

UNIT 1

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 1. It may help you to complete the exercises in this Unit if you refer to the way the words are used below.

Greetings from the WPA

<Letters>

Twenty-five percent of workers in the United States were unemployed during the height of the Great Depression. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration created the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It employed over eight million people in construction and arts projects from 1935 to 1943.

April 10, 1937
Butte, Montana

Dearest Rose,

I'd say I've been meaning to write for ages and I think of you often, but I know you loathe that sort of **servile** sentimentality, and I wouldn't want to **wrangle** about it next time we meet. Moe and I were just talking about when the three of us were together in Chicago. We got to reminiscing, and soon we were goofing around like we used to—we must have **reverted** halfway to infancy! He said you're working for the Works Progress Administration in New York. I've been writing for the WPA myself.

Things got worse in Chicago after you left. I was in and out of odd jobs, mostly out of them, and I moved back to Montana. I stayed in Missoula

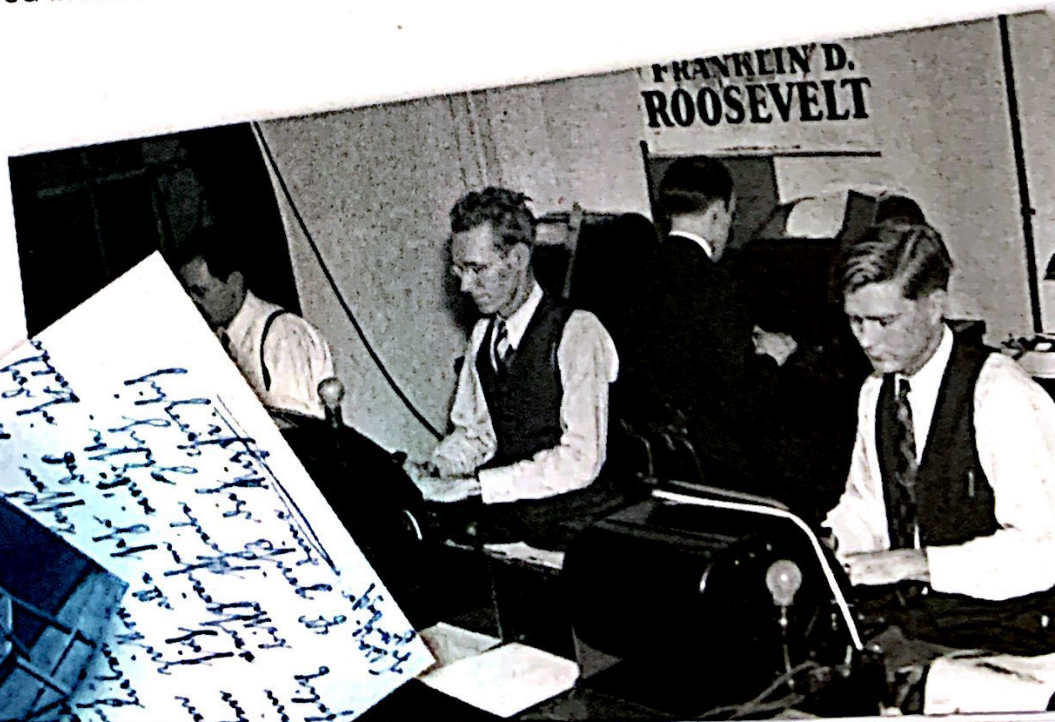
for a bit, at my parents' house, which is the same **citadel** of good manners and polite conversation that I remember. I'm grateful they took me in, but I felt uncomfortable about it. I don't know why I should feel like a **laggard** when everyone else is out of work, too, but it really got me down and put me in a **churlish** state of mind. After weeks of grumpily **hovering** around the house, I found work at a ranch that provided room and board.

When that job ended, I lucked into some work for the WPA. I'm writing "objective descriptions" of town, countryside, and work projects. I watched construction on the Fort Peck Dam. Now I'm in Butte, climbing through **rubble** and machinery at the copper mines nearby. By official **decree**, I'm here to record facts and figures, but I can't resist interviewing the miners, and I believe this is the best writing work I've done. I'll send you an **excerpt** once I've written more.

Send a letter if you can, or maybe I'll come see you in New York when I'm done with Butte.

Yours,
Henry

Teletype operators
in the federal office
of the WPA, 1937





WPA artists at work on a mural;
Woman displaying WPA poster, 1936



June 3, 1937
New York City, New York

Dear Henry,

It's been hard times out east, too, and worse this year, just after it had seemed the country was **groping** its way back to normalcy. The only artists I know making a living with their art are working for the WPA, and I'm lucky to be one of them. I've done a series of woodcuts for posters and may soon have a chance to **collaborate** with another painter on a mural for a hospital. Some of the work that the WPA artists produce is very good, but I haven't spent as much time worrying about **plaudits** and praise as about keeping the work lined up. Around two thousand New York artists are working for the Federal Arts Project this year. The pay's not much, but I wonder what I'd be doing without it. Wonder is the beginning of wisdom, but that's a kind of wisdom I'm happy to put off.

Just back from waiting on the predictably long line for our paychecks. It's become a social event. We pass the time chatting about painting and **jostling** each other out of line for a laugh.

I can hardly imagine you in New York, but that doesn't **preclude** your arrival.

Love,
Rose



Relief workers on a cable
during the construction of
the Fort Peck Dam, 1936

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Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank space in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

1. bonanza
(bə nan' zə)

(*n.*) a rich mass of ore in a mine; something very valuable, profitable, or rewarding; a source of wealth or prosperity; a very large amount; sudden profit or gain

The movie was a box-office _____.

2. churlish
(chər' lish)

(*adj.*) lacking politeness or good manners; lacking sensitivity; difficult to work with or deal with; rude

Salesclerks must avoid _____ behavior.

3. collaborate
(kə lab' ə rāt)

(*v.*) to work with, work together

The students will _____ on a geology project for the annual science fair.

4. excerpt
(ek' sərpt)

(*n.*) a passage taken from a book, article, etc.; (*v.*) to take such a passage; to quote

My essay has an _____ from a speech.

Place an _____ in quotation marks.

5. grope
(grōp)

(*v.*) to feel about hesitantly with the hands; to search blindly and uncertainly

When the power failed, we had to _____ in the dark to find a working flashlight.

6. jostle
(jäs' əl)

(*v.*) to make or force one's way by pushing or elbowing; to bump, brush against; to compete for

I tried not to _____ other riders as I exited the crowded bus.

7. laggard
(lag' ərd)

(*n.*) a person who moves slowly or falls behind;
(*adj.*) falling behind; slow to move, act, or respond

Tour guides often have to urge _____ to keep up with the rest of the group.

Tenants who are _____ in paying rent run the risk of being forced to move.

8. plaudits
(plō' ditz)

(*n., pl.*) applause; enthusiastic praise or approval

The skaters who won the gold medals gratefully accepted the _____ of their fans.

9. **revert**
(rē vĕrt')

(v.) to return, go back

Control of a property usually _____
to the legal owner when a lease is up.

10. **vigil**
(vij' əl)

(n.) a watch, especially at night; any period of
watchful attention

Thousands attended the solemn _____
at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Using Context



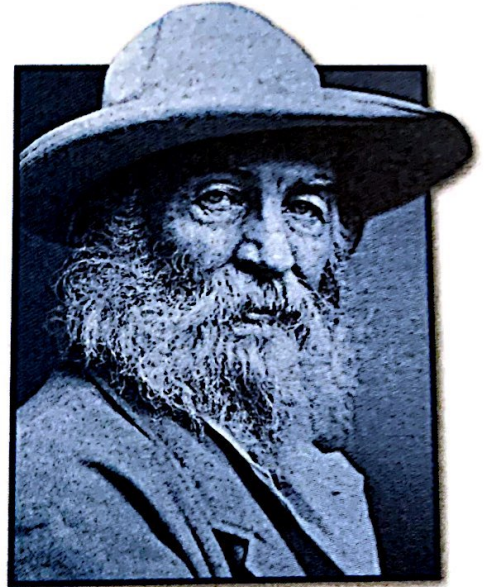
For each item, determine whether the **boldface** word from pages 14–15 makes sense in the context of the sentence. Circle the item numbers next to the six sentences in which the words are used correctly.

1. Over time, the abandoned mining town will crumble and **revert** to desert.
2. The bus left behind schedule because the driver had to wait for a **laggard** to arrive.
3. The audience was unsure of how to respond to the play because it was an odd **excerpt** of comedy and drama.
4. The back cover of the newly published novel was covered with **plaudits** from critics as well as famous writers.
5. When they hunt, many predators remain still for a long time and then suddenly **grope**.
6. After a chase through the park, the police officers managed to **jostle** the fleeing suspect.
7. The cold, rainy summer turned out to be a **bonanza** for the owner of the small movie theater in the beach community.
8. As we stirred the pudding over low heat on the stove, we could see it begin to **collaborate**.
9. The protest, which was entirely peaceful, ended with a candlelight **vigil** in the city's most famous square.
10. I apologized for my **churlish** behavior and promised to be more patient and courteous in the future.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 12–13 to see how most of these words are used in context. Note that the choices might be related forms of the Unit words.

- I chose to read a(n) (**vigil, excerpt**) from *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman for my poetry recitation.
- All those who (**jostled, collaborated**) with the enemy in the hope of gaining special favors will be punished severely.
- She raised so many objections to attending the dance that it was obvious she was (**groping, reverting**) for an excuse not to go.
- When I fumbled the ball on the three-yard line, the (**plaudits, excerpts**) of the crowd suddenly turned into jeers and catcalls.
- The assembly speaker may have been boring, but that was no excuse for the students' (**laggard, churlish**) behavior toward him.
- From the hundreds of newspaper items, the lawyer carefully (**collaborated, excerpted**) three short paragraphs that supported his case.
- There are times when we all need to be (**jostled, reverted**) away from old, familiar ideas that may no longer be as true as they once seemed.
- At midnight, the sentry took his post, standing (**laggard, vigil**) over the cache of weapons.
- I refuse to accept the excuse that the pressures of a new job caused you to (**revert, grope**) to your old habit of cigarette smoking.
- The landscape artists want to (**collaborate, revert**) with the architects so that the entire house looks as though it is part of the natural environment.
- The principal was quick to approve new programs for our club but (**churlish, laggard**) in providing financial support for them.
- The "broken-down old furniture" that the woman left to her children turned out to be a(n) (**bonanza, excerpt**) of valuable antiques.



Completing the Sentence

Choose the word from the word bank that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word or form of the word in the space provided.

bonanza

collaborate

grope

laggard

revert

churlish

excerpt

jostle

plaudits

vigil

1. If you will only show a little patience, that business investment may grow into a(n) _____ for you.
2. For two nights, he did his homework faithfully; then he _____ to his usual lazy ways.
3. The swiftest members of the herd escaped the trappers' nets, but the _____ were caught.
4. Let me read aloud a few _____ from the newspaper review of the new movie.
5. You hurt her feelings when you reacted to her comments in such a(n) _____ way, especially since you asked for her advice.
6. A single word of praise from the coach meant more to me than all the loud but thoughtless _____ of the crowd.
7. When the lights suddenly went out, I _____ my way into the kitchen to find a candle and matches.
8. The cafeteria line was so crowded that I was _____ past the desserts before I could take one.
9. Our teacher gave the two of us permission to _____ on our reports because we were investigating related problems.
10. With tireless devotion, the ailing child's parents kept an anxious _____ at her bedside.



Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank space in the illustrative sentence(s) following.

- 1. adage**
(ad' ij)

(n.) a proverb, wise saying
One way to begin an informal speech or an oral report is to quote an old _____.
- 2. citadel**
(sit' ə del)

(n.) a fortress that overlooks and protects a city; any strong or commanding place
A medieval _____ once guarded the capital city of the Greek island of Rhodes.
- 3. decree**
(di krē')

(n.) an order having the force of law; (v.) to issue such an order; to command firmly or forcefully
Caesar Augustus issued a _____ that all the world be taxed.
Why does nature always seem to _____ nasty weather for our annual family picnic?
- 4. discordant**
(dis kôr' dənt)

(adj.) disagreeable in sound, jarring; lacking in harmony
Their little spat struck a _____ note in our otherwise happy family get-together.
- 5. evolve**
(ē vālv')

(v.) to develop gradually; to rise to a higher level
Authors hope that their notes, descriptions, and character sketches will _____ into a book.
- 6. hover**
(həv' ər)

(v.) to float or hang suspended over; to move back and forth uncertainly over or around
A large group of vultures _____ in the air above the wounded animal.
- 7. preclude**
(prē klūd')

(v.) to make impossible, prevent, shut out
Three wrong answers will _____ any contestant from entering the quiz show's final round.
- 8. rubble**
(rəb' əl)

(n.) broken stone or bricks; ruins
Bulldozers and wrecking balls soon reduced the damaged building to a heap of smoking _____.

9. servile
(səv' vil)

(*adj.*) of or relating to a slave; behaving like or suitable for a slave or a servant, menial; lacking spirit or independence, abjectly submissive

Most serious performers prefer constructive criticism to _____ flattery.

10. wrangle
(ranj' gəl)

(*v.*) to quarrel or argue in a noisy, angry way; to obtain by argument; to herd; (*n.*) a noisy quarrel

My brother and sister always _____ over whose turn it is to take out the trash.

The customer got into a nasty _____ with the shopkeeper.



Using Context

For each item, determine whether the **boldface** word from pages 18–19 makes sense in the context of the sentence. Circle the item numbers next to the six sentences in which the words are used correctly.

1. No matter how intelligent you are, no one will want to work with you if you keep up that **servile** attitude and continue bossing others around.
2. The temperature continued to **hover** above freezing for a week before it plummeted.
3. When the principal entered the noisy auditorium, he wasted no time in issuing a **decree** that everyone be quiet.
4. While using an **adage** or two can be effective when making a point, you need to include some original thoughts as well.
5. I wonder how two people with such **discordant** personalities can remain friends.
6. Volunteers helped clean up the **rubble** after the hurricane struck the seaside town.
7. The teacher felt the students' enthusiasm **evolve** as she handed out the pop quiz.
8. That broken-down old cottage is as good as a **citadel**.
9. I'm not sure why the customer continues to shop here, since she always proceeds to **wrangle** with the salespeople over the cost and quality of the products.
10. When I saw how stressed and distracted my mother was, I was able to **preclude** that now was not the best time to ask for a raise in my allowance.

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 12–13 to see how most of these words are used in context. Note that the choices might be related forms of the Unit words.

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, the thirteen states (**hovered, wrangled**) so much that the nation seemed to be in danger of breaking up.
2. After I had broken curfew for the third time in one week, my angry parents (**precluded, decreed**) that I was grounded for the rest of the term.
3. A president needs advisors who will frankly explain what they really think, rather than just offer (**servile, discordant**) agreement and constant approval.
4. For weeks, an anxious world (**wrangled, hovered**) between war and peace as diplomats desperately struggled to resolve the crisis.
5. I have always regarded our colleges and universities as (**citadels, decrees**) of learning and bastions against ignorance and superstition.
6. The committee found it impossible to reach any agreement on the matter because the views of its members were so (**servile, discordant**).
7. The little club that they set up to talk over community problems (**evolved, precluded**) over the years into a national political organization.
8. I hate when people (**hover, wrangle**) over me when I'm on my computer.
9. As we searched through the (**rubble, citadel**) after the earthquake, it was heartbreaking to find such articles as a teakettle and a child's doll.
10. Every time he quotes an old (**rubble, adage**), he looks as though he has just had a brilliant new idea.
11. The fact that he was found guilty of a felony many years ago doesn't (**evolve, preclude**) his running for mayor.
12. After much (**wrangling, precluding**), the student council was able to convince the principal to give students more passing time between classes.



Completing the Sentence

Choose the word from the word bank that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word or form of the word in the space provided.

adage

decree

evolve

preclude

servile

citadel

discordant

hover

rubble

wrangle

1. Suddenly the _____ voices of two quarreling people burst upon my ears and jarred me out of my daydream.
2. During his eleven years of "personal rule," King Charles I of England bypassed Parliament and governed the country by royal _____.
3. As we discussed our coming vacation, we gradually _____ a plan for a bicycle trip through New England.
4. They had such a long _____ over the use of the bicycle that their mother finally forbade either of them from using it.
5. What is the exact wording of the _____ about early birds and worm-catching?
6. The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 was the first step in releasing African Americans from their _____ bonds.
7. On the ground, teams of paramedics administered first aid to the victims of the accident, while police helicopters _____ overhead.
8. After the walls of their city fell to the enemy, the inhabitants withdrew to the _____ and continued the struggle from there.
9. Before the new housing project could be built, it was necessary to tear down the old houses and remove the _____.
10. Your silly pride about doing everything on your own _____ your getting the help you need so badly.

Synonyms

Choose the word or form of the word from this Unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. kept a **lookout** while the soldiers slept
2. tried to **prohibit** further objections to the bill
3. **scrabble** for an answer to the question
4. crushed beneath many tons of **debris**
5. tried to attack the **fort** at midnight
6. **proclaimed** that there would be no more homework
7. annoyed by all that **fawning** attention
8. used an **extract** from the book for her report
9. became a **slowpoke** after her foot injury
10. an inspiring **motto** to live by
11. **returned** to old habits
12. received **acclaim** for an outstanding performance
13. **lingered** on the subject of his past mistakes
14. represented quite a **bonus** for the company
15. **shoved** the table so hard that it tipped over

Antonyms

Choose the word or form of the word from this Unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. surprised by the **melodious** ending of the piece
2. a theory that **shrivels** when put into practice
3. exhibit **courteous** behavior
4. decided to **work alone** on the project
5. refused to **concur** with his opponent on the issue

Writing: Words in Action

Do you think that teens should be expected to pitch in by getting jobs or doing chores or volunteer work? Write a brief essay in which you support your opinion with specific examples from your personal experience, reading (pages 12–13), and prior knowledge. Use three or more words from this Unit.

Vocabulary in Context

Some of the words you have studied in this Unit appear in **boldface** type. Read the passage below, and then circle the letter of the correct answer for each word as it is used in context.

For Americans keeping a worried **vigil** over the economy in 1933, recovery from the Great Depression was far from certain. After the stock market crash of 1929, unemployment soared to 25 percent. The desperate conditions in the United States were part of a worldwide economic crisis. The U.S. election of 1932 marked a turning point, with fresh leadership committed to a drastic rescue of economy.

In a popular **adage**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt told the country "we have nothing to fear but fear itself." His economic relief programs of the New Deal were known as "alphabet soup." The federal government established literally dozens of new agencies; each one of them was known by an abbreviation of its full name. Most of these agencies were not the product of presidential **decree** through an executive order, but instead were authorized and created by Congress. The force behind the majority of them, however, was Roosevelt.

None of these agencies became more famous than the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), created in 1933 to control floods, facilitate navigation, improve living standards, and produce electrical power in the Tennessee River region. This agency embarked on a massive program of building dams and flood-control projects, as well as hydroelectric generating stations. The TVA offered citizens of seven states a **bonanza** of benefits.

More than 80 years later, the TVA mission continues to **evolve**. The agency now focuses on clean nuclear energy and on environmental stewardship. Privately owned power companies have sounded some **discordant** notes regarding the TVA's production and sale of electrical power. However, the TVA is still widely respected.

- What is the meaning of **vigil** as it is used in paragraph 1?
 - forecast
 - watch
 - survey
 - summary
- What is the meaning of **adage** as it is used in paragraph 2?
 - proverb
 - paraphrase
 - acronym
 - jingle
- Decree** comes from the Latin word **decretum**. **Decretum** most likely means
 - surgery
 - reform
 - subsidy
 - decision
- The word **bonanza** means about the same as
 - stash
 - payback
 - windfall
 - drought
- Which word means the same as **evolve** as it is used in paragraph 4?
 - flare up
 - unfold
 - deflate
 - resound
- What does **discordant** most likely mean as it is used in paragraph 4?
 - agreeable
 - unanimous
 - grating
 - partial