

4

HOW TO TALK ABOUT DOCTORS

(Sessions 4–6)

TEASER PREVIEW

What is the title of the doctor who specializes in:

internal medicine?

female ailments?

pregnancy and childbirth?

the treatment and care of infants and young children?

skin disorders?

diseases of the eye?

heart problems?

the brain and nervous system?

mental and emotional disturbances?

SESSION 4

In this chapter we discuss ten medical specialists—what they do, how they do it, what they are called.

IDEAS

1. what's wrong with you?

To find out what ails you and why, this specialist gives you a thorough physical examination, using an impressive array of tests: X ray, blood chemistry, urinalysis, cardiogram, and so on.

An internist

2. female troubles?

This specialist treats the female reproductive and sexual organs.

A gynecologist

3. having a baby?

This specialist delivers babies and takes care of the mother during and immediately after the period of her pregnancy.

An obstetrician

4. is your baby ill?

You know the common childhood maladies—mumps, whooping cough, chicken pox, measles. This specialist limits his practice to youngsters, taking care of babies directly after birth, supervising their diet and watching over their growth and development, giving them the series of inoculations that has done so much to decrease infant mortality, and soothing their anxious parents.

A pediatrician

5. skin clear?

You have heard the classic riddle: “What is the best use for pigskin?” Answer: “To keep the pig together.” Human skin has a similar purpose: it is, if we get down to fundamentals, what keeps us all in one piece. And our outer covering, like so many of our internal organs, is subject to diseases and infections of various kinds, running the gamut from simple acne and eczemas through impetigo, psoriasis, and cancer. There is a specialist who treats all such skin diseases.

A dermatologist

6. eyes okay?

The physician whose specialty is disorders of vision (myopia, astigmatism, cataracts, glaucoma, etc.) may prescribe glasses, administer drugs, or perform surgery.

An ophthalmologist

7. how are your bones?

This specialist deals with the skeletal structure of the body, treating bone fractures, slipped discs, clubfoot, curvature of the spine, dislocations of the hip, etc., and may correct a condition

either by surgery or by the use of braces or other appliances.

An orthopedist

8. does your heart go pitter-patter?

This specialist treats diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

A cardiologist

9. is your brain working?

This physician specializes in the treatment of disorders of the brain, spinal cord, and the rest of the nervous system.

A neurologist

10. are you neurotic?

This specialist attempts to alleviate mental and emotional disturbances by means of various techniques, occasionally drugs or electroshock, more often private or group psychotherapy.

A psychiatrist

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

Words take on a new color if you hear them in your own voice; they begin to belong to you more personally, more intimately, than if you merely hear or read them. As always, therefore, *say the words aloud* to take the first, crucial step toward complete mastery.

1. <i>internist</i>	in-TURN'-ist
2. <i>gynecologist</i>	gīn (or jin or jīn)-ə-KOL'-ə-jist
3. <i>obstetrician</i>	ob-stə-TRISH'-ən
4. <i>pediatrician</i>	pee'-dee-ə-TRISH'-ən
5. <i>dermatologist</i>	dur-mə-TOL'-ə-jist
6. <i>ophthalmologist</i>	off-thal-MOL'-ə-jist
7. <i>orthopedist</i>	awr-thə-PEE'-dist
8. <i>cardiologist</i>	kahr-dee-OL'-ə-jist
9. <i>neurologist</i>	noor-OL'-ə-jist
10. <i>psychiatrist</i>	sī (or sə)-KĪ'-ə-trist

Can you work with the words?

Match each doctor to the field.

FIELDS	DOCTORS
1. mental or emotional disturbances	a. internist
2. nervous system	b. gynecologist
3. skin	c. obstetrician
4. diagnosis; internal organs	d. pediatrician
5. infants	e. dermatologist
6. female reproductive organs	f. ophthalmologist
7. eyes	g. orthopedist
8. heart	h. cardiologist

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 9. pregnancy, childbirth | i. neurologist |
| 10. skeletal system | j. psychiatrist |

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

Do you understand the words?

Is an *internist* an expert in diagnosis?

YES NO

Is a *gynecologist* familiar with the female reproductive organs?

YES NO

Does an *obstetrician* specialize in diseases of childhood?

YES NO

Does a *pediatrician* deliver babies?

YES NO

If you had a skin disease, would you visit a *dermatologist*?

YES NO

If you had trouble with your vision would you visit an *orthopedist*?

YES NO

Is an *ophthalmologist* an eye specialist?

YES NO

Does a *cardiologist* treat bone fractures?

YES NO

Is a *neurologist* a nerve specialist?

YES NO

If you were nervous, tense, overly anxious, constantly fearful for no apparent reasons, would a *psychiatrist* be the specialist to see?

YES NO

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

Can you recall the words?

Write the name of the specialist you might visit or be referred to:
for a suspected brain disorder

1. N_____

for a thorough internal checkup

2. I_____

if you have a skin disease

3. D_____

if you have a heart problem

4. C_____

if you are tense, fearful, insecure

5. P_____

if you are pregnant

6. O_____

for some disorder of the female reproductive organs

7. G_____

for a checkup for your two-month-old child

8. P_____

for faulty vision

9. O_____

for curvature of the spine

10. O_____

KEY: 1–neurologist, 2–internist, 3–dermatologist, 4–cardiologist, 5–psychiatrist, 6–obstetrician, 7–gynecologist, 8–pediatrician, 9–ophthalmologist, 10–orthopedist

(End of session 4)

SESSION 5

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. inside you

Internist and *internal* derive from the same Latin root, *internus*, inside. The *internist* is a specialist in *internal* medicine, in the exploration of your *insides*. This physician determines the state of your internal organs in order to discover what's happening *within* your body to cause the troubles you're complaining of.

Do not confuse the *internist* with the *intern* (also spelled *interne*), who is a medical graduate serving an apprenticeship *inside* a hospital.

2. doctors for women

The word *gynecologist* is built on Greek *gyne*, woman, plus *logos*, science; etymologically, *gynecology* is the science (in actual use, the medical science) of women. Adjective: *gynecological* (gīn [or jin or jīn]-ə-kə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

Obstetrician derives from Latin *obstetrix*, midwife, which in turn has its source in a Latin verb meaning *to stand*—midwives stand in front of the woman in labor to aid in the delivery of the infant.

The suffix *-ician*, as in *obstetrician*, *physician*, *musician*, *magician*, *electrician*, etc., means *expert*.

Obstetrics (ob-STET'-riks) has only within the last 150 years become a respectable specialty. No further back than 1834, Professor William P. Dewees assumed the first chair of *obstetrics* at the University of Pennsylvania and had to brave considerable

medical contempt and ridicule as a result—the delivery of children was then considered beneath the dignity of the medical profession.

Adjective: *obstetric* (ob-STET'-rik) or *obstetrical* (ob-STET'-rə-kəl).

3. children

Pediatrician is a combination of Greek *paidos*, child; *iatreia*, medical healing; and *-ician*, expert.

Pediatrics (pee-dee-AT'-riks), then, is by etymology the medical healing of a child. Adjective: *pediatric* (pee-dee-AT'-rik).

(The *ped-* you see in words like *pedestal*, *pedal*, and *pedestrian* is from the Latin *pedis*, foot, and despite the identical spelling in English has no relationship to Greek *paidos*.)

Pedagogy (PED-ə-gō'-jee), which combines *paidos* with *agogos*, leading, is, etymologically, *the leading of children*. And to what do you lead them? To learning, to development, to growth, to maturity. From the moment of birth, infants are led by adults—they are taught, first by parents and then by teachers, to be self-sufficient, to fit into the culture in which they are born. Hence, *pedagogy*, which by derivation means *the leading of a child*, refers actually to the principles and methods of teaching. College students majoring in education take certain standard *pedagogy* courses—the history of education; educational psychology; the psychology of adolescents; principles of teaching; etc. Adjective: *pedagogical* (ped-ə-GOJ'-ə-kəl).

A *pedagogue* (PED'-ə-gog) is versed in *pedagogy*. But *pedagogue* has an unhappy history. From its original, neutral meaning of *teacher*, it has deteriorated to the point where it refers, today, to a narrow-minded, strait-laced, old-fashioned, dogmatic teacher. It is a word of contempt and should be used with caution.

Like *pedagogue*, *demagogue* (DEM'-ə-gog) has also deteriorated in meaning. By derivation a leader (*agogos*) of the people (*demos*), a *demagogue* today is actually one who attempts, in essence, to *mislead* the people, a politician who fomenting discontent among the masses, rousing them to fever pitch by wild oratory, in an attempt to be

voted into office.

Once elected, *demagogues* use political power to further their own personal ambitions or fortunes.

Many “leaders” of the past and present, in countries around the world, have been accused of *demagoguery* (dem-ə-GOG’-ə-ree). Adjective: *demagogic* (dem-ə-GOJ’-ik).

4. skin-deep

The *dermatologist*, whose specialty is *dermatology* (dur-mə-TOL’-ə-jee), is so named from Greek *derma*, skin. Adjective: *dermatological* (dur’-mə-tə-LOJ’-ə-kəl).

See the syllables *derma* in any English word and you will know there is some reference to *skin*—for example, a *hypodermic* (hī-pə-DUR’-mik) needle penetrates *under* (Greek, *hypos*) the *skin*; the *epidermis* (ep-ə-DUR’-mis) is the outermost layer of *skin*; a *taxidermist* (TAKS’-ə-dur-mist), whose business is *taxidermy* (TAKS’-ə-dur-mee), prepares, stuffs, and mounts the *skins* of animals; a *pachyderm* (PAK’-ə-durm) is an animal with an unusually thick *skin*, like an elephant, hippopotamus, or rhinoceros; and *dermatitis* (dur-mə-TĪ’-tis) is the general name for any *skin* inflammation, irritation, or infection.

5. the eyes have it

Ophthalmologist—note the *ph* preceding *th*—is from Greek *ophthalmos*, eye, plus *logos*, science or study. The specialty is *ophthalmology* (off’-thal-MOL’-ə-jee), the adjective *ophthalmological* (off’-thal-mə-LOJ’-ə-kəl).

An earlier title for this physician, still occasionally used, is *oculist* (OK’-yə-list), from Latin *oculus*, eye, a root on which the following English words are also built:

1. *ocular* (OK’-yə-lər)—an adjective that refers to the eye

2. *monocle* (MON'-ə-kəl)—a lens for one (*monos*) eye, sported by characters in old movies as a symbol of the British so-called upper class

3. *binoculars* (bə-NOK'-yə-lərz)—field glasses that increase the range of two (*bi-*) eyes

4. And, strangely enough, *inoculate* (in-OK'-yə-layt'), a word commonly misspelled with two *n*'s. When you are *inoculated* against a disease, an "eye," puncture, or hole is made in your skin, through which serum is injected.

Do not confuse the *ophthalmologist* or *oculist*, a medical specialist, with two other practitioners who deal with the eye—the *optometrist* (op-TOM'-ə-trist) and *optician* (op-TISH'-ən).

Optometrists are not physicians, and do not perform surgery or administer drugs; they measure vision, test for glaucoma, and prescribe and fit glasses.

Opticians fill an *optometrist's* or *ophthalmologist's* prescription, grinding lenses according to specifications; they do not examine patients.

Optometrist combines Greek *opsis*, *optikos*, sight or vision, with *metron*, measurement—the *optometrist*, by etymology, is one who measures vision. The specialty is *optometry* (op-TOM'-ə-tree).

Optician is built on *opsis*, *optikos*, plus *-ician*, expert. The specialty is *optics* (OP'-tik-s).

Adjectives: *optometric* (op-tə-MET'-rik) or *optometrical* (op-tə-MET'-rə-kəl), *optical* (OP'-tə-kəl).

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>internus</i>	inside
EXAMPLE _____	

2. *gyne*

woman

EXAMPLE _____

3. *obstetrix*

midwife

EXAMPLE _____

4. *paidos*

child

EXAMPLE _____

5. *pedis*

foot

EXAMPLE _____

6. *agogos*

leading, leader

EXAMPLE _____

7. *demos*

people

EXAMPLE _____

8. *derma*

skin

EXAMPLE _____

9. *hypos*

under

EXAMPLE _____

10. *ophthalmos*

eye

EXAMPLE _____

11. *oculus*

eye

EXAMPLE _____

12. *monos*

one

EXAMPLE _____

13. *bi-*

two

EXAMPLE _____

14. *-ician* expert

EXAMPLE _____

15. *opsis, optikos* vision, sight

EXAMPLE _____

16. *metron* measurement

EXAMPLE _____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>intern (e)</i> | IN'-turn |
| 2. <i>gynecology</i> | gīn-ə-KOL'-ə-jee, jin-ə-KOL'-ə-jee,
or jīn-ə-KOL'-ə-jee |
| 3. <i>gynecological</i> | gīn-ə-kə-LOJ'-ə-kəl, jin-ə-kə-LOJ'-
ə-kəl or jīn-ə-kə-LOJ-ə-kəl |
| 4. <i>obstetrics</i> | ob-STET'-riks |
| 5. <i>obstetric</i> | ob-STET'-rik |
| 6. <i>obstetrical</i> | ob-STET'-rə-kəl |
| 7. <i>pediatrics</i> | pee-dee-AT'-riks |
| 8. <i>pediatric</i> | pee-dee-AT'-rik |
| 9. <i>pedagogy</i> | PED'-ə-gō-jee |
| 10. <i>pedagogical</i> | ped-ə-GOJ'-ə-kəl |

11. <i>pedagogue</i>	PED'-ə-gog
12. <i>demagogue</i>	DEM'-ə-gog
13. <i>demagoguery</i>	dem-ə-GOG'-ə-ree
14. <i>demagogic</i>	dem-ə-GOJ'-ik

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>dermatology</i>	dur-mə-TOL'-ə-jee
2. <i>dermatological</i>	dur'-mə-tə-LOJ'-ə-kəl
3. <i>hypodermic</i>	hī-pə-DURM'-ik
4. <i>epidermis</i>	ep-ə-DUR'-mis
5. <i>taxidermist</i>	TAKS'-ə-dur-mist
6. <i>taxidermy</i>	TAKS'-ə-dur-mee
7. <i>pachyderm</i>	PAK'-ə-durm
8. <i>dermatitis</i>	dur-mə-TĪ'-tis
9. <i>ophthalmology</i>	off-thal-MOL'-ə-jee
10. <i>ophthalmological</i>	off'-thal-mə-LOJ'-ə-kəl
11. <i>oculist</i>	OK'-yə-list
12. <i>ocular</i>	OK'-yə-lər
13. <i>monocle</i>	MON'-ə-kəl
14. <i>binoculars</i>	bə-NOK'-yə-lərz
15. <i>inoculate</i>	in-OK'-yə-layt'
16. <i>optometrist</i>	op-TOM'-ə-trist
17. <i>optometry</i>	op-TOM'-ə-tree

18. <i>optometric</i>	op-tə-MET'-rik
19. <i>optometrical</i>	op-tə-MET'-rə-kəl
20. <i>optician</i>	op-TISH'-ən
21. <i>optics</i>	OP'-tiks
22. <i>optical</i>	OP-tə-kəl

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. gynecology | a. principles of teaching |
| 2. obstetrics | b. stuffing of skins of animals |
| 3. pediatrics | c. specialty dealing with the
delivery of newborn infants |
| 4. pedagogy | d. stirring up discontent among
the masses |
| 5. demagoguery | e. treatment of skin diseases |
| 6. dermatology | f. specialty dealing with women's
diseases |
| 7. taxidermy | g. specialty dealing with the
treatment of children |

KEY: 1–f, 2–c, 3–g, 4–a, 5–d, 6–e, 7–b

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. hypodermic | a. elephant |
| 2. epidermis | b. eye doctor |
| 3. pachyderm | c. under the skin |
| 4. dermatitis | d. one who measures vision |
| 5. ophthalmologist | e. lens grinder |
| 6. optometrist | f. outer layer of skin |
| 7. optician | g. inflammation of the skin |

KEY: 1–c, 2–f, 3–a, 4–g, 5–b, 6–d, 7–e

Do you understand the words?

Does a treatise on *obstetrics* deal with childbirth?

YES NO

Does *gynecology* deal with the female reproductive organs?

YES NO

Is *pediatrics* concerned with the diseases of old age?

YES NO

Does *pedagogy* refer to teaching?

YES NO

Is a *pedagogue* an expert teacher?

YES NO

Is a *demagogue* interested in the welfare of the people?

YES NO

Is a lion a *pachyderm*?

YES NO

Is the *epidermis* one of the layers of the skin?

YES NO

Is *dermatitis* an inflammation of one of the limbs?

YES NO

Is a *taxidermist* a medical practitioner?

YES NO

Is an *ophthalmologist* a medical doctor?

YES NO

Is an *optometrist* a medical doctor?

YES NO

Does an *optician* prescribe glasses?

YES

NO

KEY: 1–yes, 2–yes, 3–no, 4–yes, 5–no, 6–no, 7–no, 8–yes, 9–no, 10–no, 11–yes, 12–no, 13–no

Can you recall the words?

specialty of child delivery

1. O _____

outer layer of skin

2. E _____

principles of teaching

3. P _____

thick-skinned animal

4. P _____

skin inflammation

5. D _____

one who foments political discontent

6. D _____

one who sells optical equipment

7. O _____

medical graduate serving his apprenticeship

8. I _____

treatment of childhood diseases

9. P _____

practice of stirring up political dissatisfaction for purely personal gain

10. D _____

one who stuffs the skins of animals

11. T _____

another title for *ophthalmologist*

12. O _____

treatment of female ailments

13. G_____

medical specialty relating to diseases of the eye

14. O_____

one-lens eyeglass

15. M_____

pertaining to the eye

16. O_____

one who measures vision

17. O_____

KEY: 1–obstetrics, 2–epidermis, 3–pedagogy, 4–pachyderm, 5–dermatitis, 6–demagogue, 7–optician, 8–intern *or* interne, 9–pediatrics, 10–demagoguery, 11–taxidermist, 12–oculist, 13–gynecology, 14–ophthalmology, 15–monocle, 16–ocular, 17–optometrist

(End of Session 5)

SESSION 6

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. the straighteners

The *orthopedist* is so called from the Greek roots *orthos*, straight or correct, and *paidos*, child. The *orthopedist*, by etymology, straightens children. The term was coined in 1741 by the author of a textbook on the prevention of childhood diseases—at that time the correction of spinal curvature in children was a main concern of practitioners of *orthopedics* (awr-thə-PEE'-diks).

Today the specialty treats deformities, injuries, and diseases of the bones and joints (of adults as well as children, of course), often by surgical procedures.

Adjective: *orthopedic* (awr-thə-PEE'-dik).

Orthodontia (awr-thə-DON'-shə), the straightening of teeth, is built on *orthos* plus *odontos*, tooth. The *orthodontist* (awr-thə-DON'-tist) specializes in improving your “bite,” retracting “buck teeth,” and by means of braces and other techniques seeing to it that every molar, incisor, bicuspid, etc. is exactly where it belongs in your mouth.

Adjective: *orthodontic* (awr-thə-DON'-tik).

2. the heart

Cardiologist combines Greek *kardia*, heart, and *logos*, science.

The specialty is *cardiology* (kahr-dee-OL'-ə-jee), the adjective *cardiological* (kahr'-dee-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

So a *cardiac* (KAHR'-dee-ak) condition refers to some malfunctioning of the heart; a *cardiogram* (KAHR'-dee-ə-gram') is an

electrically produced record of the heartbeat. The instrument that produces this record is called a *cardiograph* (KAHR'-dee-ə-graf').

3. the nervous system

Neurologist derives from Greek *neuron*, nerve, plus *logos*, science.

Specialty: *neurology* (nōŕ-OL'-ə-jee); adjective: *neurological* (nōŕ-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

Neuralgia (nōŕ-AL'-ja) is acute pain along the nerves and their branches; the word comes from *neuron* plus *algos*, pain.

Neuritis (nōŕ-Ī-tis), is inflammation of the nerves.

Neurosis (nōŕ-Ō'-sis), combining *neuron* with *-osis*, a suffix meaning *abnormal or diseased condition*, is not, despite its etymology, a disorder of the nerves, but rather, as described by the late Eric Berne, a psychiatrist, "... an illness characterized by excessive use of energy for unproductive purposes so that personality development is hindered or stopped. A man who spends most of his time worrying about his health, counting his money, plotting revenge, or washing his hands, can hope for little emotional growth."

Neurotic (nōŕ-OT'-ik) is both the adjective form and the term for a person suffering from *neurosis*.

4. the mind

A *neurosis* is not a form of mental unbalance. A full-blown mental disorder is called a *psychosis* (sī-KŌ'-sis), a word built on Greek *psyche*, spirit, soul, or mind, plus *-osis*.

A true *psychotic* (sī-KOT'-ik) has lost contact with reality—at least with reality as most of us perceive it, though no doubt *psychotic* (note that this word, like *neurotic*, is both a noun and an adjective) people have their own form of reality.

Built on *psyche* plus *iatreia*, medical healing, a *psychiatrist* by etymology is a mind-healer. The specialty is *psychiatry* (sī- or sə-KĪ-ə-tree); the adjective is *psychiatric* (sī-kee-AT'-rik).

Pediatrics, as you know, is also built on *iatreia*, as is *podiatry* (pə-DĪ'-ə-tree), discussed in the next chapter, and *geriatrics* (jair'-ee-AT'-riks), the specialty dealing with the particular medical needs of the elderly. (This word combines *iatreia* with Greek *geras*, old age.)

The specialist is a *geriatrician* (jair'-ee-ə-TRISH'-ən), the adjective is *geriatric* (jair'-ee-AT'-rik).

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>orthos</i>	straight, correct
EXAMPLE _____	
2. <i>paidos</i> (<i>ped-</i>)	child
EXAMPLE _____	
3. <i>odontos</i>	tooth
EXAMPLE _____	
4. <i>kardia</i>	heart
EXAMPLE _____	
5. <i>logos</i>	science; study
EXAMPLE _____	
6. <i>neuron</i>	nerve
EXAMPLE _____	
7. <i>algos</i>	pain
EXAMPLE _____	
8. <i>-osis</i>	abnormal or diseased condition

EXAMPLE _____

9. *-itis*

inflammation

EXAMPLE _____

10. *psyche*

spirit, soul, mind

EXAMPLE _____

11. *iatreia*

medical healing

EXAMPLE _____

12. *geras*

old age

EXAMPLE _____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words (I)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <i>orthopedics</i> | awr-thə-PEE'-diks |
| 2. <i>orthopedic</i> | awr-thə-PEE'-dik |
| 3. <i>orthodontia</i> | awr-thə-DON'-shə |
| 4. <i>orthodontist</i> | awr-thə-DON'-tist |
| 5. <i>orthodontic</i> | awr-thə-DON'-tik |
| 6. <i>cardiology</i> | kahr-dee-OL'-ə-jee |
| 7. <i>cardiological</i> | kahr'-dee-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl |
| 8. <i>cardiac</i> | KAHR'-dee-ak |
| 9. <i>cardiogram</i> | KAHR'-dee-ə-gram' |
| 10. <i>cardiograph</i> | KAHR'-dee-ə-graf' |

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>neurology</i>	nōōr-OL'-ə-jee
2. <i>neurological</i>	nōōr-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl
3. <i>neuralgia</i>	nōōr-AL'-jə
4. <i>neuritis</i>	nōōr-Ī'-tis
5. <i>neurosis</i>	nōōr-Ō'-sis
6. <i>neurotic</i>	nōōr-OT'-ik
7. <i>psychosis</i>	sī-KŌ'-sis
8. <i>psychotic</i>	sī-KOT'-ik
9. <i>psychiatry</i>	sī- or sə-KĪ'-ə-tree
10. <i>psychiatric</i>	sī-kee-AT'-rik
11. <i>geriatrics</i>	jair'-ee-AT'-riks
12. <i>geriatrician</i>	jair'-ee-ə-TRISH'-ən
13. <i>geriatric</i>	jair'-ee-AT'-rik

Can you work with the words? (I)

1. orthopedics	a. nerve pain
2. orthodontia	b. specialty dealing with medical problems of the elderly
3. neuralgia	c. straightening of teeth
4. neuritis	d. inflammation of the nerves
5. geriatrics	e. treatment of skeletal deformities

KEY: 1–e, 2–c, 3–a, 4–d, 5–b

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. cardiogram | a. record of heart beats |
| 2. cardiograph | b. mental unbalance |
| 3. neurosis | c. emotional disturbance |
| 4. psychosis | d. treatment of personality disorders |
| 5. psychiatry | e. instrument for recording heartbeats |

KEY: 1–a, 2–e, 3–c, 4–b, 5–d

Do you understand the words?

A *gynecologist's* patients are mostly men.

TRUE FALSE

Ophthalmology is the study of eye diseases.

TRUE FALSE

Orthopedics is the specialty dealing with the bones and joints.

TRUE FALSE

A *cardiac* patient has a heart ailment.

TRUE FALSE

A person with a bad “bite” may profit from *orthodontia*.

TRUE FALSE

Neuralgia is a disease of the bones.

TRUE FALSE

A *neurosis* is the same as a *psychosis*.

TRUE FALSE

Neuritis is inflammation of the nerves.

TRUE FALSE

Psychiatry is a medical specialty that deals with mental, emotional, and personality disturbances.

TRUE FALSE

A *cardiograph* is a device for recording heartbeats.

TRUE FALSE

Psychiatric treatment is designed to relieve tensions, fears, and insecurities.

TRUE FALSE

A doctor who specializes in *pediatrics* has very old patients.

TRUE FALSE

A *geriatrician* has very young patients.

TRUE FALSE

KEY: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-T, 6-F, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T, 10-T, 11-T, 12-F,
13-F

Can you recall the words?

specialist who straightens teeth

1. O _____

nerve pain

2. N _____

medical specialty dealing with bones and joints

3. O _____

medical specialty dealing with emotional disturbances and mental illness

4. P _____

inflammation of the nerves

5. N _____

emotional or personality disorder

6. N _____

mentally unbalanced

7. P _____

pertaining to the heart

8. C _____

specialty dealing with medical problems of the elderly

9. G _____

instrument that records heart action

10. C _____

record produced by such an instrument

11. C _____

KEY: 1-orthodontist, 2-neuralgia, 3-orthopedics, 4-psychiatry, 5-neuritis, 6-neurosis, 7-psychotic, 8-cardiac, 9-geriatrics, 10-cardiograph, 11-cardiogram

CHAPTER REVIEW

A. Do you recognize the words?

1. Specialist in female ailments:
(a) obstetrician, (b) gynecologist, (c) dermatologist
2. Specialist in children's diseases:
(a) orthopedist, (b) pediatrician, (c) internist
3. Specialist in eye diseases:
(a) cardiologist, (b) ophthalmologist, (c) optician
4. Specialist in emotional disorders:
(a) neurologist, (b) demagogue, (c) psychiatrist
5. Pertaining to medical treatment of the elderly:
(a) neurological, (b) obstetric, (c) geriatric
6. Straightening of teeth:
(a) orthodontia, (b) orthopedic, (c) optometry
7. Personality disorder:
(a) neuritis, (b), neuralgia, (c) neurosis
8. Mentally unbalanced:
(a) neurotic, (b) psychotic, (c) cardiac
9. Principles of teaching:
(a) demagoguery, (b) pedagogy, (c) psychosis

KEY: 1-b, 2-b, 3-b, 4-c, 5-c, 6-a, 7-c, 8-b, 9-b

B. Can you recognize roots?

ROOT	MEANING
1. <i>internus</i>	_____
EXAMPLE internist	
2. <i>paidos (ped-)</i>	_____
EXAMPLE pediatrician	
3. <i>pedis</i>	_____
EXAMPLE pedestrian	
4. <i>agogos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE pedagogue	
5. <i>demos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE demagogue	
6. <i>derma</i>	_____
EXAMPLE dermatologist	
7. <i>hypos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE hypodermic	
8. <i>ophthalmos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE ophthalmologist	
9. <i>oculus</i>	_____

EXAMPLE monocle

10. *opsis, optikos*

EXAMPLE optician

11. *metron*

EXAMPLE optometrist

12. *orthos*

EXAMPLE orthopedist

13. *odontos*

EXAMPLE orthodontist

14. *kardia*

EXAMPLE cardiologist

15. *logos*

EXAMPLE anthropologist

16. *neuron*

EXAMPLE neurologist

17. *algos*

EXAMPLE neuralgia

18. *psyche*

EXAMPLE psychiatrist

19. *iatreia*

EXAMPLE psychiatry

20. *geras*

EXAMPLE geriatrics

KEY: 1–inside, 2–child, 3–foot, 4–leading, 5–people, 6–skin, 7–under, 8–eye, 9–eye, 10–view, vision, sight, 11–measurement, 12–straight, correct, 13–tooth, 14–heart, 15–science, study, 16–nerve, 17–pain, 18–mind, 19–medical healing, 20–old age

TEASER QUESTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR ETYMOLOGIST

1. Thinking of the roots *odontos* and *paidos* (spelled *ped-* in English), figure out the meaning of *pedodontia*:

2. Recall the roots *kardia* and *algos*. What is the meaning of *cardialgia*? _____
3. Of *odontalgia*? _____
4. *Nostos* is the Greek word for a *return* (home). Can you combine this root with *algos*, pain, to construct the English word meaning *homesickness*? _____

(Answers in [Chapter 18](#))

TWO KEYS TO SUCCESS: SELF-DISCIPLINE AND PERSISTENCE

You can achieve a superior vocabulary in a phenomenally short time—given self-discipline and persistence.

The greatest aid in building self-discipline is, as I have said, a matter of devising a practical and comfortable schedule for yourself and then *keeping to that schedule*.

Make sure to complete *at least* one session each time you pick up the book, and always decide exactly when you will continue with

your work before you put the book down.

There may be periods of difficulty—then is the time to exert the greatest self-discipline, the most determined persistence.

For every page that you study will help you attain a mastery over words; every day that you work will add to your skill in understanding and using words.

(End of Session 6)

—— *Brief Intermission Two* ——

RANDOM NOTES ON MODERN USAGE

English grammar is confusing enough as it is—what makes it doubly confounding is that it is slowly but continually changing.

This means that some of the strict rules you memorized so painfully in your high school or college English courses may no longer be completely valid.

Following such outmoded principles, you may think you are speaking “perfect” English, and instead you may sound stuffy and pedantic.

The problem boils down to this: If grammatical usage is gradually becoming more liberal, where does educated, unaffected, informal speech end? And where does illiterate, ungrammatical speech begin?

The following notes on current trends in modern usage are intended to help you come to a decision about certain controversial expressions. As you read each sentence, pay particular attention to the italicized word or words. Does the usage square with your own language patterns? Would you be willing to phrase your thought in just terms? Decide whether the sentence is right or wrong, then compare your conclusion with the opinion given in the explanatory paragraphs that follow the test.

TEST YOURSELF

If you drink too many vodka martinis, you will surely *get* sick.

RIGHT WRONG

Have you *got* a dollar?

RIGHT WRONG

No one loves you except *I*.

RIGHT WRONG

Please *lay* down.

RIGHT WRONG

Who do you love?

RIGHT WRONG

Neither of these cars *are* worth the money.

RIGHT WRONG

The judge sentenced the murderer to be *hung*.

RIGHT WRONG

Mother, *can* I go out to play?

RIGHT WRONG

Take two *spoonsful* of this medicine every three hours.

RIGHT WRONG

Your words seem to *infer* that Jack is a liar.

RIGHT WRONG

I *will* be happy to go to the concert with you.

RIGHT WRONG

It is *me*.

RIGHT WRONG

Go *slow*.

RIGHT WRONG

Peggy and Karen are *alumni* of the same high school.

RIGHT WRONG

I *would* like to ask you a question.

RIGHT WRONG

1. If you drink too many vodka martinis, you will surely *get* sick.

RIGHT. The puristic objection is that *get* has only one meaning—namely, *obtain*. However, as any modern dictionary will attest, *get* has scores of different meanings, one of the most respectable of which is *become*. You can *get* tired, *get* dizzy, *get* drunk, or *get* sick—and your choice of words will offend no one but a pedant.

2. Have you *got* a dollar?

RIGHT. If purists get a little pale at the sound of “*get* sick,” they turn chalk white when they hear *have got* as a substitute for *have*. But the fact is that *have got* is an established American form of expression. Jacques Barzun, noted author and literary critic, says: “*Have you got* is good idiomatic English—I use it in speech without thinking about it and would write it if colloquialism seemed appropriate to the passage.”

3. No ones loves you except *I*.

WRONG. In educated speech, *me* follows the preposition *except*. This problem is troublesome because, to the unsophisticated, the sentence sounds as if it can be completed to “No one loves you, except *I* do,” but current educated usage adheres to the technical rule that a preposition requires an objective pronoun (*me*).

4. Please *lay* down.

WRONG. Liberal as grammar has become, there is still no sanction for using *lay* with the meaning of *recline*. *Lay* means to place, as in “*Lay* your hand on mine.” *Lie* is the correct choice.

5. *Who* do you love?

RIGHT. “The English language shows some disposition to get rid of *whom* altogether, and unquestionably it would be a better language with *whom* gone.” So wrote Janet Rankin Aiken, of Columbia University, way back in 1936. Today, many decades later, the “disposition” has become a full-fledged force.

The rules for *who* and *whom* are complicated, and few educated speakers have the time, patience, or expertise to bother with them. Use the democratic *who* in your everyday speech whenever it sounds right.

6. Neither of these cars *are* worth the money.

WRONG. The temptation to use *are* in this sentence is, I admit,

practically irresistible. However, “neither of” means “neither *one* of” and *is*, therefore, is the preferable verb.

7. The judge sentenced the murderer to be *hung*.

WRONG. A distinction is made, in educated speech, between *hung* and *hanged*. A picture is *hung*, but a person is *hanged*—that is, if such action is intended to bring about an untimely demise.

8. Mother, *can* I go out to play?

RIGHT. If you insist that your child say *may*, and nothing but *may*, when asking for permission, you may be considered puristic. *Can* is not discourteous, incorrect, or vulgar—and the newest editions of the authoritative dictionaries fully sanction the use of *can* in requesting rights, privileges, or permission.

9. Take two *spoonsful* of this medicine every three hours.

WRONG. There is a strange affection, on the part of some people, for *spoonsful* and *cupsful*, even though *spoonsful* and *cupsful* do not exist as acceptable words. The plurals are *spoonfuls* and *cupfuls*.

I am taking for granted, of course, that you are using one spoon and filling it twice. If, for secret reasons of your own, you prefer to take your medicine in two separate spoons, you may then properly speak of “two *spoons full* (not *spoonsful*) of medicine.”

10. Your words seem to *infer* that Jack is a liar.

WRONG. *Infer* does not mean *hint* or *suggest*. *Imply* is the proper word; to *infer* is to draw a conclusion from another’s words.

11. I *will* be happy to go to the concert with you.

RIGHT. In informal speech, you need no longer worry about the technical and unrealistic distinctions between *shall* and *will*. The theory of modern grammarians is that *shall-will* differences were simply invented out of whole cloth by the textbook writers of the 1800s. As the editor of the scholarly *Modern Language Forum* at the University of California has stated, “The artificial distinction between *shall* and *will* to designate futurity is a superstition that has neither a basis in historical grammar nor the sound sanction of universal usage.”

12. It is *me*.

RIGHT. This “violation” of grammatical “law” has been completely

sanctioned by current usage. When the late Winston Churchill made a nationwide radio address from New Haven, Connecticut, many, many years ago, his opening sentence was: “This is *me*, Winston Churchill.” I imagine that the purists who were listening fell into a deep state of shock at these words, but of course Churchill was simply using the kind of down-to-earth English that had long since become standard in informal educated speech.

13. Go *slow*.

RIGHT. “Go *slow*” is not, and never has been, incorrect English—every authority concedes that *slow* is an adverb as well as an adjective. Rex Stout, well-known writer of mystery novels and creator of Detective Nero Wolfe, remarked: “Not only do I use and approve of the idiom *Go slow*, but if I find myself with people who do not, I leave quick.”

14. Peggy and Karen are *alumni* of the same high school.

WRONG. As Peggy and Karen are obviously women, we call them *alumnae* (ə-LUM’-nee); only male graduates are *alumni* (ə-LUM’-nī).

15. I *would* like to ask you a question.

RIGHT. In current American usage, *would* may be used with *I*, though old-fashioned rules demand *I should*.

Indeed, in modern speech, *should* is almost entirely restricted to expressing probability, duty, or responsibility.

As in the case of the charitable-looking dowager who was approached by a seedy character seeking a handout.

“Madam,” he whined, “I haven’t eaten in five days.”

“My good man,” the matron answered with great concern, “you should force yourself!”