

## UNIT ONE

AP

## AG, ACT

Latin AGERE, ACTUM "to drive, do"

COGENT (kō'jənt) *adj.* Strong and to the point; convincingL. co (from con), "together," + actum = *driving together*The defense attorney's claim that Brown was out of town during the murder was the most *cogent* argument that she had presented to date.

syn: convincing                      ant: incoherent

EXIGENT (ek'sijənt) *adj.* Urgent; pressingL. ex, "out of," + agere = *driving out of*The Congress held an impromptu all-night session to discuss the *exigent* threat of war.

syn: critical                              ant: trivial

ASSAY (asā') *v.* To test, analyzeL. ex, "out of," + agere = *to drive out*The miner *assayed* the cave soil for diamonds and gold.INTRANSIGENT (intran'səjənt) *adj.* Refusing to compromiseL. in, "not," + trans, "across," + agere = *not driving across*The principal was unable to come to a satisfying judgment in the teachers' debate, as the feuding faculty members were *intransigent*.

syn: stubborn                              ant: obedient



The INTRANSIGENT TRANSIT bosses refused to make a compromise offer to the strikers.

## CIT

Latin CIEO, CITUM "to stir up, rouse"

INCITE (in'sīt') *v.* To stir up; to provokeL. in, "strongly," + citum = *to strongly stir up*Police were worried that the powerful and angry words of the speaker would *incite* the crowd to riot.

syn: urge                                      ant: soothe

RESUSCITATE (rēsus'ətāt) *v.* To bring back to consciousnessL. re, "again," + sub, "from beneath," + citum = *to rouse again from beneath*The firefighters *resuscitated* a baby who had been overcome by smoke.

syn: revive

III The word *assay* can mean "test or examine" in a broad sense, as in "to assay your knowledge," but the word usually applies to the kind of testing that determines the makeup of an ore or chemical substance.

**SOLICITOUS** (sə lis' ə təs) *adj.* Showing care or worry

L. *sollus*, "whole," + *citum* = *stirring up the whole*

Barry's parents are *solicitous* because they have an immense amount of love for him.

*syn:* eager; concerned

*ant:* unconcerned

## TURB

L. *TURBARE*, *TURBATUM* "disturb"

**PERTURB** (pər tûrb') *v.* To make worried or upset

L. *per*, "through and through," + *turbare* = *thoroughly disturb*

It *perturbed* Lou when his daughter did not arrive home after school.

*syn:* bother

*ant:* calm

**TURBULENT** (tûr' byə lənt) *adj.* Very excited or upset

The decade of the 1960's is considered by many scholars to be among the most *turbulent* in all of American history.

*syn:* agitated

*ant:* peaceful

**TURBID** (tûr' bid) *adj.* Cloudy; confused

Gina's unclear ramblings are obviously the result of a *turbid* mind.

*syn:* muddled

*ant:* clear

## ALACR

Latin *ALACER* "lively"

**ALACRITY** (ə lak' ri tē) *n.* Enthusiastic quickness

When asked to evaluate a local store's ice cream, the boys responded with *alacrity* and happiness at the prospect.

*syn:* eagerness

*ant:* reluctance

## CELER

Latin *CELER* "quick"

**CELERITY** (sə ler' i tē) *n.* Speed or quickness

If the residential developments continue to grow with such *celerity*, local wetlands will be threatened.

*syn:* rapidity

*ant:* slowness

III In Latin, French, and English, to "solicit" is to persistently approach someone with an offer, petition, or demand—to provoke (*citum*) him or her entirely (*sollus*). The English adjective *solicitous*, though, means something closer to "persistently seeking the care or well-being" of another person.

III The *celer* root also appears in the words *accelerate* (*ad*, "towards," + *celer* = towards speed), and *decelerate* (*de*, "down from," + *celer* = away from speed).

**EXERCISES - UNIT ONE**

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

1. The *turbid* waters of the river should have warned us that...
2. In response to the city's *exigent* financial situation, the Mayor...
3. The knights will *assay* the castle in order to...
4. Pictures of the flag being burned *incited* the crowd to...
5. The witness' *cogent* testimony prompted the jury to...
6. When asked to make a compromise, the most *intransigent* members of the political party...
7. Although paramedics tried for several minutes to *resuscitate* the woman, she...
8. Witnessing the car accident *perturbed* Dennis so much that...
9. The lawyer was *solicitous* towards the young family because...
10. The *celerity* with which the plant grew was amazing because...
11. Jana dealt with an especially *turbulent* period of her life by...
12. Rather than getting to her chores with *alacrity*, Helen...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

solicitous      turbulent      celerity      perturb      cogent

1. Rather than allowing its characters to develop, the film moves with \_\_\_\_\_ to the gory shootout at the end.
  2. If you act a bit more \_\_\_\_\_ towards your clients, they will understand that you really want to help them.
  3. Marty's \_\_\_\_\_ account of his experiences during the war left the audience with a much clearer understanding of what had really happened.
  4. Nothing will \_\_\_\_\_ Kathleen more than seeing someone be unkind to a child.
-

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

perturb      resuscitate      exigent      assay      turbulent

5. Because they were under extremely \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances, the committee took immediate action.
6. The troops defending the fort feared that a huge enemy force would \_\_\_\_\_ the defenses of the stronghold.
7. My Aunt Pearl fainted dead away, but we were soon able to \_\_\_\_\_ her.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ emotions Jessie felt on a day-to-day basis sometimes left her exhausted.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

turbid      exigent      alacrity      intransigent      incite

9. Even the most \_\_\_\_\_ sports-hater might be won over by the fast-paced excitement of extreme snowboarding.
10. Critics noted that the writer had once produced clear, delightful prose, but his poetry now was merely a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ and confusing stream.
11. On the day Ben had the good fortune to be assigned a report on his favorite musician, he set out for the library with \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Carefully chosen words in the pamphlets may \_\_\_\_\_ readers to stage a sit-in.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. During the \_\_\_\_\_ years following the war, angry leaders bent on further destruction would \_\_\_\_\_ their followers to demonstrate violently.
  - A. intransigent; resuscitate
  - B. solicitous; assay
  - C. turbulent; incite
  - D. turbid; perturb
2. After a few minutes of unconsciousness, Bernard opened his eyes to find a kindly and \_\_\_\_\_ nurse trying to \_\_\_\_\_ him with smelling salts.
  - A. solicitous; resuscitate
  - B. intransigent; assay
  - C. turbulent; perturb
  - D. exigent; incite

3. Rather than offering a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ explanation of the basic principles of quantum physics, the author gives his readers only a few confusing, \_\_\_\_\_ paragraphs.
- turbid; solicitous
  - solicitous; turbid
  - exigent; cogent
  - cogent; turbid
4. Even when a crisis became so \_\_\_\_\_ that all the other firemen came close to collapsing under the stress, nothing seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Hornby.
- exigent; resuscitate
  - cogent; assay
  - intransigent; assay
  - exigent; perturb
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ jeweler absolutely refused to refund his customers' money, even after samples of his wares were \_\_\_\_\_ and found to contain only worthless fool's gold.
- perturbed; resuscitated
  - turbulent; incited
  - intransigent; assayed
  - turbid; incited

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

- If Naomi deals with her clients in an *intransigent* manner, they will probably...
- When Professor Atwood gives her students a *cogent* explanation of a poem, the students will...
- If Eileen is *solicitous* towards the patrons who come into her library, she will probably get a reputation as...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

When a new work of science fiction—be it movie, video game, novel, or television show—is released, there are always naysayers who disparage it. While they may find fault with the technical aspects of the work, the most \_\_\_\_\_ (TURB) aspect to them is the presence of extraterrestrial life. Many scientists argue that if something else were out there, we would have noticed it by now, and they criticize the application of human physical characteristics and emotions to aliens, citing the billion-to-one odds that life even occurred on Earth. Whether or not these arguments are true is up for debate; no one, after all, can expertly testify as to the appearance and behaviors of an alien race. What the critics fail to realize, though, is that the search for extraterrestrial life goes beyond technology and statistics; it speaks to humanity's innate need to seek out companionship.

Long before Galileo raised the first telescope to the night sky in 1609, humans asked themselves if they were alone in the universe. Early explorers setting out across deserts or oceans may have been looking for spices to trade and lands to conquer; inevitably, however, it was the new cultures they encountered that captured their spirits. Pioneers struggled to communicate and assimilate these "newly discovered" people into their own civilizations and to make their own communities larger and richer. Most important is that explorers never failed to bring back tales of their encounters with foreigners, to the amazement of audiences back home.

Now, without new earthbound territories to explore, the biggest mysteries lie in the stars. Only a select few are lucky enough to actually ascend into space, but that does

not stop the rest of us from using our imaginations. And although we may have accepted that there is no man in the moon, why not contemplate the prospect of life on a planet hundreds, thousands, or millions of light-years distant?

In spite of the loud critics, not even science has given up on the potential for contact with other worlds. The existence of research projects devoted to searching for signs of extraterrestrial life (NASA's Origins Project and SETI, the

Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, founded in 1984) is persuasive proof that the scientific community values the search. In fact, one of astronomy's most respected scientists, the late Carl Sagan, began the Planetary Society in part to \_\_\_\_\_(AG) theories about alien cultures.

Critics, therefore, should leave science fiction authors alone. Science fiction isn't necessarily about what's true and what we may know now. It's about the possibilities.

1. Which sentence best describes the view of the author?
  - A. Alien life does exist.
  - B. The early explorers mistakenly thought that the new people they encountered were aliens.
  - C. Science fiction is not only about reporting the truth of alien life.
  - D. Most scientists should believe that aliens have contacted us.
  
2. Why do many scientists object to the presence of alien life in science fiction?
  - A. The physical characteristics are too disturbing to be real.
  - B. The aliens often look and act too much like humans.
  - C. Scientists don't believe aliens have technology more advanced than ours.
  - D. The descriptions do not conform to what the experts know about alien life.
  
3. According to the essay, when did people start looking for alien life?
  - A. in 1609, when Galileo invented the telescope
  - B. in 1984, when SETI was started
  - C. when there were no more new territories to explore on Earth
  - D. People have always contemplated the possibility of aliens.
  
4. What is the purpose of mentioning Carl Sagan in the essay?
  - A. The author wants readers to know that a respected scientist supported the search for extraterrestrial life.
  - B. He is an expert on alien life who can attest to the characteristics of extraterrestrials.
  - C. He is the most outspoken critic of science fiction novels.
  - D. He is a pioneer in the study of cultural assimilation.

Exercise VI. Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the *italicized* words. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary. Note that *os* means "mouth" and *re* means "back, again."

The first-year teacher began to question her skills when her normally energetic students began making *oscitant* gestures. "This," she said sternly, "may necessitate a *redaction* of the rules we drew up together at the beginning of the year." The revised rules did the trick, and her students stayed alert through the end of the semester.

## UNIT TWO

AP

## GEN

Latin GENUS "race, type, kind"

III The living world is divided into seven scientific groups: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. A genus of organisms contains all species of a particular type. For example, humans are of the genus "homo."

DEGENERATE (dē jen' ət) *n.* A corrupt wrongdoer  
L. de, "down from," + genus = *to fall from one's true nature or kind*  
Most of the teachers at the school felt that Phil was a *degenerate* who could not be trusted.  
*syn:* ruffian

ENGENDER (en jen' də) *v.* To bring about; to produce  
L. in, "in," + genus = *to bring into being*  
The sudden rise in the cost of fuel *engendered* a high number of firings at the airline companies.  
*syn:* beget *ant:* prevent

GENRE (zhän' rə) *n.* A kind or type of art  
Frankenstein is a good example of a novel of the gothic *genre*.  
*syn:* style

## NASC, NAT

Latin NASCI, NATUS "to be born"

COGNATE (käg' nāt) *adj.* Related to or coming from the same source  
L. co, "together," + natus = *born together*  
Linguists were baffled by the newly discovered language, which did not seem to be *cognate* with any other they knew.  
*syn:* related *ant:* dissimilar

INNATE (i nāt') *adj.* Natural; present from birth  
L. in, "in," + natus = *inborn*  
While other children needed lessons, Shirley Temple had an *innate* talent for song and dance.  
*syn:* intrinsic *ant:* acquired

NASCENT (nə' sənt) *adj.* In the act of being born; growing  
The President triumphantly announced that he had crushed a *nascent* rebellion in his own political party before it could get out of control.  
*syn:* developing *ant:* mature

**FIG, FICT**

Latin FINGERE, FICTUM “to shape”

**TRANSFIGURE** (trans fig' yər) *v.* To change the form or appearance of  
 L. trans, “change,” + fictum = *to change the shape of*  
 Building the Golden Gate Bridge *transfigured* the landscape of San Francisco.  
*syn:* transform *ant:* preserve

**FICTIVE** (fik' tiv) *adj.* Not real  
 “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves” takes place in a *fictive* kingdom that captures children’s imaginations.  
*syn:* imaginary *ant:* factual

**FEIGN** (fān) *v.* To make up or invent; pretend  
 Monica was easily able to *feign* shock, even though she knew about the surprise party in advance.  
*syn:* fake



Although LANE FEIGNED a PAIN, his mother still sent him to school.

**PAR, PER**

Latin PERIRE “to give birth, produce”

**PARTURIENT** (pär tūr' ē ent) *adj.* About to bring forth or give birth; pregnant  
 The naturalist wrote that the volcano before him seemed *parturient* with all the fires of Earth.

**REPERTORY** (rep' ūr tōr ē) *n.* The range of works an artist can produce or perform  
 L. re, “back,” + parere, “produce” = *produce back*  
 For such a young clarinetist, Rob has a surprisingly large *repertory*.

▣ The English word repertory has a French counterpart, repertoire. Both come from the Latin reperire (re, “back,” + perire = to produce back) meaning “to get back, to find out.” A repertory (or a repertoire) is the body of works a person has mastered. Repertory can also refer to a standard set of plays a group of actors regularly performs in a theater, or the theater itself.



## EXERCISES - UNIT TWO

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

1. Fans wondered whether the runner's talent was *innate* or...
2. Denise argued that most religions were not based on *fictive* notions, but rather...
3. Because Fred was familiar with the *genre* of music, he...
4. The jazz singer's full *repertory* included...
5. Through his own efforts, Tom transformed himself from a *degenerate* into...
6. When a democracy is *nascent*, it often...
7. The holy man seemed to be *transfigured* by...
8. Many weeks of talks between the two nations finally *engendered*...
9. The children *feigned* interest in their father's story in order to...
10. Researchers could tell that the words in one language were *cognate* with...
11. Neil's *parturient* periods of withdrawal often ended in...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

degenerate    innate    genre    nascent    feign

1. Mark, who had never enjoyed sports, was not able to \_\_\_\_\_ enthusiasm about the basketball game.
2. Even though she had an unhappy childhood, Tamara never lost her \_\_\_\_\_ ability to find good in everything.
3. No one \_\_\_\_\_ can contain the work of this multi-talented poet, musician, and painter.
4. My \_\_\_\_\_ feeling of admiration for the artist soon grew into a strong emotional attachment.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

cognate      parturient      repertory      engender      innate

5. Because the art forms are \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, we can assume they were originally one form.
6. When roommates share a small apartment, extra courtesy can \_\_\_\_\_ harmonious relationships.
7. Actors auditioning for the part are expected to have a full \_\_\_\_\_ of roles spanning modern American theater.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ pause gave way to a rush of shouted ideas and suggestions.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

transfigured      fictive      feigned      degenerate

9. The otherwise ordinary painting was \_\_\_\_\_ into a stunning portrait by the afternoon light glowing around it.
10. When some of the information submitted in court was found to be \_\_\_\_\_, a new trial had to be ordered.
11. A longtime local \_\_\_\_\_ was picked up by police for cruelty to animals.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. Oscar became a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ purely as a result of his hard life in the orphanage; violence and cruelty are not \_\_\_\_\_ qualities in him.
  - A. genre; fictive
  - B. degenerate; nascent
  - C. degenerate; innate
  - D. cognate; innate
2. The splitting of the original, ancient language into several dialects \_\_\_\_\_ several words that were \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.
  - A. engendered; nascent
  - B. transfigured; innate
  - C. engendered; cognate
  - D. feigned; fictive
3. No matter how Diane tried to \_\_\_\_\_ love for Greg, she could not deny the \_\_\_\_\_ feelings of discontent and unhappiness that were growing within her heart.
  - A. engender; cognate
  - B. feign; cognate
  - C. feign; nascent
  - D. transfigure; innate

4. The religious ecstasy the poet felt seems to \_\_\_\_\_ the whole work; nothing else in this \_\_\_\_\_ of literature can come close to it.
- transfigure; genre
  - feign; degenerate
  - engender; degenerate
  - feign; genre
5. The dancer's full \_\_\_\_\_ includes a complicated piece in which \_\_\_\_\_ stillness gives birth to frenzied movement.
- genre; nascent
  - degenerate; parturient
  - repertory; cognate
  - repertory; parturient

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

- If Ashley *feigns* boredom when her friend Jake talks about his upcoming fabulous vacation, we can infer that she...
- When Frank, a well-known *degenerate*, sees a fight about to take place, we can expect him to...
- When one word is *cognate* with another, both words probably...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

It is an undeniable fact that Americans live in a consumer-driven society with a consumer-based economy. What many people do not realize, however, is how very destructive consumerism can be. Reckless spending on non-durable goods and services creates a direct and devastating effect on our health, our environment, and our financial well-being. Consumerism contributes to the decline of American culture by eating away at the very fabric of society.

The most obvious effect of rampant consumerism is its ruinous impact on our environment. Goods which are short-lived or even disposable are thrown into the trash bin without a second thought. Where does all this garbage go? Most of it sits decomposing in mammoth landfills in cities and towns across our country, polluting our air and taking up land which could be better used for constructive purposes. Because excessive consumerism \_\_\_\_\_ (GEN) the belief that everything is disposable, recycling efforts are, in effect, thwarted. Over 200 billion recyclable cans, bottles, plastic cartons, and paper cups are simply discarded each year, with no thought as to the consequences of their disposal.

Our environment faces an additional threat in the form

of pollution from gas-guzzling vehicles like SUVs. The consumerist society, controlled in many ways by advertising, is driven to accept the notion that everything must be bigger, better, and faster, which is why Americans in particular manufacture and purchase the largest and least fuel-efficient vehicles in the world. Total dependence on the motor vehicle contributes extensively not only to air pollution, but also to the depletion of our natural resources.

Rampant consumerism also poses a considerable threat to our health and well-being. Advertising constantly hammers us with the fallacious idea that we must have instant gratification for all of our desires. When we are caught up in this \_\_\_\_\_ (FICT) notion of happiness without knowledge of or regard for the consequences, we continue to perpetuate a lifestyle of consumption and waste.

The future costs of these excesses, however, cannot be avoided. In addition to being detrimental to our health and our environment, consumerism is damaging to our financial well-being. Rampant spending on non-essential products causes severe financial distress. Whether due to credit card purchases, luxuries, or loans, many Americans live their lives constantly in debt.

Consumerism is a vicious cycle: we spend our

hard-earned money on the things that advertisers tell us we want or need, we work more in order to pay for these products, and all the while we are bombarded with more ads

which increase our desire to acquire more things. In many ways, consumerism is the American dream distorted into the American nightmare.

1. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?
  - A. The Dangers of Capitalism
  - B. The Destructive Power of Consumerism
  - C. The Economic Impact of the Advertising Industry
  - D. The Degeneration of American Society
  
2. Which of the following is the best definition of “consumerism,” according to the passage?
  - A. the act of buying expensive vehicles like SUVs
  - B. rampant spending on unnecessary, non-durable goods
  - C. the main tactic that advertisers use to get people to buy their products
  - D. the inevitable outgrowth of a capitalist economy
  
3. Which of the following is *not* mentioned as an outgrowth of consumerism?
  - A. pollution
  - B. decline in societal well-being
  - C. global warming
  - D. credit card debt
  
4. According to the passage, recycling efforts are
  - A. effective.
  - B. thwarted.
  - C. harmful.
  - D. improving.

Exercise VI. Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the *italicized* words. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary. Note that *carcino* means “cancer” and *pre* means “before.”

Environmental law expert Erin Brockovich gained international recognition when she helped win a large lawsuit against chemical companies that placed harmful *carcinogens* in a town’s drinking water. Brockovich was moved by the stories of the affected families, including many women whose children suffered from the after-effects of numerous *prenatal* diseases.