

Name _____

Vocabulary List 15

Date _____

Mrs. Stephens

Practice Due Date _____

Quiz Date _____

Prefixes and Suffixes

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

Suffix: *-ness* means "state", "quality", or "condition"

Suffix: *-ous* means "full of"

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

Vocabulary List 15

(see next page for definitions and activities)

arbitrary

conspicuous

detest

dexterity

dreg

flourish

fray

incoherent

nullify

paltry

persistent

prediction

sinister

succinct

tundra

Lesson Fifteen

1. **arbitrary** (är' bi trer ē) *adj.* based on preference, convenience, or chance rather than law, reason, or fact
An appellate court overturned the judge's *arbitrary* ruling.
syn: random; irrational *ant: legitimate; reasoned*

2. **conspicuous** (kən spik' yōō əs) *adj.* obvious; easy to see; attracting attention
The *conspicuous* man was wearing a cowboy hat in the swimming pool.
syn: noticeable; showy *ant: disguised; ordinary*

3. **detest** (di test') *v.* to dislike intensely; to hate
Pam *detests* traffic, so she waits to leave work until rush hour is over.
syn: abhor; loathe *ant: adore; love*

4. **dexterity** (dek ster' i tē) *n.* 1. skill in physical action
2. mental quickness; cleverness
(1) He demonstrated his superior *dexterity* by juggling four bowling pins.
(2) The police underestimated the *dexterity* of the criminal who used a ballpoint pen to pick the locks on his shackles.
(1) *syn: proficiency; talent* *ant: clumsiness*
(2) *syn: cunning; ingenuity* *ant: incompetence*

5. **dreg** (dreg) *n.* the least desirable part (often used in plural form)
Stray cats fought over the tasty *dregs* behind the seafood-processing factory.
syn: lees; waste

6. **flourish** (flûr' ish) *v.* to thrive; to prosper
n. a stylish ornamentation; a decoration
(v) Not all trees *flourish* in bright, sunny conditions.
(n) Debbie adds a beautiful *flourish* to the capital letters in her signature.
(v) *syn: succeed; grow* *ant: flounder; deteriorate*
(n) *syn: enhancement; embellishment* *ant: blemish; disfigurement*

7. **fray** (frā) *n.* a fight; a brawl
v. to wear away by friction
(n) The players involved in the *fray* were ejected from the game.
(v) The sharp rocks slowly *frayed* the mountain climber's rope.
(n) *syn: brawl; scuffle* *ant: peace*
(v) *syn: unravel; tatter*

8. **incoherent** (in kō hîr' ənt) *adj.* lacking logical connection; unclear; rambling
Roger mumbles *incoherent* phrases in his sleep.
syn: confused; disjointed *ant: articulate; rational*
9. **nullify** (nul' ə fī) *v.* to make invalid; to repeal
The antidote *nullified* the effects of the deadly poison.
syn: annul; reverse *ant: validate; confirm*
10. **paltry** (pôl' trē) *adj.* of little or no importance; petty
With adequate time, even a *paltry* investment now can turn into a fortune later.
syn: insignificant; trivial *ant: substantial; major*
11. **persistent** (pər sis' tent) *adj.* refusing to give up; remaining for a long time
Anne's *persistent* complaining finally convinced the city to fix the pothole in front of her house.
syn: unrelenting; continual *ant: temporary; short*
12. **prediction** (pri dik' shən) *n.* something foretold; a prophecy
The fan made a *prediction* that his team would win the game by eleven points.
13. **sinister** (sin' i stər) *adj.* threatening; ominous; evil
The stone gargoyles on the building look *sinister*, but they are meant to frighten away evil spirits.
syn: menacing; frightening *ant: harmless; good*
14. **succinct** (sək singkt') *adj.* clearly expressed in few words; to the point
The president delivered powerful messages in clear, *succinct* speeches.
syn: concise; pithy *ant: wordy; drawn-out*
15. **tundra** (tən' drə) *n.* a treeless plain in arctic regions having permanently frozen subsoil
During the warmest summer months, the soil of the *tundra* is soft and muddy.

EXERCISE I – Words in Context

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

1. During the yard sale, Amber sold her beloved possessions for _____ sums.
2. They knew the painting was authentic because the artist's signature had a unique _____.
3. The new ruling _____ the court's previous decision.
4. The suspect was easy to find because he was driving a[n] _____ car.
5. The _____ man tried out for the team three times unsuccessfully before attempting a different sport.
6. Caribou and grizzly bears can be found walking the _____ of northern Alaska.
7. If you _____ getting animal hair on your clothes, then you should not buy a cat.
8. There was something _____ about the unmarked, black helicopters seen flying over the forest at night, far from any military base.
9. The encoded message was _____ to anyone but the spy who received it.
10. The dishonest official made a[n] _____ decision instead of actually counting the votes.
11. The _____ of society congregated beneath the abandoned highway bridge.
12. The oracle's _____ made the king uneasy.
13. Mike lost a tooth when he was punched while trying to break up the _____.
14. The teacher expressed the _____ message that cheating would result in instant failure.

15. Aldon has the natural _____ to become a world-class concert pianist.

EXERCISE II – Sentence Completion

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

1. If you *detest* cold weather, then you would not want to...
2. Harriet could manage to mumble only a few *incoherent* words after...
3. The judge *nullified* the prior ruling because...
4. The lumber industry *flourished* in the small town until...
5. The lions ate the best parts of the deer and left the *dregs* to...
6. To remove the *persistent* oil stain on the driveway, Dan had to...
7. Digging into the *tundra* is difficult because...
8. No one would offer a *prediction* about...
9. Terry got into a *fray* during the concert when...
10. The young students must wear *conspicuous* T-shirts during the class field trip so the chaperones can...
11. *Succinct* communication is especially important when...
12. Everyone could tell by the *sinister* look in his eye that he...
13. Her own problems seemed *pultry* after...
14. To assure parents that none of the students' grades were *arbitrary*, the teacher showed...
15. Her superior *dexterity* allowed her to...

EXERCISE III – Prefixes and Suffixes

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

The prefix *in-* means “in” or “not.”

The suffix *-ness* means “state,” “quality,” or “condition.”

The suffix *-ous* means “full of.”

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

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. (dexterity) The many levers and buttons on the complex machine require an operator with _____ hands. N V ADJ
2. (conspicuous) The movie star tries to look _____ when she goes to public places. N V ADJ
3. (arbitrary) Instead of taking their problems to court, the companies hired a[n] _____ to settle their dispute. N V ADJ
4. (conspicuous) The _____ of the animal's markings makes it easy to identify. N V ADJ

EXERCISE IV – Improving Paragraphs

Read the following passage and then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow. The questions will require you to make decisions regarding the revision of the reading selection.

- 1 It is difficult to ignore the **conspicuous** art style often referred to simply as *retro*. The style, characterized by long, flowing lines, rounded corners, and a streamlined general appearance, is a mainstay of classic comic books and novelty diners. It is present in the great sunbursts on the spire of the Chrysler Building and in the tapered towers of the Golden Gate Bridge. Also many forms of transportation prior to the decade of the 1950s were made in the style, such as trains, cars, and even bicycles. They look as though they are moving fast even when they are sitting still due to their design. What is this sleek style and where did it go?
- 2 The style widely regarded as *retro* is actually a form of *art deco*, a movement that originated in Europe in the early 1920s. There are several conflicting explanations of its exact origins, but most agree that art deco became famous at the 1925 World's Fair in Paris, where it debuted as an art form that combines fashion and function. By 1928, art deco had made it to the United States.
- 3 Generally, it is a marriage of the pre-industrial world and the latest in modern technology. Art deco features the rounded corners and straight lines of zeppelins, but it conveys larger-than-life themes of human ingenuity and dominance. Sculptures depict humans at their finest moments, and skyscrapers inspire the same curious wonder as the Great Sphinx or an Aztec pyramid.
- 4 The influence of technology increased during the 1930s, and art deco transitioned into *Streamline Moderne*. Artists began to incorporate elements of aeronautics, broadcasting, and mass-production. Sculptures, signs, and household appliances adopted the rounded corners of rocket fins and airplane wings. In 1935, Chrysler introduced its new *Air-Flow* automobile design. The public **detested** streamlined automobiles initially, but the *Air-Flow* design was indeed decades ahead in automotive design.
- 5 In its simplest form, art deco emphasizes the size, symmetry, and purpose of its subject. It imparts elegance and sophistication to the most commonplace household items, and it turns ordinary wall clocks and marble paperweights into conversation pieces even if they are not antiques. In architecture, art deco is a mighty **flourish** of man's achievement, a **prediction** of a bright future of towering skyscrapers and cities in the sky. The spire of the Empire State Building was in fact designed to be a mooring dock for blimps! Unfortunately, fleets of floating passenger-airships never quite made it past the drawing board.

- 6 The same factors that made it a success eventually led to its demise. As mass-production matured, art deco grew increasingly expensive. Square corners are much cheaper to manufacture than rounded, aerodynamic corners, especially for items that do not really need to be aerodynamic, like washing machines and roadside diners. The financial burden of World War II put an end to large art deco projects.
- 7 Though science originally inspired art deco, it eventually rendered art deco obsolete. An emerging Space Age suggested a future in space, and space is a vacuum: streamlining is of little importance beyond the atmosphere. The point was rammed home when, in 1957, a world gazed upon the Soviet Union's *Sputnik*, the first artificial satellite. It was an ugly, insect-like spheroid surrounded by antennae, and it was followed by a series of even uglier, yet functional, spacecraft.
- 8 Artists abandoned their dreams of sparkling chrome cities on platforms in the sky; the future would consist of cost-effective machines built for function alone. Like space, the machines would be cold and bleak—certainly nothing on which to model a dining table or lounge chair. To all but a few **persistent** collectors of art deco, the trend sailed off with the last zeppelin.
1. Which revision shows the best way to combine the following sentences from paragraph 1?

Also many forms of transportation prior to the decade of the 1950s were made in the style, such as trains, cars, and even bicycles. They look as though they are moving fast even when they are sitting still due to their design.

- A. Transportation looked as if it were moving when it sat still prior to the 1950s—even bicycles, trains, and cars.
- B. Art-deco also inspired transportation; prior to 1950, trains, cars, and even bicycles were designed to convey an illusion of motion and speed.
- C. The effect of motion was adhered to by cars, trains, and bicycles prior to 1950, even if these things were not moving.
- D. Art deco also inspired transportation; prior to 1950, bikes, trains, and even cars were designed to convey an illusion of motion and speed.
- E. Cars and trains prior to the 1950s looked as though they were moving even when they were sitting still; even bicycles did, because of the way they were designed.

2. The first sentence of paragraph 6 would be best improved by
 - A. replacing *demise* with a better word.
 - B. replacing *it* with *art deco*.
 - C. adding a comma after *success*.
 - D. deleting *same*.
 - E. replacing *led* with *leads*.

3. Which sentence should be added to the beginning of paragraph 3?
 - A. There is no **succinct** way to explain the many influences behind art deco.
 - B. A series of **arbitrary** decisions eventually results in what we call art.
 - C. Art deco required great **dexterity** on behalf of the artist.
 - D. Space travel **nullified** the ideas behind art deco.
 - E. Art deco made buildings look **sinister**, like dank, medieval castles.

4. According to the author, which choice is *neither* an influence nor theme of art deco?
 - A. ancient cultures
 - B. aerodynamics
 - C. industry
 - D. satellite technology
 - E. broadcasting