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
Lesson Nine

1. antagonistic (an tag′-ŏ 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 ment) 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 (drön) 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 (dru′jə 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                                ant: boss; leader

5. horizontal (hôr′əzon′tal) adj. parallel to the horizon; level
   Ted wore a polo shirt decorated with horizontal stripes.
   syn: flat; straight                             ant: vertical; upright

6. hypocrite (hip′əkrit) 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 bôr′də nit) 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′tôr) n. a wise, trusted counselor or advisor
   Jamie aimed to model her career after that of her mentor.
   syn: teacher; confidant
9. oration (ôr a´shên) 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
    (2) syn: revoke; repeal
    ant: project
    ant: uphold; sustain

11. sanctuary (sângk´ chōŏ 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´ aš) 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
    (v) syn: soothe
    ant: irritation; stress
    ant: depress; dishearten

14. somber (som´ bôr) 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
Lesson Nine

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 pills, 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
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