

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 13 Word Usage

Inspiration comes in many forms. The sound of music, a clear blue sky, a thoughtful speech—all of these things can uplift and energize us. Inspiration often comes unexpectedly, like a gift. But you can also deliberately seek and find inspiration by exposing yourself to new ideas, people, and experiences. The words in this list relate to the theme of inspirations.

Word List

adroit

enmity

frivolous

grandiose

inept

ingenious

opportune

outlandish

subterranean

whimsical

EXERCISE A Synonyms

Each boldfaced vocabulary word is paired with a synonym whose meaning you probably know. Think of other words related to the synonym and write your ideas. Then, look up the vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning.

1. **opportune** : timely _____

Dictionary definition _____

2. **grandiose** : grand _____

Dictionary definition _____

3. **whimsical** : playful _____

Dictionary definition _____

4. **ingenious** : inventive _____

Dictionary definition _____

5. **outlandish** : strange _____

Dictionary definition _____

6. **subterranean** : underground _____

Dictionary definition _____

7. **enmity** : hatred _____

Dictionary definition _____

8. **frivolous** : silly _____

Dictionary definition _____

9. **inept** : clumsy _____

Dictionary definition _____

10. **adroit** : skillful _____

Dictionary definition _____



Vocabulary Power *continued*

EXERCISE B Usage

If the boldfaced word is used correctly in the sentence, write correct above it. If not, draw a line through the word and write the correct vocabulary word above it.

1. The police officer passed by at an **opportune** moment because someone had just stolen my backpack.
2. The **frivolous** house featured sixteen bedrooms, a ballroom, and Italian marble floors in the entry.
3. Instead of feeling **enmity** for one's persecutors, the pastor urged patience and understanding.
4. The politician, an **adroit** campaigner, moved through the crowd, making brief remarks, shaking hands, and kissing babies.
5. Marcellus came up with the **outlandish** idea of starting a recycling program in his district.
6. The comedian is known for his **grandiose** stunts; he once delivered his entire monologue standing on his head.
7. Claire took a **subterranean** vacation; she explored several underground caves in Kentucky.
8. The **whimsical** badminton player apologized for colliding frequently with his partner.
9. **Ingenious** details are not important when you are being questioned by a lawyer in a court of law.
10. That gift shop sells many **inept** items; I once purchased an inflatable pickle there.

EXERCISE C Sentence Completion

Write the vocabulary word that best completes each sentence.

1. Glen feels _____ at playing soccer because he doesn't know the rules.
2. This version of *The Nutcracker* is very happy and _____.
3. They performed the play on a(n) _____ and extravagant scale.
4. She had a very _____ way of spending money on her frequent shopping trips.
5. Anita was very _____ at producing her work efficiently.
6. At an awkward pause in the conversation, there was a(n) _____ knock at the door.
7. Our class created a wonderfully _____ contraption for walking a dog.
8. We had a class trip to the nearby _____ caves where millions of bats live.
9. Sandy is very proud to show her _____ clothes.
10. There is a great _____ between those brothers—they fight all the time!