

VOCABULARY ENERGIZERS III: Stories and Word Origins

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Prefixes in the following words are underlined.
See p.xiv for list of prefixes and their definitions.

Word Parts and Words

MIS, MIT (send): intermittent, unremitting
RAP(T), REPT (seize): rapacious, surreptitious, rapture, enrapture
SAT (enough, satisfy): insatiable, satiate, saturate, satirical

MIS, MIT — send (dismiss, permit, promise)

11. intermittent (in tur MIT unt) adj. repeatedly starting and stopping, not constant or steady

Related Forms: intermittence, intermittently

Synonyms: irregular, periodic, recurring, **sporadic** (spuh RAD ik)

Antonyms: continuous, continual, unceasing, perpetual, incessant

There have been **intermittent** reports of sightings of a dinosaur-like sea serpent in the lake of Loch Ness, Scotland, for the past fifteen hundred years. Despite these recurring **sporadic** reports, no scientific investigations have yet discovered the Loch Ness monster. UFOs (unidentified flying objects) have also been **intermittently** reported. So far, investigators have not found evidence of flying saucers or objects sent by intelligent life from outer space soaring above our planet. According to some stories, the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon (1460-1521), hearing **intermittent** reports of the Fountain of Youth, came to Florida in search of these waters that would make old people young. Such **intermittent** and **sporadic** accounts of unusual and even miraculous events have a long history but are rarely verified or established as true. Weather forecasters' accounts of **intermittent** rain or **sporadic** showers, however, are often accurate.

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12. unremitting (un rih MIT ing) adj. never stopping or getting weaker

Related Form: unremittingly

Synonyms: constant, continual, **incessant** (in SES unt)

Antonyms: irregular, inconstant, **spasmodic**

Unremitting pain, either physical or mental, can be so intense as to drive one to suicide. On a more positive note, Martin Luther King, Jr., (1929-1968) **incessantly** fought for justice. He organized nonviolent protests against segregation laws, expressed his opposition to America's war with Vietnam, and organized demonstrations to make known and improve the plight of the poor. Despite **incessant** opposition to all of his campaigns, he **unremittingly** labored for a more just and compassionate society. His perseverance for a better society was honored by his winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

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RAP(T), REPT — seize

13. rapacious (ruh PAY shus) adj. greedy, plundering

Related Forms: rapaciousness, rapacity, rapaciously

Synonyms: greedy, grasping, predatory,

avaricious (av uh RISH us)

Antonyms: generous, charitable

Mongol conqueror Genghis Kahn (1162-1227) was an outstandingly **rapacious** conqueror. His army crushed much of Asia and eastern Europe to gain the largest land empire in history. In the twentieth century, Germany's Adolph Hitler **rapaciously** sought to expand Germany by invading other nations until he was defeated in World War II. Critics of the American businessman John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937) saw him as **rapaciously** driving out competitors on his way to becoming one of the world's wealthiest people. Although he could be viewed as greedy and **avaricious** in acquiring his fortune in the oil industry, he devoted the latter part of his life to philanthropy, establishing organizations to help the community. Bears before hibernation have **rapacious** appetites as they build up fat reserves that will sustain them during the months of their winter hibernation.

14. surreptitious (sur up TISH us) adj. done in a secret, sneaky way

Related Forms: surreptitiousness, surreptitiously

Synonyms: secret, undercover, stealthy, furtive, covert,

clandestine (klan DES tin)

Antonyms: open, overt, blatant

Perhaps baseball's most intriguing and mysterious character was the catcher Morris "Moe" Berg (1902-1972). Although a poor hitter, he was acknowledged as extremely erudite or learned and scholarly. He graduated from Princeton and was said to know a dozen languages. He also received a law degree from Columbia University. Many stories abound about Moe Berg. One is that during the 1930s on a visit to Japan, he **clandestinely** took home movies which later helped the

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U.S. in bombing strikes on Tokyo during World War II. It is also said that he had a **surreptitious** assignment in 1942 to find out whether Germany's physicist Werner Heisenberg was close to producing an atomic bomb in a research project he led. If so, Berg had orders to shoot him. Berg didn't think the project was close to attaining its goal and left Heisenberg alone. In the 1950s Berg had a contract with the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), known for its **surreptitious** and **clandestine** activities.

15. rapture (RAP chur) n. extreme happiness

Related Forms: rapturous, rapturously

Synonyms: joy, pleasure, delight, bliss, euphoria,

ecstasy (EK stuh see)

Antonym: misery

Romeo and Juliet experience **rapture** when they fall in love at first sight. What makes their love appeal to audiences is the combination of innocence and sexual attraction that produces their **ecstasy**. The Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt felt **rapture** when he set world records for both the 100 meter and 200 meter races in the 2008 Olympics. He demonstrated **rapturous** and **ecstatic** emotion when he again won gold medals for these events in the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

16. enrapture (en RAP chur) v. intensely delight

Synonyms: thrill, charm, enchant, captivate,

enthrall (in THRAWL)

Orpheus, the greatest mortal musician in Greek mythology, played beautiful melodies that charmed wild animals and even impelled trees and stones to follow him. He became **enraptured** by the beauty of Eurydice. Soon after their marriage, Eurydice died from a snake bite. Orpheus then descended to Hades, the Greek realm of the dead, to retrieve his lost love. His music so **enthralled** King Hades and Queen Persephone of the underworld that they granted his wish to take Eurydice back to the world of the living. One condition—Orpheus

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must not look back on Eurydice until they were both completely out of Hades. Orpheus could not restrain himself from turning around and glimpsing to see if Eurydice had followed him, just as she had almost—but not entirely—exited Hades. Poor Orpheus was never given another chance to retrieve his beloved. A twentieth-century film, *Black Orpheus*, gives a beautiful modern adaptation of this myth set in Brazil during a festival. The film will **enrapture** you.

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SAT — enough, satisfy (satisfy, satisfaction, unsatisfactory)

17. insatiable (in SAY shuh bul) adj. not able to be satisfied

Related Forms: insatiability, insatiableness, insatiably

Synonyms: greedy, unquenchable, voracious (vaw RAY shus)

Antonym: satiable

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times....” So begins Charles Dickens's novel *A Tale of Two Cities* set against the background of the French Revolution 1789-1799. The early part of this revolution was led by Robespierre, who initiated a Reign of Terror 1793-1794 to purge the enemies of the republic. An **insatiable** appetite for blood predominated during this period of terror during which 17,000 people suspected of opposing the revolution were executed. The **voracious** demand for the death of opponents resulted in the French King Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette being executed in 1793 by the guillotine (a heavy blade that when released severed head from body). Robespierre himself was overthrown as leader and guillotined the following year.

18. satiate (say she AYT) v. satisfy fully or to excess

Related Forms: satiation, satiety, satiable, satiability

Synonyms: fill, satisfy, gorge, sate, **cloy** (KLOY)

The American psychologist Abraham Maslow (1908-1970) theorized that there is a hierarchy or ranking order of people's needs. The most basic is the biological, as the need for food to survive. Then come the needs for safety, love, and finally, when the previous are fulfilled, the need for self-actualization or self-fulfillment of our unique potentials. This view of personality resembles India's Hindu philosophy about what humans actually want. This view says that the most basic want is physical pleasure. But after a while we will be **satiated** and want something else. For example, you may want a second serving of your favorite ice cream; however, if you were forced to eat nothing but this flavor of ice cream day after day, your taste buds and appetite would

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be **satiated** and you would long for something else. Diets that restrict you to eating only one food often result in weight loss since we become **satiated, cloyed**, and sick of eating the same thing and eventually eat significantly less of it. The next want would be success, characterized by wealth, fame, or power. But having fully achieved success, even wealth, fame, and power in time begin to cloy. The third want in this Hindu hierarchy is the desire to serve the community, to give back to something larger than ourselves. We often see this when the wealthy reach a point where they become philanthropists or generous donors to causes that benefit society. But for some individuals—not all—they want something more, something infinite and eternal. Thus this fourth or final stage involves the working out of our spiritual destinies. This stage, unlike the others, never reaches a point where we experience **satiation** or **cloying** excess.

19. saturate (SACH uh rayt) v. soak or fill completely

Related Forms: saturation, saturator

Synonyms: soak, fill, drench, permeate, **suffuse** (suh FYOOZ)

Antonyms: dry, drain, dehydrate

Whan that Aprill with his shores soote
The drought of March hath perced to the roote
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendered in the flour.... [original text]

When April with its sweet showers
The drought of March has pierced to the root
And bathed every plant in such moisture
So that the flower can be produced.... [modern version]

begins Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. This fourteenth-century work bountifully describes English life in Chaucer's time. Merchants, clergy, knights and other men and women from all classes of society agree to amuse each other with stories as they make a pilgrimage from London to a cathedral in Canterbury that houses the

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remains of a Christian martyr. The tales vary according to the character of the teller: some are coarse, vulgar and sexy, some romantic, and some moralistic. As the quotation shows, they begin their journey in April when the rains have **saturated** the earth to nourish plants. The **suffusion** of rain water in the soil enables flowers to blossom. Chaucer never completed this work but there are more than enough captivating tales, both humorous and serious, to **saturate** the reader with literary entertainment.

20. satirical (suh TIR ih kul) adj. humorously exposing weaknesses or bad qualities

Related Forms: satire, satirist, satirize, satirically

Synonyms: mocking, ridiculing, sardonic, **sarcastic** (sar KAS tik)

When someone tells us we are attractive, interesting or intelligent, we feel good if we know they are sincere but not so if we know they are insincere and actually mean the opposite of what the words state. We often respond with negative emotions to such a **satirical** remark. Sincere compliments uplift us, **sarcasm** can hurt. Books, movies, and other productions that ridicule their subjects are **satires**. Perhaps the supreme **satirist** in English literature is Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) whose *Gulliver's Travels*—about a man's adventures in four imaginary lands of giants, men of six inches tall, terribly abstract scientists, and intelligent horses lording over beasts with human-like form—can be read as a children's book or a scathing attack on what he thought were the absurdities and abuses of his times.

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WORKING WITH WORDS

UNIT 3, LESSONS 5 & 6

The following exercises include all main words derived from word parts and their synonyms in boldface from both Lessons 5 and 6.

I. Match the word on the left with its synonyms.

Set 1

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| ___1. insatiable | a. opportune, favorable |
| ___2. conducive | b. stealthy, sly |
| ___3. surmise | c. sarcastic, ridiculing |
| ___4. rapture | d. incentive, attraction |
| ___5. surreptitious | e. conjecture, guess |
| ___6. satirical | f. incessant, constant |
| ___7. insidious | g. diligent, industrious |
| ___8. unremitting | h. voracious, unquenchable |
| ___9. assiduous | i. ecstasy, joy |
| ___10. inducement | j. covert, undercover |

Set 2

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ___1. rapacious | a. suffuse, soak |
| ___2. traduce | b. lure, tempt |
| ___3. supersede | c. sporadic, irregular |
| ___4. saturate | d. malign, slander |
| ___5. remiss | e. immobile, inactive |
| ___6. intermittent | f. cloy, satisfy |
| ___7. seduce | g. enthrall, delight |
| ___8. sedentary | h. supplant, replace |
| ___9. enrapture | i. avaricious, greedy |
| ___10. satiate | j. negligent, neglectful |

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II. Complete the sentences by using each of the following words once:

Set 1 Words:

**traduce, surreptitious, inducement, sedentary,
satiated, assiduous, intermittent, saturated, rapacious,
rapture**

1. The zookeepers could never _____ the hungry hippopotamus no matter how much they fed him.
2. My sister's face glowed with _____ when she read her acceptance letter with the offer of a full scholarship to the university that was her first choice.
3. An unscrupulous politician will find ways to _____ even the most honest and moral opponent.
4. Preparing for final examinations, the _____ student remained focused on her studies from morning to night.
5. The _____ rain throughout the day made it impossible to predict when we could take a walk without our umbrellas.
6. Spies are known for their _____ activities.
7. No _____, not even doubling my salary, could make me stay at the job I had come to hate.
8. The doctor told the _____ patient that he must walk an hour every day to lower his blood pressure.
9. The banks that foreclose on homes during a severe economic recession or depression are sometimes viewed as heartless and _____, greedily concerned only with profit.
10. When the boxer who reeked of alcohol from his nighttime celebration finished his exercise in the gym early the next morning, his trainer surreptitiously added some alcohol to the boxer's pool of sweat near his feet; the trainer then said that the fighter was _____ with alcohol, and, to prove his point, lit a match to the sweat causing it to catch fire.

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Set 2 Words:

**superseded, satirical, surmise, insidious,
unremitting,
enraptured, conducive, insatiable, remiss, seduce**

1. When I asked my closest friend if I should get married, he told me he had no idea what was best and refused to _____ about any future outcome.
2. Nothing could satisfy the miser's _____ appetite for more and more money.
3. The revolution overthrew the tyrannical dictatorship which was _____ by a freely elected democratic government.
4. Fresh air, nutritious food, exercise, and friendly relationships are all _____ to good health.
5. The exotic vegetation and melodious songs of the birds _____ visitors to the nature preserve.
6. Comedians sometimes make _____ remarks about political blunders.
7. The _____ snake in the Garden of Eden persuaded Eve to disobey God.
8. A slick salesperson may _____ us into buying an inferior product that we don't need.
9. _____ torture may force someone into confessing to a crime the person did not commit.
10. The boss would be _____ if she did not reward her most assiduous and devoted workers.

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III. LEO TOLSTOY AND CHARLES DICKENS: GREED

Fill in each blank by using each of the following once:

Set 1 Words:

**unremittingly, assiduous, remiss, rapturously,
surmises, conducive, sedentary, rapacious, saturates,
superseded**

During their lifetimes England's Charles Dickens (1812-1870) and Russia's Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) were immensely popular writers whose works entertained and influenced the entire world. Though Dickens was born into poverty and Tolstoy into nobility and a landed estate, both championed the poor and attacked selfish materialism. Tolstoy's short story "How Much Land Does a Man Need?" and Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* are moral fables attacking greed.

A Christmas Carol (1843) has done much to restore Christmas festivities and our ideas about this holiday tradition. The main character of the story, Ebenezer Scrooge, has given us the word "Scrooge" for a mean, stingy person. As the story begins, it is a cold Christmas Eve; a thick fog and darkness _____ or pervades the atmosphere. The wealthy businessman Ebenezer Scrooge permits his _____ or industrious clerk Bob Cratchit only the tiniest of fires for heat, so that the clerk has to warm his hands by the flame of a candle. These conditions are hardly _____ or favorable to the comfort and health of the clerk whose job is _____ or stationary as he sits freezing at his desk. Scrooge grudgingly grants Bob Cratchit the following Christmas day off while still getting his meager wage for the day. Scrooge's _____ or greedy nature becomes evident when he rudely dismisses two gentlemen asking a donation for the poor. Scrooge tells these men that the poor will be adequately served by the prisons and workhouses.

Ebenezer Scrooge then locks up his business and returns to his living quarters. At his doorstep, the knocker of the door transforms itself into the face of Jacob Marley, his former business partner dead these past seven years, and then is restored again to a knocker. After Marley died, Scrooge _____ or replaced him as the sole

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owner of the business. As Scrooge gets ready to go to bed, Marley's ghost appears to him, miserably weighted down by padlocks, cash-boxes, and steel purses enchained about his phantom body (symbolic of how the miserly Marley became enslaved by his rapacious desires). Marley warns his former partner of a similar fate unless Scrooge redeems himself. He says that three spirits will visit Scrooge on succeeding nights. Scrooge must heed them or face a torment similar to Marley's.

The Ghost of Christmas Past then appears to Scrooge and shows how Scrooge as a young man rejected the possibility of a life with a woman who loved him to devote himself to the idol of wealth. On the following night the Ghost of Christmas Present lets Scrooge see how his impoverished clerk Bob Cratchit nevertheless joyously celebrates Christmas with his loving family. At this time Scrooge is especially attracted to Cratchit's gentle, crippled son Tiny Tim. On the third evening the Ghost of Christmas Future, shrouded in a black garment and completely silent, _____ or constantly points with a finger to future events, revealing a corpse and a grave. Scrooge _____ or guesses as to their identity, only realizing at last that they are his. The fearsome spirit also points out the death of Tiny Tim. Scrooge is shaken to his very depths.

Upon awakening, Scrooge realizes that miraculously it is still Christmas Eve. _____ or joyfully he goes about remedying his lifestyle that was _____ or neglectful. He orders the prize turkey and anonymously has it delivered to the home of Bob Cratchit. He renounces his miserly ways, raises Bob Cratchit's salary, and becomes a second father to Tiny Tim, who does not die. Heeding the messages of the three Christmas spirits, Ebenezer Scrooge redeems himself, becomes a benevolent member of his community, and rapturously celebrates every Christmas.

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Set 2 Words:

**insidious, traduced, satirical, enraptured,
surreptitious, intermittent, satiated, inducement,
seduce, insatiable**

Whereas Ebenezer Scrooge learns that love and fellowship have greater value than material wealth, Pahom, the protagonist of Tolstoy's "How Much Land Does a Man Need?", fails to learn this lesson. Pahom is a peasant who contentedly works for a landowner. One day, his wife's sister from the city comes to visit them and explains how much better city life is than that in the village. Pahom's wife defends peasant life and Pahom agrees with her. However, this conversation _____ or sneakily has planted seeds of discontent in Pahom. He tells himself that life is good but it would be better if only he had enough of his own land. In that case, he thinks he would not fear the Devil himself. The Devil overhears these thoughts and decides by the _____ or sly means of letting Pahom get land, to _____ or lead astray the peasant's soul by the bonds of an _____ or greedy desire for land.

Pahom first acquires forty acres of land as his portion of a larger tract of land that a group of peasants pooled their money to acquire. However, trouble occurs when neighboring peasants trespass on his lands and even cut down his trees. Pahom then brings a suspected neighbor to court only to lose the case. Embittered by the decision, he quarrels with his neighbors and the judges, which in turn makes matters worse as Pahom feels he is _____ or slandered and even threatened by others in the community. He then sells his forty acres of land and decides to move to a new location where he purchases 125 acres.

Once again, _____ or recurring thoughts of acquiring more land take root. He decides to buy thirteen hundred additional acres for a certain price, but before closing this deal he learns how he can acquire ten times this acreage for even less money. Pahom cannot resist this _____ or attraction. He ventures out to where this land can be gotten and learns from its own-

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ers that by putting down a certain amount of money (very little in relation to the land he hopes to get) he can acquire as much land as he can walk around from sun up to sun down. There is one condition. If he doesn't make it back to the spot on which he started on the same day, he loses his money and the land. Pahom is _____ or thrilled by the prospect. He begins the day by walking briskly but goes a bit too far to enclose some especially attractive land. As the sun heats the day, the perspiring Pahom sheds some of his clothes and begins to run to get back in time. Gasping for air, he manages to return to the original spot just before the sun drops behind the horizon. However, at this point the exhausted Pahom collapses and dies. Ironically, all he needs now is six feet of land to be _____ or fully satisfied. In this _____ or mocking tale about greed, the Devil has the last laugh.