

VOCABULARY

for the College-Bound Student

FOURTH EDITION



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Chapter
3

Building Vocabulary Through Central Ideas

One way to expand your vocabulary is to study words related to a central idea. For example, you can learn **bliss**, **delectable**, **ecstasy**, **elation**, and **jubilant** as “joy” words, and **chagrin**, **compunction**, **dejected**, **disconsolate**, and **lamentable** as “sorrow” words. Grouping lesson words in this way may make vocabulary study easier and more interesting.

Here are a few suggestions for getting the most out of this chapter.

1. Pay careful attention to each illustrative sentence. Then construct, at least in your mind, a similar sentence of your own.
2. Do the drill exercises thoughtfully, not mechanically. Review the words you miss.
3. Deliberately use your new vocabulary as soon as possible in appropriate situations—in chats with friends, class discussions, letters, and compositions. Only by exercising new words will you succeed in making them part of your active vocabulary. (For the meaning of the pronunciation symbols, see page 397.)

1. Joy, Pleasure

WORD

MEANING AND TYPICAL USE

bliss (*n.*)

'blis

perfect happiness

The young movie star could conceive of no greater *bliss* than winning an Oscar.

blissful (*adj.*)

'blis-fəl

very happy

The soldiers' reunion with their families was a *blissful* occasion.

blithe (*adj.*)

'blīth

1. merry; joyous

Our friends' *blithe* looks signaled that the final had been easy.

2. heedless

He was so enraptured with the scenery that he drove right through the intersection in *blithe* disregard of the Stop sign.

buoy (*v.*)

bòi

keep afloat; raise the spirits of; encourage

Your encouragement *buoyed* us and gave us hope.

buoyant (*adj.*)

'bòi-ənt

1. cheerful

We need your *buoyant* companionship to lift us from boredom.

2. able to float

The raft is sinking; it is not *buoyant*.

complacency (*n.*)

kəm-'plā-s'n-sē

self-satisfaction; smugness

Don't be too pleased with yourself; *complacency* is dangerous.

complacent (*adj.*)

kəm-'plā-s'nt

too pleased with oneself—often without awareness of possible dangers or defects; self-satisfied; smug

We should not be *complacent* about our security; we must be alert to potential threats.

convivial (*adj.*)

kən-'viv-ē-əl

fond of eating and drinking with friends; sociable

Our *convivial* host hates to dine alone.

conviviality (<i>n.</i>) ,kən-,vɪv-ē-'al-ə-tē	sociability We enjoy the <i>conviviality</i> of holiday get-togethers.
delectable (<i>adj.</i>) di-'lek-tə-bəl	very pleasing; delightful The food was <i>delectable</i> ; we enjoyed every morsel.
ecstasy (<i>n.</i>) 'ek-stə-sē	state of overwhelming joy; rapture If we win tomorrow, there will be <i>ecstasy</i> ; if we lose, gloom.
ecstatic (<i>adj.</i>) ek-'sta-tik	in ecstasy; enraptured The victors were <i>ecstatic</i> .
elated (<i>adj.</i>) i-'lāt-əd	in high spirits; joyful Except for my sister, who misses the old neighborhood, the family is <i>elated</i> with our new living quarters.
elation (<i>n.</i>) i-'lā-shən	state of being elated; euphoria Unfortunately, our <i>elation</i> was shortlived.
frolic (<i>v.</i>) 'frä-lik	play and run about happily; have fun; romp Very young children need a safe place to <i>frolic</i> .
frolicsome (<i>adj.</i>) 'frä-lik-səm	full of merriment; playful The clown's <i>frolicsome</i> antics amused the children.
gala (<i>adj.</i>) 'gā-lə	characterized by festivity The annual Mardi Gras in New Orleans is a <i>gala</i> carnival of parades and merriment.
jocund (<i>adj.</i>) 'jä-kənd	merry; cheerful; lighthearted Our neighbor is a <i>jocund</i> fellow who tells amusing anecdotes.
jubilant (<i>adj.</i>) 'jü-bə-lənt	showing great joy; rejoicing; exultant The defendant's friends are <i>jubilant</i> over her acquittal.
jubilation (<i>n.</i>) ,jü-bə-'lā-shən	rejoicing; exultation On election night, <i>jubilation</i> reigned at the victor's headquarters.

2. Sadness

<p>ascetic (<i>adj.</i>) ə-'se-tik</p>	<p>shunning pleasures; self-denying; austere The <i>ascetic</i> Puritans rigidly suppressed many forms of recreation.</p>
<p>ascetic (<i>n.</i>)</p>	<p>person who shuns pleasures and lives simply Carl never goes to the movies, plays, or parties. He must be an <i>ascetic</i>.</p>
<p>chagrin (<i>n.</i>) shə-'grin</p>	<p>embarrassment; mortification; disappointment Imagine my <i>chagrin</i> when I learned that I had not been invited to the party!</p>
<p>chagrined (<i>adj.</i>) shə-'grind</p>	<p>ashamed; mortified When my blunder was pointed out to me, I was deeply <i>chagrined</i>.</p>
<p>compunction (<i>n.</i>) kəm-'pʌŋ(k)-shən</p>	<p>regret; remorse; misgiving; qualm; scruple We had no <i>compunction</i> about turning in the old car because it had become undependable.</p>
<p>contrite (<i>adj.</i>) kən-'trīt</p>	<p>showing deep regret and sorrow for wrongdoing; deeply penitent; repentant; remorseful Believing the young offender to be <i>contrite</i>, the dean decided to give him another chance.</p>
<p>contrition (<i>n.</i>) kən-'trish-ən</p>	<p>repentance; remorse; penitence The ringleader showed no <i>contrition</i>, but his accomplices have expressed sorrow for their misdeeds.</p>
<p>dejected (<i>adj.</i>) di-'jek-təd</p>	<p>sad; in low spirits; depressed; downcast We are elated when our team wins, but <i>dejected</i> when it loses.</p>
<p>dejection (<i>n.</i>) di-'jek-shən</p>	<p>lowness of spirits; sadness; depression Cheer up. There is no reason for <i>dejection</i>.</p>
<p>disconsolate (<i>adj.</i>) dis-'kän-sə-lət</p>	<p>cheerless; inconsolable The mother could not stop her <i>disconsolate</i> son from sobbing over the loss of his dog.</p>

disgruntled (<i>adj.</i>) dis-'grən-t'ld	in bad humor; displeased; discontented From her <i>disgruntled</i> expression, I could tell she was not satisfied with my explanation.
doleful (<i>adj.</i>) 'dōl-fəl	causing grief or sadness; mournful; dolorous; lugubrious The refugee told a <i>doleful</i> tale of hunger and persecution.
glum (<i>adj.</i>) 'gləm	moody; gloomy; dour Emerging from the strike talks, the mayor was <i>glum</i> and refused to talk to reporters.
lament (<i>v.</i>) lə-'ment	mourn; deplore We <i>lament</i> the loss of life, and we sympathize with the victims' families.
lamentable (<i>adj.</i>) 'la-mən-tə-bəl	pitiable; rueful The reporter described the <i>lamentable</i> hardships of families living in war-torn Afghanistan.
maudlin (<i>adj.</i>) 'mōd-lən	weakly sentimental and tearful After singing a couple of <i>maudlin</i> numbers, the quartet was asked for something more cheerful.
nostalgia (<i>n.</i>) nä-'stal-jə	1. homesickness Toward the end of a vacation away from home, we usually experience a feeling of <i>nostalgia</i> . 2. yearning for the past In moments of <i>nostalgia</i> , I long for the good old days.
nostalgic (<i>adj.</i>) nä-'stal-jik	homesick When away from home for too long, we tend to become <i>nostalgic</i> .
pathetic (<i>adj.</i>) pə-'the-tik	arousing pity Despite his <i>pathetic</i> condition, the released hostage had a ready smile.

<p>pathos (<i>n.</i>) 'pā-thās</p>	<p>quality in events or in art (literature, music, etc.) that arouses our pity The young seamstress who precedes Sydney Carton to the guillotine adds to the <i>pathos</i> of A TALE OF TWO CITIES.</p>
<p>pensive (<i>adj.</i>) 'pen-siv</p>	<p>thoughtful in a sad way; melancholy Unlike her cheerful, outgoing sister, Elizabeth was <i>pensive</i> and shy.</p>
<p>plight (<i>n.</i>) 'plīt</p>	<p>unfortunate state; predicament Numerous offers of assistance were received after the <i>plight</i> of the distressed family was publicized.</p>
<p>poignant (<i>adj.</i>) 'poi-nyənt</p>	<p>painfully touching; piercing One of the most <i>poignant</i> scenes in MACBETH occurs when Macduff learns that his wife and children have been slaughtered.</p>
<p>sullen (<i>adj.</i>) 'sə-lən</p>	<p>resentfully silent; glum; morose; gloomy The <i>sullen</i> suspect refused to give his name and address.</p>
<p>throes (<i>n. pl.</i>) 'thrōz</p>	<p>anguish; pangs Fortunate are those who have never experienced the <i>throes</i> of separation from a loved one.</p>
<p>tribulation (<i>n.</i>) ,tri-byə-'lā-shən</p>	<p>suffering; distress The 1845 potato famine was a time of great <i>tribulation</i> in Ireland.</p>

3. Stoutness

<p>burly (<i>adj.</i>) 'bər-lē</p>	<p>strongly and heavily built; husky (<i>ant.</i> lank) Extra-large football uniforms were ordered to outfit our <i>burly</i> linemen.</p>
<p>buxom (<i>adj.</i>) 'bək-səm</p>	<p>plump and attractive Next to her thin city cousin, the farm girl looked radiant and <i>buxom</i>.</p>

cherubic (<i>adj.</i>) chə-'rū-bik	chubby and innocent-looking; like a <i>cherub</i> (angel in the form of a child) Your well-nourished nephew, despite his <i>cherubic</i> face, can be quite mischievous.
obese (<i>adj.</i>) ō-'bēs	extremely overweight; corpulent; portly (<i>ant.</i> skinny) For a long, healthy life, one should give up smoking and avoid becoming <i>obese</i> .
obesity (<i>n.</i>) ō-'bē-sə-tē	excessive body weight; corpulence Dieting under professional guidance may help reduce <i>obesity</i> .
pudgy (<i>adj.</i>) 'pə-jē	short and plump; chubby This ring is too small for a <i>pudgy</i> finger.

4. Thinness

attenuate (<i>v.</i>) ə-'ten-yə-,wāt	make thin; weaken Photographs of President Lincoln reveal how rapidly the cares of leadership aged and <i>attenuated</i> him.
emaciated (<i>adj.</i>) i-'mā-shē-,āt-əd	made unnaturally thin; abnormally lean because of starvation or illness (<i>ant.</i> fleshy) <i>Emaciated</i> by his illness, the patient found, on his recovery, that his clothes were too big.
haggard (<i>adj.</i>) 'ha-gərd	careworn; gaunt <i>Haggard</i> from their long ordeal, the rescued mountain climbers were rushed to the hospital for treatment and rest.
lank (<i>adj.</i>) 'lanjk	lean; ungracefully tall; lanky (<i>ant.</i> burly) Every basketball team longs for a <i>lank</i> , agile center who can control the boards.
svelte (<i>adj.</i>) 'svelt	slender; lithe Ballet dancers observe a strict diet to maintain their <i>svelte</i> figures.

5. Flattery

- adulation** (*n.*)
 ˌɑ-jə-ˈlā-shən
 excessive praise; flattery
 True leaders can distinguish sincere praise from blind *adulation*.
- blandishment** (*n.*)
 ˈblan-dish-mənt
 word or deed of mild flattery; allurements; enticement
 With terms of endearment, flowers, and other *blandishments*, Brian won Aliya over to his side.
- cajole** (*v.*)
 kə-ˈjōl
 persuade by pleasant words; wheedle; coax
 My sister *cajoled* Dad into raising her allowance.
- cajolery** (*n.*)
 kə-ˈjō-lə-rē
 persuasion by flattery; wheedling; coaxing
 The sly fox used *cajolery* to gain his ends.
- curry** (*v.*) **favor** (*n.*)
 ˈkər-ē ˈfā-və(r)
 seek to gain favor by flattery
 The candidate *curried favor* with the voters by praising their intelligence and patriotism.
- fulsome** (*adj.*)
 ˈfʊl-səm
 offensive because of insincerity; repulsive; disgusting
 The new chief basks in the *fulsome* praises of his deputy, who raves over his every decision, right or wrong.
- ingratiate** (*v.*)
 in-ˈgrā-shē-āt
 work (oneself) into favor
 By trying to respond to every question, the new pupil tried to *ingratiate* herself with the teacher.
- lackey** (*n.*)
 ˈla-kē
 follower who carries out another's wishes like a servant; toady
 The queen could never get a frank opinion from the *lackeys* surrounding her, for they would always agree with her.
- obsequious** (*adj.*)
 əb-ˈsē-kwē-əs
 showing excessive willingness to serve; subservient; fawning
 The *obsequious* subordinates vied with one another in politeness and obedience, each hoping to win the director's favor.

sycophant (*n.*)
'si-kə-fənt

parasitic flatterer; truckler

Many *sycophants* live off celebrities who enjoy flattery.

truckle (*v.*)
'trə-kəl

submit in a subservient manner to a superior; fawn; make a doormat of oneself

Some employees, unfortunately, gain promotion by *truckling* to their supervisors.

Apply What You Have Learned



EXERCISE 3.1: SYNONYMS

For each word or expression in column I, write the *letter* of its correct synonym from column II.

COLUMN I	COLUMN II
1. delightful	(A) predicament
2. arousing pity	(B) attenuated
3. plight	(C) nostalgia
4. mild flattery	(D) haggard
5. careworn	(E) delectable
6. self-denying	(F) bliss
7. perfect happiness	(G) lackey
8. weakened	(H) blandishment
9. subservient follower	(I) pathetic
10. homesickness	(J) ascetic



EXERCISE 3.2: UNRELATED WORDS

On your answer page, write the *letter* of the word unrelated in meaning to the other words on the line.

- (A) ecstatic (B) jubilant (C) rapturous (D) pensive
- (A) svelte (B) slender (C) slippery (D) lithe
- (A) comedian (B) lackey (C) flatterer (D) sycophant

4. (A) tribulation (B) insincerity (C) suffering (D) pangs
5. (A) cajolery (B) gloominess (C) dejection (D) melancholy
6. (A) elation (B) frolicsomeness (C) euphoria (D) adulation
7. (A) wheedle (B) attenuate (C) ingratiate (D) fawn
8. (A) pathos (B) pity (C) complacency (D) compassion
9. (A) portly (B) burly (C) buxom (D) contrite
10. (A) jovial (B) jocund (C) blithe (D) disconsolate



EXERCISE 3.3: CONCISE WRITING

Express the thought of each sentence below in no more than four words. The first sentence has been rewritten as a sample.

1. What is the reason for your being in bad humor?
Why are you disgruntled?
2. I was deeply regretful and full of sorrow for what I had done.
3. We look down on praise that is offered without sincerity.
4. Mom excels in the art of using pleasant words to persuade others.
5. They are altogether too willing to serve and obey their superiors.
6. The one who does the carpentry work is strongly and sturdily built.
7. Those who survived were little more than skin and bones.
8. The encouragement that we received from you brought our spirits up high.
9. A large number refused to take notice of the unfortunate situation that they saw we were in.
10. It is dangerous to be in a state of mind in which one is too satisfied with oneself.



EXERCISE 3.4: BRAINTEASERS

As clues to the complete word, you are given some of the letters and the number of missing letters. On your answer paper, write the complete word.

1. The workers are (6) **t e n t** (2) because they did not get a raise.
2. No one smiled. It was a(n) (6) **h o l y** occasion.

3. Whenever they try to (3) **r a t** (4) themselves with us, we suspect they are looking for a favor.
4. I was (3) **g r i n** (2), when I went to pay for my lunch, to find that I had left my money at home.
5. We have no (3) **p u n** (5) about not waiting for Sally because she has never waited for us.
6. The stolen car was in such **l a m e** (6) condition when it was recovered that its owner was moved to tears.
7. Anyone who enjoys adulation is an easy prey for (6) **a n t s**.
8. Don't expect them to cater to your wishes like servants. They are not your (3) **k e y s**.
9. This shop specializes in clothes for the tall and the (1) **o r** (3).
10. It is unwise to adopt a(n) (4) **t i c** lifestyle of "all work and no play."



EXERCISE 3.5: SENTENCE COMPLETION

On your answer paper, write the most appropriate word from the vocabulary list below that will correctly complete the sentence.

VOCABULARY LIST

poignant	cajole	tribulation
buxom	burly	emaciated
throes	pathos	gala
fulsome	jubilation	elated
obesity	remorse	glum

1. The ? movers lifted the piano with surprising ease.
2. After the game, there was wild ? as supporters rushed onto the field to congratulate their heroes.
3. Announcing the disappointing news, the President looked ?.
4. To a young child, a birthday is certainly a(n) ? occasion.
5. Newspapers reported the ? details of the futile rescue attempt.
6. The new supervisor was repelled by the ? compliments of some of her subordinates.
7. When Mr. Norwood was stopped for a traffic violation, he tried to ? the officer into not writing a ticket.
8. The ? appearance of the liberated prisoners shocked the world.

9. At the trial, one of the suspects wept repeatedly; the other showed no ?.
10. Many people watch their diets and exercise regularly to avoid ?.



EXERCISE 3.6: COMPOSITION

Answer in a sentence or two.

1. Who is more likely to do well in a marathon, a lank runner or a burly one? Why?
2. Give an example of something that can be done to buoy the spirits of a dejected friend.
3. Name two delectable foods that may have to be given up for a svelte waistline, and suggest substitutes for those foods.
4. If you accidentally hurt someone, would you be complacent or contrite? Explain.
5. Would you enjoy working for a company where some of the employees are obsequious and truckle to the boss? Explain.



EXERCISE 3.7: ANALOGIES

Write the *letter* of the pair of words related to each other in the same way as the capitalized pair.

SAMPLE

ECSTASY : JOY

a. thrift : wealth

b. certainty : doubt

c. fondness : adoration

d. terror : fear

e. frigid : cold

SOLUTION

The first step is to find the relationship in the capitalized pair. As you have learned, ECSTASY is a state of overwhelming JOY. If you designate ECSTASY by the letter X, and JOY by the letter Y, you can express the ECSTASY : JOY relationship by saying, "X is a state of overwhelming Y."

The second step is to check if this relationship holds in pairs *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, or *e*. Here's how you might check each choice.

- a.* thrift : wealth
Thrift is a means by which one may acquire *wealth*. *Thrift* is NOT a state of overwhelming *wealth*.
- b.* certainty : doubt
Certainty is the opposite of *doubt*. It is definitely NOT a state of overwhelming *doubt*.
- c.* fondness : adoration
Fondness is a much milder expression of liking than *adoration*. Note that the trouble with this pair is the order. If it were reversed (adoration : fondness), this pair would be a correct answer because *adoration* is a state of overwhelming *fondness*.
- d.* terror : fear
Terror is a state of overwhelming *fear*. This choice looks very good; even so, check the final pair.
- e.* frigid : cold
Frigid is overwhelmingly *cold*. The relationship is correct, making both *d* and *e* "finalists."

So, here, a third step is needed: find a way in which one "finalist" better mirrors the original, capitalized pair. Thus, in the original pair, note that ECSTASY and JOY are nouns. But in *e*, *frigid* and *cold* are adjectives. On the other hand, *terror* and *fear* in *d* are both nouns. This, plus the fact that *terror* is a state of overwhelming *fear*, makes *d* the correct choice.

1. NOSTALGIA : PAST

- a.* regret : deed
- b.* yearning : eternity
- c.* anticipation : future
- d.* absence : presence
- e.* memory : forgetfulness

2. SYCOPHANT : SINCERITY

- a.* thief : cleverness
- b.* deceiver : truth
- c.* coward : fear
- d.* friend : loyalty
- e.* hero : courage

3. ASCETIC : PLEASURE

- a.* politician : votes
- b.* plant : light
- c.* scientist : truth
- d.* root : water
- e.* hermit : society

4. FOOD : OBESITY

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| a. slip : fall | d. rainfall : flood |
| b. spark : explosion | e. landslide : earthquake |
| c. fatigue : work | |

5. DISCONSOLATE : CHEER

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. intrepid : fear | d. frolicsome : merriment |
| b. compassionate : sympathy | e. plaintive : sorrow |
| c. repentant : regret | |

GOING OVER THE ANSWERS

Since this is the first exercise in analogies, check your answers with the following, paying careful attention to the reasoning involved.

RELATIONSHIP OF X AND Y

ANSWER AND EXPLANATION

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Nostalgia</i> is a yearning for the <i>past</i> . | c. <i>Anticipation</i> is a yearning for the <i>future</i> . |
| 2. A <i>sycophant</i> makes a pretense of <i>sincerity</i> . | b. A <i>deceiver</i> makes a pretense of <i>truth</i> . |
| 3. An <i>ascetic</i> shuns <i>pleasure</i> . | e. A <i>hermit</i> shuns <i>society</i> . |
| 4. <i>Food</i> in excess may cause <i>obesity</i> . | d. <i>Rainfall</i> in excess may cause a <i>flood</i> . |
| 5. A <i>disconsolate</i> person is without <i>cheer</i> . | a. An <i>intrepid</i> person is without <i>fear</i> . |

6. Animal

WORD

MEANING AND TYPICAL USE

apiary (*n.*)
'ā-pē-,er-ē

place where bees are kept
A beekeeper maintains an *apiary*.

aviary (*n.*)
'ā-vē-,er-ē

place where birds are kept
Don't miss the birds-of-prey exhibit in the zoo's *aviary*.