

UNIT ONE

PHOT/ PHOS

Greek PHOS, PHOTOS “light”

PHOTOTROPIC (fō tō trō’ pik) *adj.* Tending to grow or move towards light

G. photos + tropein, “to turn” = *to turn toward the light*

Because they are *phototropic*, daisies always grow towards the sun.

PHOSPHOTESCENT (fos fə res’ ənt) *adj.* Giving off light without heat

G. phos + phorein, “to bear” = *light-bearing*

Harvey stuck *phosphorescent* stars on his ceiling so that it would resemble the nighttime sky.

PHOTOGENIC (fō tə jen’ ik) *adj.* Attractive in pictures or photographs

G. photos + genic, “suitable for” = *suitable for photographs*

Lucy was so *photogenic* that total strangers often asked to take her picture.

LUC

Latin LUX, LUCIS “light”

■ *The official motto of Yale University is “Lux et Veritas” – “Light and Truth.”*

LUCID (lōō’ sid) *adj.* Easy to understand; clear

Sophie’s explanation of quantum physics was so *lucid* that I understood everything.

syn: comprehensible *ant:* confusing

ELUCIDATE (ē lōō’ si dāt) *v.* To make clear by explaining

L. e, “from,” + lucis = *to bring light from*

The attorney asked the witness to further *elucidate* the information he had.

syn: clarify *ant:* confuse

TRANSLUCENT (trâns lōō’ sənt) *adj.* Allowing light to pass through

L. trans, “through,” + lucis = *light passing through*

Through a *translucent* blue cloth draped over the window, we could see the sun.

syn: semi-transparent

SPEC/SPECT

Latin SPECERE, SPECTUM “to look at”

CIRCUMSPECT (sûr' kəm spekt) *adj.* Careful; mindful of rules and consequences

L. circum, “around,” + spectum = *looking around*

The marchers in the protest tried to be *circumspect* and not break any laws.

syn: prudent *ant:* reckless

PROSPECT (pros' pekt) *n.* That which is expected

L. pro, “forward,” + spectum = *looked forward to*

The *prospect* of a trip to the dentist with my bratty kid brother was hardly thrilling.

SPECTER (spek' tər) *n.* A ghost or phantom Hattie seemed to see a *specter* in every corner of the dark house.

■ *The word specter, in addition to describing the kind of ghost that haunts a place, can describe anything that haunts or preoccupies someone. For example, the specter of war might haunt an uneasy world.*



HECTOR the SPECTER was host of the ghost party.

VID/VIS

Latin VIDERE, VISUM “to see, to look”

INVIDIOUS (in vid' ē əs) *adj.* Hateful or spiteful

L. in, “against,” + videre = *to look against*

One candidate made an *invidious* speech against his opponent.

syn: defamatory *ant:* pleasant

PROVIDENTIAL (prâ və den' shəl) *adj.* Happening by good fortune

L. pro, "forward," + videre = *to look forward*

Through a *providential* series of events, Nigel found himself manager of the company.

syn: fortunate *ant*: unlucky

■ Providence is literally the ability to see in advance, so the word is sometimes used as a synonym for "God." Prudence is a related word that means "carefulness."

IMPROVISE (im' prə vīz) *v.* To create without any forethought or preparation

L. in, "not," + pro, "forward," + visum = *not seen in advance*

When Carl lost the cards with his speech on them, he was forced to *improvise*.

ant: plan

EXERCISES - UNIT ONE

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

1. When Roger saw the *specter* lurking in the corner, he reacted by...
 2. I found Charlie a rather *invidious* character because he was always...
 3. The actor had to *improvise* his lines because he...
 4. I like to say jokingly that my cat is *phototropic* because she always...
 5. Nina tried to *elucidate* the meaning of the poem by...
 6. Buck savored the *prospect* of the nature walk because...
 7. Because he was not considered very *photogenic*, Sven...
 8. The headdress was woven of a beautiful *translucent* silk that...
 9. Unless something extraordinarily *providential* happens before the swim meet, we...
 10. Tom thinks the reason Gerald's explanations are so *lucid* is...
 11. Carl was usually *circumspect* when choosing stocks and bonds because...
 12. One of the *phosphorescent* gemstones can be identified by...
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Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

providential circumspect photogenic translucent improvise

1. The delicate, _____ ribbons in the girl's hair seemed to glow.
2. When my first strategy didn't work, I had to _____ a new one.
3. Even the most _____ people don't look attractive in overdeveloped pictures.
4. The one _____ occurrence in Ralph's life was his discovery of the ancient tomb.

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

invective invidious phototropic specter phosphorescent

5. Scientists were amazed to discover that the plant was not _____ at all, and could grow in total darkness.

6. Dawn can be quite _____ at times; she has started several nasty rumors.
7. The _____ wandered the halls of the aged mansion in search of a resident to frighten.
8. The _____ fish emitted a faint glow even at the bottom of the dark sea.

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

lucid prospect inspect elucidate circumspect

9. If you are more _____ about your finances, you won't be out of money at the end of the month.
10. Nick can discuss and analyze history in a clear and _____ manner.
11. While trying to _____ the book's theme, I made some interesting discoveries.
12. The _____ of spending the winter on a tropical island was thrilling to Rebecca.

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

sentence.

1. After George _____ his plan, the _____ of climbing the mountain became more appealing to me.
 - A. photogenic; lucid
 - B. elucidated; prospect
 - C. phototropic; lucid
 - D. improvised; translucent
2. Daria was upset that she could not provide a(n) _____ explanation of her encounter with the _____ in the old mansion.
 - A. providential; prospect
 - B. prospect; introspective
 - C. lucid; specter
 - D. spectrum; invidious
3. The _____ discovery of a new _____ organism helped researchers, who were doing work on light and biology, make a long-desired breakthrough.
 - A. photogenic; circumspect
 - B. invidious; circumspect
 - C. providential; phototropic

D. lucid; phototropic

4. Although the actor thought he did an excellent job _____ his lines, he received several _____ reviews the next day.
 - A. elucidating; lucid
 - B. spectrum; provisional
 - C. elucidating; translucent
 - D. improvising; invidious
5. Even my modest, _____ grandmother became as excited as a child when she saw the _____ white silk with which we would make the dress.
 - A. providential; improvise
 - B. circumspect; lucid
 - C. circumspect; translucent
 - D. invidious; phototropic

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by drawing an inference about the italicized word.

1. If your neighbor becomes *invidious*, you may conclude that...
 2. When a substitute teacher *improvises* a schedule, we can assume...
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3. When buying a new car, it's best to be *circumspect* because...

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.

For nearly two centuries, a man's appearance had no effect on his candidacy for President of the United States. George Washington, the father of our country, had wooden teeth. Because of a severe visual disability, James Buchanan tended to lean his head to the side. Abraham Lincoln, although known for his height, did not have the sort of _____ (PHOT) face that would attract interest on television. William Howard Taft was a Supreme Court Justice as well as President, but he also weighed over 400 pounds. Franklin Delano Roosevelt could not walk, but his confinement to a wheelchair remained unknown to the public because he communicated with the nation primarily through radio addresses.

All of this changed with the 1960 presidential election, a tight contest between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. The tradition of debate between candidates is a rich one in American history, but never before had one of these debates appeared on television. According to reports of the time, Senator Kennedy appeared much more at ease than his rival. Kennedy used cosmetics to emphasize his suntan, and his confidence and bright smile clearly impressed the television audience. His ability to _____ (VIS) in the middle of this heated debate made him seem collected and relaxed. Vice President Nixon, on the other hand, did not fare well with his makeup. His pale complexion was not suited to television lights, his need for a shave showed through the makeup, and, as the debate went on, he began to sweat. His forced smile and nervous movements also made him appear defensive and confused.

After the debate, two separate polls were taken, one of radio audiences and the other of television viewers. Both asked the same question: Who do you think won the debate? The results were striking. The radio audience thought that Vice President Nixon had won the debate, while the television viewers thought that Senator Kennedy had won. This difference _____ (LUC) an important point about human nature: what we see, more than any other sense, greatly influences our opinions of other people. Clearly, a visual impression of a leader also affects the choice we make at the polls.

1. Which of the following is a SYNONYM of "confinement" as it is used in the first paragraph?
 - A. pregnancy
 - B. restriction
 - C. insanity
 - D. disability
2. Which of the following BEST summarizes the main idea of this essay?
 - A. Tall presidents tend to perform better in office than short ones.
 - B. Physical appearance accurately indicates Presidential performance.
 - C. The visual sense seems to dominate all other senses in creating ideas about a public figure.
 - D. The television age made people more superficial in their judgments.
3. Why did the television audience think that Kennedy had won the debate?

- A. Kennedy had a less confident voice than Nixon on the radio.
- B. Kennedy seemed to dislike speaking on the radio.
- C. Nixon appeared less confident on television than Kennedy.
- D. Both Kennedy and Nixon showed excellent debating skills.

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.

When she took to the photographer's stool, the entire class was silenced. Lucinda was the loveliest girl in her school; the camera seemed to adore her. In every portrait, her *visage* was as bright and clear as that of an angel. Everyone who saw the pictures said that her face glowed with enthusiasm and *speculated* as to why this might be the case.

UNIT TWO

NUNC/NOUNC

Latin NUNTIARE, NUNTIATUM "to announce"

ENUNCIATE (ē nun' sē āt) *v.* To pronounce or articulate

L. e, "out of," + nuntiatum = to *announce out of*

The spelling bee contestant was asked to *enunciate* so that the judges could understand what she was saying.

syn: articulate *ant:* mumble

■ *Some Christians believe that the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she would be the mother of Christ. This event is known as the Annunciation (ad, "toward," + nuntiatum).*

RENOUNCE (ri nouns') *v.* To reject by declaration

L. re, "back," + nuntiatum = to *go back on an announcement*

In order to become a member of the fraternity, Jeff had to *renounce* his