

Name _____
Vocabulary Lesson 18

Date _____
Mrs. Stephens

Practice Due Date _____
Quiz Date _____

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefix: *im-* means "not" or "without"

Suffix: *-ence* means "state of" or "quality of"

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

Suffix: *-ly* means "like"

Vocabulary List 18

(See next page for definitions and activities)

asset

construe

equilibrium

imperturbable

interloper

melancholy

petty

potential

prudent

suave

tertiary

unabated

unique

vie

wither

Lesson Eighteen

1. **asset** (as' et) *n.* a useful or valuable person or thing
No one was sure about the new player, but he proved to be an *asset* to the team.
syn: benefit; boon *ant: disadvantage; handicap*
2. **construe** (kən strōō') *v.* to interpret the meaning of; to explain
The ambassador from Earth offered his hand, and the aliens *construed* the gesture as an act of peace.
syn: decipher *ant: confuse; muddle*
3. **equilibrium** (ēk wə lib' rē əm) *n.* a state of balance; stability
The dehydrated messenger desperately needed water to restore his *equilibrium*.
syn: steadiness; evenness *ant: imbalance*
4. **imperturbable** (im pər tūr' bə bəl) *adj.* not easily excited or upset
The *imperturbable* man has worked on a bomb squad for eleven years.
syn: composed; collected *ant: excitable; edgy*
5. **interloper** (in' tər lō pər) *n.* 1. one who meddles in the business of others
2. an intruder
(1) The *interloper* tried to stop the parade by lying down in the middle of the street.
(2) Ushers escorted the *interloper* to the exit when he failed to produce a ticket.
(1) *syn: meddler; nuisance* *ant: helper; collaborator*
(2) *syn: trespasser; invader*
6. **melancholy** (mel' ən kol ē) *n.* sadness; gloom
adj. sad; depressed
Melancholy shrouded the party when the family heard the bad news.
(n) *syn: depression; misery* *ant: happiness; glee*
(adj) *syn: dismal; somber* *ant: optimistic; joyful*
7. **petty** (pet' ē) *adj.* of small importance; trivial
The detective explained to the rookie that there is no such thing as a *petty* clue.
syn: minor; insignificant *ant: major; essential*

8. **potential** (pə ten' shəl) *n.* ability not yet used or developed
adj. capable of being or happening
(*n*) The student had the *potential* to become a great leader.
(*adj*) Zoo patrons must not forget the *potential* hazards of standing too close to animal cages.
(*n*) *syn:* aptitude; capability *ant:* weakness; disability
(*adj*) *syn:* possible; likely *ant:* improbable; doubtful
9. **prudent** (prōōd' nt) *adj.* cautious and sensible
The most *prudent* route across the mountains proved to be easier than the others.
syn: discreet; shrewd *ant:* irresponsible; reckless
10. **suave** (swäv) *adj.* having refined charm; pleasant in manner
Laura asked her two rowdy sons to be *suave* little gentlemen during the wedding ceremony.
syn: polished; debonair *ant:* rude; vulgar
11. **tertiary** (tur' shē er ē) *adj.* third in order, place, or importance
The assistant to the vice president has *tertiary* authority within the company.
12. **unabated** (un ə bā' tid) *adj.* continuing at full intensity
The plague spread *unabated* until vaccines could be distributed.
syn: unrelenting; persistent *ant:* diminishing; dwindling
13. **unique** (ū nēk') *adj.* without equal; one of a kind
The antique rocking chair is *unique* because it was made only for Patrick Henry.
syn: sole; unmatched *ant:* common; ordinary
14. **vie** (vī) *v.* to strive for superiority or victory
The rivals at the office both *vied* for the open manager position, but the company hired a new person for the job.
syn: compete; contend *ant:* yield; succumb
15. **wither** (with' ər) *v.* to dry up; to shrivel
The young plants *withered* without water.
syn: wilt; desiccate *ant:* flourish; bloom

EXERCISE I – Words in Context

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

1. The _____ hound dog never snapped at the kittens, even as they nipped at his ears and clawed at his tail.
2. Miles wanted to purchase a[n] _____ gift for Rena, not simply something he could buy at the mall.
3. Bobby _____ his mother's smile as permission to keep the stray dog.
4. The floral bouquet _____ after sitting on the heater for a few hours.
5. The tent's primary purpose is to create shade, its secondary purpose is to keep us dry, and its _____ purpose is to provide a place to store the food and refreshments.
6. The _____ writer expressed her despair with poetry.
7. Winona's _____ fiancé quickly earned the respect of her family during dinner.
8. When the company went bankrupt, it was forced to sell all its _____.
9. Security guards escorted the _____ from the private party.
10. Police would rather solve murders than enforce laws prohibiting _____ crimes such as littering or jaywalking.
11. During the race, two hundred contestants _____ for the first-place trophy.
12. The _____ investor seldom took risks with his money.
13. The man walking the tightrope re-established his _____ before taking another step.

14. A grapefruit-sized chunk of uranium has the _____ to power an entire city for a day.
15. Two hours of _____ thunder and lightning kept everyone awake.

EXERCISE II – Sentence Completion

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

1. During the television commercial, a *suave* voice describes...
2. An *interloper* hiding beneath the table heard...
3. Cory is *prudent* with his allowance, but his brother likes to...
4. Her criticism continued *unabated* until her friend told her...
5. With her talent, Mina has the *potential* to...
6. The *imperturbable* guard does not allow troublemakers to...
7. Stan refused to argue about something as *petty* as...
8. The lettuce *withered* because...
9. Though he could not read, Penn *construed* the skull and crossbones on the sign as...
10. Vendors at the carnival *vied* for customers by...
11. Winona was *melancholy* for weeks after...
12. The antique bracelet is *unique* because...
13. The *equilibrium* of the lake was disturbed when...
14. After seeing two specialists about his ailment, Dominic decided to get a *tertiary* opinion from...
15. Renee is an *asset* to the company because she...

EXERCISE III – Prefixes and Suffixes

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

The prefix *im-* means “not” or “without.”

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

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

The suffix *-ly* means “like.”

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. (imperturbable) It takes months for prison guards to develop the _____ necessary for enduring daily harassment from the inmates.

N V ADJ

2. (prudent) Owing to her _____ shopping spree at the mall, Rosa did not have enough money to pay her electric bill.

N V ADJ

3. (potential) The sun's rays are _____ hazardous to people who burn easily.

N V ADJ

4. (prudent) With great _____, the pharmacist measured out the potent medication and bottled it for the customer.

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) Some scientists suggest that a planet having conditions favorable to human life, if indeed there is another one out there, would have the most **potential** for alien life; however, the discovery of *extremophiles* has forced them to reconsider. (2) No, extremophiles are not young adults who leap from helicopters and snowboard down the sides of active volcanoes while guzzling caffeinated soda; they are **unique** microorganisms that can withstand environmental conditions so extreme that they seem to defy the basic facts we know about sustaining life.

(3) Hundreds of extremophile species have been discovered, and they are usually classified by the specific environments in which they thrive and gaining membership into the various groups is no **petty** task. (4) *Thermophiles* prosper in temperatures exceeding 140° F (water boils at 212° F). (5) *Halophiles* maintains their **equilibrium** in places salty enough to cause most bacteria to **wither** and die. (6) *Acidophiles* flourish in environments having a pH of less than 3.0—roughly the acidity of lemon juice or vinegar.

(7) The first extremophiles shown were thermophiles. (8) In the 1960s, scientists found the organisms living in the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, where geothermal vents heat the ground water. (9) In recent years, even tougher organisms have been found living near hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor. (10) These new bacteria-like microbes are called *hyperthermophiles* because they thrive **unabated** in 250° temperatures (possible only because the high pressure at the ocean floor raises the boiling point of the water).

(11) The heat-loving germs have cousins on the opposite end of the thermometer. (12) *Psychrophiles* live their long lives suspended in chunks of ice in frozen Antarctic lakes. (13) These cold creatures are most comfortable at –60° F or below, and they are thought to be at least 400,000 years old.

(14) *Endoliths* would be the first life forms to rave about the nutritional value of minerals; after all, these creatures eat nothing but iron, potassium, or sulfur. (15) Living inside rocks and hardened lava flows miles beneath the surface of the earth, endoliths breath hydrogen and reproduce approximately once every 100 years.

(16) Most impressive, perhaps, is the extremophile *deinococcus radiodurans*, or “Conan the Bacterium,” to its friends. (17) A fatal dose of radiation to a human would not even give this mighty germ a sunburn; in fact, it takes 3,000 times the lethal dose to broil this bacteria thanks to its self-repairing genes. (18) This fearsome germ also has natural protection against pressure and tempera-

ture extremes as well a **tertiary** immunity to toxic chemicals. (19) It is truly the germ that hangs out in places where other germs do not—places like nuclear reactors.

(20) Extremophiles are as useful as they are amazing. (21) With some minor gene modification, germs with extreme tastes can be modified to eat toxic chemicals and pollutants. (22) Other extremophiles have been altered to produce antibiotics, and the way in which extremophiles **vie** for survival might someday show researchers a better way to fight diseases such as cancer. (23) Some bacteria are so large that they are visible to the naked eye! (24) Finally, extremophiles prove that life can thrive in other-than-ideal conditions, which opens a realm of possibility for those hoping to find traces of life on harsh planets. (25) Such a discovery might not be as immediately important as cleaning up the environment or curing cancer, but it will certainly give us something to anticipate.

1. Which choice shows the best way to revise the underlined portion of sentence 3 as shown below?

Hundreds of extremophile species have been discovered, and they are usually classified by the specific environments in which they thrive and gaining membership into the various groups is no petty task.

- A. in which they thrive. Gaining membership
 - B. in which they thrive, because gaining membership
 - C. in which they thrive, but gaining membership
 - D. in which they thrive; and gaining membership
 - E. in which they thrive: gaining membership
2. The best revision for sentence 7 would be which of the following?
 - A. No one knew about extremophiles until thermophiles were discovered in the 1960s.
 - B. The last extremophiles to be discovered were thermophiles.
 - C. The first thermophiles were discovered to be extremophiles.
 - D. Thermophiles were the first extremophiles discovered.
 - E. Thermophiles are the most widespread species of extremophiles.
3. Which sentence should be deleted from the final paragraph?
 - A. sentence 21
 - B. sentence 22
 - C. sentence 23
 - D. sentence 24
 - E. sentence 25

4. The introductory sentence of the passage suggests that
- A. extremophiles could exist on a planet that is not similar to Earth.
 - B. the closer a planet resembles Earth, the greater the chance is that extremophiles will be found there.
 - C. extremophiles cannot exist in conditions that are not favorable to humans.
 - D. humans would probably not be found on a planet inhabited by extremophiles.
 - E. extremophiles exist on Earth, but will probably not be found on another Earth-like planet.