

12

HOW TO FLATTER YOUR FRIENDS

(Sessions 32–37)

TEASER PREVIEW

What adjective aptly describes people who are:

friendly and easy to get along with?

tireless?

simple, frank, aboveboard?

keen-minded?

generous, noble, and forgiving?

able to do many things skillfully?

unflinching in the face of pain or disaster?

brave, fearless?

charming and witty?

smooth, polished, cultured?

SESSION 32

Words are the symbols of emotions, as well as ideas. You can show your feeling by the tone you use (“You’re silly” can be an insult, an accusation, or an endearment, depending on how you say it) or by the words you choose (you can label a quality either “childish” or “childlike,” depending on whether you admire it or condemn it—it’s the same quality, no matter what you call it).

In [Chapter 11](#) we discussed ten basic words that you might use to show your disapproval. In this chapter we discuss ten adjectives that indicate wholehearted approval.

Consider the interesting types of people described in the following paragraphs, then note how accurately the adjective applies to each type.

IDEAS

1. put the kettle on, Polly

They are friendly, happy, extroverted, and gregarious—the sort of people who will invite you out for a drink, who like to transact business around the lunch table, who put the coffee to perking as soon as company drops in. They’re sociable, genial, cordial, affable—and they like parties and all the eating and drinking that goes with them.

The adjective is: *convivial*

2. you can’t tire them

Arnold Bennett once pointed out that we all have the same amount of time—twenty-four hours a day. Strictly speaking, that’s as inconclusive an observation as Bennett ever made. It’s not time that counts, but energy—and of that wonderful quality we all have very different amounts, from the persons who wake up tired, no matter how much sleep they’ve had, to lucky, well-adjusted mortals who hardly ever need to sleep.

Energy comes from a healthy body, of course; it also comes from a psychological balance, a lack of conflicts and insecurities.

Some people apparently have boundless, illimitable energy—they’re on the go from morning to night, and often far into the night, working hard, playing hard, never tiring, never “pooped” or “bushed”—and getting twice as much done as any three other human beings.

The adjective is: *indefatigable*

3. no tricks, no secrets

They are pleasingly frank, utterly lacking in pretense or artificiality, in fact quite unable to hide their feelings or thoughts—and so honest and aboveboard that they can scarcely conceive of trickery, chicanery, or dissimulation in anyone. There is, then, about them the simple naturalness and unsophistication of a child.

The adjective is: *ingenuous*

4. sharp as a razor

They have minds like steel traps; their insight into problems that would confuse or mystify people of less keenness or discernment is just short of amazing.

The adjective is: *perspicacious*

5. no placating necessary

They are most generous about forgiving a slight, an insult, an injury. Never do they harbor resentment, store up petty grudges, or waste energy or thought on means of revenge or retaliation. How could they? They're much too big-hearted.

The adjective is: *magnanimous*

6. one-person orchestras

The range of their aptitudes is truly formidable. If they are writers, they have professional facility in poetry, fiction, biography, criticism, essays—you just mention it and they've done it, and very competently. If they are musicians, they can play the oboe, the bassoon, the French horn, the bass viol, the piano, the celesta, the xylophone, even the clavichord if you can dig one up. If they are artists, they use oils, water colors, *gouache*, charcoal, *pen* and ink—they can do anything! Or maybe the range of their abilities cuts across all fields, as in the case of Michelangelo, who was an expert sculptor, painter, poet, architect, and inventor. In case you're thinking "Jack of all trades...", you're wrong—they're *masters* of all trades.

The adjective is: *versatile*

7. no grumbling

They bear their troubles bravely, never ask for sympathy, never yield to sorrow, never wince at pain. It sounds almost superhuman, but it's true.

The adjective is: *stoical*

8. no fear

There is not, as the hackneyed phrase has it, a cowardly bone in their bodies. They are strangers to fear, they're audacious, dauntless, contemptuous of danger and hardship.

The adjective is: *intrepid*

9. no dullness

They are witty, clever, delightful; and naturally, also, they are brilliant and entertaining conversationalists.

The adjective is: *scintillating*

10. city slickers

They are cultivated, poised, tactful, socially so experienced, sophisticated, and courteous that they're at home in any group, at ease under all circumstances of social intercourse. You cannot help admiring (perhaps envying) their smoothness and self-assurance, their tact and congeniality.

The adjective is: *urbane*

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <i>convivial</i> | kən-VIV'-ee-əl |
| 2. <i>indefatigable</i> | in'-də-FAT'-ə-gə-bəl |
| 3. <i>ingenuous</i> | in-JEN'-yoo-əs |
| 4. <i>perspicacious</i> | pur'-spə-KAY'-shəs |
| 5. <i>magnanimous</i> | mæg-NAN'-ə-məs |

6. <i>versatile</i>	VUR'-sə-təl
7. <i>stoical</i>	STŌ'-ə-kəl
8. <i>intrepid</i>	in-TREP'-id
9. <i>scintillating</i>	SIN'-tə-layt-ing
10. <i>urbane</i>	ur-BAYN'

Can you work with the words?

1. convivial	a. frank
2. indefatigable	b. unflinching
3. ingenuous	c. noble
4. perspicacious	d. capable in many directions
5. magnanimous	e. tireless
6. versatile	f. fearless
7. stoical	g. keen-minded
8. intrepid	h. witty
9. scintillating	i. friendly
10. urbane	j. polished, sophisticated

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

Do you understand the words? (I)

Convivial people are unfriendly.

TRUE FALSE

Anyone who is *indefatigable* tires easily.

TRUE FALSE

An *ingenuous* person is artful and untrustworthy.

TRUE FALSE

A *perspicacious* person is hard to fool.

TRUE FALSE

A *magnanimous* person is easily insulted.

TRUE FALSE

A *versatile* person does many things well.

TRUE FALSE

A *stoical* person always complains of his hard lot.

TRUE FALSE

An *intrepid* explorer is not easily frightened.

TRUE FALSE

A *scintillating* speaker is interesting to listen to.

TRUE FALSE

Someone who is *urbane* is always making enemies.

TRUE FALSE

KEY: 1–F, 2–F, 3–F, 4–T, 5–F, 6–T, 7–F, 8–T, 9–T, 10–F

Do you understand the words? (II)

convivial—hostile

SAME OPPOSITE

indefatigable—enervated

SAME OPPOSITE

ingenuous—worldly

SAME OPPOSITE

perspicacious—obtuse

SAME OPPOSITE

magnanimous—petty

SAME OPPOSITE

versatile—well-rounded

SAME OPPOSITE

stoical—unemotional

SAME OPPOSITE

intrepid—timid

SAME OPPOSITE

scintillating—banal

SAME OPPOSITE

urbane—erude

SAME OPPOSITE

KEY: 1–O, 2–O, 3–O, 4–O, 5–O, 6–S, 7–S, 8–O, 9–O, 10–O

Can you recall the words?

witty

1. S _____

noble, forgiving

2. M _____

capable in many fields

3. V _____

keen-minded

4. P _____

uncomplaining

5. S _____

friendly

6. C _____

poised; polished

7. U _____

courageous

8. I _____

tireless

9. I _____

simple and honest; frank

10. I _____

KEY: 1–scintillating, 2–magnanimous, 3–versatile, 4–perspicacious,
5–stoical, 6–convivial, 7–urbane, 8–intrepid, 9–indefatigable,
10–ingenuous

(End of Session 32)

SESSION 33

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. eat, drink, and be merry

The Latin verb *vivo*, to live, and the noun *vita*, life, are the source of a number of important English words.

Convivo is the Latin verb *to live together*; from this, in Latin, was formed the noun *convivium* (don't get impatient; we'll be back to English directly), which meant a *feast* or *banquet*; and from *convivium* we get our English word *convivial*, an adjective that describes the kind of person who likes to attend feasts and banquets, enjoying (and supplying) the jovial good fellowship characteristic of such gatherings.

Using the suffix *-ity* can you write the noun form of the adjective *convivial*? _____. (Can you pronounce it?)

2. living it up

Among many others, the following English words derive from Latin *vivo*, to live:

1. *vivacious* (vī-VAY'-shəs)—full of the joy of living; animated; peppy—a *vivacious* personality. Noun: *vivacity* (vī-VAS'-ə-tee). You can, as you know, also add *-ness* to any adjective to form a noun. Write the alternate noun form of *vivacious*: _____.

2. *vivid*—possessing the freshness of life; strong; sharp—a *vivid* imagination; a *vivid* color. Add *-ness* to form the noun: _____.

3. *revive* (rə-VĪV')—bring back to life. In the 1960s, men's fashions

of the twenties were *revived*. Noun: *revival* (rə-VĪ'-vəl).

4. *vivisection* (viv'-ə-SEK'-shən)—operating on a live animal. *Sect-* is from a Latin verb meaning *to cut*. *Vivisection* is the process of experimenting on live animals to discover causes and cures of disease. *Antivivisectionists* object to the procedure, though many of our most important medical discoveries were made through *vivisection*.

5. *Viviparous* (vī-VIP'-ər-əs)—producing live babies. Human beings and most other mammals are *viviparous*. *Viviparous* is contrasted to *oviparous* (ō-VIP'-ər-əs), producing young from eggs. Most fish, fowl, and other lower forms of life are *oviparous*.

The combining root in both these adjectives is Latin *pareo*, to give birth (*parent* comes from the same root). In *oviparous*, the first two syllables derive from Latin *ovum*, egg.

Ovum, egg, is the source of *oval* and *ovoid*, egg-shaped; *ovulate* (Ō'-vyə-layt'), to release an egg from the *ovary*: *ovum* (Ō-vəm), the female germ cell which, when fertilized by a sperm, develops into an embryo, then into a *fetus* (FEE'-təs), and finally, in about 280 days in the case of humans, is born as an infant.

The adjective form of *ovary* is *ovarian* (ō-VAIR'-ee-ən); of *fetus*, *fetal* (FEE'-təl). Can you write the noun form of the verb *ovulate*?

Love, you may or may not be surprised to hear, also comes from *ovum*.

No, not the kind of love you're thinking of. Latin *ovum* became *oeuf* in French, or with "the" preceding the noun (*the* egg), *Voeuf*, pronounced something like LooF. *Zero* (picture it for a moment) is shaped like an egg (0), so if your score in tennis is *fifteen*, and your opponent's is *zero*, you shout triumphantly, "Fifteen love! Let's go!"

3. more about life

Latin *vita*, life, is the origin of:

1. *vital* (VĪ'-təl)—essential to life; of crucial importance—a *vital*

matter; also full of life, strength, vigor, etc. Add the suffix *-ity* to form the noun: _____. Add a verb suffix to construct the verb: _____ (meaning: *to give life to*). Finally, write the noun derived from the verb you have constructed: _____.

2. *Revitalize* (ree-VĪ'-tə-līz') is constructed from the prefix *re-*, again, back, the root *vita*, and the verb suffix. Meaning? _____. Can you write the noun formed from this verb? _____.

3. The prefix *de-* has a number of meanings, one of which is essentially negative, as in *defrost*, *decompose*, *declassify*, etc. Using this prefix, can you write a verb meaning *to rob of life*, *to take life from*? _____. Now write the noun form of this verb: _____.

4. *Vitamin*—one of the many nutritional elements on which life is dependent. Good eyesight requires vitamin A (found, for example, in carrots); strong bones need vitamin D (found in sunlight and cod-liver oil); etc.

Vitalize, *revitalize*, and *devitalize* are used figuratively—for example, a program or plan is *vitalized*, *revitalized*, or *devitalized*, according to how it's handled.

4. French life

Sometimes, instead of getting our English words directly from Latin, we work through one of the Latin-derived or Romance languages. (As you will recall, the Romance languages—French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian—are so called because they were originally dialects of the old Roman tongue. English, by the way, is not a Romance language, but a Teutonic one. Our tongue is a development of a German dialect imposed on the natives of Britain by the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes of early English history. Though we have taken over into English more than 50 per cent of the Latin vocabulary and almost 30 per cent of the classical Greek vocabulary as roots and prefixes, our basic language is nevertheless German).

The French, using the same Latin root *vivo*, to live, formed two expressive phrases much used in English. French pronunciation is, of course, tricky, and if you are not at least superficially acquainted with that language, your pronunciation may sound a bit awkward to the sophisticated ear—but try it anyway. These phrases are:

1. *joie de vivre*—pronounced something like zhwahd'-VEEV' (zh is identical in sound to the s of *pleasure*).

Literally *joy of living*, this phrase describes an immense delight in being alive, an effervescent keenness for all the daily activities that human beings indulge in. People who possess *joie de vivre* are never moody, depressed, bored, or apathetic—on the contrary, they are full of sparkle, eager to engage in all group activities, and, most important, always seem to be having a good time, no matter what they are doing. *Joie de vivre* is precisely the opposite of *ennui* (this is also a word of French origin, but is easy to pronounce: AHN'-wee), which is a feeling of boredom, discontent, or weariness resulting sometimes from having a jaded, oversophisticated appetite, sometimes from just finding all of life tedious and unappetizing, and sometimes implying in addition physical lassitude and general inactivity. Young children and simple people rarely experience *ennui*—to them life is always exciting, always new.

2. *bon vivant*, pronounced something like BŌNG'-vee-VAHNG'—the -NG a muted nasal sound similar to the -ng in *sing*.

A *bon vivant* is a person who lives luxuriously, especially in respect to rich food, good liquor, expensive theater parties, operas, and other accouterments of upper-class life. *Bon vivant* means, literally, a *good liver*; actually, a *high liver*, one who lives a luxurious life. When you think of a *bon vivant* (usually, language being sexist, a male), you get the picture of someone attired in top hat, “soup and fish” or tuxedo, raising his cane to call a taxi while a beautiful, evening-gowned and sophisticated-looking woman, sparkling in diamonds and furs, waits at his side. They're going to a champagne and partridge supper at an outrageously expensive restaurant, etc.—fill in your own details of the high life.

The *bon vivant* is of course a *convivial* person—and also likely to be

a *gourmet* (gŏr-MAY'), another word from French.

5. food and how to enjoy it

The *gourmand* (GŏR'-mənd) enjoys food with a sensual pleasure. To *gourmands* the high spots of the day are the times for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and midnight supper; in short, they like to eat, but the eating must be good. The verb form, *gormandize* (GAWR'-mən-dīz'), however, has suffered a degeneration in meaning—it signifies *to stuff oneself like a pig*.

A *gourmand* is significantly different from a *gourmet*, who has also a keen interest in food and liquor, but is much more fastidious, is more of a connoisseur, has a most discerning palate for delicate tastes, flavors, and differences; goes in for rare delicacies (like hummingbirds' tongues and other such absurdities); and approaches the whole business from a scientific, as well as a sensual, viewpoint. *Gourmet* is always a complimentary term, *gourmand* somewhat less so.

The person who eats voraciously, with no discernment whatever, but merely for the purpose of stuffing himself ("I know I haven't had enough to eat till I feel sick"), is called a *glutton* (GLUT'-ən)—obviously a highly derogatory term. The verb *gluttonize* is stronger than *gormandize*; the adjective *gluttonous* (GLUT'-ə-nəs) is about the strongest epithet you can apply to someone whose voracious eating habits you find repulsive. Someone who has a voracious, insatiable appetite for money, sex, punishment, etc. is also called a *glutton*.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>vivo</i>	to live
ENGLISH WORD _____	

2. <i>-ous</i>	adjective suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
3. <i>re-</i>	again, back
ENGLISH WORD _____	
4. <i>sectus</i>	cut
ENGLISH WORD _____	
5. <i>anti-</i>	against
ENGLISH WORD _____	
6. <i>ovum</i>	egg
ENGLISH WORD _____	
7. <i>pareo</i>	to give birth, produce
ENGLISH WORD _____	
8. <i>vita</i>	life
ENGLISH WORD _____	
9. <i>-ize</i>	verb suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
10. <i>-ation</i>	noun suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
	added to verbs
ENGLISH WORD _____	
	ending in <i>-ize</i>
ENGLISH WORD _____	
11. <i>de-</i>	negative prefix

ENGLISH WORD _____

12. *bon* good

ENGLISH WORD _____

13. *-ate* verb suffix

ENGLISH WORD _____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>conviviality</i> | kən-viv'-ee-AL'-ə-tee |
| 2. <i>vivacious</i> | vī-VAY'-shəs |
| 3. <i>vivacity</i> | vī-VAS'-ə-tee |
| 4. <i>vivid</i> | VIV'-id |
| 5. <i>vividness</i> | VIV'-id-nəs |
| 6. <i>revive</i> | rə-VĪV |
| 7. <i>revival</i> | rə-VĪV'-əl |
| 8. <i>vivisection</i> | viv'-ə-SEK'-shən |
| 9. <i>antivivisectionist</i> | an'-tee (or tī)-viv'-ə-SEK'-shən-ist |
| 10. <i>viviparous</i> | vī-VIP'-ər-əs |
| 11. <i>oviparous</i> | ō-VIP'-ər-əs |
| 12. <i>oval</i> | Ō'-vəl |
| 13. <i>ovoid</i> | Ō'-voyd' |

14. <i>ovary</i>	Ō'-və-ree
15. <i>ovarian</i>	ō-VAIR'-ee-ən
16. <i>ovulate</i>	Ō-vyə-layt'
17. <i>ovulation</i>	ō-vyə-LAY'-shən

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>vital</i>	VĪ'-təl
2. <i>vitality</i>	vī-TAL'-ə-tee
3. <i>vitalize</i>	VĪ'-tə-līz'
4. <i>vitalization</i>	vī'-tə-lə-ZAY'-shən
5. <i>revitalize</i>	ree-VĪ'-tə-līz'
6. <i>revitalization</i>	ree-vī'-tə-lə-ZAY'-shən
7. <i>devitalize</i>	dee-VĪ'-tə-līz'
8. <i>devitalization</i>	dee-vī'-tə-lə-ZAY'-shən
9. <i>joie de vivre</i>	zhwahd'-VEEV'
10. <i>ennui</i>	AHN'-wee
11. <i>bon vivant</i>	BŌNG' vee-VAHNGT
12. <i>gourmand</i>	GŌR'-mənd
13. <i>gourmet</i>	gŏr-MAY'
14. <i>gormandize</i>	GAWR'-mən-dīz'
15. <i>glutton</i>	GLUT'-ən
16. <i>gluttonous</i>	GLUT-ə-nəs
17. <i>gluttonize</i>	GLUT'-ə-nīz'

18. *vitamin*

VĪ'-tə-min

Can you work with the words? (I)

1. oval, ovoid

a. peppy

2. revitalize

b. bearing live young

3. gluttonous

c. strong, sharp

4. vivacious

d. piggish; greedy

5. vivid

e. egg-shaped

6. viviparous

f. bearing young in eggs

7. oviparous

g. give new life to

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

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. conviviality | a. release of the egg |
| 2. vivisection | b. a “high liver” |
| 3. antivivisectionist | c. experimentation on live animals |
| 4. ovulation | d. one who is a connoisseur of good food |
| 5. vitality | e. effervescence; joy of living |
| 6. <i>joie de vivre</i> | f. one who enjoys food |
| 7. ennui | g. one who eats greedily; one who is greedy (as for punishment, etc.) |
| 8. <i>bon vivant</i> | h. boredom |
| 9. gourmand | i. congeniality |
| 10. gourmet | j. strength, vigor |
| 11. glutton | k. one who is against experimentation on live animals |

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

Can you work with the words? (III)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. revive | a. rob of life or strength |
| 2. vital | b. nutritional element necessary
for life |
| 3. vitalize | c. important, crucial |
| 4. devitalize | d. stuff oneself like a pig |
| 5. gluttonize | e. breathe life into |
| 6. vitamin | f. bring back to life |

KEY: 1–f, 2–c, 3–e, 4–a, 5–d, 6–b

Do you understand the words? (I)

conviviality—asceticism

SAME OPPOSITE

vivacious—apathetic

SAME OPPOSITE

vivid—dull

SAME OPPOSITE

revive—kill

SAME OPPOSITE

revitalize—rejuvenate

SAME OPPOSITE

ennui—boredom

SAME OPPOSITE

bon vivant—“man about town”

SAME OPPOSITE

gormandize—starve

SAME OPPOSITE

glutton—ascetic

SAME OPPOSITE

joie de vivre—boredom

SAME OPPOSITE

KEY: 1–O, 2–O, 3–O, 4–O, 5–S, 6–S, 7–S, 8–O, 9–O, 10–O

Do you understand the words? (II)

vivacity—liveliness

SAME OPPOSITE

revival—renewal

SAME OPPOSITE

vivisection—experimentation on corpses

SAME OPPOSITE

ovulation—egg-releasing

SAME OPPOSITE

devitalize—reinvigorate

SAME OPPOSITE

vitality—fatigue

SAME OPPOSITE

gluttonous—greedy

SAME OPPOSITE

gourmand—ascetic

SAME OPPOSITE

ovoid—egg-shaped

SAME OPPOSITE

KEY: 1–S, 2–S, 3–O, 4–S, 5–O, 6–O, 7–S, 8–O, 9–S

Do you understand the words? (III)

Humans are *viviparous*.

TRUE FALSE

Cows are *oviparous*.

TRUE FALSE

Ovulation takes places in females only when they are married.

TRUE FALSE

An *antivivisectionist* believes in experimenting on live animals.

TRUE FALSE

Vitamins are essential to good health.

TRUE FALSE

A *bon vivant* lives like a hermit.

TRUE FALSE

A *gourmet* stuffs himself with food.

TRUE FALSE

It is normal for young children to be overwhelmed with *ennui*.

TRUE FALSE

People who are keenly alive possess *joie de vivre*.

TRUE FALSE

KEY: 1–T, 2–F, 3–F, 4–F, 5–T, 6–F, 7–F, 8–F, 9–T

Can you recall the words?

bearing young by eggs (*adj.*)

1. O _____

bearing live young (*adj.*)

2. V _____

good-fellowship

3. C _____

operating on live animals

4. V _____

one who is opposed to such an activity

5. A _____

the process of releasing an egg from the ovary

6. O _____

to remove life or vigor from

7. D _____

joy of living

8. J _____

one who eats like a pig

9. G _____

a “high liver”

10. B _____

one who is a connoisseur of good food

11. G _____

one who gets a sensual enjoyment from good food

12. G _____

to stuff oneself like a pig; to eat greedily

13. G _____

or G _____

boredom; discontent; tedium

14. E _____

liveliness, pep

15. V _____

or V _____

or V _____

egg-shaped

16. O _____

to bring renewed life or vigor to

17. R _____

or O _____

referring to the ovary (*adj.*)

18. O _____

essential to life; crucial; of utmost importance

19. V _____

KEY: 1–oviparous, 2–viviparous, 3–conviviality, 4–vivisection, 5–antivivisectionist, 6–ovulation, 7–devitalize, 8–*joie de vivre*, 9–glutton, 10–*bon vivant*, 11–gourmet, 12–gourmand, 13–gluttonize *or* gormandize, 14–ennui, 15–vivacity, vivaciousness, *or* vitality, 16–oval *or* ovoid, 17–revitalize *or* revive, 18–ovarian, 19–vital

(End of Session 33)

SESSION 34

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. no fatigue

Indefatigable is a derived form of *fatigue*—*in-* is a negative prefix, the suffix *-able* means *able to be*; hence, literally, *indefatigable* means *unable to be fatigued*. The noun is *indefatigability* (in'-do-fat'-ə-gə-BIL'-ə-tee).

2. how simple can one be?

Ingenuous is a complimentary term, though its synonyms *naïve*, *gullible*, and *credulous* are faintly derogatory.

To call people *ingenuous* implies that they are frank, open, artless—in other words, not likely to try to put anything over on you, nor apt to hide feelings or thoughts that more sophisticated persons would consider it wise, tactful, or expedient to conceal.

Ingenuous should not be confused with *ingenious* (in-JEEN'-yəs)—note the slight difference in spelling—which on the contrary means *shrewd, clever, inventive*.

The noun form of *ingenuous* is *ingenuousness*; of *ingenious*, *ingenuity* (in'-jə-NŌŌ'-ə-tee) or *ingeniousness*.

To call people *naïve* (nah-EEV') is to imply that they have not learned the ways of the world, and are therefore idealistic and trusting beyond the point of safety; such idealism and trust have probably come from ignorance or inexperience. The noun is *naïveté* (nah-eev-TAY').

Credulous (KREJ'-ə-ləs) implies a willingness to believe almost

anything, no matter how fantastic. *Credulity* (krə-JOO'-lə-tee), like *naïveté*, usually results, again, from ignorance or inexperience, or perhaps from an inability to believe that human beings are capable of lying.

Gullible (GUL'-ə-bəl) means *easily tricked, easily fooled, easily imposed on*. It is a stronger word than *credulous* and is more derogatory. *Gullibility* (gul'-ə-BIL'-ə-tee) results more from stupidity than from ignorance or inexperience.

These four synonyms, *ingenuous*, *naïve*, *credulous*, and *gullible*, are fairly close, but they contain areas of distinction worth remembering. Let's review them:

1. *ingenuous*—frank, not given to concealment
2. *naïve*—inexperienced, unsophisticated, trusting
3. *credulous*—willing to believe; not suspicious or skeptical
4. *gullible*—easily tricked

3. belief and disbelief

Credulous comes from Latin *credo*, to believe, the same root found in *credit* (if people *believe* in your honesty, they will extend *credit* to you; they will *credit* what you say). -Ous is an adjective suffix that usually signifies *full of*. So, strictly, *credulous* means *full of believingness*.

Do not confuse *credulous* with *credible*. (KRED'-ə-bəl). In the latter word we see combined the root *credo*, believe, with -ible, a suffix meaning *can be*. Something *credible* can be believed.

Let's chart some differences:

Credulous listeners—those who fully believe what they hear

A *credible* story—one that can be believed

An *incredulous* (in-KREJ'-ə-ləs) attitude—an attitude of skepticism, of non-belief

An *incredible* (in-KRED'-ə-bəl) story—one that cannot be believed

Incredible characters—persons who are so unique that you can scarcely believe they exist.

Nouns are formed as follows:

credulous—*credulity* (krə-JOO'-lə-tee)

incredulous—*incredulity* (in-krə-JOO'-lə-tee)

credible—*credibility* (kred'-ə-BIL'-ə-tee)

incredible—*incredibility* (in-kred'-ə-BIL'-ə-tee)

To check your understanding of these distinctions, try the next test.

Can you use these words correctly?

Use *credulous*, *credible*, or corresponding negative or noun forms in the following sentences:

1. She listened _____ly to her husband's confession of his frequent infidelity, for she had always considered him a paragon of moral uprightness.
2. He told his audience an _____ and fantastic story of his narrow escapes.
3. He'll believe you—he's very _____.
4. Make your characters more _____ if you want your readers to believe in them.
5. We listened dumb-struck, full of _____, to the shocking details of corruption and vice.
6. He has the most _____ good luck.
7. The _____ of it! How can such things happen?
8. Naïve people accept with complete _____, whatever anyone tells them.
9. "Do you believe me?" "Sure—your story is _____ enough."

10. I'm not objecting to the total _____ of your story, but
only to your thinking that I'm _____ enough to believe it!

KEY: 1–incredulously, 2–incredible, 3–credulous, 4–credible, 5–incredulity, 6–incredible, 7–incredibility, 8–credulity, 9–credible, 10–incredibility, credulous

4. what people believe in

Credo, to believe, is the origin of four other useful English words.

1. *Credo* (KREE'-do)—personal belief, code of ethics; the principles by which people guide their actions.

2. *Creed*—a close synonym of *credo*; in addition, a religious belief, such as Catholicism, Judaism, Protestantism, Hinduism, etc.

3. *Credence* (KREE'-dəns)—belief, as in, “I place no *credence* in his stories.” or “Why should I give any *credence* to what you say?”

4. *Credentials* (krə-DEN'-shəls)—a document or documents proving a person's right to a title or privilege (i.e., a right to be believed), as in, “The new ambassador presented his *credentials* to the State Department.”

5. heads and tails

We can hardly close our book on the words suggested by *ingenuous* without looking at the other side of the coin. If *ingenuous* means *frank*, *open*, then *disingenuous* (dis-in-JEN'-yoo-əs) should mean *not frank or open*. But *disingenuous* people are far more than simply *not ingenuous*. They are crafty, cunning, dishonest, artful, insincere, untrustworthy—and they are all of these while making a pretense of being simple, frank, and aboveboard. You are thinking of a wolf in sheep's clothing? It's a good analogy.

Similarly, a remark may be *disingenuous*, as may also a statement, an attitude, a confession, etc.

Add *-ness* to form the noun derived from *disingenuous*:

_____.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>in-</i>	negative prefix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
2. <i>-ness</i>	noun suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
3. <i>credo</i>	to believe
ENGLISH WORD _____	
4. <i>-ous</i>	adjective suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
5. <i>-ible</i>	can be; able to be
ENGLISH WORD _____	
6. <i>-ity</i>	noun suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
7. <i>-ence</i>	noun suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
8. <i>dis-</i>	negative prefix
ENGLISH WORD _____	

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words?

1. <i>indefatigability</i>	in'-də-fat'-ə-gə-BIL'-ə-tee
2. <i>ingenuousness</i>	in-JEN'-yən-əs-ness
3. <i>ingenious</i>	in-JEEN'-yəs
4. <i>ingenuity</i>	in'-jə-NEN'-ə-tee
5. <i>naïve</i>	nah-EEV'
6. <i>naïveté</i>	nah-eev-TAY'
7. <i>credulous</i>	KREJ'-ə-ləs
8. <i>incredulous</i>	in-KREJ'-ə-ləs
9. <i>gullible</i>	GUL'-ə-bəl
10. <i>gullibility</i>	gul'-ə-BIL'-ə-tee
11. <i>credible</i>	KRED'-ə-bəl
12. <i>incredible</i>	in-KRED'-ə-bəl
13. <i>credulity</i>	krə-JEN'-lə-tee
14. <i>incredulity</i>	in'-krə-JEN'-lə-tee
15. <i>credibility</i>	kred'-ə-BIL'-ə-tee
16. <i>incredibility</i>	in-kred'-ə-BIL'-ə-tee
17. <i>credo</i>	KREE'-dō
18. <i>creed</i>	KREED
19. <i>credence</i>	KREE'-dəns
20. <i>credentials</i>	krə-DEN'-shəlz
21. <i>disingenuous</i>	dis'-in-JEN'-yən-əs
22. <i>disingenuousness</i>	dis'-in-JEN'-yən-əs-nəs

Can you work with the words? (I)

WORDS	DEFINITIONS
1. indefatigability	a. cunning
2. ingenuousness	b. skepticism
3. disingenuousness	c. personal code of ethics
4. naïveté	d. frankness
5. credibility	e. belief, trust
6. incredulity	f. tirelessness
7. credence	g. believability
8. credo	h. inexperience; unworldliness

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

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. ingenious | a. easily tricked |
| 2. credulous | b. religious belief |
| 3. gullible | c. inexperienced; unworldly |
| 4. incredible | d. document proving privileges,
identity, etc. |
| 5. creed | e. unbelievable |
| 6. credentials | f. shrewdness; cleverness |
| 7. ingenuity | g. clever; inventive; shrewd |
| 8. naïve | h. willing to believe |

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

Do you understand the words?

Is *indefatigability* a sign of physical and emotional health?

YES NO

Is *ingenuousness* a normal quality of young childhood?

YES NO

Is *ingenuity* a characteristic of inventors?

YES NO

Are some adolescents *naïve*?

YES NO

Are unintelligent people often *gullible*?

YES NO

Is *incredulity* the mark of the agnostic?

YES NO

Does an *incredible* story invite belief?

YES NO

Do people generally live by a *credo*?

YES NO

Does our Constitution guarantee certain rights to Americans irrespective of their *creed*?

YES NO

Are *ingenious* people sometimes *disingenuous*?

YES NO

Do we generally give *credence* to *incredible* statements?

YES NO

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

Can you recall the words?

inexperience; unsophistication

1. N_____

believing (*adj.*)

2. C_____

religious belief

3. C_____

believable

4. C_____

great reservoir of energy

5. I_____

frankness

6. I_____

crafty; dishonest

7. D_____

inventive; clever

8. I_____

easily tricked

9. G_____

skeptical

10. I_____

unbelievable

11. I_____

personal code

12. C_____

KEY: 1-naïve, 2-credulous, 3-creed, 4-credible, 5-indefatigability,
6-ingenuousness, 7-disingenuous, 8-ingenuous, 9-gullible, 10-
incredulous, 11-incredible, 12-credo

(End of Session 34)

SESSION 35

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. how to look

The Latin root *specto*, to look, is the source of a host of common English words: *spectacle*, *spectator*, *inspect*, *retrospect* (a looking back), *prospect* (a looking ahead), etc. In a variant spelling, *spic-*, the root is found in *conspicuous* (easily seen or looked at), *perspicacious*, and *perspicuous*.

A *perspicacious* (pur'-spə-KAY'-shəs) person is keen-minded, mentally sharp, astute. *Per-* is a prefix meaning *through*; so the word etymologically means *looking through* (matters, etc.) keenly, intelligently. The noun: *perspicacity* (pur'-spə-KAS'-ə-tee). Write an alternate noun ending in *-ness*:

Perspicacity is a synonym of *acumen* (AK'-yoo'-mən), mental keenness, sharpness, quickness; keen insight. The root is Latin *acuo*, to sharpen.

2. sharpness

From *acuo*, to sharpen, come such words as *acute*, sharp, sudden, as *acute pain*, an *acute* attack of appendicitis, *acute* reasoning, etc; and *acupuncture* (AK'-yoo-punk'-chər), the insertion of a (sharp) needle into the body for medical purposes. The noun form of *acute*, referring to the mind or thinking, is *acuteness* or *acuity* (ə-KYoo-ə-tee); in other contexts, *acuteness* only.

Acupuncture combines *acuo*, to sharpen, with *punctus*, point. When you *punctuate* a sentence, you put various *points* (periods, commas,

etc.) where needed; when lightning *punctuates* the storm, or when the silence is *punctuated* by the wailing of police sirens, again *points*, etymologically speaking, interrupt the atmosphere, the quiet, etc.

If you are *punctual*, you're right on the point of time (noun: *punctuality*); if you're *punctilious* (punk-TIL'-ee-əs), you are exact, scrupulous, very careful to observe the proper *points* of behavior, procedure, etc. (noun: *punctiliousness*). And to *puncture* something, of course, is to make a hole in it with a sharp *point*—as to *puncture* someone's tire, or figuratively, illusions, fantasies, or ego. *Pungent* (PUN'-jənt) comes from another form of the root *punctus* (*pungo*, to pierce sharply), so a *pungent* smell or taste is sharp, spicy, pricking the nose or taste buds, so to speak; and a *pungent* wit sharply pierces one's sense of humor. Can you write the noun forms of this adjective? _____ or _____.

3. some more looking

Perspicacious should not be confused with *perspicuous* (pər-SPIK'-y ə-əs). Here is the important distinction:

Perspicacious means *smart, sharp, able to look through and understand quickly*. This adjective applies to persons, their reasoning, minds, etc.

Perspicuous is the obverse side of the coin—it means *easily understood from one look*, and applies to writing, style, books, and like things that have to be understood. Hence it is a synonym of *clear, simple, lucid*. If you write with *perspicuous* style, your language is clear, easy to understand. If you are *perspicacious*, you understand quickly, easily.

The noun form of *perspicuous* is *perspicuity* (pur'-spə-KYOO'-ə-tee), or, of course, *perspicuousness*.

A *spectacle* is something to *look at*; *spectacles* (eyeglasses) are the means by which you get a comfortable and accurate *look* at the world. Anything *spectacular* is, etymologically, worth *looking at*.

A *spectator* is one who *looks at* what's happening.

To *inspect* is to *look into* something.

Retrospect (RET'-rə-spekt') is a backward *look*—generally the word is preceded by the preposition *in*, for instance, “His life *in retrospect* seemed dreary and dull,” or “Most experiences seem more enjoyable *in retrospect* than in actuality” (*retro-*, backward).

Prospect (PROS'-pekt') is a forward *look*; *prospective* (prə-SPEK'-tiv) is the adjective. What's the *prospect* for inflation, for world peace, for the domestic energy supply? Your *prospective* mother-in-law is the one you can look forward to if you marry a certain person; similarly, your *prospective* bride, groom, child, job, vacation, etc. is the person, thing, or activity in the future that you look forward to. (The prefix is *pro-*, forward, ahead, before.)

If you enjoy looking at yourself, figuratively speaking, then you like to examine your mental processes and emotional reactions, in the intense way characteristic of the *introvert* (see [Chapter 3](#)). Your mind's eye turns inward, and you spend a good deal of time analyzing yourself, your character, your personality, your actions. Hence, since you look *inward*, you are *introspective* (in'-trə-SPEK'-tiv)—the prefix is *intro-*, inside, within. If you *introspect* (in'-trə-SPEKT'), you look inward and examine your inner reactions. Too much *introspection* (in'-trə-SPEK'-shən) or *introspectiveness* may lead to unhappiness or to depressing thoughts or feelings of anxiety—few people have the courage to see themselves as they really are.

There are times when you have to look *around* most carefully; you must then be *circumspect* (SUR'-kəm-spekt')—watchful, cautious, alert (*circum-*, around).

The noun is *circumspection* (sur'-kem-SPEK'-shən) or *circumspectness*.

If something looks good or sensible, but actually is not, we call it *specious* (SPEE'-shəs). A *specious* argument sounds plausible, but in reality is based on an error, a fallacy, or an untruth. The noun is *speciousness*.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>specto</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	to look
2. <i>per-</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	through
3. <i>acuo</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	to sharpen
4. <i>punctus</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	point
5. <i>-ate</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	verb suffix
6. <i>-al</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	adjective suffix
7. <i>pungo</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	to pierce sharply
8. <i>-ent</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	adjective suffix
9. <i>-ence, -ency</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	noun suffixes
10. <i>-ness</i> ENGLISH WORD _____	noun suffix
11. <i>-ity</i>	noun suffix

ENGLISH WORD _____

12. *retro-*

backward

ENGLISH WORD _____

13. *pro-*

forward, ahead, before

ENGLISH WORD _____

14. *intro-*

inside, within

ENGLISH WORD _____

15. *-ion*

noun suffix

ENGLISH WORD _____

16. *-ive*

adjective suffix

ENGLISH WORD _____

17. *circum-*

around

ENGLISH WORD _____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

1. *perspicacious*

pur'-spə-KAY'-shəs

2. *perspicacity*

pur'-spə-KAS'-ə-tee

3. *acumen*

AK'-yoo'-mən

4. *acute*

ə-KYOOT'

5. *acuity*

ə-KYOOT'-ə-tee

6. *acupuncture*

AK'-yoo-punk'-chər

7. <i>punctuate</i>	PUNK'-ch oo -ayt'
8. <i>punctilious</i>	punk-TIL'-ee-əs
9. <i>puncture</i>	PUNK'-chər
10. <i>pungent</i>	PUN'-jənt
11. <i>pungence</i>	PUN'-jəns
12. <i>pungency</i>	PUN'-jən-see

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>perspicuous</i>	pər-SPIK'-y oo -əs
2. <i>perspicuity</i>	pur'-spə-KY oo '-ə-tee
3. <i>retrospect</i>	RET'-rə-spekt'
4. <i>prospect</i>	PROS'-pekt'
5. <i>prospective</i>	prə-SPEK'-tiv
6. <i>introspective</i>	in'-trə-SPEK'-tiv
7. <i>introspect</i>	in'-trə-SPEKT'
8. <i>introspection</i>	in'-trə-SPEK'-shən
9. <i>circumspect</i>	SUR'-kəm-spekt'
10. <i>circumspection</i>	sur'-kəm-SPEK'-shən
11. <i>specious</i>	SPEE'-shəs

Can you work with the words? (I)

a. extremely careful, exact, or

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. perspicacious | proper in procedure |
| 2. acumen | b. clear; easy to understand |
| 3. acupuncture | c. a forward look |
| 4. punctilious | d. looking inside, or examining or
analyzing, oneself |
| 5. pungent | e. keen-minded |
| 6. perspicuous | f. sharp; spicy; piercing |
| 7. retrospect | g. careful, watchful, wary,
cautious; "looking around" |
| 8. prospect | h. sharpness of mind or thinking |
| 9. introspective | i. a backward look |
| 10. circumspect | j. medical insertion of needles |

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

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. acute | a. pierce; make a hole in; (noun)
a small hole |
| 2. acuity | b. clarity; lucidity; ability to be
understood quickly and easily |
| 3. punctuate | c. sounding plausible, or looking
right, but actually false or
untrue |
| 4. puncture | d. in the future; describing that
which, or one who, can be
looked forward to |
| 5. pungence, pungency | e. care; watchfulness; caution |
| 6. perspicuity | f. sharp; sudden; keen-minded |
| 7. prospective | g. tending to examine and to
think about one's motives,
feelings, etc. |
| 8. introspective | h. interrupt sharply or suddenly |
| 9. circumspection | i. sharpness or spiciness of taste,
smell, wit, etc. |
| 10. specious | j. keenness of mind, thinking, or |

intellect

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

Do you understand the words?

perspicacious—dull-witted

SAME OPPOSITE

acumen—stupidity

SAME OPPOSITE

acute—sharp

SAME OPPOSITE

acuity—perspicacity

SAME OPPOSITE

punctilious—casual

SAME OPPOSITE

pungent—flat, dull

SAME OPPOSITE

perspicuous—clear

SAME OPPOSITE

retrospect—backward look

SAME OPPOSITE

prospect—expectation

SAME OPPOSITE

introspective—extroverted

SAME OPPOSITE

prospective—in the past

SAME OPPOSITE

circumspect—careless

SAME OPPOSITE

specious—true

SAME

OPPOSITE

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

Can you recall the words? (I)

plausible, but false or incorrect

1. S _____

spiciness, sharpness; piercing quality

2. P _____

or P _____

clear; easily understood

3. P _____

sharpness of mind or of intelligence

4. A _____

or A _____

or A _____

care and caution; wariness

5. C _____

or C _____

piercing of the skin with needles for medical purposes

6. A _____

tending to examine one's motives, etc.; loooking inward (*adj.*)

7. I _____

exact in the observance of proper procedure

8. P _____

to pierce and make a small hole in

9. P _____

a backward look or view

10. R _____

KEY: 1-specious, 2-pungence *or* pungency, 3-perspicuous, 4-acumen *or* acuteness *or* acuity, 5-circumspection *or* circumspectness, 6-acupuncture, 7-introspective, 8-punctilious, 9-puncture, 10-retrospect

Can you recall the words? (II)

keenness of mind

1. P _____

or P _____

sharp; sudden; keen-minded

2. A _____

to interrupt suddenly

3. P _____

spicy; piercing in taste, smell, wit, etc.

4. P _____

clarity; clearness of style or language

5. P _____

or P _____

keen-minded; perceptive

6. P _____

a look forward

7. P _____

act or process of looking inward

8. I _____

carefully looking around; cautious; wary

9. C _____

anticipated; “to be”; looked forward to (*adj.*)

10. P _____

KEY: 1–perspicacity *or* perspicaciousness, 2–acute, 3–punctuate, 4–pungent, 5–perspicuity *or* perspicuousness, 6–perspicacious, 7–prospect, 8–introspection, 9–circumspect, 10–prospective

(End of Session 35)

SESSION 36

ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

1. the great and the small

You are familiar with Latin *animus*, mind. *Animus* and a related root, *anima*, life principle, soul, spirit (in a sense, these meanings are all very similar), are the source of such words as *animal*, *animate* and *inanimate*, *animated*, and *animation*; knowing the meaning of the roots, you have a better understanding of any word built on them.

Magnanimous contains, in addition to *animus*, mind, the root *magnus*, large, great, which you recall from *magniloquent*. *Magnanimous* people have such great, noble minds or souls that they are beyond seeking petty revenge.

The noun is *magnanimity* (mag'-nə-NIM'-ə-tee).

On the other hand, people who have tiny, tiny minds or souls are *pusillanimous* (pyŏ'-sə-LAN'-ə-mes)—Latin *pusillus*, tiny. Hence, they are contemptibly petty and mean. The noun is *pusillanimity* (pyŏ'-sə-lə-NIM'-ə-tee).

Other words built on *animus*, mind:

1. *unanimous* (yŏ-NAN'-ə-məs)—of one *mind*. If the Supreme Court hands down a *unanimous* opinion, all the judges are of *one* mind (Latin *unus*, one). The noun is *unanimity* (yŏ'-nə-NIM'-ə-tee).

2. *equanimity* (ee'-kwə-NIM'-ə-tee or ek'-wə-NIM'-ə-tee)—etymologically, “equal (or balanced) mind.” Hence, evenness or calmness of mind; composure. If you preserve your *equanimity* under trying circumstances, you keep your temper, you do not get confused, you remain calm (Latin *aequus*, equal).

3. *animus* (AN'-ə-məs)—hostility, ill will, malevolence.

Etymologically, *animus* is simply *mind*, but has degenerated, as words often do, to mean *unfriendly mind*. The word is most often used in a pattern like, “I bear you no *animus*, even though you have tried to destroy me.” (Such a statement shows real *magnanimity*!)

4. *animosity* (an’-ə-MOS’-ə-tee)—ill will, hostility. An exact synonym of *animus*, and a more common word. It is used in patterns like, “You feel a good deal of *animosity*, don’t you?”, “There is real *animosity* between Bill and Ernie,” “If you bear me no *animosity*, why do you treat me so badly?”

2. turning

Versatile comes from *verto*, *versus*, to turn—*versatile* people can turn their hand to many things successfully. The noun is *versatility* (vur’-sə-TIL’-ə-tee).

3. Zeno and the front porch

Centuries ago, in ancient Greece, the philosopher Zeno lectured on a topic that still piques the human mind, to wit: “How to Live a Happy Life.” Zeno would stand on a porch (the Greek word for which is *stoa*) and hold forth somewhat as follows: people should free themselves from intense emotion, be unmoved by both joy and sorrow, and submit without complaint to unavoidable necessity.

Today, psychologists suggest pretty much the exact opposite—let your emotions flow freely, express your love or animosity, don’t bottle up your feelings. But in the fourth century B.C., when Zeno was expounding his credo, his philosophy of control of the passions fell on receptive ears. His followers were called *Stoics*, after the *stoa*, or porch, from which the master lectured.

If we call people *stoical*, we mean that they bear their pain or sorrow without complaint, they meet adversity with unflinching fortitude. This sounds very noble, you will admit—actually, according to modern psychological belief, it is healthier not to be so

stoical. *Stoicism* (STŌ'-ə-siz-əm) may be an admirable virtue (mainly because we do not then have to listen to the *stoic's* troubles), but it can be overdone.

4. fear and trembling

Intrepid is from Latin *trepido*, to tremble. *Intrepid* people exhibit courage and fearlessness (and not a single tremble!) when confronted by dangers from which you and I would run like the cowards we are. (You recognize the negative prefix *in-*.)

The noun: *intrepidity* (in'-trə-PID'-ə-tee), or, of course, *intrepidness*.

Trepido is the source also of *trepidation* (trep'-ə-DAY'-shən)—great fear, trembling, or alarm.

5. quick flash

Scintilla, in Latin, is a quick, bright spark; in English the word *scintilla* (sin-TIL'-ə) may also mean *a spark*, but more commonly refers to a very small particle (which, in a sense, a spark is), as in, "There was not a *scintilla* of evidence against him."

In the verb *scintillate* (SIN'-tə-layt'), the idea of the spark remains; someone who *scintillates* sparkles with charm and wit, flashes brightly with humor. The noun is *scintillation* (sin'-tə-LAY'-shən).

6. city and country

People who live in the big city go to theaters, attend the opera, visit museums and picture galleries, browse in bookstores, and shop at Robinson's, Bloomingdale's, Marshall Field, or other large department stores.

These activities fill them with culture and sophistication.

Also, they crowd into jammed subway trains or buses, squeeze into packed elevators, cross the street in competition with high-powered

motorcars, patiently stand in line outside of movie houses, and then wait again in the lobby for seats to be vacated.

Also, they have the privilege of spending two hours a day going to and coming from work.

As a result, city-dwellers are refined, polished, courteous—or so the etymology of *urbane* (from Latin *urbs*, city) tells us. (And you must be absurdly credulous, if not downright gullible, to believe it.) The noun is *urbanity* (ur-BAN'-ə-tee).

So *urbane* people are gracious, affable, cultivated, suave, tactful—add any similar adjectives you can think of.

Urban (UR'-bən) as an adjective simply refers to cities—*urban* affairs, *urban* areas, *urban* populations, *urban* life, *urban* development, etc.

Consider some prefixes: *sub-*, near; *inter-*, between; *intra-*, inside, within; *ex-*, out.

Add each prefix to the root *urbs*, using the adjective suffix *-an*:

sub_____ : near the city

(*Sub-* has a number of meanings: *under*, *near*, *close to*, etc.)

inter_____ : between cities

intra_____ : within a city

ex_____ : out of the city

The *suburbs* are residential sections, or small communities, close to a large city; Larchmont is a *suburb* of New York City, Whittier a *suburb* of Los Angeles.

Suburbia (sə-BUR'-bee-ə) may designate *suburbs* as a group; *suburban* residents, or *suburbanites* (sə-BUR'-bə-nīts'), as a group; or the typical manners, modes of living, customs, etc. of suburban residents.

An *interurban* bus travels *between* cities, an *intraurban* bus *within* a single city.

An *exurb* (EKS'-urb) lies well beyond, way outside, a large city, and generally refers to a region inhabited by well-to-do families. *Exurb* has derived forms corresponding to those of *suburb*. Can you

construct them?

Plural noun:

Adjective:

Resident:

As a group; manners, customs,
etc.:

Urbs is the city; Latin *rus*, *ruris* is the country, i.e., farmland, fields, etc. So *rural* (RŪR'-əl) refers to country or farm regions, agriculture, etc.—a wealthy *rural* area.

Rustic (RUS'-tik) as an adjective may describe furniture or dwellings made of roughhewn wood, or furnishings suitable to a farmhouse; or, when applied to a person, is an antonym of *urbane*—unsophisticated, boorish, lacking in social graces, uncultured. Noun: *rusticity* (rus-TIS'-ə-tee). *Rustic* is also a noun designating a person with such characteristics, as in, “He was considered a *rustic* by his classmates, all of whom came from cultured and wealthy backgrounds.”

Urbane and *rustic*, when applied to people, are emotionally charged words. *Urbane* is complimentary, *rustic* derogatory.¹

To *rusticate* (RUS'-tə-kayt') is to spend time in the country, away from the turmoil and tensions of big-city life. Can you construct the noun? _____.

REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX

MEANING

1. *animus*

mind

ENGLISH WORD _____

2. <i>anima</i>	soul, spirit, life principle
ENGLISH WORD _____	
3. <i>magnus</i>	large, great
ENGLISH WORD _____	
4. <i>pusillus</i>	tiny
ENGLISH WORD _____	
5. <i>unus</i>	one
ENGLISH WORD _____	
6. <i>aequus (equ-)</i>	equal
ENGLISH WORD _____	
7. <i>verto, versus</i>	to turn
ENGLISH WORD _____	
8. <i>stoa</i>	porch
ENGLISH WORD _____	
9. <i>in-</i>	negative prefix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
10. <i>trepido</i>	to tremble
ENGLISH WORD _____	
11. <i>scintilla</i>	a spark
ENGLISH WORD _____	
12. <i>urbs</i>	city
ENGLISH WORD _____	
13. <i>sub-</i>	near, close to, under

ENGLISH WORD _____

14. *inter-*

between

ENGLISH WORD _____

15. *intra-*

within, inside

ENGLISH WORD _____

16. *ex-*

out

ENGLISH WORD _____

17. *rus, ruris*

country, farmlands

ENGLISH WORD _____

18. *-ate*

verb suffix

ENGLISH WORD _____

19. *-ion*

noun suffix added to *-ate* verbs

ENGLISH WORD _____

USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

1. *magnanimity*

mag'-nə-NIM'-ə-tee

2. *pusillanimous*

pyŋ'-sə-LAN'-ə-məs

3. *pusillanimity*

pyŋ'-sə-lə-NIM'-ə-tee

4. *unanimous*

yŋ-NAN'-ə-məs

5. *unanimity*

yŋ-nə-NIM'-ə-tee

6. <i>equanimity</i>	eek' (or ek')-wə-NIM'-ə-tee
7. <i>animus</i>	AN'-ə-məs
8. <i>animosity</i>	an'-ə-MOS'-ə-tee
9. <i>versatility</i>	vur'-sə-TIL'-ə-tee
10. <i>stoic</i>	STŌ'-ik
11. <i>stoicism</i>	STŌ'-ə-siz-əm

Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>intrepidity</i>	in'-trə-PID'-ə-tee
2. <i>trepidation</i>	trep'-ə-DAY'-shən
3. <i>scintilla</i>	sin-TIL'-ə
4. <i>scintillate</i>	SIN'-tə-layt'
5. <i>scintillation</i>	sin'-tə-LAY'-shən
6. <i>urbanity</i>	ur-BAN'-ə-tee
7. <i>suburbia</i>	sə-BUR'-bee-ə
8. <i>interurban</i>	in'-tər-UR'-bən
9. <i>intraurban</i>	in'-trə-UR'-bən
10. <i>exurbs</i>	EKS'-urbz
11. <i>exurban</i>	eks-UR'-bən
12. <i>exurbanite</i>	eks-UR'-bən-īt'
13. <i>exurbia</i>	eks-UR'-bee-ə

Can you pronounce the words? (III)

1. <i>rural</i>	RŪR'-əl
2. <i>rustic</i>	RUS'-tik
3. <i>rusticity</i>	rus-TIS'-ə-tee
4. <i>rusticate</i>	RUS'-tə-kayt'
5. <i>rustication</i>	rus'-tə-KAY'-shən
6. <i>pejorative</i>	pə-JAWR'-ə-tiv

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. magnanimity | a. calmness, composure |
| 2. pusillanimity | b. ability either to do many different things well, or to function successfully in many areas |
| 3. unanimity | c. fearlessness; great courage |
| 4. equanimity | d. unemotionality; bearing of pain, etc. without complaint |
| 5. animosity | e. big-heartedness; generosity; quality of forgiving easily |
| 6. versatility | f. a sparkling with wit or cleverness |
| 7. stoicism | g. fear and trembling; alarm |
| 8. intrepidity | h. complete agreement, all being of one mind |

- 9. trepidation
- 10. scintillation
- i. petty-mindedness
- j. anger, hostility, resentment,
hatred

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

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. urbanity | a. referring to the countryside |
| 2. suburbia | b. word with negative or derogatory connotation; describing such a word or words |
| 3. exurbia | c. to spend time in the country |
| 4. animus | d. residential areas near big cities; customs, etc. of the inhabitants of such areas |
| 5. interurban | e. residential areas far from big cities; customs, etc. of the inhabitants of such areas |
| 6. intraurban | f. between cities |
| 7. rural | g. roughhewn, farmlike; unsophisticated, uncultured |
| 8. rustic | h. sophistication, courtesy, polish, etc. |
| 9. rusticate | i. anger, hatred, hostility |
| 10. pejorative | j. within one city |

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

(End of Session 36)

SESSION 37

READY FOR A STRONG REVIEW?

Drill, drill, drill! This is the important secret of learning words thoroughly.

Review, review, review! This is the secret of remembering, assimilating, digesting, and keeping as permanent acquisitions all the new words you have learned.

So pitch in with enthusiasm to the rest of this chapter, made up of a series of valuable tests on all the chapter words. Ready?

Can you work with the words? (I)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. retrospect | a. complete agreement |
| 2. acumen | b. pettiness |
| 3. magnanimity | c. malevolence |
| 4. pusillanimity | d. backward look |
| 5. unanimity | e. calmness |
| 6. equanimity | f. ability in many fields |
| 7. animosity | g. mental keenness |
| 8. versatility | h. generosity |

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

Can you work with the words? (II)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. stoicism | a. fearlessness |
| 2. intrepidity | b. sparkle |
| 3. trepidation | c. inward look |
| 4. scintillation | d. uncomplaining attitude to pain
or trouble |
| 5. urbanity | e. falsity |
| 6. introspection | f. polish, cultivation |
| 7. circumspection | g. care, cautiousness |
| 8. speciousness | h. fear |

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

Can you work with the words? (III)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. exurbs | a. of one mind |
| 2. pusillanimous | b. ill will |
| 3. unanimous | c. pertaining to the city |
| 4. animus | d. petty |
| 5. rustic | e. self-analytical |
| 6. urban | f. regions far from the city |
| 7. introspective | g. cautious |
| 8. circumspect | h. false, though plausible |
| 9. specious | i. countrified |

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

Can you work with the words? (IV)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. perspicacity | a. clearness |
| 2. perspicuity | b. to be witty |
| 3. stoic | c. spend time in the country |
| 4. scintilla | d. one who controls his emotions |
| 5. scintillate | e. to look inward |
| 6. rural | f. a very small amount |
| 7. rusticate | g. keen intelligence |
| 8. introspect | h. clear, understandable |
| 9. perspicuous | i. keen-minded |
| 10. perspicacious | j. pertaining to the country. |

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

Do you understand the words? (I)

Does life often seem pleasanter in *retrospect*?

YES NO

Are people of *acuity* gullible?

YES NO

Is *perspicacity* a common characteristic?

YES NO

Is a person of *acumen* likely to be naïve?

YES NO

Is a *perspicuous* style of writing easy to read?

YES NO

Should all writers aim at *perspicuity*?

YES NO

Is *magnanimity* a characteristic of small-minded people?

YES NO

Does a person of *pusillanimous* mind often think of petty revenge?

YES NO

Is a *unanimous* opinion one in which all concur?

YES NO

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

Do you understand the words? (II)

Is it easy to preserve one's *equanimity* under trying circumstances?

YES NO

Do we bear *animus* toward our enemies?

YES NO

Do we usually feel great *animosity* toward our friends?

YES NO

Do we admire *versatility*?

YES NO

Does a *stoic* usually complain?

YES NO

Is *stoicism* a mark of an uninhibited personality?

YES NO

Do cowards show *intrepidity* in the face of danger?

YES NO

Do cowards often feel a certain amount of *trepidation*?

YES NO

Is a *scintilla* of evidence a great amount?

YES NO

Do dull people *scintillate*?

YES NO

Is *urbanity* a characteristic of boorish people?

YES NO

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

Do you understand the words? (III)

Is New York City a *rural* community?

YES NO

Is a village an *urban* community?

YES NO

Do you *rusticate* in the city?

YES NO

Are extroverts very *introspective*?

YES NO

Does an introvert spend a good deal of time in *introspection*?

YES NO

In dangerous circumstances, is it wise to be *circumspect*?

YES NO

Do *specious* arguments often sound convincing?

YES NO

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

Do you understand the words? (IV)

retrospect—prospect

SAME OPPOSITE

acute—perspicacious

SAME OPPOSITE

acumen—stupidity

SAME OPPOSITE

perspicuous—confused

SAME OPPOSITE

magnanimous—noble

SAME OPPOSITE

pusillanimous—petty

SAME OPPOSITE

unanimous—divided

SAME OPPOSITE

equanimity—nervousness

SAME OPPOSITE

animosity—hostility

SAME OPPOSITE

animus—friendliness

SAME OPPOSITE

versatility—monomania

SAME OPPOSITE

stoicism—cowardice

SAME OPPOSITE

intrepidity—fear

SAME OPPOSITE

trepidation—courage

SAME OPPOSITE

scintilla—slight amount

SAME OPPOSITE

urbanity—refinement

SAME OPPOSITE

rustic—crude

SAME OPPOSITE

rural—urban

SAME OPPOSITE

introspective—self-analytic

SAME OPPOSITE

circumspect—careless

SAME OPPOSITE

specious—true

SAME OPPOSITE

KEY: 1-O, 2-S, 3-O, 4-O, 5-S, 6-S, 7-O, 8-O, 9-S, 10-O, 11-O, 12-O, 13-O, 14-O, 15-S, 16-S, 17-S, 18-O, 19-S, 20-O, 21-O

Can you recall the words? (I)

ability in many fields

1. V_____

pertaining to the city (*adj.*)

2. U_____

to spend time in the country

3. R_____

merest spark; small amount

4. S_____

courage

5. I_____

KEY: 1–versatility, 2–urban, 3–rusticate, 4–scintilla, 5–intrepidity

Can you recall the words? (II)

unflinching fortitude

1. S _____

countrified; unpolished

2. R _____

pertaining to the countryside (*adj.*)

3. R _____

a looking back to the past

4. R _____

nobleness of mind or spirit

5. M _____

KEY: 1–stoicism, 2–rustic, 3–rural, 4–retrospect, 5–magnanimity

Can you recall the words? (III)

keen-mindedness

1. A_____

clear, lucid

2. P_____

petty, mean

3. P_____

all of one mind or opinion

4. U_____

ill will

5. A_____

or A_____

KEY: 1–acuity, 2–perspicuous, 3–pusillanimous, 4–unanimous, 5–
animus *or* animosity

Can you recall the words? (IV)

4. keenness of mind

1. P_____

or P_____

2. A_____

3. A_____

4. A_____

clearness of style or language

5. P_____

one who keeps his emotions, during times of trouble, hidden

6. S_____

sophistication, courtesy, refinement

7. U_____

KEY: 1–perspicacity *or* perspicaciousness, 2–acumen, 3–acuity, 4–
acuteness (2–4 in any order), 5–perspicuity, 6–stoic, 7–
urbanity

Can you recall the words? (V)

pettiness of character

1. P _____

noun form of *unanimous*

2. U _____

mental calmness, balance

3. E _____

fear and trembling

4. T _____

to sparkle with wit and humor

5. S _____

KEY: 1–pusillanimity, 2–unanimity, 3–equanimity, 4–trepidation,
5–scintillate

Can you recall the words? (VI)

a looking inward; an examining of one's mental processes or
emotional reactions

1. I _____
cautious

2. C _____
seemingly true, actually false

3. S _____
to think of one's mental processes

4. I _____
care, watchfulness

5. C _____

KEY: 1–introspective, 2–circumspect, 3–specious, 4–introspect, 5–circumspection

THREE FURTHER TESTS

I. matching

MEANING	WORD
1. convivial	a. frank
2. indefatigable	b. noble, forgiving
3. ingenuous	c. unflinching; unemotional
4. perspicacious	d. courteous; polished; suave
5. magnanimous	e. companionable, gregarious
6. versatile	f. witty
7. stoical	g. capable in many directions
8. intrepid	h. brave
9. scintillating	i. keen-minded
10. urbane	j. tireless

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

II. same or opposite?

vivacious—sluggish

SAME OPPOSITE

vital—crucial

SAME OPPOSITE

ennui—boredom

SAME OPPOSITE

bon vivant—gourmand

SAME OPPOSITE

gourmet—ascetic

SAME OPPOSITE

ingenuous—crafty

SAME OPPOSITE

naïve—sophisticated

SAME OPPOSITE

credulous—skeptical

SAME OPPOSITE

disingenuous—insincere

SAME OPPOSITE

credo—belief

SAME OPPOSITE

KEY: 1–O, 2–S, 3–S, 4–S, 5–O, 6–O, 7–O, 8–O, 9–S, 10–S

III. changing parts of speech

Change these adjectives to nouns *not* ending in *-ness*.

indefatigable

perspicacious

stoical

urbane

naïve

incredulous

incredible

perspicuous

magnanimous

pusillanimous

KEY: 1–indefatigability, 2–perspicacity, 3–stoicism, 4–urbanity, 5–naïveté, 6–incredulity, 7–incredibility, 8–perspicuity, 9–magnanimity, 10–pusillanimity

CHAPTER REVIEW

A. Do you recognize the words?

Tireless:

(a) convivial, (b) indefatigable, (c) versatile

Frank, unsophisticated:

(a) ingenuous, (b) ingenious, (c) intrepid

Unflinching, uncomplaining:

(a) perspicacious, (b) urbane, (c) stoical

Noble, forgiving, generous:

(a) pusillanimous, (b) unanimous, (c) magnanimous

Between cities:

(a) interurban, (b) intraurban, (c) exurban

Giving birth to live young:

(a) oviparous, (b) ovulation, (c) viviparous

Tedium, boredom:

(a) ennui, (b) *joie de vivre*, (c) vitality

Connoisseur of choice food:

(a) gourmet, (b) gourmand, (c) glutton

Inexperienced in the ways of the world:

(a) credulous, (b) naïve, (c) credible

Easily tricked:

(a) gullible, (b) incredulous, (c) ingenious

Backward look:

(a) prospect, (b) retrospect, (c) introspection

Clearness:

(a) perspicacity, (b) perspicuity, (c) intrepidity

Resentment:

(a) animosity, (b) stoicism, (c) urbanity

Countrified:

(a) rustic, (b) specious, (c) circumspect

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

B. Can you recognize roots?

	ROOT	EXAMPLE
1. <i>vivo</i>		_____
MEANING	vivacious	
2. <i>sectus</i>		_____
MEANING	vivisection	
3. <i>pareo</i>		_____
MEANING	viviparous	
4. <i>ovum</i>		_____
MEANING	oviparous	
5. <i>vita</i>		_____
MEANING	vital	
6. <i>bon</i>		_____
MEANING	<i>bon vivant</i>	
7. <i>credo</i>		_____
MEANING	credible	
8. <i>specto</i>		_____
MEANING	spectator	

9. *acuo*

MEANING acupuncture

10. *punctus*

MEANING punctuate

11. *pungo*

MEANING pungent

12. *animus*

MEANING animosity

13. *pusillus*

MEANING pusillanimous

14. *magnus*

MEANING magnanimous

15. *unus*

MEANING unanimous

16. *aequus* (*equ-*)

MEANING equanimity

17. *verto, versus*

MEANING versatile

18. *stoa*

MEANING stoical

19. *trepido*

MEANING trepidation

20. *scintilla*

MEANING scintillate

21. *urbs*

MEANING urban

22. *rus, ruris*

MEANING rural, rustic

KEY: 1–to live, 2–cut, 3–to give birth, produce, 4–egg, 5–life, 6–good, 7–to believe, 8–to look, 9–to sharpen, 10–point, 11–to pierce sharply, 12–mind, 13–tiny, 14–big, great, large, 15–one, 16–equal, 17–to turn, 18–porch, 19–to tremble, 20–spark, 21–city, 22–country, countryside

TEASER QUESTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR ETYMOLOGIST

1. Recalling the root *vivo*, to live, can you think of the verb that means *to live on*? _____.

Can you write the noun form? _____.

2. How would you explain a *vivarium*? _____.

3. Recalling the meanings of Latin *vita*, what would you understand if someone asked you for your *vita* before you appeared for an interview for a professional position? _____.

4. *Unus* is Latin for *one*. Can you use this root to construct words meaning:

(a) animal with *one* horn: _____.

(b) of *one* form: _____.

(c) to make *one*: _____.

(d) *oneness*: _____.

(e) *one*-wheeled vehicle: _____.

5. *Annus* is Latin for *year*; *verto*, *versus*, as you know, means *to turn*. Can you, then, explain the word *anniversary* in terms of its roots? _____

6. How about *universe* and *university* in terms of their roots (*unus*, one; *verto*, *versus*, to turn)?

(a) universe: _____

(b) university: _____

7. Use *inter-*, between, to form words of the following meanings:

(a) *between* states (*adj.*): _____

(b) *between* nations (*adj.*): _____

(c) in the middle *between*
elementary and advanced (*adj.*): _____

(d) to break in (*between* people
conversing): _____

(e) *between* persons (*adj.*): _____

8. Use *intra-*, within, to form words with the following meanings
(all *adjectives*):

(a) *within* one state: _____

(b) *within* one nation: _____

(c) *within* one's own person or
mind: _____

(d) *within* the muscles: _____

(Answers in *Chapter 18*)

WORDS INFLUENCE YOUR THINKING

By now, you have thoroughly explored hundreds upon hundreds of valuable words and scores upon scores of important Greek and Latin roots.

As you went along you stopped at frequent intervals to say aloud, think about, work with, and recall the words you were adding to

your vocabulary.

By now, therefore, the words you have been learning are probably old friends of yours; they have started to influence your thinking, have perhaps begun to appear in your conversation, and have certainly become conspicuous in your reading. In short, they have been effective in making changes in your intellectual climate.

Let us pause now for another checkup of the success of your study. In the next chapter, you will find a second Comprehensive Test. Take the test cold if you feel that all the material is at your fingertips; or spend a little time reviewing [Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12](#) if you believe such review is necessary.

(End of Session 37)

¹ Incidentally, a word used with a derogatory connotation (*bitch, piggish, glutton, idiot*, etc.) is called a *pejorative* (pe-JAWR'-Ə-tiv). *Pejorative* is also an adjective, as in, "She spoke in *pejorative* terms about her ex-husband." The derivation is Latin *pejor*, worse.