighbor...
6. The *sedate* pilot did not panic when...
7. The chef uses a *savory* mixture of herbs and spices to...
8. Her *spontaneous* outburst in the restaurant caused...
9. Since the windows were *opaque*, no one could...
10. The airport security guards *interrogate* anyone who...
11. The grandfather told the child a *whimsical* story about...
12. Sam is a comic book *buff*, so he...
13. The math *prodigy* has the ability to...
14. The *pragmatic* man liked practical gifts more than...
15. If you make a *brash* decision now, you might...

EXERCISE III – Prefixes and Suffixes

Study the entries and use them to complete the questions that follow.

The suffix *-ation* means “act of” or “result of.”

The suffix *-er* means “one who does.”

The suffix *-ious* means “full of.”

The suffix *-ism* means “system” or “system 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. (pragmatic) Though she is always ready to hear new ideas, the boss encourages _____ because the best solution is often the simple, practical one.
N V ADJ
2. (usurp) Critics of the new law viewed it as a[n] _____ of their constitutional rights.
N V ADJ
3. (prodigy) The _____ composer wrote three symphonies in a single year.
N V ADJ
4. (usurp) The king worried that a[n] _____ was plotting to remove him from power and take the throne.
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.

Imagine for a moment that you are 43,000 years old. When you were born, the first *homo sapiens* (the type of humans who walk the earth today) were just replacing their more primitive ancestors. You were already about 38,000 when humans invented writing; by the time they got to the moon, you were 42,969.

A century is just another day for *Lomatia Tasmania*, or King's Holly, the world's oldest plant. This plant and the few others that have managed to reach record-breaking ages form a **singular** and fascinating group.

While mining in 1937, a talented nature buff named Deny King discovered what he thought might be a new species of plant growing the wild lands of Tasmania. The plant was named for King, and scientists eventually noticed that there was something different about King's Holly. Fossilized leaves found near the plant were genetically identical to the live plant—but they were 43,000 years old! This means the current plant is actually a *clone*—essentially the same organism as that which produced the ancient fossil leaves. Further research revealed the reason for the similarity: *Lomatia Tasmania* does not bear fruit or seeds. In fact, a rare chromosome mutation makes the holly unable to produce sexually (that is, by means of fruit and seeds). Instead, it must reproduce vegetatively, dropping root suckers that eventually grow into new clones of the original plant.

In the world of ancient plants that clone themselves, the King's Holly has some competition. The creosote bush of California's Mojave Desert is a runner-up. Circles of this shrub grow over a wide range of the desert. Each member of the circle is genetically identical to the others; when a single growth of creosote matures, it splits into fragments, which then grow outward to make the bush circular in shape. The center of the wood dies, but the outer portion of the circle lives on, producing new branches. One 50-foot ring of shrubs has been dated back 12,000 years!

The oldest non-cloned tree is a bristlecone pine (nicknamed "Methuselah," after a man of legendary age mentioned in the Old Testament) growing in California's Inyo National Forest. It has managed to survive for 5,000 years in one of the most **intemperate** environments on the planet. At its high elevation (about 10,000 feet above sea level), heavy winds blow almost constantly, and nutrients and water are scarce. The tree has not only adapted to these conditions; it has learned to take advantage of them. It has evolved a wide crown and root system to draw

moisture from a greater area, its bark is highly resistant to disease, and it can go dormant during **spontaneous** drought. It is specifically this last
40 ability that has seen it through the toughest times; much as animals simply avoid the harshest winter conditions by hibernating, Methuselah can "sleep off" a whole series of bad years.

These incredible plants are distinguished by one thing: stability. They remain the same—genetically, environmentally, physically—for hundreds,
45 then thousands, of years. Few predators disturb them; few diseases affect them; few or no changes are made to their genetic code. If the environment changes radically, however, the plants may have difficulty surviving; King's Holly, for instance, has begun to die off because of diseases brought by human foot traffic, and is now classified as endangered. If it does lose
50 its battle, we will lose a remarkable treasure: one of the few living records of the whole history of life.

1. How are the living leaves of King's Holly related to the plant's fossil leaves?
 - A. The living leaves are descendants of the plant on which the fossil leaves once grew.
 - B. They are genetically the same, and therefore count as one individual.
 - C. They are unrelated; the fossil leaves are from an extinct species of King's Holly.
 - D. They are genetically similar and grouped in the same family of organisms.
 - E. The living leaves sprouted from the fossilized leaves thousands of years ago.
2. As used in line 9, the word *buff* most nearly means
 - A. devotee.
 - B. addict.
 - C. shine.
 - D. scientist.
 - E. enthusiasm.
3. "Methuselah" is unlike the creosote bush and King's Holly in that it is
 - A. resistant to disease.
 - B. found in desert climates only.
 - C. unusually unstable.
 - D. 43,000 years old.
 - E. not a clone.

4. As used in line 39, the word *spontaneous* most nearly means
- A. rapid.
 - B. unnatural.
 - C. unexpected.
 - D. devastating.
 - E. surprising.
5. This passage is best described as
- A. an argumentative essay about global warming.
 - B. an analytical essay about plants that clone themselves.
 - C. a compare/contrast essay about plant environments.
 - D. a narrative essay about the discovery of ancient organisms.
 - E. an informative essay about the oldest plants on Earth.