Prefixes and Suffixes

Suffix: -ize means "to become" or "to cause to become"
Suffix: -ity means "state of" or "quality of"
Suffix: -ion means "act of", "state of", or "result"
Suffix: -able means "able to be"

Vocabulary List 3
(see next page for definitions and activities)
amity
cater
guise
inconsequential
jubilant
placate
preclude
repress
saturate
slake
sortie
succumb
trouche
venomous
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
ŏŏ — book
u — pun
ū — you
û — purr
ə — about, system, circus
îr — steer
oi — toy
Lesson Three

1. amity (amˈɪt ə) n. friendship
   In public, the siblings appeared to live in perfect amity, but behind closed doors, they fought incessantly.
   syn: peacefulness; harmony          ant: disagreement; hostility

2. cater (kātˈər) v. to supply what is needed or desired, especially support or food
   The restaurant caters to families by offering discounted children’s meals.
   syn: provide; contribute          ant: neglect; reject

3. guise (gīz) n. a false appearance
   The waiter maintains a guise of friendliness with his customers in order to get a big tip.
   syn: semblance

4. inconsequential (in kon ə kwə nˈshəl) adj. of little or no importance; irrelevant; without consequence
   The decision has been made, so any advice now will be inconsequential.
   syn: unnecessary; unrelated          ant: appropriate; important

5. jubilant (jōbˈlant) adj. joyous, especially because of success
   The jubilant student smiled all day after getting a perfect score on his lengthy term paper.
   syn: elated; happy          ant: depressed; disappoint

6. placate (plāˈkät) v. to calm; to pacify
   The manager tried to placate the angry customer by reducing the bill.
   syn: appease; satisfy          ant: enrage; anger

7. preclude (pri klōodˈ) v. to prevent
   Having a criminal record precludes a teaching career.
   syn: prohibit; forbid          ant: allow; permit

8. repress (rī prespər) v. to hold back or put down with force; to suppress
   The dictator represses dissenters with threats of imprisonment.
   syn: restrain; stifle          ant: release; permit

9. saturate (sachˈə rāt) v. to fill or soak to capacity
   The heavy rains saturated the soil.
   syn: drench; permeate; infuse          ant: desiccate; sear; parch
10. slake (slāk) v. 1. to satisfy; to quench 2. to make less intense
   (1) The exhausted worker slaked his thirst by downing two glasses of lemonade.
   (2) Seeing someone else make the same mistake slaked his embarrassment.
   (1) syn: fulfill; please
   (2) syn: abate; mitigate; diminish
   ant: intensify; amplify

11. sortie (sôr' tē) n. 1. a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission 2. an armed attack, especially against surrounding enemy forces
   (1) The fighter jet was riddled with bullet holes after the sortie.
   (2) The colonel ordered an immediate sortie to stall the enemy's offensive.
   (2) syn: maneuver; assault

12. succumb (sŏkəm') v. to submit reluctantly; to yield
   After weeks of constant bombing, the enemy finally succumbed to our overwhelming force.
   syn: give in; surrender
   ant: withstand; resist

13. tranquil (trang' kwal) adj. calm; peaceful
   Lonnie looked forward to a tranquil day of gardening in the back yard.
   syn: placid; serene
   ant: bustling; busy

14. venomous (ven'ə mäs) adj. 1. poisonous 2. intentionally harmful; malevolent
   (1) Go to the hospital if that venomous spider bites you.
   (2) His venomous remarks shocked everyone in the room.
   (1) syn: toxic; noxious; lethal
   (2) syn: malicious; spiteful; cruel
   ant: harmless; innocuous; safe
   ant: benevolent; benign; kind

15. wrest (rest') v. to obtain through force, usually by twisting and turning violently
   Citizens wrested the dagger from the madman on the subway.
   syn: wring; wrench

EXERCISE I – Words in Context

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

1. On the night before the siege, the defenders launched eight ________ against the invaders.
2. The mouse ________ the angry lion by removing a thorn from his paw.

3. He started a[n] ________ rumor meant to ruin his rival's reputation.

4. The minor scratches were ________ to the value of the priceless artifact.

5. Some people ________ their bad memories until they have emotional breakdowns.

6. The surgeon ________ the sterile cloth with alcohol before using it to clean the patient's wound.

7. The ________ team held a banquet to celebrate its winning season.

8. The people in the lifeboat had no water, but they did not dare ________ their thirst with seawater.

9. If Thomas ________ to exhaustion and stops walking, he may never make it out of the desert.

10. When the looter ________ the pouch of gold from the skeleton's hand, he triggered a booby trap that fired poison darts at him.

11. The two rivals used to argue all the time, but now ________ exists between them.

12. The ________ setting of the cabin provided the peace and quiet necessary to write a novel.

13. During the cruise, waiters ________ to the needs of every passenger.


15. Using the ________ of a pizza-delivery man, the undercover detective infiltrated the criminal's hideout.
EXERCISE II – Sentence Completion

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

1. Rachael had to placate her son when...

2. During the sortie, two soldiers...

3. To slake his day-to-day frustrations, Alex likes to...

4. The jubilant townspeople hosted a festival to...

5. A flat tire precluded our plan to...

6. Be sure to saturate the sponge before...

7. Mia’s tranquil afternoon was ruined when...

8. If you practice self-discipline, you will not succumb to...

9. The new store near the industrial park plans to cater to...

10. Kayla disrupted the amity within her neighborhood when she...

11. The thief tried to wrest...

12. Her venomous attitude spread among the other workers until...

13. The king repressed any subjects who...

14. Austin struggled to put on a guise of gratefulness when his aunt gave him...

15. The effort you put into your essay will be inconsequential if you...
EXERCISE III – Prefixes and Suffixes

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

The suffix -ize means “to become” or “to cause to become.”
The suffix -ity means “state of” or “quality of.”
The suffix -able means “able to be.”
The suffix -ion means “act of,” “state of,” or “result 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. (placate) The mere sound of a soothing voice caused the ________ infant to stop crying and fall asleep.  
   
   N       V       ADJ

2. (tranquil) The wildlife official must ________ the elephant before he can attach a tracking device to the animal’s ear.

   N       V       ADJ

3. (placate) After an enormous scandal in the city government, years of ________ were necessary before citizens again trusted elected officials.

   N       V       ADJ

4. (tranquil) The ________ of the snowy landscape was lost when a train rumbled through the center of the field.

   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. In May of 2002, construction workers on a routine job uncovered something far from inconsequential: the tomb of a man who died in 2400 BC—the early Bronze Age. Anthropologists were summoned to the town of Amesbury, Wiltshire, United Kingdom, to examine the discovery made just two miles from the famous Stonehenge monument.

2. The objects found in the tomb raised many questions. During this period of the Bronze Age, only the most respected and powerful citizens received extravagant burial rites; most bodies were simply dumped into a river. Who was this archer, in such an elaborate tomb? Why was he missing part of his leg?

3. The scientists immediately noted several things about the man in the tomb. He had been buried with a hunter's knife and arrows, and he was apparently rich, at least by the standards of the day, because he had been buried with a number of gold artifacts—the oldest ever found in Britain. Also, curiously, the kneecap of the man was not with him.

4. Examination of the skeleton revealed that the man did not succumb to the substantial wound on his leg; the injury occurred long before the man's death. He must have been in excellent physical condition at the time he was wounded.

5. Tests on the gold revealed that it came not from the British isles but from a region near Switzerland. Dwellers of Bronze-Age Britain were known to have contact with mainland Europe, but the discovery of the archer—an ancient foreigner—suggests amity existed between the Isles and the continent.

6. Examiners also found a cushion stone in the tomb, which is a small stone used to sharpen metalworking tools. Was the man a metalworker in the guise of a hunter? The evidence did not preclude either of these things.

7. The man, now called the “Amesbury Archer,” is still shrouded in mystery. He came from outside Britain, and he brought with him the beginnings of the metalworking trade. He was a part of the community, and respected enough to receive a funeral with honors. In time, studying the archer will bring us a step closer to understanding how, more than 4,000 years ago, civilization began in England.

1. Paragraph 2 should be moved to follow
   A. paragraph 1 (no change).
   B. paragraph 3.
   C. paragraph 4.
   D. paragraph 5.
   E. paragraph 6.
2. Which revision best clarifies the underlined portion of this sentence from paragraph 3?

   Also, curiously, the kneecap of the man was not with him.

   A. the man's missing kneecap was not there.
   B. someone had stolen the man's kneecap.
   C. the man's kneecap was missing.
   D. the kneecap was also made of gold.
   E. the man had no kneecaps.

3. Adding which sentence would help to clarify paragraph 4?
   A. The man was probably accustomed to being wounded because he was an archer.
   B. Apparently, the man's wealth kept him supplied with primitive medicine.
   C. The wound was most likely the result of an enemy's arrow on the battlefield.
   D. The man probably suffered great pain each day of his life; such a wound in the Bronze Age might prove lethal to most people.
   E. During the Bronze Age, people learned to combine copper and tin to make bronze, and bronze weapons inflicted deep wounds.

4. Which sentence best describes the importance of the Amesbury Archer to the world?
   A. In time, studying the archer will bring us a step closer to understanding how, more than 4,000 years ago, civilization began in England.
   B. During this period of the Bronze Age, only the most respected and powerful citizens warranted extravagant burial rites; most bodies were simply dumped into a river.
   C. The man, now called the “Amesbury Archer,” is still shrouded in mystery.
   D. Dwellers of Bronze-Age Britain were known to have contact with mainland Europe, but the discovery of the archer—an ancient foreigner—suggests amity existed between the Isles and the continent.
   E. Who was this archer, in such an elaborate tomb?