

7

HOW TO TALK ABOUT LIARS AND LYING

(Sessions 14–17)

TEASER PREVIEW

What kind of liar are you if you:
have developed a reputation for falsehood?
are particularly skillful?
cannot be reformed?
have become habituated to your vice?
started to lie from the moment of your birth?
always lie?
cannot distinguish fact from fancy?
suffer no pangs of conscience?
are suspiciously smooth and fluent in your lying?
tell vicious lies?

SESSION 14

It was the famous Greek philosopher and cynic Diogenes who went around the streets of Athens, lantern in hand, looking for an honest person.

This was over two thousand years ago, but I presume that Diogenes would have as little success in his search today. Lying seems to be an integral weakness of mortal character—I doubt that few human beings would be so brash as to claim that they have never in their lives told at least a partial untruth. Indeed, one philologist goes so far as to theorize that language must have been invented for the sole purpose of deception. Perhaps so. It is certainly true that animals seem somewhat more honest than humans, maybe because they are less gifted mentally.

Why do people lie? To increase their sense of importance, to escape punishment, to gain an end that would otherwise be denied them, out of long-standing habit, or sometimes because they actually do not know the difference between fact and fancy. These are the common reasons for falsification. No doubt there are other, fairly unique, motives that impel people to distort the truth. And, to come right down to it, can we always be certain what is true and what is false?

If lying is a prevalent and all-too-human phenomenon, there would of course be a number of interesting words to describe different types of liars.

Let us pretend (not to get personal, but only to help you become personally involved in the ideas and words) that you are a liar.

The question is, what kind of liar *are* you?

IDEAS

1. you don't fool even some of the people

Everybody knows your propensity for avoiding facts. You have built so solid and unsavory a reputation that only a stranger is likely to be misled—and then, not for long.

A notorious liar

2. to the highest summits of artistry

Your ability is top-drawer—rarely does anyone lie as convincingly or as artistically as you do. Your skill has, in short, reached the zenith of perfection. Indeed, your mastery of the art is so great that your lying is almost always crowned with success—and you have no trouble seducing an unwary listener into believing that you are telling gospel truth.

A consummate liar

3. beyond redemption or salvation

You are impervious to correction. Often as you may be caught in your fabrications, there is no reforming you—you go right on lying despite the punishment, embarrassment, or unhappiness that your distortions of truth may bring upon you.

An incorrigible liar

4. too old to learn new tricks

You are the victim of firmly fixed and deep-rooted habits. Telling untruths is as frequent and customary an activity as brushing your teeth in the morning, or having toast and coffee for breakfast, or lighting up a cigarette after dinner (if you are a smoker). And almost as reflexive.

An inveterate liar

5. an early start

You have such a long history of persistent falsification that one can only suspect that your vice started when you were reposing in your mother's womb. In other words, and allowing for a great deal of exaggeration for effect, you have been lying from the moment of your birth.

A congenital liar

6. no letup

You never stop lying. While normal people lie on occasion, and often for special reasons, you lie continually—not occasionally or even frequently, but over and over.

A chronic liar

7. a strange disease

You are not concerned with the difference between truth and falsehood; you do not bother to distinguish fact from fantasy. In fact, your lying is a disease that no antibiotic can cure.

A pathological liar

8. no regrets

You are completely without a conscience. No matter what misery your fabrications may cause your innocent victims, you never feel the slightest twinge of guilt. Totally unscrupulous, you are a dangerous person to get mixed up with.

An *unconscionable* liar

9. smooth!

Possessed of a lively imagination and a ready tongue, you can distort facts as smoothly and as effortlessly as you can say your name. But you do not always get away with your lies.

Ironically enough, it is your very smoothness that makes you suspect: your answers are too quick to be true. Even if we can't immediately catch you in your lies, we have learned from unhappy past experience not to suspend our critical faculties when you are talking. We admire your nimble wit, but we listen with a skeptical ear.

A *glib* liar

10. outstanding!

Lies, after all, are bad—they are frequently injurious to other people, and may have a particularly dangerous effect on you as a liar. At best, if you are caught you suffer some embarrassment. At worst, if you succeed in your deception your character becomes warped and your sense of values suffers. Almost all lies are harmful; some are no less than vicious.

If you are one type of liar, *all* your lies are vicious—calculatedly, predeterminedly, coldly, and advisedly vicious. In short, your lies are so outstandingly hurtful that people gasp in amazement and disgust at hearing them.

An *egregious* liar

In this chapter the ten basic words revolve rather closely around a central core. Each one, however, has a distinct, a unique meaning, a special implication. Note the differences.

TYPE OF LIAR	SPECIAL IMPLICATION
1. <i>notorious</i>	<i>famous</i> —or <i>infamous</i> —for lying; tendency to falsify is <i>well-known</i>
2. <i>consummate</i>	great <i>skill</i>
3. <i>incorrigible</i>	too far gone to be <i>reformed</i> — <i>impervious to rehabilitation</i>
4. <i>inveterate</i>	lying has become a <i>deep-rooted habit</i>
5. <i>congenital</i>	lying had <i>very early beginnings</i> —as if <i>from birth</i>
6. <i>chronic</i>	<i>over and over</i>
7. <i>pathological</i>	an irresistible <i>compulsion</i> to lie—often for no rational reason; lying is a <i>disease</i>
8. <i>unconscionable</i>	<i>lack of regret or remorse</i>
9. <i>glib</i>	great <i>smoothness</i>
10. <i>egregious</i>	<i>viciousness</i> of the lies

These ten expressive adjectives, needless to say, are not restricted to lying or liars. Note their general meanings:

1. <i>notorious</i>	well-known for some bad quality—a <i>notorious</i> philanderer
2. <i>consummate</i>	perfect, highly skilled— <i>consummate</i> artistry at the keyboard
3. <i>incorrigible</i>	beyond reform—an <i>incorrigible</i> optimist long-accustomed, deeply habituated—an <i>inveterate</i> smoker (this adjective, like
4. <i>inveterate</i>	

	<i>notorious</i> , usually has an unfavorable connotation)
5. <i>congenital</i>	happening at or during birth—a <i>congenital</i> deformity
6. <i>chronic</i>	going on for a long time, or occurring again and again— <i>chronic</i> appendicitis
7. <i>pathological</i>	diseased—a <i>pathological</i> condition
8. <i>unconscionable</i>	without pangs of conscience— <i>unconscionable</i> cruelty to children
9. <i>glib</i>	smooth, suspiciously fluent—a <i>glib</i> witness
10. <i>egregious</i>	outstandingly bad or vicious—an <i>egregious</i> error

With the exception of *consummate* and *congenital*, all ten adjectives have strongly derogatory implications and are generally used to describe people, characteristics, or conditions we disapprove of.

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <i>notorious</i> | nə-TAWR'-ee-əs |
| 2. <i>consummate</i> | KAHN'-sə-mət |
| 3. <i>incorrigible</i> | in-KAWR'-ə-jə-bəl |

4. <i>inveterate</i>	in-VET'-ə-rət
5. <i>congenital</i>	kən-JEN'-ə-təl
6. <i>chronic</i>	KRON'-ik
7. <i>pathological</i>	path'-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl
8. <i>unconscionable</i>	un-KON'-shə-nə-bəl
9. <i>glib</i>	GLIB
10. <i>egregious</i>	ə-GREE'-jəs

Can you work with the words?

1. notorious	a. beyond reform
2. consummate	b. continuing over a long period of time; recurring
3. incorrigible	c. diseased
4. inveterate	d. from long-standing habit
5. congenital	e. suspiciously smooth
6. chronic	f. without conscience or scruples
7. pathological	g. outstandingly bad or vicious
8. unconscionable	h. unfavorably known
9. glib	i. from birth
10. egregious	j. finished, perfect, artistic

KEY: 1–h, 2–j, 3–a, 4–d, 5–i, 6–b, 7–c, 8–f, 9–e, 10–g

Do you understand the words?

Do people become *notorious* for good acts?

YES NO

Is Beethoven considered a *consummate* musical genius?

YES NO

If a criminal is truly *incurable*, is there any point in attempting rehabilitation?

YES NO

Does an *inveterate* smoker smoke only occasionally?

YES NO

Is a *congenital* deformity one that occurs late in life?

YES NO

Is a *chronic* invalid ill much of the time?

YES NO

Is a *pathological* condition normal and healthy?

YES NO

If a person commits an *unconscionable* act of cruelty, is there any regret, remorse, or guilt?

YES NO

Is a *glib* talker awkward and hesitant in speech?

YES NO

Is an *egregious* error very bad?

YES NO

KEY: 1–no, 2–yes, 3–no, 4–no, 5–no, 6–yes, 7–no, 8–no, 9–no, 10–yes

Can you recall the words?

outstandingly vicious; so bad as to be in a class by itself

1. E _____

starting at birth

2. C _____

happening over and over again; continuing for a long time

3. C _____

widely and unfavorably known (as for antisocial acts, character weaknesses, immoral or unethical behavior, etc.)

4. N _____

beyond correction

5. I _____

smooth and persuasive; unusually, almost suspiciously, fluent

6. G _____

long addicted to a habit

7. I _____

perfect in the practice of an art; extremely skillful

8. C _____

unscrupulous; entirely without conscience

9. U _____

diseased

10. P _____

KEY: 1–egregious, 2–congenital, 3–chronic, 4–notorious, 5–incorrigible, 6–glib, 7–inveterate, 8–consummate, 9–unconscionable, 10–pathological

Can you use the words?

As a result of the tests you are taking, you are becoming more and more familiar with these ten valuable and expressive words. Now, as a further check on your learning, write the word that best fits each blank.

1. This person has gambled, day in and day out, for as long as anyone can remember—gambling has become a deep-rooted habit.
1. An _____ gambler
2. Born with a clubfoot
2. A _____ deformity
3. Someone known the world over for criminal acts
3. A _____ criminal
4. An invading army kills, maims, and tortures without mercy, compunction, or regret.
4. _____ acts of cruelty
5. The suspect answers the detective's questions easily, fluently, almost too smoothly.
5. _____ responses
6. A person reaches the acme of perfection as an actress or actor.
6. A _____ performer
7. No one can change someone's absurdly romantic attitude toward life.
7. An _____ romantic
8. A mistake so bad that it defies description

8. An _____ blunder
9. Drunk almost all the time, again and again and again—periods of sobriety are few and very, very far between
9. A _____ alcoholic
10. Doctors find a persistent, dangerous infection in the bladder
10. A _____ condition

KEY: 1–inveterate, 2–congenital, 3–notorious, 4–unconscionable, 5–glib, 6–consummate, 7–incorrigible, 8–egregious, 9–chronic, 10–pathological

(End of Session 14)

SESSION 15

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. well-known

“Widely but unfavorably known” is the common definition for *notorious*. Just as a *notorious* liar is well-known for unreliable statements, so a *notorious* gambler, a *notorious* thief, or a *notorious* killer has achieved a wide reputation for some form of antisocial behavior. The noun is *notoriety* (nō-tə-RĪ'-ə-tee).

The derivation is from Latin *notus*, known, from which we also get *noted*. It is an interesting characteristic of some words that a change of syllables can alter the emotional impact. Thus, an admirer of certain business executives will speak of them as “*noted* industrialists”; these same people’s enemies will call them “*notorious* exploiters.” Similarly, if we admire a man’s or a woman’s unworldliness, we refer to it by the complimentary term *childlike*; but if we are annoyed by the trait, we describe it, derogatively, as *childish*. Change “-like” to “-ish” and our emotional tone undergoes a complete reversal.

2. plenty of room at the top

The top of a mountain is called, as you know, the *summit*, a word derived from Latin *summus*, highest, which also gives us the mathematical term *sum*, as in addition. A *consummate* artist has reached the very highest point of perfection; and to *consummate* (KAHN'-sə-mət) a marriage, a business deal, or a contract is, etymologically, to bring it to the highest point; that is, to put the

final touches to it, to bring it to completion.

[Note how differently *consummate* (KAHN'-sə-mət), the adjective, is pronounced from the verb to *consummate* (KAHN'-sə-mət)].

Nouns are formed from adjectives by the addition of the noun suffix *-ness*: *sweet*—*sweetness*; *simple*—*simpleness*; *envious*—*enviousness*; etc.

Many adjectives, however, have alternate noun forms, and the adjective *consummate* is one of them. To make a noun out of *consummate*, add either *-ness* or *-acy*; *consummateness* (KAHN'-sə-mət-nəs) or *consummacy* (KAHN'-sə-mə-see).

Verbs ending in *-ate* invariably tack on the noun suffix *-ion* to form nouns: *create*—*creation*; *evaluate*—*evaluation*; etc.

Can you write the noun form of the verb to *consummate*?

3. no help

Call people *incorrigible* (in-KAWR'-ə-jə-bəl) if they do anything to excess, and if all efforts to correct or reform them are to no avail. Thus, one can be an *incorrigible* idealist, an *incorrigible* criminal, an *incorrigible* optimist, or an *incorrigible* philanderer. The word derives from Latin *corrigo*, to correct or set straight, plus the negative prefix *in-*. (This prefix, depending on the root it precedes, may be negative, may intensify the root, as in *invaluable*, or may mean *in*.)

The noun is *incorrigibility* (in-kawr'-ə-jə-BIL'-ə-tee) or, alternatively, *incorrigibleness*.

4. veterans

Inveterate, from Latin *vetus*, old,¹ generally indicates disapproval.

Inveterate gamblers have grown old in the habit, etymologically speaking; *inveterate* drinkers have been imbibing for so long that they, too, have formed old, well-established habits; and *inveterate* liars have been lying for so long, and their habits are by now so

deep-rooted, that one can scarcely remember (the word implies) when they ever told the truth.

The noun is *inveteracy* (in-VET'-ər-ə-see) or *inveterateness*.

A *veteran* (VET'-ə-rən), as of the Armed Forces, grew older serving the country; otherwise a *veteran* is an old hand at the game (and therefore skillful). The word is both a noun and an adjective: a *veteran* at (or in) swimming, tennis, police work, business, negotiations, diplomacy—or a *veteran* actor, teacher, diplomat, political reformer.

5. birth

Greek *genesis*, birth or origin, a root we discovered in discussing *psychogenic* ([Chapter 5](#)), is the source of a great many English words.

Genetics (jə-NET'-iks) is the science that treats of the transmission of hereditary characteristics from parents to offspring. The scientist specializing in the field is a *geneticist* (jə-NET'-ə-sist), the adjective is *genetic* (jə-NET'-ik). The particle in the chromosome of the germ cell containing a hereditary characteristic is a *gene* (JEEN).

Genealogy (jeen'-ee-AL'-ə-jee) is the study of family trees or ancestral origins (*logos*, study). The practitioner is a *genealogist* (jeen'-ee-AL'-ə-jist). Can you form the adjective? _____. (And can you pronounce it?)

The *genital* (GEN'-ə-təl), or sexual, organs are involved in the process of conception and birth. The *genesis* (JEN'-ə-sis) of anything—a plan, idea, thought, career, etc.—is its beginning, birth, or origin, and *Genesis*, the first book of the Old Testament, describes the creation, or birth, of the universe.

Congenital is constructed by combining the prefix *con-*, with or together, and the root *genesis*, birth.

So a *congenital* defect, deformity, condition, etc. occurs during the nine-month birth process (or period of gestation, to become technical). *Hereditary* (hə-RED'-ə-tair'-ee) characteristics, on the other hand, are acquired at the moment of conception. Thus, eye

color, nose shape, hair texture, and other such qualities are *hereditary*; they are determined by the *genes* in the germ cells of the mother and father. But a thalidomide baby resulted from the use of the drug by a pregnant woman, so the deformities were *congenital*.

Congenital is used both literally and figuratively. Literally, the word generally refers to some medical deformity or abnormality occurring during gestation. Figuratively, it wildly exaggerates, for effect, the very early existence of some quality: *congenital* liar, *congenital* fear of the dark, etc.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT	MEANING
1. <i>notus</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	known
2. <i>summus</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	highest
3. <i>corrigō</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	to correct, set straight
4. <i>vetus</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	old
5. <i>senex</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	old
6. <i>genesis</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	birth, origin
7. <i>logos</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	science, study

8. *in-*

negative prefix

ENGLISH WORD _____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>notoriety</i> | nō-tə-RĪ'-ə-tee |
| 2. <i>to consummate</i> (v.) | KON'-sə-mayt' |
| 3. <i>consummacy</i> | kən-SUM'-ə-see |
| 4. <i>consummation</i> | kon'-sə-MAY'-shən |
| 5. <i>incorrigibility</i> | in-kawr'-ə-jə-BIL'-ə-tee |
| 6. <i>inveteracy</i> | in-VET'-ə-rə-see |
| 7. <i>veteran</i> | VET'-ə-rən |
| 8. <i>genetics</i> | jə-NET'-iks |
| 9. <i>geneticist</i> | jə-NET'-ə-sist |
| 10. <i>genetic</i> | jə-NET'-ik |
| 11. <i>gene</i> | JEEN |
| 12. <i>genealogy</i> | jee'-nee-AL'-ə-jee |
| 13. <i>genealogist</i> | jee'-nee-AL'-ə-jist |
| 14. <i>genealogical</i> | jee'-nee-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl |
| 15. <i>genital</i> | JEN'-ə-təl |
| 16. <i>genesis</i> | JEN'-ə-sis |
| 17. <i>hereditary</i> | hə-RED'-ə-tair'-ee |

Can you work with the words?

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. notoriety | a. state of artistic height |
| 2. to consummate (v.) | b. state of being long established in a habit |
| 3. consummacy | c. beginning, origin |
| 4. incorrigibility | d. science of heredity |
| 5. inveteracy | e. bring to completion; top off |
| 6. genetics | f. study of ancestry |
| 7. genealogy | g. referring to characteristics passed on to offspring by parents |
| 8. genital | h. referring to reproduction, or to the reproductive or sexual organs |
| 9. genesis | i. ill fame |
| 10. hereditary | j. particle that transmits hereditary characteristics |
| 11. gene | k. state of being beyond reform or correction |

KEY: 1-i, 2-e, 3-a, 4-k, 5-b, 6-d, 7-f, 8-h, 9-c, 10-g, 11-j

Do you understand the words?

Does *notoriety* usually come to perpetrators of mass murders?

YES NO

Is the product of a *consummately* skillful counterfeiter likely to be taken as genuine?

YES NO

Is *incurability* in a criminal a sign that rehabilitation is possible?

YES NO

Is a *geneticist* interested in your parents' characteristics?

YES NO

Does *inveteracy* suggest that a habit is new?

YES NO

When you *consummate* a deal, do you back out of it?

YES NO

Is a *veteran* actress long experienced at her art?

YES NO

Do *genes* determine heredity?

YES NO

Is a *genealogist* interested in your family origins?

YES NO

Are the *genital* organs used in reproduction?

YES NO

Is the *genesis* of something the final point?

YES NO

Are *hereditary* characteristics derived from parents?

YES NO

KEY: 1–yes, 2–yes, 3–no, 4–yes, 5–no, 6–no, 7–yes, 8–yes, 9–yes,
10–yes, 11–no, 12–yes

Can you recall the words?

sexual; reproductive

1. G _____

to complete

2. C _____

wide and unfavorable reputation

3. N _____

particle in the chromosome of a cell that transmits a characteristic
from parent to offspring

4. G _____

completion

5. C _____

inability to be reformed

6. I _____

the science that deals with the transmission of characteristics from
parents to children

7. G _____

referring to a quality or characteristic that is inherited (*adj.*)

8. H _____

beginning or origin

9. G _____

student of family roots or origins

10. G _____

height of skill or artistry

11. C _____ or C _____

transmitted by heredity

12. G_____

quality of a habit that has been established over many years

13. I_____ or I_____

a person long experienced at a profession, art, or business

14. V_____

pertaining to a study of family origins (*adj.*)

15. G_____

KEY: 1–genital, 2–consummate, 3–notoriety, 4–gene, 5–
consummation, 6–incorrigibility, 7–genetics, 8–hereditary, 9–
genesis, 10–genealogist, 11–consummacy *or* consummateness,
12–genetic, 13–inveteracy *or* inveterateness, 14–veteran, 15–
genealogical

(End of Session 15)

SESSION 16

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. of time and place

A *chronic* liar lies constantly, again and again and again; a *chronic* invalid is ill time after time, frequently, repeatedly. The derivation of the word is Greek *chronos*, time. The noun form is *chronicity* (krə-NIS'-ə-tee).

An *anachronism* (ə-NAK'-rə-niz-əm) is someone or something out of time, out of date, belonging to a different era, either earlier or later. (The prefix *ana-* like *a-*, is negative.) The adjective is *anachronous* (ə-NAK'-rə-nəs) or *anachronistic* (ə-nak'-rə-NIS'-tik).

Wander along Fifty-ninth Street and Central Park in Manhattan some Sunday. You will see horse-drawn carriages with top-hatted coachmen—a vestige of the 1800s. Surrounded by twentieth-century motorcars and modern skyscrapers, these romantic vehicles of a bygone era are *anachronous*.

Read a novel in which a scene is supposedly taking place in the nineteenth century and see one of the characters turning on a TV set. An *anachronism*!

Your friend talks, thinks, dresses, and acts as if he were living in the time of Shakespeare. Another *anachronism*!

Science fiction is deliberately *anachronous*—it deals with phenomena, gadgetry, accomplishments far off (possibly) in the future.

An *anachronism* is out of *time*; something out of *place* is *incongruous* (in-KONG'-grə-əs), a word combining the negative prefix *in-*, the prefix *con-*, with or together, and a Latin verb meaning to *agree* or

correspond.

Thus, it is *incongruous* to wear a sweater and slacks to a formal wedding; it is *anachronous* to wear the wasp waist, conspicuous bustle, or powdered wig of the eighteenth century. The noun form of *incongruous* is *incongruity* (in-kəng-GRŌŌ'-ə-tee).

Chronological (kron-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl), in correct time order, comes from *chronos*. To tell a story *chronologically* is to relate the events in the time order of their occurrence. *Chronology* (krə-NOL'-ə-jee) is the science of time order and the accurate dating of events (*logos*, science)—the expert in this field is a *chronologist* (krə-NOL'-ə-jist)—or a list of events in the time order in which they have occurred or will occur.

A *chronometer* (krə-NOM'-ə-tər), combining *chronos* with *metron*, measurement, is a highly accurate timepiece, especially one used on ships. *Chronometry* (krə-NOM'-ə-tree) is the measurement of time—the adjective is *chronometric* (kron'-ə-MET'-rik).

Add the prefix *syn-*, together, plus the verb suffix *-ize*, to *chronos*, and you have constructed *synchronize* (SIN'-krə-nīz'), etymologically *to time together*, or to move, happen, or cause to happen, at the same time or rate. If you and your friend *synchronize* your watches, you set them at the same time. If you *synchronize* the activity of your arms and legs, as in swimming, you move them at the same time or rate. The adjective is *synchronous* (SIN'-krə-nəs); the noun form of the verb *synchronize* is *synchronization* (sin'-krə-nə-ZAY'-shən).

2. disease, suffering, teeling

Pathological is *diseased* (a *pathological* condition)—this meaning of the word ignores the root *logos*, science, study.

Pathology (pə-THOL'-ə-jee) is the science or study of disease—its nature, cause, cure, etc. However, another meaning of the noun ignores *logos*, and *pathology* may be any morbid, diseased, or abnormal physical condition or conditions; in short, simply *disease*, as in “This case involves so many kinds of *pathology* that several

different specialists are working on it.”

A *pathologist* (pə-THOL'-ə-jist) is an expert who examines tissue, often by autopsy or biopsy, to diagnose disease and interpret the abnormalities in such tissue that may be caused by specific diseases.

Pathos occurs in some English words with the additional meaning of *feeling*. If you feel or suffer with someone, you are *sympathetic* (sim-pə-THE'T-ik)—*sym-* is a respelling before the letter *p* of the Greek prefix *syn-*, with or together. The noun is *sympathy* (SIM'-pə-thee), the verb *sympathize* (SIM'-pə-thīz). Husbands, for example, so the story goes, may have *sympathetic* labor pains when their wives are about to deliver.

The prefix *anti-*, you will recall, means *against*. If you experience *antipathy* (an-TIP'-ə-thee) to people or things, you feel *against* them—you feel strong dislike or hostility. The adjective is *antipathetic* (an'-tə-pə-THE'T-ik), as in “an *antipathetic* reaction to an authority figure.”

But you may have *no* feeling at all—just indifference, lack of any interest, emotion, or response, complete listlessness, especially when some reaction is normal or expected. Then you are *apathetic* (ap-ə-THE'T-ik); *a-*, as you know, is a negative prefix. The noun is *apathy* (AP'-ə-thee), as in voter *apathy*, student *apathy*, etc.

On the other hand, you may be so sensitive or perceptive that you not only share the feelings of another, but you also *identify* with those feelings, in fact experience them yourself as if momentarily you were that other person. What you have, then, is *empathy* (EM'-pə-thee); you *empathize* (EM'-pə-thīz'), you are *empathetic* (em-pə-THE'T-ik), or, to use an alternate adjective, *empathic* (em-PATH'-ik). *Em-* is a respelling before the letter *p* of the Greek prefix *en-*, in.

Someone is *pathetic* (pə-THE'T-ik) who is obviously suffering—such a person may arouse sympathy or pity (or perhaps *antipathy*?) in you. A *pathetic* story is about suffering and, again, is likely to arouse sadness, sorrow, or pity.

Some interesting research was done many years ago by Dr. J. B. Rhine and his associates at Duke University on extrasensory

perception; you will find an interesting account of Rhine's work in his book *The Reach of the Mind*. What makes it possible for two people separated by miles of space to communicate with each other without recourse to messenger, telephone, telegraph, or postal service? It can be done, say the believers in *telepathy* (tə-LEP'-ə-thee), also called *mental telepathy*, though they do not yet admit to knowing how. How can one person read the mind of another? Simple—by being *telepathic* (tel-ə-PATH'-ik), but no one can explain the chemistry or biology of it. *Telepathy* is built by combining *pathos*, feeling, with the prefix *tele-*, distance, the same prefix we found in *telephone*, *telegraph*, *telescope*.

Telepathic (tel-ə-PATH'-ik) communication occurs when people can *feel* each other's thoughts from a distance, when they have ESP.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>chronos</i>	time
ENGLISH WORD _____	
2. <i>ana-</i> , <i>a-</i>	negative prefix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
3. <i>con-</i>	with, together
ENGLISH WORD _____	
4. <i>in-</i>	negative prefix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
5. <i>logos</i>	science, study
ENGLISH WORD _____	
6. <i>metron</i>	measurement

ENGLISH WORD _____

7. *syn-, sym-*

with, together

ENGLISH WORD _____

8. *-ize*

verb suffix

ENGLISH WORD _____

9. *pathos*

disease, suffering, feeling

ENGLISH WORD _____

10. *anti-*

against

ENGLISH WORD _____

11. *en-, em-*

in

ENGLISH WORD _____

12. *tele-*

distance

ENGLISH WORD _____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

1. *chronicity*

krə-NIS'-ə-tee

2. *anachronism*

ə-NAK'-rə-niz-əm

3. *anachronous*

ə-NAK'-rə-nəs

4. *anachronistic*

ə-nak'-rə-NIS'-tik

5. *incongruous*

in-KONG'-grəʊ-əs

6. *incongruity*

in'-kəŋ-GRəʊ'-ə-tee

7. <i>chronological</i>	kron'-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl
8. <i>chronology</i>	krə-NOL'-ə-jee
9. <i>chronologist</i>	krə-NOL'-ə-jist
10. <i>chronometer</i>	krə-NOM'-ə-tər
11. <i>chronometry</i>	krə-NOM'-ə-tree
12. <i>chronometric</i>	kron'-ə-MET'-rik
13. <i>synchronize</i>	SIN'-krə-nīz'
14. <i>synchronization</i>	sin'-krə-nə-ZAY'-shən
15. <i>synchronous</i>	SIN'-krə-nəs

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>pathology</i>	pə-THOL'-ə-jee
2. <i>pathologist</i>	pə-THOL'-ə-jist
3. <i>sympathy</i>	SIM'-pə-thee
4. <i>sympathetic</i>	sim-pə-THET'-ik
5. <i>sympathize</i>	SIM'-pə-thīz
6. <i>antipathy</i>	an-TIP'-ə-thee
7. <i>antipathetic</i>	an'-tə-pə-THET'-ik
8. <i>apathy</i>	AP'-ə-thee
9. <i>apathetic</i>	ap-ə-THET'-ik
10. <i>empathy</i>	EM'-pə-thee
11. <i>empathize</i>	EM'-pə-thīz'
12. <i>empathetic</i>	em-pə-THET'-ik

13. <i>empathic</i>	em-PATH'-ik
14. <i>pathetic</i>	pə-THET'-ik
15. <i>telepathy</i>	tə-LEP'-ə-thee
16. <i>telepathic</i>	tel'-ə-PATH'-ik

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. chronicity | a. something, or state of being, out of place |
| 2. anachronism | b. timepiece; device that measures time very accurately |
| 3. incongruity | c. condition of continual or repeated recurrence |
| 4. chronology | d. act of occurring, or of causing to occur, at the same time |
| 5. chronometer | e. calendar of events in order of occurrence |
| 6. chronometry | f. something, or someone, out of time |
| 7. synchronization | g. measurement of time |
| 8. pathology | h. a sharing or understanding of another's feeling |
| 9. sympathy | i. ESP; communication from a distance |

10. telepathy

j. disease; study of disease

KEY: 1–c, 2–f, 3–a, 4–e, 5–b, 6–g, 7–d, 8–j, 9–h, 10–i

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. pathologist | a. identification with another's feelings |
| 2. antipathy | b. share another's feelings so strongly as to experience those feelings oneself |
| 3. apathy | c. out of time |
| 4. empathy | d. one who examines tissue to diagnose disease |
| 5. synchronize | e. occurring at the same time or rate |
| 6. empathize | f. relating to extrasensory perception |
| 7. anachronous | g. suffering; arousing sympathy or pity |
| 8. incongruous | h. lack of feeling; non-responsiveness |
| 9. synchronous | i. out of place |
| 10. pathetic | j. happen, or cause to happen, at the same time or rate |

11. telepathic

k. hostility; strong dislike

KEY: 1–d, 2–k, 3–h, 4–a, 5–j, 6–b, 7–c, 8–i, 9–e, 10–g, 11–f

Do you understand the words?

Are these dates in *chronological* order? 1492, 1941, 1586

YES NO

Is *pathology* the study of healthy tissue?

YES NO

Is *telepathic* communication carried on by telephone?

YES NO

Does a *sympathetic* response show an understanding of another's feelings?

YES NO

Is one *antipathetic* to things, ideas, or people one finds agreeable?

YES NO

Do *apathetic* people react strongly?

YES NO

Does an *empathic* response show identification with the feelings of another?

YES NO

Is a swimsuit *incongruous* attire at a formal ceremony?

YES NO

Is an *anachronistic* attitude up to date?

YES NO

Are *synchronous* movements out of time with one another?

YES NO

KEY: 1-no, 2-no, 3-no, 4-yes, 5-no, 6-no, 7-yes, 8-yes, 9-no, 10-no

Can you recall the words?

in order of time

1. C _____

out of place

2. I _____

4. out of time (two forms)

3. A _____

4. A _____

something, or state of being, out of place

5. I _____

lack of feeling

6. A _____

measurer of time

7. C _____

study of disease

8. P _____

feeling of hostility or dislike

9. A _____

to occur, or cause to occur, at the same time or rate

10. S _____

evoking sorrow or pity

11. P _____

something out of time

12. A _____

state of recurring again and again

13. C _____

extrasensory perception

14. T_____

one who examines tissue to diagnose disease

15. P_____

identification with the feelings of another

16. E_____

happening at the same time or rate (*adj.*)

17. S_____

skillful at thought transference without sensory communication

18. T_____

calendar of events in time sequence

19. C_____

referring to the measurement of time (*adj.*)

20. C_____

KEY: 1–chronological, 2–incongruous, 3, 4–anachronous,
anachronistic, 5–incongruity, 6–apathy, 7–chronometer, 8–
pathology, 9–antipathy, 10–synchronize, 11–pathetic, 12–
anachronism, 13–chronicity, 14–telepathy, 15–pathologist,
16–empathy, 17–synchronous, 18–telepathic, 19–chronology,
20–chronometric

(End of Session 16)

SESSION 17

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. knowing

Psychopaths commit antisocial and *unconscionable* acts—they are not troubled by *conscience*, guilt, remorse, etc. over what they have done.

Unconscionable and *conscience* are related in derivation—the first word from Latin *scio*, to know, the second from Latin *sciens*, knowing, and both using the prefix *con-*, with, together.

Etymologically, then, your *conscience* is your knowledge *with* a moral sense of right and wrong; if you are *unconscionable*, your conscience is not (*un-*) working, or you have no conscience. The noun form is *unconscionableness* or *unconscionability* (un-kon'-shə-nə-BIL'-ə-tee).

Conscious, also from *con-* plus *scio*, is knowledge or awareness of one's emotions or sensations, or of what's happening around one.

Science, from *sciens*, is systematized *knowledge* as opposed, for example, to belief, faith, intuition, or guesswork.

Add Latin *omnis*, all, to *sciens*, to construct *omniscient* (om-NISH'-ənt), all-knowing, possessed of infinite knowledge. The noun is *omniscience* (om-NISH'-əns).

Add the prefix *pre-*, before, to *sciens*, to construct *prescient* (PREE'-shənt)—knowing about events *before* they occur, i.e., psychic, or possessed of unusual powers of prediction. The noun is *prescience* (PREE'-shəns).

And, finally, add the negative prefix *ne-* to *sciens* to produce *nescient* (NESH'-ənt), not knowing, or ignorant. Can you, by

analogy with the previous two words, write the noun form of *nescient*? _____. (Can you pronounce it?)

2. fool some of the people...

Glib is from an old English root that means *slippery*. *Glib* liars or *glib* talkers are smooth and slippery; they have ready answers, fluent tongues, a persuasive air—but, such is the implication of the word, they fool only the most *nescient*, for their smoothness lacks sincerity and conviction.

The noun is *glibness*.

3. herds and flocks

Egregious (remember the pronunciation? ə-GREE'-jəs) is from Latin *grex*, *gregis*, herd or flock. An *egregious* lie, act, crime, mistake, etc. is so exceptionally vicious that it conspicuously stands out (*e-*, a shortened form of the prefix *ex-*, out) from the *herd* or *flock* of other bad things.

The noun is *egregiousness* (ə-GREE'-jəs-nəs).

A person who enjoys companionship, who, etymologically, likes to be with the herd, who reaches out for friends and is happiest when surrounded by people—such a person is *gregarious* (grə-GAIR'-ee-əs).

Extroverts are of course *gregarious*—they prefer human contact, conversation, laughter, interrelationships, to solitude.

The suffix *-ness*, as you know, can be added to an adjective to construct a noun form. Write the noun for *gregarious*: _____.

Add the prefix *con-*, with, together, to *grex*, *gregis*, to get the verb *congregate* (KONG'-grə-gayt'); add the prefix *se-*, apart, to build the verb *segregate* (SEG'-rə-gayt'); add the prefix *ad-*, to, toward (*ad-* changes to *ag-* before a root starting with *g-*), to construct the verb *aggregate* (AG-rə-gayt').

Let's see what we have. When people gather *together* in a *herd* or

flock, they (write the verb) _____.

The noun is *congregation* (cong'-grə-GAY'-shən), one of the meanings of which is a religious "flock."

Put people or things apart from the *herd*, and you (write the verb) _____ them. Can you construct the noun by adding the suitable noun suffix? _____.

Bring individual items to or toward the *herd* or *flock*, and you (write the verb) _____ them. What is the noun form of this verb? _____.

The verb *aggregate* also means *to come together to or toward the herd*, that is, *to gather into a mass or whole*, or by extension, *to total or amount to*. So *aggregate*, another noun form, pronounced AG'-rə-gət, is a group or mass of individuals considered as a whole, a *herd*, or a *flock*, as in the phrase "people in the *aggregate*..."

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>grex, gregis</i>	herd, flock
ENGLISH WORD _____	
2. <i>e-, ex-</i>	out
ENGLISH WORD _____	
3. <i>-ness</i>	noun suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
4. <i>con-</i>	with, together
ENGLISH WORD _____	
5. <i>ad-, ag-</i>	to, toward
ENGLISH WORD _____	

6. <i>un-</i>	negative prefix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
7. <i>scio</i>	to know
ENGLISH WORD _____	
8. <i>sciens</i>	knowing
ENGLISH WORD _____	
9. <i>omnis</i>	all
ENGLISH WORD _____	
10. <i>pre-</i>	before
ENGLISH WORD _____	
11. <i>ne-</i>	negative prefix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
12. <i>se-</i>	apart
ENGLISH WORD _____	
13. <i>-ion</i>	noun suffix added to verbs
ENGLISH WORD _____	

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <i>unconscionability</i> | un-kon'-shə-nə-BIL'-ə-tee |
| 2. <i>omniscient</i> | om-NISH'-ənt |
| 3. <i>omniscience</i> | om-NISH'-əns |

4. <i>prescient</i>	PREE'-shənt
5. <i>prescience</i>	PREE'-shəns
6. <i>nescient</i>	NESH'-ənt
7. <i>nescience</i>	NESH'-əns
8. <i>glibness</i>	GLIB'-nəs
9. <i>egregiousness</i>	ə-GREE'-jəs-nəs
10. <i>gregarious</i>	grə-GAIR'-ee-əs
11. <i>gregariousness</i>	grə-GAIR'-ee-əs-nəs
12. <i>congregate</i>	KONG'-grə-gayt'
13. <i>congregation</i>	kong'-grə-GAY'-shən
14. <i>segregate</i>	SEG'-rə-gayt'
15. <i>segregation</i>	seg'-rə-GAY'-shən
16. <i>aggregate</i> (v.)	AG'-rə-gayt
17. <i>aggregate</i> (n.)	AG'-rə-gət
18. <i>aggregation</i>	ag'-rə-GAY'-shən

Can you work with the words?

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. unconscionability | a. ignorance |
| 2. omniscience | b. outstanding badness or viciousness |
| 3. prescience | c. religious group; a massing together |
| 4. nescience | d. total; mass; whole |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 5. glibness | e. exclusion from the herd; a
setting apart |
| 6. egregiousness | f. infinite knowledge |
| 7. gregariousness | g. friendliness; enjoyment of
mixing with people |
| 8. congregation | h. lack of conscience |
| 9. segregation | i. suspiciously smooth fluency |
| 10. aggregate (<i>n.</i>) | j. foreknowledge |

KEY: 1–h, 2–f, 3–j, 4–a, 5–i, 6–b, 7–g, 8–c, 9–e, 10–d

Do you understand the words?

Is *unconscionability* one of the signs of the psychopath?

YES NO

Can anyone be truly *omniscient*?

YES NO

Does a *prescient* fear indicate some knowledge of the future?

YES NO

Is *nescience* a result of learning?

YES NO

Does *glibness* make someone sound sincere and trustworthy?

YES NO

Is *egregiousness* an admirable quality?

YES NO

Do *gregarious* people enjoy parties?

YES NO

Do spectators *congregate* at sports events?

YES NO

Do we often *segregate* hardened criminals from the rest of society?

YES NO

Is an *aggregation* of problems a whole mass of problems?

YES NO

KEY: 1–yes, 2–no, 3–yes, 4–no, 5–no, 6–no, 7–yes, 8–yes, 9–yes, 10–yes

Can you recall the words?

enjoying groups and companionship

1. G _____

ignorant

2. N _____

state of *not* being held back from antisocial behavior by one's conscience

3. U _____

or U _____

having knowledge of an event before it occurs (*adj.*)

4. P _____

a religious “flock”

5. C _____

a total, whole, or mass

6. A _____

or A _____

to separate from the rest

7. S _____

suspiciously smooth fluency

8. G _____

all-knowing (*adj.*)

9. O _____

to come together into a group or mass

10. C _____

KEY: 1–gregarious, 2–nescient, 3–unconscionability *or*
 unconscionableness, 4–prescient, 5–congregation, 6–aggregate
 or aggregation, 7–segregate, 8–glibness, 9–omniscient, 10–
 congregate

CHAPTER REVIEW

A. Do you recognize the words?

1. Highly skilled:
 (a) consummate, (b) inveterate, (c) notorious
2. Beyond reform:
 (a) inveterate, (b) incorrigible, (c) glib
3. Dating from birth:
 (a) inveterate, (b) congenital, (c) psychopathic
4. Outstandingly bad:
 (a) egregious, (b) unconscionable, (c) chronic
5. Science of heredity:
 (a) pathology, (b) genetics, (c) orthopedics
6. Out of time:
 (a) incongruous, (b) anachronous, (c) synchronous
7. Study of disease:
 (a) pathology, (b) telepathy, (c) antipathy
8. Fond of company, friends, group activities, etc.:
 (a) apathetic, (b) gregarious, (c) chronological
9. Indifferent:
 (a) antipathetic, (b) pathetic, (c) apathetic
10. Long accustomed in habit:
 (a) incorrigible, (b) notorious, (c) inveterate

11. Study of family ancestry:
(a) genealogy, (b) genetics, (c) genesis
12. To complete, finish, top off:
(a) synchronize, (b) consummate, (c) empathize
13. Accurate timepiece:
(a) anachronism, (b) chronology, (c) chronometer
14. Identification with the feelings of another:
(a) sympathy, (b) apathy, (c) empathy
15. Thought transference; extrasensory perception:
(a) telepathy, (b) empathy, (c) omniscience
16. Ignorance:
(a) omniscience, (b) prescience, (c) nescience
17. To gather into a group:
(a) congregate, (b) segregate, (c) synchronize

KEY: 1-a, 2-b, 3-b, 4-a, 5-b, 6-b, 7-a, 8-b, 9-c, 10-c, 11-a, 12-b,
13-c, 14-c, 15-a, 16-c, 17-a

B. Can you recognize roots?

ROOT	MEANING
1. <i>notus</i>	_____
EXAMPLE notorious	
2. <i>summus</i>	_____
EXAMPLE summit	
3. <i>corrigo</i>	_____
EXAMPLE incorrigible	
4. <i>vetus</i>	_____
EXAMPLE veteran	
5. <i>senex</i>	_____
EXAMPLE senile	
6. <i>genesis</i>	_____
EXAMPLE congenital	
7. <i>logos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE genealogy	
8. <i>chronos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE chronic	

9. *metron*

EXAMPLE chronometer

10. *pathos*

EXAMPLE pathology

EXAMPLE pathetic

EXAMPLE empathy

11. *grex, gregis*

EXAMPLE gregarious

12. *scio*

EXAMPLE unconscionable

13. *sciens*

EXAMPLE prescience

14. *omnis*

EXAMPLE omniscient

KEY: 1-known, 2-highest, 3-to correct, set straight, 4-old, 5-old, 6-birth, 7-science, study, 8-time, 9-measurement, 10-disease, suffering, feeling, 11-herd, flock, 12-to know, 13-knowing, 14-all

TEASER QUESTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR ETYMOLOGIST

1. "She was one of many *notables* who attended the convention." Recognizing that the italicized word is built on the root *notus*, can you define the noun *notable* in the context of *known*? _____

2. *Notify* and *notice* derive from the same root. Can you define these two words, again in the context of *known*? *Notify*: _____. *Notice*: _____. What do you suppose the verb suffix *-fy* of *notify* means? (Think also of *simplify*, *clarify*, *liquefy*, etc.) _____.

3. You are familiar with the roots *chronos* and *graphein*. Suppose you came across the word *chronograph* in your reading. Can you make an educated guess as to the meaning? _____.

4. Recognizing the root *genesis* in the verb *generate*, how would you define the word? _____.

How about *regenerate*? _____.

What do you suppose the prefix *re-* means? _____.

5. Recognizing the root *omnis* in *omnipotent* and *omnipresent*, can you define the words?

Omnipotent: _____.

Omnipresent: _____.

Recalling how we formed a noun from the adjective *omniscient*, write the noun forms of:

Omnipotent: _____.

Omnipresent: _____.

6. Think of the negative prefix in *anachronism*; think next of the noun *aphrodisiac*. Can you construct a word for *that which reduces or eliminates sexual desire*? _____

(Answers in [Chapter 18](#))

FOUR LASTING BENEFITS

You know by now that it is easy to build your vocabulary if you work diligently and intelligently. Diligence is important—to come to the book occasionally is to learn new words and ideas in an aimless fashion, rather than in the continuous way that characterizes the natural, uninterrupted, intellectual growth of a child. (You will recall that children are top experts in increasing their vocabularies.) And an intelligent approach is crucial—new words can be completely understood and permanently remembered only as symbols of vital ideas, never if memorized in long lists of isolated forms.

If you have worked diligently and intelligently, you have done much more than merely learned a few hundred new words. Actually, I needn't tell you what else you've accomplished, since, if you really have accomplished it, you can feel it for yourself; but it may be useful if I verbalize the feelings you may have.

In addition to learning the meanings, pronunciation, background, and use of 300–350 valuable words, you have:

1. *Begun to sense a change in your intellectual atmosphere.* (You have begun to do your thinking with many of the words, with many of the ideas behind the words. You have begun to use the words in your speech and writing, and have become alert to their appearance in your reading.)

2. *Begun to develop a new interest in words as expressions of ideas.*

3. *Begun to be aware of the new words you hear and that you see in your reading.*

4. *Begun to gain a new feeling for the relationship between words.*

(For you realize that many words are built on roots from other languages and are related to other words which derive from the same roots.)

Now, suppose we pause to see how successful your learning has been.

In the next chapter, I offer you a comprehensive test on the first part of your work.

(End of Session 17)

¹ Latin *senex*, source of *senile* and *senescent*, also, you will recall, means *old*. In *inveterate*, *in-* means *in*; it is not the negative prefix found in *incorrigible*.