

# 5

## HOW TO TALK ABOUT VARIOUS PRACTITIONERS

*(Sessions 7–10)*

---

### TEASER PREVIEW

What practitioner:

*is a student of human behavior?*

*follows the techniques devised by Sigmund Freud?*

*straightens teeth?*

*measures vision?*

*grinds lenses?*

*treats minor ailments of the feet?*

*analyzes handwriting?*

*deals with the problems of aging?*

*uses manipulation and massage as curative techniques?*

---

## SESSION 7

An ancient Greek mused about the meaning of life, and *philosophy* was born. The first Roman decided to build a road instead of cutting a path through the jungle, and *engineering* came into existence. One day in primitive times, a human being lent to another whatever then passed for money and got back his original investment plus a little more—and *banking* had started.

Most people spend part of every workday at some gainful employment, honest or otherwise, and in so doing often contribute their little mite to the progress of the world.

We explore in this chapter the ideas behind people's occupations—and the words that translate these ideas into verbal symbols.

### IDEAS

#### 1. behavior

By education and training, this practitioner is an expert in the dark mysteries of human behavior—what makes people act as they do, why they have certain feelings, how their personalities were formed—in short, what makes them tick. Such a professional is often employed by industries, schools, and institutions to devise means for keeping workers productive and happy, students well-adjusted, and inmates contented. With a state license, this person may also do private or group therapy.

*A psychologist*

#### 2. worries, fears, conflicts

This practitioner is a physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist who has been specially trained in the techniques devised by Sigmund Freud, encouraging you to delve into that part of your mind called “the unconscious.” By reviewing the experiences, traumas, feelings, and thoughts of your earlier years, you come to a better understanding of your present worries, fears, conflicts, repressions, insecurities, and nervous tensions—thus taking the first step in coping with them. Treatment, consisting largely in listening to, and helping you to interpret the meaning of, your free-flowing ideas, is usually given in frequent sessions that may well go on for a year or more.

*A psychoanalyst*

### **3. teeth**

This practitioner is a dentist who has taken postgraduate work in the straightening of teeth.

*An orthodontist*

### **4. eyes**

This practitioner measures your vision and prescribes the type of glasses that will give you a new and more accurate view of the world.

*An optometrist*

### **5. glasses**

This practitioner grinds lenses according to the specifications prescribed by your optometrist or ophthalmologist, and may also deal in other kinds of optical goods.

*An optician*

## **6. bones and blood vessels**

This practitioner is a member of the profession that originated in 1874, when Andrew T. Still devised a drugless technique of curing diseases by massage and other manipulative procedures, a technique based on the theory that illness may be caused by the undue pressure of displaced bones on nerves and blood vessels.

Training is equal to that of physicians, and in most states these practitioners may also use the same methods as, and have the full rights and privileges of, medical doctors.

*An osteopath*

## **7. joints and articulations**

The basic principle of this practitioner's work is the maintenance of the structural and functional integrity of the nervous system. Treatment consists of manipulating most of the articulations of the body, especially those connected to the spinal column. Licensed and legally recognized in forty-five states, this professional has pursued academic studies and training that parallel those of the major healing professions.

*A chiropractor*

## **8. feet**

This practitioner treats minor foot ailments—corns, calluses, bunions, fallen arches, etc., and may perform minor surgery.

*A podiatrist*

## **9. writing**

This practitioner analyzes handwriting to determine character, personality, or aptitudes, and is often called upon to verify the

authenticity of signatures, written documents, etc.

*A graphologist*

## 10. getting old

This social scientist deals with the financial, economic, sexual, social, retirement, and other non-medical problems of the elderly.

*A gerontologist*

## USING THE WORDS

### Can you pronounce the words?

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <i>psychologist</i>   | sī-KOL'-ə-jist       |
| 2. <i>psychoanalyst</i>  | sī-kō-AN'-ə-list     |
| 3. <i>orthodontist</i>   | awr-thə-DON'-tist    |
| 4. <i>optometrist</i>    | op-TOM'-ə-trist      |
| 5. <i>optician</i>       | op-TISH'-ən          |
| 6. <i>osteopath</i>      | OS'-tee-ə-path       |
| 7. <i>chiropractor</i>   | KĪ'-rə-prək'-tər     |
| 8. <i>podiatrist</i>     | pə-DĪ'-ə-trist       |
| 9. <i>graphologist</i>   | graf-OL'-ə-jist      |
| 10. <i>gerontologist</i> | jair'-ən-TOL'-ə-jist |

### Can you work with the words?

## PRACTITIONERS

1. psychologist
2. psychoanalyst
3. orthodontist
4. optometrist
5. optician
6. osteopath
7. chiropractor
8. podiatrist
9. graphologist
10. gerontologist

## INTERESTS

- a. vision
- b. "the unconscious"
- c. bones and blood vessels
- d. lenses and optical instruments
- e. feet
- f. teeth
- g. problems of aging
- h. joints of the spine
- i. handwriting
- j. behavior

---

---

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

---

---

### Do you understand the words?

A *psychologist* must also be a physician.

TRUE      FALSE

A *psychoanalyst* follows Freudian techniques.

TRUE      FALSE

An *orthodontist* specializes in straightening teeth.

TRUE      FALSE

An *optometrist* prescribes and fits glasses.

TRUE      FALSE

An *optician* may prescribe glasses.

TRUE      FALSE

An *osteopath* may use massage and other manipulative techniques.

TRUE      FALSE

A *chiropractor* has a medical degree.

TRUE      FALSE

A *podiatrist* may perform major surgery.

TRUE      FALSE

A *graphologist* analyzes character from handwriting.

TRUE      FALSE

A *gerontologist* is interested in the non-medical problems of adolescence.

TRUE      FALSE

---

---

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

---

---

### **Can you recall the words?**

delves into the unconscious

1. P \_\_\_\_\_

uses either massage and manipulation or other standard medical procedures to treat illness

2. O \_\_\_\_\_

takes care of minor ailments of the feet

3. P \_\_\_\_\_

straightens teeth

4. O \_\_\_\_\_

analyzes handwriting

5. G \_\_\_\_\_

grinds lenses and sells optical goods

6. O \_\_\_\_\_

deals with the non-medical problems of aging

7. G \_\_\_\_\_

manipulates articulations connected to the spinal column

8. C \_\_\_\_\_

studies and explains human behavior

9. P \_\_\_\_\_

measures vision and prescribes glasses

10. O \_\_\_\_\_



---

---

KEY: 1–psychoanalyst, 2–osteopath, 3–podiatrist, 4–orthodontist, 5–graphologist, 6–optician, 7–gerontologist, 8–chiropractor, 9–psychologist, 10–optometrist

---

---

*(End of Session 7)*

## SESSION 8

### ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

#### 1. the mental life

*Psychologist* is built upon the same Greek root as *psychiatrist*—*psyche*, spirit, soul, or mind. In *psychiatrist*, the combining form is *iatreia*, medical healing. In *psychologist*, the combining form is *logos*, science or study; a *psychologist*, by etymology, is one who studies the mind.

The field is *psychology* (sī-KOL'-ə-jee), the adjective *psychological* (sī'-kə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

*Psyche* (SĪ'-kee) is also an English word in its own right—it designates the mental life, the spiritual or non-physical aspect of one's existence. The adjective *psychic* (SĪ'-kik) refers to phenomena or qualities that cannot be explained in purely physical terms. People may be called *psychic* if they seem to possess a sixth sense, a special gift of mind reading, or any mysterious aptitudes that cannot be accounted for logically. A person's disturbance is *psychic* if it is emotional or mental, rather than physical.

*Psyche* combines with the Greek *pathos*, suffering or disease, to form *psychopathic* (sī-kə-PATH'-ik), an adjective that describes someone suffering from a severe mental or emotional disorder. The noun is *psychopathy* (sī'-KOP'-ə-thee).<sup>1</sup>

The root *psyche* combines with Greek *soma*, body, to form *psychosomatic* (sī'-kō-sə-MAT'-ik), an adjective that delineates the powerful influence that the mind, especially the unconscious, has on bodily diseases. Thus, a person who fears the consequence of being present at a certain meeting will suddenly develop a bad cold or

backache, or even be injured in a traffic accident, so that his appearance at this meeting is made impossible. It's a real cold, it's far from an imaginary backache, and of course one cannot in any sense doubt the reality of the automobile that injured him. Yet, according to the *psychosomatic* theory of medicine, his unconscious made him susceptible to the cold germs, caused the backache, or forced him into the path of the car.

A *psychosomatic* disorder actually exists insofar as symptoms are concerned (headache, excessive urination, pains, paralysis, heart palpitations), yet there is no organic cause within the body. The cause is within the *psyche*, the mind. Dr. Flanders Dunbar, in *Mind and Body*, gives a clear and exciting account of the interrelationship between emotions and diseases.

*Psychoanalysis* (sī'-kō-ə-NAL'-ə-sis) relies on the technique of deeply, exhaustively probing into the unconscious, a technique developed by Sigmund Freud. In oversimplified terms, the general principle of *psychoanalysis* is to guide the patient to an awareness of the deep-seated, unconscious causes of anxieties, fears, conflicts, and tension. Once found, exposed to the light of day, and thoroughly understood, claim the *psychoanalysts*, these causes may vanish like a light snow that is exposed to strong sunlight.

Consider an example: You have asthma, let us say, and your doctor can find no physical basis for your ailment. So you are referred to a *psychoanalyst* (or *psychiatrist* or clinical *psychologist* who practices *psychoanalytically* oriented therapy).

With your therapist you explore your past life, dig into your unconscious, and discover, let us say for the sake of argument, that your mother or father always used to set for you impossibly high goals. No matter what you accomplished in school, it was not good enough—in your mother's or father's opinion (and such opinions were always made painfully clear to you), you could do better if you were not so lazy. As a child you built up certain resentments and anxieties because you seemed unable to please your parent—and (this will sound farfetched, but it is perfectly possible) as a result you became asthmatic. How else were you going to get the parental

love, the approbation, the attention you needed and that you felt you were not receiving?

In your sessions with your therapist, you discover that your asthma is emotionally, rather than organically, based—your ailment is *psychogenic* (sī'-kō-JEN'-ik), of *psychic* origin, or (the terms are used more or less interchangeably although they differ somewhat in definition) *psychosomatic*, resulting from the interaction of mind and body. (*Psychogenic* is built on *psyche* plus Greek *genesis*, birth or origin.)

And your treatment? No drugs, no surgery—these may help the body, not the emotions. Instead, you “work out” (this is the term used in *psychoanalytic* [sī-kō-an'-ə-LIT'-ik] parlance) early trauma in talk, in remembering, in exploring, in interpreting, in reliving childhood experiences. And if your asthma is indeed *psychogenic* (or *psychosomatic*), therapy will very likely help you; your attacks may cease, either gradually or suddenly.

Freudian therapy is less popular today than formerly; many newer therapies—Gestalt, bioenergetics, transactional analysis, to name only a few—claim to produce quicker results.

In any case, *psychotherapy* (sī-kō-THAIR'-ə-pee) of one sort or another is the indicated treatment for *psychogenic* (or *psychosomatic*) disorders, or for any personality disturbances. The practitioner is a *psychotherapist* (sī-kō-THAIR'-ə-pist) or *therapist*, for short; the adjective is *psychotherapeutic* (sī-kō-thair'-ə-PYOO'-tik).

## REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

ROOT, SUFFIX

MEANING

1. *psyche*

spirit, soul, mind

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

2. *iatreia*

medical healing

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

3. *-ic*

adjective suffix

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

4. *soma*

body

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

5. *genesis*

birth, origin

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

6. *pathos*

suffering, disease

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

## USING THE WORDS

### Can you pronounce the words?

1. *psychology*

sī-KOL'-ə-jee

2. *psychological*

sī'-kə-LOJ'-ə-kəl

3. *psyche*

Sī'-kee

4. *psychic*

Sī'-kik

5. *psychopathic*

sī-kə-PATH'-ik

6. *psychopathy*

sī-KOP'-ə-thee

7. *psychopath*

Sī'-kə-path

8. *psychosomatic*

sī'-kō-sə-MAT'-ik

9. *psychoanalysis*

sī'-kō-ə-NAL'-ə-sis

10. *psychoanalytic*

sī-kō-an'-ə-LIT'-ik

11. *psychogenic*

sī-kō-JEN'-ik

12. <i>psychotherapy</i>	sī-kō-THAIR'-ə-pee
13. <i>psychotherapist</i>	sī-kō-THAIR'-ə-pist
14. <i>psychotherapeutic</i>	sī-kō-thair'-ə-PYŋ'-tik

### Can you work with the words?

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. psychology     | a. mental or emotional disturbance                      |
| 2. psyche         | b. psychological treatment based on Freudian techniques |
| 3. psychic        | c. general term for psychological treatment             |
| 4. psychopathy    | d. originating in the mind or emotions                  |
| 5. psychosomatic  | e. one's inner or mental life, or self-image            |
| 6. psychoanalysis | f. study of the human mind and behavior                 |
| 7. psychogenic    | g. describing the interaction of mind and body          |
| 8. psychotherapy  | h. pertaining to the mind; extrasensory                 |
| 9. psychopath     | i. person lacking in social conscience or inner censor  |

---

---

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

---

---

### **Do you understand the words?**

*Psychological* treatment aims at sharpening the intellect.

TRUE      FALSE

*Psychic* phenomena can be explained on rational or physical grounds

TRUE      FALSE

*Psychopathic* personalities are normal and healthy.

TRUE      FALSE

A *psychosomatic* symptom is caused by organic disease.

TRUE      FALSE

Every therapist uses *psychoanalysis*.

TRUE      FALSE

A *psychogenic* illness originates in the mind or emotions.

TRUE      FALSE

A *psychotherapist* must have a medical degree.

TRUE      FALSE

*Psychoanalytically* oriented therapy uses Freudian techniques.

TRUE      FALSE

A *psychopath* is often a criminal.

TRUE      FALSE

---

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

---

### Can you recall the words?

one's inner or mental life, or self-image

1. P\_\_\_\_\_

the adjective that denotes the interactions, especially in illness,  
between mind and body

2. P\_\_\_\_\_

mentally or emotionally disturbed

3. P\_\_\_\_\_

study of behavior

4. P\_\_\_\_\_

extrasensory

5. P\_\_\_\_\_

treatment by Freudian techniques

6. P\_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to the study of behavior (*adj.*)

7. P\_\_\_\_\_

of mental or emotional origin

8. P\_\_\_\_\_

general term for treatment of emotional disorders

9. P\_\_\_\_\_

antisocial person

10. P\_\_\_\_\_



---

---

KEY: 1-psyche, 2-psychosomatic, 3-psychopathic, 4-psychology, 5-  
psychic, 6-psychoanalysis, 7-psychological, 8-psychogenic, 9-  
psychotherapy, 10-psychopath

---

---

*(End of Session 8)*

## SESSION 9

### ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

#### 1. the whole tooth

*Orthodontist*, as we discovered in [Chapter 4](#), is built on *orthos*, straight, correct, plus *odontos*, tooth.

A *pedodontist* (pee'-dō-DON'-tist) specializes in the care of children's teeth—the title is constructed from *paidos*, child, plus *odontos*. The specialty: *pedodontia* (pee'-dō-DON'-sha); the adjective: *pedodontic* (pee'-dō-DON'-tik).

A *periodontist* (pair'-ee-ō-DON'-tist) is a gum specialist—the term combines *odontos* with the prefix *peri-*, around, surrounding. (As a quick glance in the mirror will tell you, the gums surround the teeth, more or less.)

Can you figure out the word for the specialty? \_\_\_\_\_

For the adjective? \_\_\_\_\_

An *endodontist* (en'-dō-DON'-tist) specializes in work on the pulp of the tooth and in root-canal therapy—the prefix in this term is *endo-*, from Greek *endon*, inner, within.

Try your hand again at constructing words. What is the specialty? \_\_\_\_\_. And the adjective? \_\_\_\_\_.

The prefix *ex-*, out, combines with *odontos* to form *exodontist* (eks'-ō-DON'-tist). What do you suppose, therefore, is the work in which this practitioner specializes? \_\_\_\_\_.

And the term for the specialty? \_\_\_\_\_.

For the adjective? \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. measurement

The *optometrist*, by etymology, measures vision—the term is built on *opsis*, *optikos*, view, vision, plus *metron*, measurement.

*Metron* is the root in many other words:

1. *thermometer* (thər-MOM'-ə-tər)—an instrument to measure heat (Greek *therme*, heat).

2. *barometer* (bə-ROM'-ə-ter)—an instrument to measure atmospheric pressure (Greek *baros*, weight); the adjective is *barometric* (bair'-ə-MET'-rik).

3. *sphygmomanometer* (sfig'-mō-mə-NOM'-ə-tər)—a device for measuring blood pressure (Greek *sphygmos*, pulse).

4. *metric* system—a decimal system of weights and measures, long used in other countries and now gradually being adopted in the United States.

### 3. bones, feet, and hands

*Osteopath* combines Greek *osteon*, bone, with *pathos*, suffering, disease. *Osteopathy* (os'-tee-OP'-ə-thee), you will recall, was originally based on the theory that disease is caused by pressure of the bones on blood vessels and nerves. An *osteopathic* (os'-tee-ə-PATH'-ik) physician is *not* a bone specialist, despite the misleading etymology—and should not be confused with the *orthopedist*, who is.

The *podiatrist* (Greek *pous*, *podos*, foot, plus *iatreia*, medical healing) practices *podiatry* (pə-DĪ'-ə-tree). The adjective is *podiatric* (pō'-dee-AT'-rik).

The root *pous*, *podos* is found also in:

1. *octopus* (OK'-tə-pəs), the eight-armed (or, as the etymology has it, eight-footed) sea creature (Greek *okto*, eight).

2. *platypus* (PLAT'-ə-pəs), the strange water mammal with a duck's bill, webbed feet, and a beaver-like tail that reproduces by laying eggs (Greek *platys*, broad, flat—hence, by etymology, a flatfoot!).

3. *podium* (PŌ'-dee-əm), a speaker's platform, etymologically a place for the feet. (The suffix *-ium* often signifies “place where,” as in *gymnasium*, *stadium*, *auditorium*, etc.)

4. *tripod* (TRĪ'-pod), a three-legged (or “footed”) stand for a camera or other device (*tri*-, three).

5. *chiropodist* (kə-ROP'-ə-dist), earlier title for a *podiatrist*, and still often used. The specialty is *chiropody* (kə-ROP'-ə-dee).

*Chiropody* combines *podos* with Greek *cheir*, hand, spelled *chiro*- in English words. The term was coined in the days before labor-saving machinery and push-button devices, when people worked with their hands and developed calluses on their upper extremities as well as on their feet. Today most of us earn a livelihood in more sedentary occupations, and so we may develop calluses on less visible portions of our anatomy.

*Chiropractors* heal with their hands—the specialty is *chiropractic* (kī'-rō-PRAK'-tik).

*Cheir* (*chiro*-), hand, is the root in *chirography* (kī-ROG'-rə-fee). Recalling the *graph*- in *graphologist*, can you figure out by etymology what *chirography* is? \_\_\_\_\_

An expert in writing by hand, or in penmanship (a lost art in these days of electronic word-processing),<sup>2</sup> would be a *chirographer* (kī-ROG'-rə-fər); the adjective is *chirographic* (kī'-rō-GRAF'-ik).

If the suffix *-mancy* comes from a Greek word meaning *foretelling* or *prediction*, can you decide what *chiromancy* (Kī'-rō-man'-see) must be? \_\_\_\_\_.

The person who practices *chiromancy* is a *chiromancer* (Kī'-rō-man'-sər); the adjective is *chiromantic* (kī'-rō-MAN'-tik).

## REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>orthos</i>	straight, correct
ENGLISH WORD _____	
2. <i>odontos</i>	tooth
ENGLISH WORD _____	

3. <i>paidos</i> ( <i>ped-</i> )	child
ENGLISH WORD _____	
4. <i>-ic</i>	adjective suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
5. <i>peri-</i>	around, surrounding
ENGLISH WORD _____	
6. <i>endo-</i>	inner, within
ENGLISH WORD _____	
7. <i>ex-</i>	out
ENGLISH WORD _____	
8. <i>opsis, optikos</i>	vision
ENGLISH WORD _____	
9. <i>metron</i>	measurement
ENGLISH WORD _____	
10. <i>therme</i>	heat
ENGLISH WORD _____	
11. <i>baros</i>	weight
ENGLISH WORD _____	
12. <i>sphygmōs</i>	pulse
ENGLISH WORD _____	
13. <i>osteon</i>	bone
ENGLISH WORD _____	
14. <i>pathos</i>	suffering, disease

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

15. *pous, podos* foot

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

16. *okto* eight

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

17. *platys* broad, flat

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

18. *-ium* place where

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

19. *tri-* three

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

20. *cheir (chiro-)* hand

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

21. *mancy* prediction

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

22. *iatreia* medical healing

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

## USING THE WORDS

Can you pronounce the words? (I)

1. *pedodontist* pee'-dō-DON'-tist

2. *pedodontia* pee'-dō-DON'-shə

3. <i>pedodontic</i>	pee'-dō-DON'-tik
4. <i>periodontist</i>	pair'-ee-ō-DON'-tist
5. <i>periodontia</i>	pair'-ee-ō-DON'-shə
6. <i>periodontic</i>	pair'-ee-ō-DON'-tik
7. <i>endodontist</i>	en'-dō-DON'-tist
8. <i>endodontia</i>	en'-dō-DON'-shə
9. <i>endodontic</i>	en'-dō-DON'-tik
10. <i>exodontist</i>	eks'-ō-DON'-tist
11. <i>exodontia</i>	eks'-ō-DON'-shə
12. <i>exodontic</i>	eks'-ō-DON'-tik
13. <i>thermometer</i>	thər-MOM'-ə-tər
14. <i>barometer</i>	bə-ROM'-ə-tər
15. <i>barometric</i>	bair'-ə-MET'-rik
16. <i>sphygmomanometer</i>	sfig'-mō-mə-NOM'-ə-tər

### Can you pronounce the words? (II)

1. <i>osteopathy</i>	os'-tee-OP'-ə-thee
2. <i>osteopathic</i>	os'-tee-ə-PATH'-ik
3. <i>podiatry</i>	pə-DĪ'-ə-tree
4. <i>podiatric</i>	pō'-dee-AT'-rik
5. <i>octopus</i>	OK'-tə-pəs
6. <i>platypus</i>	PLAT'-ə-pəs
7. <i>podium</i>	PŌ'-dee-əm

8. <i>tripod</i>	TRĪ'-pod
9. <i>chiropodist</i>	kə-ROP'-ə-dist
10. <i>chiropody</i>	kə-ROP'-ə-dee
11. <i>chiropractic</i>	kī'-rō-PRAK'-tik
12. <i>chirography</i>	kī-ROG'-rə-fee
13. <i>chirographer</i>	kī-ROG'-rə-fər
14. <i>chirographic</i>	kī'-rə-GRAF'-ik
15. <i>chiromancy</i>	KĪ'-rə-man'-see
16. <i>chiromancer</i>	KĪ'-rə-man'-sər
17. <i>chiromantic</i>	kī'-rə-MAN'-tik

### Can you work with the words? (I)

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. orthodontia | a. dental specialty involving the pulp and root canal   |
| 2. pedodontia  | b. instrument that measures atmospheric pressure  |
| 3. periodontia | c. specialty arising from the theory that pressure of the bones on nerves and blood vessels may cause disease |
| 4. endodontia  | d. specialty of child dentistry   |
| 5. exodontia   | e. blood-pressure apparatus   |
|                | f. treatment of minor ailments of   |



6. barometer

the foot

7. sphygmomanometer

g. instrument to measure heat

8. osteopathy

h. specialty of tooth extraction

9. podiatry

i. specialty of tooth straightening

10. thermometer

j. specialty of the gums

---

---

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

---

---

### **Can you work with the words? (II)**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. octopus      | a. speaker's platform   |
|                 | b. maintenance of integrity of the nervous system by manipulation and massage |
| 2. platypus     |   |
| 3. podium       | c. palm reading   |
| 4. chiropody    | d. eight-armed sea creature   |
| 5. chiropractic | e. handwriting  |
| 6. chirography  | f. treatment of minor ailments of the foot                                    |
| 7. chiromancy   | g. egg-laying mammal with webbed feet   |

---

---

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

---

---

### **Do you understand the words?**

*Orthodontia* is a branch of dentistry.

TRUE      FALSE

Doctors use *sphygmomanometers* to check blood pressure.

TRUE      FALSE

*Osteopathic* physicians may use standard medical procedures.

TRUE      FALSE

*Chiropractic* deals with handwriting.

TRUE      FALSE

*Chiropody* and *podiatry* are synonymous terms.

TRUE      FALSE

A *podium* is a place from which a lecture might be delivered.

TRUE      FALSE

A *pedodontist* is a foot doctor.

TRUE      FALSE

A *periodontist* is a gum specialist.

TRUE      FALSE

A *endodontist* does root-canal therapy.

TRUE      FALSE

An *exodontist* extracts teeth.

TRUE      FALSE

A *barometer* measures heat.

TRUE      FALSE

An *octopus* has eight arms.

TRUE      FALSE

A *platypus* is a land mammal.

TRUE      FALSE

A *tripod* has four legs.

TRUE      FALSE

A *chirographer* is an expert at penmanship.

TRUE      FALSE

A *chiromancer* reads palms.

TRUE      FALSE

---

KEY: 1-T, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-T, 10-T, 11-F, 12-T,  
13-F, 14-F, 15-T, 16-T

---

**Do you recall the words? (I)**

pertaining to child dentistry (*adj.*)

1. P\_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to treatment of the foot (*adj.*)

2. P\_\_\_\_\_

blood-pressure apparatus

3. S\_\_\_\_\_

three-legged stand

4. T\_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to the treatment of diseases by manipulation to relieve  
pressure of the bones on nerves and blood vessels (*adj.*)

5. O\_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to handwriting (*adj.*)

6. C\_\_\_\_\_

gum specialist

7. P\_\_\_\_\_

treatment of ailments of the foot

8. P\_\_\_\_\_ or C\_\_\_\_\_

stand for a speaker

9. P\_\_\_\_\_

dentist specializing in treating the pulp of the tooth or in doing root-  
canal therapy

10. E\_\_\_\_\_

---

KEY: 1–pedodontic, 2–podiatric, 3–sphygmomanometer, 4–tripod,  
5–osteopathic, 6–chirographic, 7–periodontist, 8–podiatry or  
chiropractic, 9–podium, 10–endodontist

---

### **Can you recall the words? (II)**

pertaining to the specialty of tooth extraction (*adj.*)

1. E \_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to the measurement of atmospheric pressure (*adj.*)

2. B \_\_\_\_\_

palm reading (*noun*)

3. C \_\_\_\_\_

handwriting

4. C \_\_\_\_\_

the practice of manipulating bodily articulations to relieve ailments

5. C \_\_\_\_\_

egg-laying mammal

6. P \_\_\_\_\_

eight-armed sea creature

7. O \_\_\_\_\_

instrument to measure heat

8. T \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

KEY: 1–exodontic, 2–barometric, 3–chiromancy, 4–chirography, 5–  
chiropractic, 6–platypus, 7–octopus, 8–thermometer

---

---

*(End of Session 9)*

## SESSION 10

### ORIGINS AND RELATED WORDS

#### 1. writing and writers

The Greek verb *graphein*, to write, is the source of a great many English words.

We know that the *graphologist* analyzes handwriting, the term combining *graphein* with *logos*, science, study. The specialty is *graphology* (grə-FOL'-ə-jee), the adjective *graphological* (graf'-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

*Chirographer* is built on *graphein* plus *cheir* (*chiro-*), hand. Though *chirography* may be a lost art, *calligraphy* (kə-LIG'-rə-fee) is enjoying a revival. For centuries before the advent of printing, *calligraphy*, or penmanship as an artistic expression, was practiced by monks.

A *calligrapher* (kə-LIG'-rə-fər) is called upon to design and write announcements, place cards, etc., as a touch of elegance. The adjective is *calligraphic* (kal'-ə-GRAF'-ik).

*Calligraphy* combines *graphein* with Greek *kallos*,<sup>3</sup> beauty, and so, by etymology, means *beautiful writing*.

If a word exists for artistic handwriting, there must be one for the opposite—bad, scrawly, or illegible handwriting. And indeed there is—*cacography* (kə-KOG'-rə-fee), combining *graphein* with Greek *kakos*, bad, harsh.

By analogy with the forms of *calligraphy*, can you write the word for:

One who uses bad or illegible handwriting?

---

Pertaining to, or marked by, bad handwriting (*adjective*)?



---

*Graphein* is found in other English words:

1. *cardiograph* (discussed in [Chapter 4](#))—etymologically a “heart writer” (*kardia*, heart).
2. *photograph*—etymologically, “written by light” (Greek *photos*, light).
3. *phonograph*—etymologically, a “sound writer” (Greek *phone*, sound).
4. *telegraph*—etymologically a “distance writer” (Greek *tele-*, distance).
5. *biography*—etymologically “life writing” (Greek, *bios*, life). (Many of these new roots will be discussed in greater detail in later chapters.)

## 2. aging and the old

We know that a *geriatrician* specializes in the medical care of the elderly. The Greek word *geras*, old age, has a derived form, *geron*, old man, the root in *gerontologist*. The specialty is *gerontology* (jair'-ən-TOL'-ə-jee), the adjective is *gerontological* (jair'-ən-tə-LOJ'-ə-kəl).

The Latin word for *old* is *senex*, the base on which *senile*, *senescent*, *senior*, and *senate* are built.

1. *senile* (SEE'-nīl)—showing signs of the physical and/or mental deterioration that generally marks very old age. The noun is *senility* (sə-NIL'-ə-tee).

2. *senescent* (sə-NES'-ənt)—aging, growing old. (Note the same suffix in this word as in *adolescent*, growing into an adult, *convalescent*, growing healthy again, and *obsolescent*, growing or becoming obsolete.) The noun is *senescence* (sə-NES'-əns).

3. *senior* (SEEN'-yər)—older. Noun: *seniority* (seen-YAWR'-ə-tee).

4. *senate* (SEN'-ət)—originally a council of older, and presumably wiser, citizens.

# REVIEW OF ETYMOLOGY

PREFIX, ROOT, SUFFIX	MEANING
1. <i>graphein</i>	to write
ENGLISH WORD _____	
2. <i>cheir</i> ( <i>chiro-</i> )	hand
ENGLISH WORD _____	
3. <i>kallos</i>	beauty
ENGLISH WORD _____	
4. <i>-er</i>	one who
ENGLISH WORD _____	
5. <i>-ic</i>	adjective suffix
ENGLISH WORD _____	
6. <i>pyge</i>	buttocks
ENGLISH WORD _____	
7. <i>kakos</i>	bad, harsh
ENGLISH WORD _____	
8. <i>kardia</i>	heart
ENGLISH WORD _____	
9. <i>photos</i>	light
ENGLISH WORD _____	
10. <i>tele-</i>	distance
ENGLISH WORD _____	
11. <i>bios</i>	life

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

12. *geras* old age

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

13. *geron* old man

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

14. *senex* old

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

15. *-escent* growing, becoming

ENGLISH WORD \_\_\_\_\_

## USING THE WORDS

### Can you pronounce the words?

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>graphology</i>    | grə-FOL'-ə-jee      |
| 2. <i>graphological</i> | graf'-ə-LOJ'-ə-kəl  |
| 3. <i>calligraphy</i>   | kə-LIG'-rə-fee      |
| 4. <i>calligrapher</i>  | kə-LIG'-rə-fər      |
| 5. <i>calligraphic</i>  | kal'-ə-GRAF'-ik     |
| 6. <i>callipygian</i>   | kal'-ə-PIJ'-ee-ən   |
| 7. <i>cacography</i>    | kə-KOG'-rə-fee      |
| 8. <i>cacographer</i>   | kə-KOG'-rə-fər      |
| 9. <i>cacographic</i>   | kak'-ə-GRAF'-ik     |
| 10. <i>gerontology</i>  | jair'-ən-TOL'-ə-jee |

11. <i>gerontological</i>	jair'-ən-tə-LOJ'-ə-kəl
12. <i>senile</i>	SEE'-nīl
13. <i>senility</i>	sə-NIL'-ə-tee
14. <i>senescent</i>	sə-NES'-ənt
15. <i>senescence</i>	sə-NES'-əns

### Can you work with the words?

1. graphology	a. possessed of beautiful buttocks
2. calligraphy	b. science of the social, economic, etc. problems of the aged
3. callipygian	c. condition of aging or growing old
4. cacography	d. deteriorated old age
5. gerontology	e. analysis of handwriting
6. senility	f. ugly, bad, illegible handwriting
7. senescence	g. beautiful handwriting; handwriting as an artistic expression

---

---

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

---

---

### **Do you understand the words?**

*Graphology* analyzes the grammar, spelling, and sentence structure of written material.

TRUE      FALSE

A *calligrapher* creates artistic forms out of alphabetical symbols.

TRUE      FALSE

Tight slacks are best worn by those of *callipygian* anatomy.

TRUE      FALSE

*Cacographic* writing is easy to read.

TRUE      FALSE

*Gerontology* aims to help old people live more comfortably.

TRUE      FALSE

*Senile* people are old but still vigorous and mentally alert.

TRUE      FALSE

In a society dedicated to the worship of youth, *senescence* is not an attractive prospect.

TRUE      FALSE

---

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

---

**Can you recall the words?**

pertaining to the study of the non-medical problems of the aged  
(*adj.*)

1. G \_\_\_\_\_

growing old (*adj.*)

2. S \_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to handwriting as an artistic expression (*adj.*)

3. C \_\_\_\_\_

one who uses ugly, illegible handwriting

4. C \_\_\_\_\_

mentally and physically deteriorated from old age

5. S \_\_\_\_\_

pertaining to the analysis of handwriting (*adj.*)

6. G \_\_\_\_\_

possessed of beautiful or shapely buttocks

7. C \_\_\_\_\_

---

KEY: 1–gerontological, 2–senescent, 3–calligraphic, 4–cacographer,  
5–senile, 6–graphological, 7–callipygian

---

## CHAPTER REVIEW

### A. Do you recognize the words?

1. Practitioner trained in Freudian techniques: (a) psychologist, (b) psychoanalyst, (c) psychotherapist
2. Foot doctor: (a) podiatrist, (b) osteopath, (c) chiropractor
3. Handwriting analyst: (a) graphologist, (b) chirographer, (c) cacographer
4. Mentally or emotionally disturbed: (a) psychological, (b) psychopathic, (c) psychic
5. Originating in the emotions: (a) psychic, (b) psychogenic, (c) psychoanalytic
6. Describing bodily ailments tied up with the emotions: (a) psychosomatic, (b) psychopathic, (c) psychiatric
7. Gum specialist: (a) periodontist, (b) pedodontist, (c) endodontist
8. Specialist in tooth extraction: (a) orthodontist, (b) exodontist, (c) endodontist
9. Blood-pressure apparatus: (a) barometer, (b) thermometer, (c) sphygmomanometer
10. Prediction by palm reading: (a) chiromancy, (b) chiropody, (c) chiromancy
11. Possessed of a shapely posterior: (a) calligraphic, (b) callipygian, (c) adolescent
12. Artistic handwriting: (a) calligraphy, (b) chirography, (c) graphology
13. Growing old: (a) senile, (b) geriatric, (c) senescent

14. Medical specialty dealing with the aged: (a) gerontology, (b) geriatrics, (c) chiropractic
15. Antisocial person who may commit criminal acts: (a) psychopath, (b) sociopath, (c) osteopath



---

---

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

---

---

## B. Can you recognize roots?

ROOT	MEANING
1. <i>psyche</i>	_____
EXAMPLE psychiatry	
2. <i>iatreia</i>	_____
EXAMPLE podiatry	
3. <i>soma</i>	_____
EXAMPLE psychosomatic	
4. <i>pathos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE osteopath	
5. <i>orthos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE orthodontia	
6. <i>paidos (ped-)</i>	_____
EXAMPLE pedodontist	
7. <i>odontos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE exodontist	
8. <i>pous, podos</i>	_____
EXAMPLE platypus	

9. *cheir* (*chiro-*)

EXAMPLE chiropodist

10. *okto*

EXAMPLE octopus

11. *graphein*

EXAMPLE graphology

12. *kallos*

EXAMPLE calligraphy

13. *pyge*

EXAMPLE callipygian

14. *kakos*

EXAMPLE cacography

15. *photos*

EXAMPLE photography

16. *tele-*

EXAMPLE telegraph

17. *bios*

EXAMPLE biography

18. *geras*

EXAMPLE geriatrics

19. *geron*

EXAMPLE gerontology

20. *senex*

EXAMPLE senate

---

KEY: 1–mind, 2–medical healing, 3–body, 4–disease, 5–straight, correct, 6–child, 7–tooth, 8–foot, 9–hand, 10–eight, 11–to write, 12–beauty, 13–buttocks, 14–bad, ugly, 15–light, 16–distance, 17–life, 18–old age, 19–old man, 20–old.

---

## TEASER QUESTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR ETYMOLOGIST

1. Latin *octoginta* is a root related to Greek *okto*, eight. How old is an *octogenarian* (ok'-tə-jə-NAIR'-ee-ən)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. You are familiar with *kakos*, bad, harsh, as in *cacography*, and with *phone*, sound, as in *phonograph*. Can you construct a word ending in the letter *y* that means *harsh, unpleasant sound*? \_\_\_\_\_. (Can you pronounce it?)
3. Using *callipygian* as a model, can you construct a word to describe an ugly, unshapely rear end? \_\_\_\_\_. (Can you pronounce it?)
4. Using the prefix *tele-*, distance, can you think of the word for a field glass that permits the viewer to see great distances? \_\_\_\_\_. How about a word for the instrument that transmits sound over a distance? \_\_\_\_\_. Finally, what is it that makes it possible for you to view happenings that occur a great distance away? \_\_\_\_\_.

(Answers in *Chapter 18*)

## BECOMING WORD-CONSCIOUS

Perhaps, if you have been working as assiduously with this book as I have repeatedly counseled, you have noticed an interesting

phenomenon.

This phenomenon is as follows: You read a magazine article and suddenly you see one or more of the words you have recently learned. Or you open a book and there again are some of the words you have been working with. In short, all your reading seems to call to your attention the very words you've been studying.

Why? Have I, with uncanny foresight, picked words which have suddenly and inexplicably become popular among writers? Obviously, that's nonsense.

The change is in you. You have now begun to be alert to words, you have developed what is known in psychology as a "mind-set" toward certain words. Therefore, whenever these words occur in your reading you take special notice of them.

The same words occurred before—and just as plentifully—but since they presented little communication to you, you reacted to them with an unseeing eye, with an ungrasping mind. You were figuratively, and almost literally, blind to them.

Do you remember when you bought, or contemplated buying, a new car? Let's say it was a Toyota. Suddenly you began to see Toyotas all around you—you had a Toyota "mind-set."

It is thus with anything new in your life. Development of a "mind-set" means that the new experience has become very real, very important, almost vital.

If you have become suddenly alert to the new words you have been learning, you're well along toward your goal of building a superior vocabulary. *You are beginning to live in a new and different intellectual atmosphere—nothing less!*

On the other hand, if the phenomenon I have been describing has not yet occurred, do not despair. It will. I am alerting you to its possibilities—recognize it and welcome it when it happens.

*(End of Session 10)*

---

<sup>1</sup> *Psychopathy* is usually characterized by antisocial and extremely egocentric behavior. A *psychopath* (SĪ'-kə-path'), sometimes called a *psychopathic personality*, appears to be lacking an inner moral censor, and often commits criminal acts, without anxiety or guilt, in order to obtain immediate gratification of desires. Such a person may be utterly lacking in sexual restraint, or addicted to hard drugs. Some psychologists prefer the label *sociopath* (SŌ'-shee-ə-path' or SŌ'-see-ə-path') for this type of personality to indicate the absence of a social conscience.

<sup>2</sup> But see *calligrapher* in the next session.

<sup>3</sup> An entrancing word that also derives from *kallos* is *callipygian* (kal'-ə-PIJ'-ee-ən), an adjective describing a shapely or attractive rear end, or a person so endowed—the combining root is *pyge*, buttocks.

### —— *Brief Intermission Three* ——

## HOW GRAMMAR CHANGES

If you think that grammar is an exact science, get ready for a shock. Grammar is a science, all right—but it is most inexact. There are no inflexible laws, no absolutely hard and fast rules, no unchanging principles. Correctness varies with the times and depends much more on geography, on social class, and on collective human caprice than on the restrictions found in textbooks.

In mathematics, which is an exact science, five and five make ten the country over—in the North, in the South, in the West; in Los Angeles and Coral Gables and New York. There are no two opinions on the matter—we are dealing, so far as we know, with a universal and indisputable fact.

In grammar, however, since the facts are highly susceptible to change, we have to keep an eye peeled for trends. What are educated people saying these days? Which expressions are generally used and accepted on educated levels, which others are more or less restricted to the less educated levels of speech? The answers to these questions indicate the trend of usage in the United States, and if such trends come in conflict with academic rules, then the rules are no longer of any great importance.

*Grammar follows the speech habits of the majority of educated people—not the other way around.* That is the important point to keep in mind.

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 thoughts in just such terms? Decide whether the sentence is right or wrong, then compare your conclusion with the opinions given following the test.

## TEST YOURSELF

Let's keep this between you and *I*.

RIGHT      WRONG

I'm your best friend, *ain't* I?

RIGHT      WRONG

Five and five *is* ten.

RIGHT      WRONG

I never saw a man get so *mad*.

RIGHT      WRONG

Every one of his sisters *are* unmarried.

RIGHT      WRONG

He visited an *optometrist* for an eye operation.

RIGHT      WRONG

Do you *prophecy* another world war?

RIGHT      WRONG

*Leave* us not mention it.

RIGHT      WRONG

If you expect to *eventually succeed*, you must keep trying.

RIGHT      WRONG

1. Let's keep this between you and *I*.

WRONG. Children are so frequently corrected by parents and teachers when they say *me* that they cannot be blamed if they begin



to think that this simple syllable is probably a naughty word. Dialogues such as the following are certainly typical of many households.

“Mother, can me and Johnnie go out and play?”

“No, dear, not until you say it correctly. You mean ‘May Johnnie and I go out to play?’ ”

“Who wants a jelly apple?”

“Me!”

“Then use the proper word.”

(The child becomes a little confused at this point—there seem to be so many “proper” and “improper” words.)

“Me, *please!*”

“No, dear, not *me*.”

“Oh. *I*, please?”

(This sounds terrible to a child’s ear. It completely violates his sense of language, but he does want the jelly apple, so he grudgingly conforms.)

“Who broke my best vase?”

“It wasn’t me!”

“Is that good English, Johnnie?”

“Okay, it wasn’t I. But honest, Mom, it wasn’t me—I didn’t even touch it!”

And so, if the child is strong enough to survive such constant corrections, he decides that whenever there is room for doubt, it is safer to say *I*.

Some adults, conditioned in childhood by the kind of misguided censorship detailed here, are likely to believe that “between you and *I*” is the more elegant form of expression, but most educated speakers, obeying the rule that a preposition governs the objective pronoun, say “between you and *me*.”

## 2. I’m your best friend, *ain’t* I?

WRONG. As linguistic scholars have frequently pointed out, it is unfortunate that *ain’t I?* is unpopular in educated speech, for the phrase fills a long-felt need. *Am I not?* is too prissy for down-to-earth

people; *amn't I?* is ridiculous; and *aren't I*, though popular in England, has never really caught on in America. With a sentence like the one under discussion you are practically in a linguistic trap—there is no way out unless you are willing to choose between appearing illiterate, sounding prissy, or feeling ridiculous.

“What is the matter with *ain't I?* for *am I not?*” language scholar Wallace Rice once wrote. “Nothing whatever, save that a number of minor grammarians object to it. *Ain't I?* has a pleasant sound once the ears are unstopped of prejudice.” Mr. Rice has a valid point there, yet educated people avoid *ain't I?* as if it were catching. In all honesty, therefore, I must say to you: don't use *ain't I?*, except humorously. What is a safe substitute? Apparently none exists, so I suggest that you manage, by some linguistic calisthenics, to avoid having to make a choice. Otherwise you may find yourself in the position of being damned if you do and damned if you don't.

### 3. Five and five is ten.

RIGHT. But don't jump to the conclusion that “five and five *are* ten” is wrong—both verbs are equally acceptable in this or any similar construction. If you prefer to think of “five-and-five” as a single mathematical concept, say *is*. If you find it more reasonable to consider “five and five” a plural idea, say *are*. The teachers I've polled on this point are about evenly divided in preference, and so, I imagine, are the rest of us. Use whichever verb has the greater appeal to your sense of logic.

### 4. I never saw a man get so *mad*.

RIGHT. When I questioned a number of authors and editors about their opinion of the acceptability of *mad* as a synonym for *angry*, the typical reaction was: “Yes, I say *mad*, but I always feel a little guilty when I do.”

Most people do say *mad* when they are sure there is no English teacher listening; it's a good sharp word, everybody understands exactly what it means, and it's a lot stronger than *angry*, though not quite as violent as *furious* or *enraged*. In short, *mad* has a special

implication offered by no other word in the English language; as a consequence, educated people use it as the occasion demands and it is perfectly correct. So correct, in fact, that every authoritative dictionary lists it as a completely acceptable usage. If you feel guilty when you say *mad*, even though you don't mean *insane*, it's time you stopped plaguing your conscience with trivialities.

5. Every one of his sisters *are* unmarried.

WRONG. *Are* is perhaps the more logical word, since the sentence implies that he has more than one sister and they are all unmarried. In educated speech, however, the tendency is to make the verb agree with the subject, even if logic is violated in the process—and the better choice here would be *is*, agreeing with the singular subject, *every one*.

6. He visited an *optometrist* for an eye operation.

WRONG. If the gentleman in question did indeed need an operation, he went to the wrong doctor. In most states, optometrists are forbidden by law to perform surgery or administer drugs—they may only prescribe and fit glasses. And they are not medical doctors. The M.D. who specializes in the treatment of eye diseases, and who may operate when necessary, is an *ophthalmologist*. (See [Chapter 4](#).)

7. Do you *prophecy* another world war?

WRONG. Use *prophecy* only when you mean *prediction*, a noun. When you mean *predict*, a verb, as in this sentence, use *prophecy*. This distinction is simple and foolproof. Therefore we properly say: “His *prophecy* (*prediction*) turned out to be true,” but “He really seems able to *prophecy* (*predict*) political trends.” There is a distinction also in the pronunciation of these two words. *Prophecy* is pronounced PROF'-ə-see; *prophecy* is pronounced PROF'-ə-sī'.

8. *Leave* us not mention it.

WRONG. On the less sophisticated levels of American speech, *leave* is a popular substitute for *let*. On educated levels, the following

distinction is carefully observed: *let* means *allow*; *leave* means *depart*. (There are a few idiomatic exceptions to this rule, but they present no problem.) “*Let* me go” is preferable to “*Leave* me go” even on the most informal of occasions, and a sentence like “*Leave* us not mention it” is not considered standard English.

9. If you expect to *eventually succeed*, you must keep trying.

RIGHT. We have here, in case you’re puzzled, an example of that notorious bugbear of academic grammar, the “split infinitive.” (An infinitive is a verb preceded by *to*: *to succeed*, *to fail*, *to remember*.)

Splitting an infinitive is not at all difficult—you need only insert a word between the *to* and the verb: *to eventually succeed*, *to completely fail*, *to quickly remember*.

Now that you know how to split an infinitive, the important question is, is it legal to do so? I am happy to be able to report to you that it is not only legal, it is also ethical, moral, and sometimes more effective than to not split it. Benjamin Franklin, Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson, among many others, were unconscionable infinitive splitters. And modern writers are equally partial to the construction.

To bring this report up to the minute, I asked a number of editors about their attitude toward the split infinitive. Here are two typical reactions.

An editor at Doubleday and Company: “The restriction against the split infinitive is, to my mind, the most artificial of all grammatical rules. I find that most educated people split infinitives regularly in their speech, and only eliminate them from their writing when they rewrite and polish their material.”

An editor at *Reader’s Digest*: “I want to defend the split infinitive. The construction adds to the strength of the sentence—it’s compact and clear. This is to loudly say that I split an infinitive whenever I can catch one.”

And here, finally, is the opinion of humorist James Thurber, as quoted by Rudolf Flesch in *The Art of Plain Talk*: “Word has somehow got around that the split infinitive is always wrong. This is of a

piece with the outworn notion that it is always wrong to strike a lady.”

I think the evidence is conclusive enough—it is perfectly correct to consciously split an infinitive whenever such an act increases the strength or clarity of your sentence.