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VOCABULARY ENERGIZERS IV:
Stories and Word Origins

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LESSON 8

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

Word Parts and Words

GRAD, GRESS (step, go): egress, digress

MON(O) (one, single): monologue, monotonous,
monotheism, monolithic

PREHEND, PREHENS (take, seize): apprehensive,
comprehensive, reprehensible, apprehend

GRAD, GRESS — step, go (graduate, grade, aggressive)

11. egress (EE gress) n. exit

Synonyms: way out, departure, emergence, **exodus** (EK suh dus)

Antonyms: entrance, entry

The Bible recounts the **egress** of the Israelites from Egypt. Moses had been commanded by God to go to Pharaoh, ruler of Egypt, and demand that the Israelites, who were Egyptian slaves, be given their freedom and allowed to depart from Egypt. Pharaoh refused. Then God brought about ten plagues. After each of the first nine, Pharaoh had agreed to let the Israelites exit Egypt, but as soon as the plagues were lifted he changed his mind and kept them in bondage. The last plague was death of the firstborn of the Egyptians. Pharaoh's own son died. After this tenth plague, the Israelites made their **exodus** from Egypt. This particular biblical **egress** is referred to as the **Exodus**, spelled with a capital "E." Jews celebrate this memory of the **Exodus** with the annual eight-day holiday of Passover.

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12. digress (dy GRESS) v. wander from the main topic or subject

Related Forms: digression, digressive, digressively

Synonyms: stray, wander, ramble, depart, diverge,

deviate (DEE vee ayt)

Shakespeare presents the situation of two young lovers kept apart because of hatred between their families in his play *Romeo and Juliet*. The Montagues (Romeo's family) and the Capulets (Juliet's family) are heirs to a longstanding family feud. When Romeo manages to enter undetected into an elaborate Capulet party, he and Juliet meet, falling in love at first sight. She sends the Nurse (her personal woman servant) the next day to find out from Romeo if he has agreed to marry her and when and where the ceremony will take place. The Nurse then returns with Romeo's positive answer and the particulars of the secret wedding ceremony. As Juliet eagerly waits for the Nurse to give Romeo's answer, the Nurse tantalizes Juliet by prolonging the communication of Romeo's answer. In response to Juliet's request for her lover's answer, the Nurse says she is out of breath so Juliet must wait for the answer. The impatient Juliet then asks, "How art thou out of breath when thou hast breath / To say to me that thou art out of breath?" The Nurse teasingly prolongs from delivering the message by **digressively** praising Romeo. Frustrated, Juliet again demands the specific information. The Nurse manages to **deviate** from the topic by complaining of a headache. On the point of giving Romeo's answer, the Nurse then abruptly **digresses** by asking Juliet where her mother is. Finally, the Nurse ceases her **digressions** and reveals the pertinent information to the now frantic Juliet.

Lesson Eight

MON(O) — one, single (monosyllable, monarch, monastery)

13. monologue (MON uh log) n. long speech by one person

Synonyms: speech, lecture, talk, soliloquy (suh LIL uh kwee)

Antonyms: dialogue, conversation, colloquy

Despair, hopelessness, meaninglessness. These feelings overwhelm Macbeth as the tyrant king learns that his wife has unexpectedly just died. She was his only truly loyal and trusted supporter and confidant. Macbeth then expresses his utter dejection in this **monologue**:

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusky death. Out, out, brief candle [i.e, death]!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player [i.e., actor]
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more; it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

A **monologue** is not confined to the stage but is continuous talking by one person: an entertainment host, a comedian, a guest, anybody. A **soliloquy** is a special type of **monologue** that is only delivered by an actor in a play. Although spoken out loud, no other characters in the play hear the **monologue** that is a **soliloquy**. It is a convention by which the actor can convey his thoughts to the audience although presumably thinking them to himself. Actually, it may be a bit vague from the text of the play whether Macbeth's speech can be considered a **soliloquy**. If the servant is still around who delivered the news of Macbeth's wife and presumably hears Macbeth's lament, then the speech is a **monologue**. If the servant departs before Macbeth gives his speech, thus leaving Macbeth alone on stage, the **monologue** can also be considered a **soliloquy**.

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14. monotonous (muh NOT uh nus) adj. tiresome because lacking variety, repetitiously dull

Related Forms: monotony, monotonously

Synonyms: boring, dull, uninteresting, unvarying,

tedious (TEE dee us)

Antonyms: interesting, exciting, varied, varying, changing

Boy and girl outwardly scorn each other, inwardly would reciprocate affection if they thought the other cared for them. Such is the plot of Shakespeare's comic play *Much Ado About Nothing*. Whenever they meet, Beatrice and Benedick constantly lash out at each other with their sharp, witty remarks. Their friends decide to bring them together by tricking them into thinking each one pines for the other. The trick is successful. Beatrice and Benedick declare their love to each other. However, an obstacle appears. Beatrice's cousin and close friend, Hero, is engaged to Claudio, a friend of Benedick. A villain makes it seem that Hero has been making love to someone else. Enraged when confronted with the evidence, Claudio strikes Hero and calls off the marriage. Beatrice, who knows her cousin could not commit this act, calls upon Benedick to challenge Claudio to a deadly duel to avenge the insult. Benedick agrees. The comedy looks to turn into a tragedy. Fortunately, however, two bumbling law officers discover how the villain constructed the false evidence that resulted in Hero's shame. However, when they first communicate this information to the proper authority, they are so comically confusing, long-winded and **monotonous** in getting to the point, that the authority tells them they are **tedious**. Not understanding what the word "tedious" means, they take the word as a compliment. Irritated by their bumbling, **monotonous**, and **tedious** account, the authority leaves without getting the vital information. Eventually the villain's deception comes to light, Claudio and Hero get reunited, and Beatrice and Benedick publicly declare their love for each other. A good performance of this delightfully exuberant play will dispel all **monotony** and **tedium**.

Lesson Eight

15. monotheism (MON uh thee iz um) n. doctrine or belief that there is only one God

Related Forms: monotheist, monotheistic

Synonyms: worship of only one God, belief in only one **deity** (DEE uh tee)

Ancient Egyptians were polytheists or worshippers of many Gods. However, one pharaoh of ancient Egypt named Akhenaten practiced **monotheism**. He believed in only one **deity**, the sun god Aten. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam practice **monotheism**. Polytheism, belief in more than one **deity**, characterizes Hinduism and the religion of the ancient Greeks. An atheist would say that followers of both **monotheistic** and polytheistic religions are deceived since atheism asserts that there is no God or gods. An agnostic just doesn't know whether a **deity** or **deities** exist.

16. monolithic (mon uh LITH ik) adj. massive, single, rigidly uniform

Related Forms: monolith, monolithic, monolithically

Synonyms: huge, solid, indivisible, inflexible,

homogenous (hoh muh JEE nee us)

Antonyms: puny, various, multifaceted, pluralistic

A **monolith**—derived from Greek *mono* for one and *lith* for stone—is a large, single block of stone, sometimes used as a monument or having religious significance. Something that has this massive, uniform character is thus described as **monolithic**. Large corporations and governments that have this uniform structure are thus **monolithic**. A country that has a single **homogenous** ethnic group might also be described as having a **monolithic** population. We can refer to a united stance of soldiers against an attacking enemy as presenting a **monolithic** defense.

VOCABULARY ENERGIZERS IV

PREHEND, PREHENS — take, seize
(comprehend, incomprehensible)

17. apprehensive (ap rih HEN siv) adj. fearful, anxious, uneasy
about the future

Related Forms: apprehension, apprehensiveness, apprehensively

Synonyms: afraid, worried, nervous, perturbed (pur TURBD)

Antonyms: confident, calm, relaxed, unafraid, fearless

The etymology or origin of “**apprehensive**” shows how the word gets its meaning. The word part *prehend*, originally referring to grasping something physically, came also to mean grasping something with the mind. If we grasp a thought about something threatening in the future, we experience anxiety or **apprehension**. Of course, most of the situations we worry about in the future never actually happen, so our minds can make us needlessly **perturbed** or **apprehensive**.

18. comprehensive (kom prih HEN siv) adj. wide in scope
or content as to include much or all

Related Forms: comprehensiveness, comprehensively

Synonyms: wide, broad, thorough, complete, inclusive,
exhaustive, **extensive** (ik STEN siv)

Antonyms: limited, narrow, restricted

The term “Renaissance man” describes someone who has **comprehensive** or **extensive** knowledge in both the arts and sciences. The Italian Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) who lived during the Renaissance was such a man. Not only is he famous for such paintings as the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, but he was a scientist, engineer, and musician as well. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) from Germany, although born after the Renaissance, was also a Renaissance man. He is most noted for his play *Faust* about a man selling his soul to the devil. However, he was not only a playwright, but a poet, and novelist as well. In addition, he was a scientist and held

Lesson Eight

positions in the government. Today, with so much more knowledge available to us, it is harder for someone to have a broad, deep **comprehensive** and **extensive** knowledge in many fields.

19. reprehensible (rep rih HEN suh bul) adj. deserving blame or disapproval

Related Forms: reprehend, reprehension, reprehensibility, reprehensibly

Synonyms: blameworthy, disgraceful, deplorable, reproachable,

culpable (KUL puh bul)

Antonyms: praiseworthy, commendable, blameless, innocent, irreproachable

20. apprehend (ap rih HEND) v. arrest, seize, imprison
(a secondary meaning of “apprehend” is “comprehend, understand”)

Related Form: apprehension

Synonyms: capture, catch, jail, **incarcerate** (in KAR suh rayt)

Probably the most famous American gangster of the twentieth century was Al Capone. His mobsters controlled prostitution, gambling, and liquor activities in Chicago during the 1920s (this was the period of Prohibition in the United States when sale of alcoholic beverages was illegal). Capone was also reprehensible for corrupting police and politicians as well as for gangland murders. Capone was eventually **apprehended**, brought to trial, and convicted in 1931. However, he was not sentenced for the crimes mentioned but was found **culpable** or guilty of tax evasion. He was first **incarcerated** in a penitentiary in Atlanta but then moved to the island prison of Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

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WORKING WITH WORDS

UNIT 4, LESSONS 7 & 8

The following exercises include all main words derived from word parts and their synonyms in boldface from both Lessons 7 and 8.

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

Set 1

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| ___1.monotheism | a. infringement, violation |
| ___2.obloquy | b. ambiguous, vague |
| ___3.comprehensive | c. soliloquy, speech |
| ___4.digress | d. perturbed, anxious |
| ___5.transgression | e. extensive, thorough |
| ___6.circumlocution | f. deviate, stray |
| ___7.monologue | g. bias, discrimination |
| ___8.apprehensive | h. vilification, slander |
| ___9.equivocal | i. circuitous speech,
roundabout way of talking |
| ___10.inequity | j. belief in only one deity,
worship of only one God |

Set 2

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___1.reprehensible | a. homogenous, huge and uniform |
| ___2.equanimity | b. debase, humiliate |
| ___3.loquacious | c. incarcerate, capture |
| ___4.degrade | d. culpable, blameworthy |
| ___5.monolithic | e. exodus, exist |
| ___6.equity | f. fluent, well-expressed |
| ___7.eloquent | g. garrulous, wordy |
| ___8.egress | h. impartiality, fairness |
| ___9.monotonous | i. composure, serenity |
| ___10.apprehend | j. tedious, boring |

Lesson Eight

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

Set 1 Words:

circumlocution, equivocal, reprehensible, equity, eloquent, monolithic, apprehensive, degrade, transgression, monotheism

1. The ancient Greek orator Demosthenes became an _____ speaker by practicing his speeches before a mirror and often spending months in a cave secretly rehearsing before confronting the public.
2. How could they think him _____ for strangling his wife when both his arms are paralyzed?
3. Jews, Christians, and Muslims practice _____ .
4. Avoid _____ in your answer and get to the point.
5. My father frequently told me that the greatest _____ is not to honor your parents.
6. Because my academic grades were not very high, I was _____ about getting admitted to my first choice for a university.
7. The multibillion dollar _____ corporation is a powerful influence both in economics and politics.
8. The suspect was so _____ in her answers that the police could not get any information as to whom were her associates.
9. The coach would _____ and humiliate us for any errors we made.
10. I am not looking for any special favors; I just want to be treated with _____.

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Set 2 Words:

**loquacious, obloquy, monotonous, comprehensive, inequities,
egress, apprehend, monologue, digressions, equanimity**

1. The final _____ examination covers everything from the beginning of the semester to the end.
2. We looked for the _____ so we could leave the stuffy, unventilated museum.
3. Sometimes the most interesting aspect of a novel is not the main plot but the captivating, informative _____.
4. The mass murderer eluded the police for months until they were finally able to _____ him.
5. Some parrots do not learn to talk; my _____ parrot never stops speaking.
6. When she was alone on the stage, the comedian entertained the audience with her humorous _____.
7. My father was calm even when he lost his job; almost nothing disturbed his habitual state of _____.
8. The _____ lecturer—with his slow, steady, droning presentation of a dull subject—caused me to fall asleep.
9. No matter how honest and well-meaning, you might suffer _____ from your political opponent when you run for office.
10. America's Martin Luther King, Jr., South Africa's Nelson Mandela, and India's Mahatma Gandhi all fought to eliminate _____ and restore justice in their countries.

Lesson Eight

III. AFTERLIFE: DANTE, SHAKESPEARE, SOCRATES

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

Set 1 Words:

**circumlocution, equivocal, digress, monotheism, inequity,
loquacious, equity, comprehensive, monotonous, egress**

Death—what comes after? Throughout our stay on this planet, our species has pondered this question. History records the answers of various civilizations to this question. Here we will not attempt a _____ or complete overview of humanity's answer, leaving out accounts such as those found in ancient Egypt, Tibetan Buddhism, and Hinduism. We will limit ourselves to a Western perspective, introducing the medieval Christian viewpoint through Dante's *The Divine Comedy* and then presenting the contrasting speculations of Shakespeare and Socrates.

Often regarded as the masterpiece of medieval literature, the fourteenth-century Italian epic *The Divine Comedy* by the poet Dante recounts the journey of the soul after death. From his perspective of Christian _____ or belief in only one God, Dante vividly describes the realms of *Inferno* (Hell), *Purgatorio* (Purgatory), and *Paradiso* (Heaven). The worst sinners after death go to hell, most go to purgatory, and the blessed few to heaven. Hell is eternal; unredeemable sinners never escape their torments. Those in purgatory, after suffering for their sins, eventually enter heaven. The truly virtuous go directly to heaven. _____ or fairness prevails in hell, where the punishment aptly fits the sin. For example, sinful lovers are forever blown about by gusts of wind just as in life they were caught up in the winds of passion. Those who committed other sins may suffer from such torments as burning forever in fire or freezing in ice. Sincere believers in this view of the afterlife may perhaps wrestle with the seeming _____ or unfairness of a loving God condemning his human creations who sinned during their brief spark of life to an eternity of torture.

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Inheriting this view of the afterlife, Shakespeare in his play *Hamlet* has his main character of the same name contemplate what follows death. The play has many other characters who we come to know well. Among these are the _____ or long-winded Polonius. His speeches are noted for _____ or roundabout wordiness that take forever to get to the point. Sometimes his _____ or repetitiously dull talk causes him to _____ or stray from his main objective so that even he forgets what idea he is trying to convey. Whereas Polonius's rambling may at times seem humorous, Prince Hamlet of Denmark often delivers serious and gloomy soliloquies about death. He has reason to. Hamlet's father has died and shortly after that the brother of Hamlet's father, his uncle Claudius, married Hamlet's mother and is now king. Hamlet never liked his uncle. The ghost of Hamlet's father then reveals to Hamlet that Claudius murdered him. Hamlet determines to avenge his father's death but there is a reservation. Hamlet realizes that the ghost's revelation might be _____ or misleading. Perhaps the ghost is a devil that took on the appearance of Hamlet's father in order to capture Hamlet's soul by convincing the prince to murder an innocent man. Prince Hamlet, a man given to much contemplation before taking action, has serious questions to ponder. Among these is the one beginning Hamlet's most famous soliloquy of the play, "To be, or not to be, that is the question." The question Hamlet is asking himself is whether one should continue to live ("to be") or to commit suicide ("not to be"). At first Hamlet considers that "to die—to sleep" will end his torments and is "devoutly to be wished." But then he reconsiders,

To die, to sleep;
To sleep, perchance to dream-ay, there's the rub [the problem]: For
in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil [this earthly existence],
Must give us pause.....

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It would be fine if death were oblivion and an end to the pain of living. But instead of a dreamless sleep, death might be an endless nightmare of tortures worse than any suffering that could be imagined while alive. With this depressing thought Hamlet concludes that we stay alive to avoid a fate worse than even a tormented life. He therefore decides not to make a suicidal _____ or exit.

Set 2 Words:

obloquy, monologue, transgression, apprehend, reprehensible, apprehensive, equanimity, monolithic, eloquence, degrade

Whereas the gloomy, depressed, melancholy Hamlet posits the pessimistic possibility of a nightmarish afterlife, the buoyant Socrates considers an optimistic outcome. In Plato's philosophical dialogues *Apology* and *Phaedo*, Plato describes the trial and death of his beloved teacher Socrates in 399 B.C. Socrates is accused of the _____ or crime of corrupting the youth of Athens. Before answering the charges, Socrates tells the jury that they need not guard themselves against his _____ or forceful speech because he is not a great orator but speaks plainly and simply. He can only be considered eloquent if by eloquence is meant the persuasive power of truth. Socrates explains that a transgression of which he is accused—teaching students to twist arguments so as to make “the worse appear the better”—is misleading _____ or slander meant to _____ or dishonor and disgrace him. Socrates tells his jurors that his enemies associate him with Sophists; Sophists were ancient Greek philosophers and teachers who showed how to win arguments regardless of truth and took money for their teaching. Socrates explains that he is only concerned with discovering the truth and has never taken a penny from his students. He further explains how he has gotten a reputation as a wise man. A friend of his went to a temple devoted to Apollo (the Greek god of medicine, music, poetry, and prophecy) and asked who was the wisest man in Athens. The answer from the god was that none was wiser than Socrates. When his friend told him this answer, Socrates could not believe it. He then

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went around cross-examining craftsmen, poets, and politicians and found them knowledgeable in their field but uninformed when they voiced opinions beyond their expertise. Socrates therefore concluded that most people think they know things when they really don't, whereas Socrates knew when he didn't know anything. For this reason, the god pronounced him the wisest of men.

The jury then votes and finds Socrates _____ or blame-worthy and guilty. However, the jury of 501 men is not a _____ or uniform group of Socrates's enemies. As the philosopher points out, if thirty votes had gone the other way, he would have been freed. Instead, the jury pronounces the death sentence.

At this point, Socrates's friends, followers, and disciples all are distraught. Socrates attempts to reassure them with a _____ or speech showing that death might be viewed positively. He explains that death might on one hand be a case of complete absence of consciousness. In this case, it would be like dreamless sleep. And who, Socrates asks, has not waked from such a sleep and found it the most refreshing and pleasant experience? (Socrates never explains how if we do not wake from death we can ever find the experience delightful.) On the other hand, Socrates says that death may be a place where one can converse with the righteous heroes and poets of the past. What indeed can be better than searching for the truth with these companions, Socrates optimistically declares.

Guards then _____ or arrest the philosopher. In prison and surrounded by his friends, Socrates takes the poison hemlock to fulfill his death sentence. All are _____ or fearful except Socrates. He futilely attempts to lift the worries of his companions. Socrates alone remains in a state of _____ or calm. As Socrates meets his ultimate destiny with equanimity, Plato bids him farewell: "I may truly say, that of all men of his time whom I have known, he was the wisest and most just and best."