

Name _____
Vocabulary List 9

Date _____
Mrs. Stephens

Practice Due Date _____
Quiz Date _____

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefix: *con-* means "together"

Suffix: *ex-* means "out" or "from"

Suffix: *-ic* means "characteristic of" or "pertaining to"

Suffix: *-ize* means "to become" or "to cause to become"

Vocabulary List 9

(see next page for definitions and activities)

antagonist
detriment
drone
drudgery
horizontal
hypocrite
insubordinate
mentor
oration
retract
sanctuary
scamper
solace
somber
zenith

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1. **antagonist** (an tag' ō nist) *n.* someone who opposes another; an adversary
The *antagonist* of the play constantly interferes with the hero's intentions.
syn: enemy; opponent *ant: supporter; advocate; friend*
2. **detriment** (det' rə mənt) *n.* a disadvantage; a loss
The injury was a *detriment* to the player's future in sports.
syn: drawback; handicap; impairment *ant: advantage; benefit; asset*
3. **drone** (drŏn) *v.* to speak in a monotonous tone
n. 1. a person who does menial, tedious work
2. a continuous, dull sound
(*v*) The boring lecturer *droned* on about the subject for what felt like hours.
(*n.1*) After years of repetitive work, he felt like a *drone* whose employee number was more significant than his name.
(*n.2*) The house was silent except for the *drone* of the air conditioner.
(*n.1*) *syn: lackey; minion* *ant: boss; leader*
4. **drudgery** (druj' ə rē) *n.* tedious, wearisome work
Dan wanted to plant trees in the front yard, but he did not want the *drudgery* of digging holes for the next five days.
syn: labor; toil
5. **horizontal** (hŏr ə zon' təl) *adj.* parallel to the horizon; level
Ted wore a polo shirt decorated with *horizontal* stripes.
syn: flat; straight *ant: vertical; upright*
6. **hypocrite** (hip' ə krit) *n.* a person who does not practice the beliefs or opinions that he or she professes
The celebrity was a *hypocrite* who bought pleasure yachts and summer mansions while writing songs about the importance of giving away worldly possessions.
7. **insubordinate** (in sə bŏr' dn it) *adj.* defiant to authority; disobedient; rebellious
The sergeant ordered the *insubordinate* soldier to buff the floors of the barracks.
syn: resistant; unruly *ant: obedient; respectful*
8. **mentor** (men' tŏr) *n.* a wise, trusted counselor or advisor
Jamie aimed to model her career after that of her *mentor*.
syn: teacher; confidant

9. **oration** (ôr ā' shən) *n.* an elaborate, formal speech
Members of the audience were captivated by the speaker's well-delivered *oration*.
syn: lecture; sermon
10. **retract** (ri trakt') *v.* 1. to draw back or in
2. to disavow a belief or statement
(1) Be sure you *retract* the tip of that pen before you set it on the couch.
(2) He *retracted* his statement after he received numerous threats to his life.
(1) *syn: withdraw* *ant: project*
(2) *syn: revoke; repeal* *ant: uphold; sustain*
11. **sanctuary** (sāngk' chōō er ē) *n.* 1. a place of refuge or safety
2. a sacred place
(1) A dozen species of birds nest in the wildlife *sanctuary*.
(2) Religious services are conducted in the *sanctuary*.
(1) *syn: asylum; shelter; haven*
12. **scamper** (skam' pûr) *v.* to run lightly and hurriedly
The crab *scampered* across the sand, unaware of the seagull above.
syn: scurry; dart *ant: lumber; trudge*
13. **solace** (sol' əs) *n.* comfort amid sorrow or trouble
v. to comfort; to console
(n) The kind neighbor always provided *solace* when times were difficult.
(v) No one could *solace* her after the flood destroyed everything in her home.
(n) *syn: relief; support* *ant: irritation; stress*
(v) *syn: soothe* *ant: depress; dishearten*
14. **somber** (som' bər) *adj.* dismal; bleak
He painted a *somber* winter landscape showing dead trees and gray skies.
syn: grave; solemn *ant: cheerful; bright*
15. **zenith** (zē' nith) *n.* the highest point; the peak
Knowing that she had passed the *zenith* of her career, Nancy decided to retire.
syn: summit; climax *ant: bottom; nadir*

EXERCISE I – Words in Context

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

1. The hot weather is a[n] _____ to the people running in the race.
2. At the _____ of her popularity, the star made several public appearances each day.
3. A large spider _____ across the floor and through a crack in the wall.
4. Not one nation offered _____ to the wanted criminal, so he turned himself in.
5. On the morning after the assassination, citizens awoke to the _____ tolling of a funeral bell.
6. The seatbelt should _____ back into the seat after you unbuckle it.
7. If the table surface is not _____, the apples will roll onto the floor.
8. You'll be called a[n] _____ if you do not practice what you preach.
9. The crowd went silent when the guest of honor delivered a moving _____.
10. During the difficult time, Janet was thankful that her friends were present to offer _____.
11. Owing to advancements in technology, few modern Americans can fathom the _____ of working in the early coal mining industry.
12. The _____ prisoner was placed in solitary confinement for fighting with the guards.
13. Lisa learned everything she knew about the job from her _____, who also became her friend.
14. The _____ of the jet engines helped Bob fall asleep during the flight.
15. The _____ of the story tries to thwart the hero's progress.

EXERCISE II – Sentence Completion

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

1. Janet prefers the *horizontal* landscape of Kansas to...
2. People called him a *hypocrite* because...
3. Even the simplest task will become *drudgery* if...
4. Some fans thought the new player was a *detriment* to the team, while others thought...
5. The teacher told the *insubordinate* student to...
6. Reading the *somber* story caused...
7. Lara's *mentor* advised her about...
8. Jim often retreats to a *sanctuary* in the wilderness where he can...
9. Family members *solaced* Jennifer when...
10. She *retracted* her statement as soon as...
11. During a public *oration*, the mayor explained...
12. From miles away, we heard the *drone* of...
13. Children *scampered* across the field when...
14. The sun is at its *zenith* when...
15. The *antagonist* in the crowd constantly...

EXERCISE III – Prefixes and Suffixes

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

The prefix *con-* means “together.”

The prefix *ex-* means “out” or “from.”

The suffix *-ic* means “characteristic of” or “pertaining to.”

The suffix *-ize* means “to become” or “to cause to become.”

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. (antagonist) Puppies sometimes _____ the old dog by nipping at its ears while it tries to sleep. N V ADJ
2. (retract) The baseball player was found to be in violation of his _____ with the team when he was caught using steroids. N V ADJ
3. (antagonist) The comedian received more boos than laughs from the _____ crowd. N V ADJ
4. (retract) Hummingbirds _____ nectar from flowers with their tube-like beaks. 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 There will always be people who nag you and prod you to “Get with it!” and try the latest fad, be it a diet, a new style of pants, or some miraculous appliance guaranteed to eliminate the **drudgery** of cooking. Hold your ground. No matter how great the new product seems to be, or how many millions of people are using it, do not give in unless you understand what makes the new thing work. If that means putting down your cell phone, passing up the LASIK eye surgery, or using actual sugar in your cookie recipe rather than one of the many available substitutes, then do it, just until you have a little more understanding of the long-term effects. If being the black sheep has you down, you can take **solace** from the story of the radium fad.
- 2 In 1898, Marie Curie discovered another radioactive element: radium. Scientists of the time knew what radiation was, but they did not yet realize that it could be a great **detriment** to health. With all the talk of energy surrounding radium, most professionals—physicians, scientists, etc.—assumed that radiation, in proper doses, could do only wonderful things to health. The fad was born.
- 3 In the early twentieth century, radium was believed to cure every malady from high blood pressure to chronic depression. Companies sold the glowing, gamma-ray-emitting element in pill form, liquid, and even infused in patches to be worn on parts of the body.
- 4 It gets worse. Of all the remedies available, radium water, or “liquid sunshine,” was by far the most popular. At the **zenith** of the fad, hundreds of thousands of people were drinking water laced with radium with the belief that it rejuvenated them. Potency of the water varied. Drinking waters contained relatively low levels of radium, while tonics or “medicinal” waters such as Radithor contained hazardous levels. And it was everywhere. Hotels offered radium water to guests, they went to radium spas to soak in radioactive water, and, yes, doctors prescribed it for every disorder imaginable.
- 5 Few happy patrons realized the dangers of radium until 1927. That is when Grace Fryer filed a lawsuit against her former employer, U.S. Radium. For years, she and many other women used small brushes and radium powder to paint glow-in-the-dark numbers on watches and instruments. The women had been instructed to use their lips to straighten the brushes between strokes. Grace eventually found a new job, but she knew something was wrong when her teeth fell out and she suffered severe bone

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decay. Grace and at least five other women died in agony of radiation poisoning. Dozens followed.

- 6 If Grace Fryer raised suspicions about radium. Eben Byer confirmed them. In 1928, Byer, a steel tycoon, sought treatment for an injury. His doctor prescribed Radithor. For two years, Byer drank several 2-ounce bottles a day. A 1932 Wall Street Journal headline best sums up the result of Byer's treatment: "The Radium Water Worked Fine Until His Jaw Came Off." Byers was 51 years old.

- 7 The fad ceased, but not before hundreds of other victims of radiation poisoning came forward. Radium-product manufacturers halted production and physicians **retracted** the professed healing powers of the toxic element. Atomic tests of the 1940s soon showed the world the deadly potential of the new radioactive elements, and the **somber** fear of radioactive fallout and contamination has haunted everyone since.

- 8 Like many lessons, the cost of the radium craze was high, but at least mankind learned another lesson about its vulnerability to the forces of nature, especially the force of a fad.

1. Which phrase should be added to follow 1898 in paragraph 2? (assume all details in the choices are factual)
- A. just three years after the discovery of Uranium,
 - B. despite heated controversy over female scientists,
 - C. only twenty years before World War I,
 - D. more than 100 years ago,
 - E. the same year as the Spanish American War,
2. Which revision best improves the underlined portion of this sentence from paragraph 4?

Hotels offered radium water to guests, they went to radium spas to soak in radioactive water, and, yes, doctors prescribed it for every disorder imaginable.

- A. they soaked in radioactive water in spas
- B. people went to radium spas to soak in radioactive water
- C. in spas full of radioactive water, people soaked
- D. in spas, people soaked in radioactive water
- E. radioactive water was soaked in by them

3. Which choice shows the best way to combine the first two sentences of paragraph 6?
- A. ...radium. Eben Byer...
 - B. ...radium, so Eben Byer...
 - C. ...radium; Eben Byer...
 - D. ...radium; however, Eben Byer...
 - E. ...radium, then Eben Byer...
4. Of the following choices, which is the least likely to rouse the author's skepticism?
- A. global positioning systems in automobiles
 - B. synthetic sweeteners
 - C. organic produce
 - D. weight-loss supplements
 - E. tooth-whitening strips