

## UNIT 9

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 9. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

### Marc Chagall

#### <Biographical Sketch>

**M**arc Chagall (1887–1985) was one of the most celebrated and prolific artists of the twentieth century. He was born Moishe Shagal, eldest of nine children, to an oppressed and **downtrodden** but proud Orthodox Jewish family in Vitebsk, a port city in Russia. His father, Khatskel, labored in a herring factory. His mother, Feiga-Ita, ran a small grocery shop.

Shagal exhibited impressive artistic talent early on. But money was tight, and his father tried to **stifle** his son's ambition. Why couldn't his son devote himself fully

to his faith and family? And how could he support himself on an artist's **puny** income?

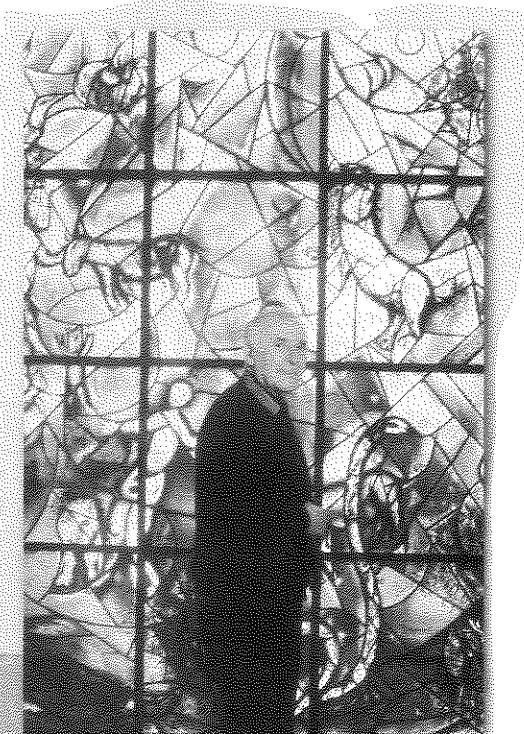
But Shagal had far-reaching dreams. He was not going to be a humble **bystander** in the world. He believed he saw things that "regular" people did not see. He represented people, animals, flowers, religious symbols, and his own dreams in **vital**, lively paintings. People flew in the sky, and size and scale were often ignored.

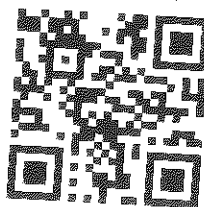
Shagal **persisted** with his dreams, and in 1907, with his mother's help, he went to St. Petersburg, then the capital of Russia and a cultural center, to study art. While he learned valuable skills and techniques, he **floundered** and struggled for a time. Many of his days in the cosmopolitan city were an **ordeal**. He had to work as a servant to pay bills, and he was jailed once for not having working papers.

Poverty and struggle followed him, but his confidence in his talent never **eroded**. Shagal moved to Paris in 1910, changing his name to the more French-sounding Marc Chagall. He enrolled in an art academy. He befriended other artists and spent hours studying those he admired.

It was in Paris that his vivid, **graphic** images took shape, and his distinctive way of depicting his worldview **accelerated**. He said, "My art needed Paris like a tree needs water." Chagall invented his own style. In spite of his **melancholy** childhood and tough times, his family, his early village life, his faith and belief in tradition were mainstays of

Chagall in front of his stained glass window at the United Nations, 1964





For words, and audio passages, snap the code, or

During Chagall's long career, he experimented with many different art forms, from painting to tapestries to theatrical set designs to stained glass. His stained-glass commissions include a series of Biblical windows for a synagogue in Jerusalem. He also created the famous "Peace" window at the United Nations building in New York. The lobby of the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center, in midtown Manhattan, is the venue for one of his most beloved works, immense murals called "The Triumph of Music" and "The Sources of Music."

Chagall's enchanting paintings, Chagall stayed close to his humble origins, for one sees large things from the valley and only small things from the peak.

In 1914, Chagall returned to Vitebsk, engaged by his fiancée, Bella Rosenfeld, a regal, cultured woman and his muse. He stayed in Russia after the outbreak of World War I and during the 1917 Russian Revolution. He and Bella eventually returned to Paris in 1923, and Chagall became a French citizen. Then World War II broke out in 1939, and he was kept up in the **gruesome** persecution of the Jews, revolutions, and personal tragedy. Chagall fled to the United States in 1941. He and his family went into exile. Chagall spent seven happy and productive years in the United States. He then returned to France for the remainder of his life.

"Birthday" ("Anniversaire"), 1915. Digital Image © The Museum of Modern Art/Licensed by SCALA/Art Resource, NY.



## Definitions

*Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the appropriate form of the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.*

**1. accelerate**  
(ak sel' ə rāt)

(*v.*) to speed up, cause to move faster; to bring about more quickly

The hikers needed to \_\_\_\_\_ their pace once it became clear that it would soon rain.

SYNONYMS: step up, quicken, hasten

ANTONYMS: slow down, decelerate

**2. bystander**  
(bī' stan dər)

(*n.*) one who looks on or observes, a person present but not taking part

The \_\_\_\_\_ who had witnessed the collision gave his statement to the police.

SYNONYMS: observer, onlooker

ANTONYM: active participant

**3. canvass**  
(kan' vəs)

(*v.*) to go through an area in order to procure votes, sales, or opinions; to go over in detail; to discuss

The students volunteered to \_\_\_\_\_ the neighborhood for our candidate.

SYNONYMS: survey, solicit

**4. casual**  
(kazh' ə wəl)

(*adj.*) happening by chance or on an irregular basis; showing little concern; informal

A \_\_\_\_\_ remark made by the mayor was taken out of context and used against him by the press.

SYNONYMS: haphazard, offhand

ANTONYMS: formal, serious, premeditated

**5. downtrodden**  
(daūn' träd ən)

(*adj.*) treated unfairly and cruelly, oppressed

Most of the immigrants at Ellis Island represented the \_\_\_\_\_ masses yearning to be free.

SYNONYMS: mistreated, ground underfoot

ANTONYMS: uplifted, liberated

**6. entice**  
(en tis')

(*v.*) to attract, tempt

To \_\_\_\_\_ shoppers into the store, salespersons were giving away coupons for free gifts.

SYNONYMS: lure, lead on

ANTONYMS: nauseate, sicken, revolt, repel

7. erode  
(i'rod')

(v.) to wear away gradually, eat away  
Storms and mudslides \_\_\_\_\_ the road so  
that eventually it became impassable.  
SYNONYMS: corrode, abrade  
ANTONYMS: nurture, promote, encourage

8. flounder  
(flaun' der)

(v.) to thrash about in a clumsy or ineffective way  
After suffering much damage in the storm, the small craft  
was left to \_\_\_\_\_ about helplessly.  
SYNONYMS: wallow, struggle

9. graphic  
(gra'fik)

(adj.) lifelike, vivid; relating to the pictorial arts  
A witness gave the reporter a \_\_\_\_\_  
account of the destruction caused by the tornado.  
SYNONYMS: colorful, descriptive  
ANTONYMS: dull, boring, unrealistic, colorless

10. gruesome  
(gru' sam)

(adj.) horrible, revolting, ghastly  
The \_\_\_\_\_ crime rocked the ordinarily  
quiet neighborhood.  
SYNONYMS: gory, hideous  
ANTONYMS: pleasant, delightful, appealing

11. melancholy  
(mel' an kal e)

(adj.) sad, gloomy, unhappy; (n.) sadness, gloominess  
It must have been the gloom of the house and the steady  
rain that made me feel so \_\_\_\_\_  
The tune and the lyrics of the song were filled with

12. ordeal  
(or der)

(n.) a difficult or painful experience, a trial  
The climbers were exhausted by their \_\_\_\_\_  
and quickly fell asleep.  
SYNONYMS: hardship, trauma  
ANTONYMS: pleasure, clinch

13. parch  
(parch)

(v.) to make dry and thirsty; to shrivel with heat  
The fields of Oklahoma were \_\_\_\_\_ by  
drought in the 1930s.  
SYNONYMS: dry up, dehydrate  
ANTONYMS: soak, drench, saturate

**14. persist**  
(pər sist')

(*v.*) to continue steadily in a course of action, refuse to stop or be changed; to last, remain

Despite stern warnings from their doctor, the brothers \_\_\_\_\_ in their bad habits.

SYNONYMS: persevere, keep at it, endure

ANTONYMS: give up, discontinue

**15. puny**  
(pyū' nē)

(*adj.*) of less than normal strength or size; of no importance

The wrestler let out a coarse burst of laughter when his \_\_\_\_\_ opponent entered the ring.

SYNONYMS: undersized, pint-size, small, weak

ANTONYMS: robust, brawny, mammoth, gigantic

**16. quibble**  
(kwib' əl)

(*v.*) to evade or belittle a point by twisting words or raising minor objections; (*n.*) a petty objection

Let's not \_\_\_\_\_ over details.

The buyer's \_\_\_\_\_ notwithstanding, the parties soon came to an agreement.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) split hairs, cavil; (*n.*) squabble

**17. ratify**  
(rat' ə fi)

(*v.*) to approve, give formal approval to, confirm

The legislatures of three-fourths of the states must \_\_\_\_\_ an amendment to the Constitution.

SYNONYMS: endorse, sanction

ANTONYMS: cancel, annul, veto

**18. regal**  
(rē' gəl)

(*adj.*) royal, kinglike; fit for a king

The two families pooled their resources to give the bride and groom a truly \_\_\_\_\_ wedding.

SYNONYMS: majestic, stately, princely, august

ANTONYMS: lowly, humble, abject, servile

**19. stifle**  
(stī' fəl)

(*v.*) to smother, prevent from breathing; to hold back or choke off

Unable to \_\_\_\_\_ her anger, the sculptor lashed out at her harshest critic.

SYNONYMS: strangle, suppress, snuff

ANTONYMS: nurture, promote, encourage

**20. vital**  
(vit' əl)

(*adj.*) having life, living; necessary to life, essential; key, crucial

The treaty is of \_\_\_\_\_ importance to the security of our nation.

SYNONYMS: indispensable, fundamental

ANTONYMS: nonessential, unnecessary

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 108–109 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. In a democracy, the average citizen should be an active participant in public affairs, not just a quiet (bystander, **enticer**).

2. After weeks of no rain, the (parched, **graphic**) earth turned to dust that was blown away by the strong winds. The soundness of the basic ideas of the U.S. Constitution has been (ratified, **enticed**) by the experience of more than 200 years.

4. In spite of all the setbacks we have had, we must (persist, **quibble**) in our efforts to achieve the goal we have set for ourselves.

5. "How can you compare a union employee," the factory owner asked, "to the (downtrodden, **melancholy**) serfs and slaves of earlier times?"

6. Aided by diagrams on the chalkboard, she gave a summary of her plan so clear and (graphic, **regal**) that it won the full support of the audience. It is hard to believe that this sturdy, six-foot basketball star was a (vital, **punny**) 100-pounder only a few years ago.

8. If you press the gas pedal just a little, this car will (erode, **accelerate**) like a racing vehicle.

9. Wearing that thick scarf and ski mask, as well as a heavy coat over layers of clothing, he must have felt hot and (stilled, **enticed**) even in the chilly air.

10. I think it showed bad judgment on your part to tell such a (gruesome, **punny**) story to a child who is so easily frightened.

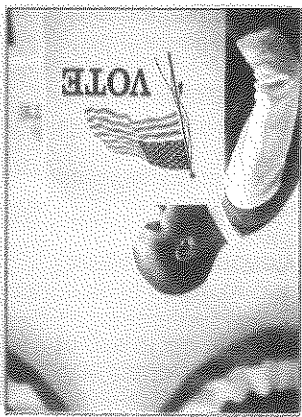
11. With her (regal, **graphic**) bearing and imperious manner, Elizabeth I looked every inch the queen she in fact was.

12. Instead of continuing to (flounder, **accelerate**), we must decide on a goal and start to move toward it.

13. You will never do well in school as long as your attitude toward your studies remains (downtrodden, **casual**) and unconcerned.

14. In the heat of the desert afternoon, we felt (parched, **regal**) despite drinking from our canteens every few minutes.

15. The assistant principal (**canvassed, quibbled**) the faculty for ways of improving the educational standards of the school.



For more than 200 years, Americans have participated in public affairs by voting and by getting involved in issues.

16. If you have prepared properly for the exams, there will be no reason to regard them as a terrible (**quibble, ordeal**).
17. No doubt he has our best interests at heart, but my faith in him has been (**eroded, downtrodden**) by repeated evidence of his poor judgment.
18. She made what proved to be a (**vital, parched**) mistake when she gave the job to one of the applicants without checking his references first.
19. In spite of the bright sunshine and the happy crowds, a strange mood of (**ordeal, melancholy**) seemed to take possession of me.
20. "This case is much more than a mere (**canvass, quibble**) between former friends," said the lawyer during the closing remarks.
21. Do her efforts to (**accelerate, flounder**) our departure mean that she is trying to help us, or just get rid of us?
22. I find your offer most (**gruesome, enticing**), but my better judgment tells me to have nothing to do with it.
23. The dictator used fear and violence to (**stifle, canvass**) discontent among the people he ruled.
24. When I asked you what you meant by those words, I wasn't (**quibbling, ratifying**) but trying to discover what the problem was.
25. Sunset on a cold autumn day can be a wistful, (**melancholy, casual**) sight.

## Synonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. described the devastation in **realistic** detail
2. land **desiccated** by a blistering sun
3. a meeting that seemed **accidental**
4. horrified by the **grisly** sight
5. the Supreme Court will **uphold** the law
6. would **beguile** them with homemade treats
7. standing among the crowd of **spectators**
8. would **nitpick** over the smallest details
9. to **poll** voters for their opinion
10. survived the painful **test**

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## Antonyms

Choose the word from this Unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. ignore all the possible witnesses

2. expected Congress to **repeal** the legislation

3. dislike playing on a **waterlogged** field

4. gave their full attention to a **serious** matter

5. every **intentional** detail of his design

## Completing the Sentence

From the words in this Unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the correct word form in the space provided.

1. After an hour of trudging along the dusty road under the hot sun, we were so \_\_\_\_\_ that all we could think of was cold water.

2. He now claims that he was just an innocent \_\_\_\_\_, but I saw him actually taking part in the fight.

3. Though the new halfback looked a little \_\_\_\_\_ to us, he managed to hold his own against players twice his size and build.

4. How can he \_\_\_\_\_ in denying that he was at the scene of the crime when several people saw him there?

5. If you were spending your own money, rather than mine, you would be more inclined to \_\_\_\_\_ over the price of the repairs.

6. Regular visits to the dentist are \_\_\_\_\_ good-looking teeth.

7. Since the twins' birthday party is by no means a formal affair, I feel assured in saying that \_\_\_\_\_ clothing is in order.

8. At that tender age, I was so shy that I found it a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to be introduced to people I'd never met before.

9. Although these workers were \_\_\_\_\_ in their native land, in the United States they are entitled to a fair wage and safe working conditions.

10. The sled \_\_\_\_\_ with alarming speed as it went down the steep slope.



11. When the inexperienced swimmer realized that he was in very deep water, he panicked and began to \_\_\_\_\_ about wildly.
12. According to Greek mythology, the Sirens used their remarkable singing voices to \_\_\_\_\_ unwary sailors to watery graves.
13. A group of reporters from the local TV station \_\_\_\_\_ our district for reactions to the proposed changes in the law.
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ sight that greeted my eyes at the scene of that awful traffic accident gave me nightmares for weeks.
15. She gave us a clear, detailed, and \_\_\_\_\_ picture of what is likely to happen if we fail to come to grips with the pollution problem.
16. In our environment class, we learned that in much of the United States, the topsoil has been badly \_\_\_\_\_ by natural forces.
17. Some poets write best about happy events, while others seem to prefer the more \_\_\_\_\_ side of life.
18. As we fought the forest fire, we were practically \_\_\_\_\_ by the extreme heat and heavy smoke.
19. As soon as he learned that he was to play the king in the play, his whole personality took on an almost \_\_\_\_\_ air.
20. The president's powers in foreign affairs are limited by the fact that any treaty he may negotiate must be \_\_\_\_\_ by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

### **Writing: Words in Action**

1. Look back at "Marc Chagall" (pages 108–109). Suppose that you are Marc Chagall and you are writing a memoir about your life. Choose a period from your life that is covered in the passage, and tell about the experiences and feelings you had at that time. You may invent details, but be sure they are convincing and serious. Write at least two paragraphs, and use at least three Unit words in your memoir.
2. Marc Chagall defied his father's wishes and moved away from his home country in order to fulfill his dream of becoming an artist. For Chagall, this decision brought great success. But should everyone follow his example? Is it necessary to "leave home" in order to find success? In a brief essay, support your opinion with specific examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 108–109), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

The following excerpts are from Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula*. Some of the words you have studied in this Unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. The tomb in the daytime, and when wreathed with fresh flowers, had looked grim and **gruesome** enough, but now, some days afterwards, when the flowers hung tank and dead . . . the effect was more miserable and sordid than could have been imagined.

If something looks **gruesome**, it appears

a. limp  
b. faded  
c. dull  
d. ghastly

2. [He] sank into a sort of **melancholy**, in which state he has remained up to now. . . . It is now after the dinner hour of the asylum, and as yet my patient sits in a corner brooding, with a dull, sullen, woebegone look in his face.

A person in a state of **melancholy** feels

a. pleasant  
b. wrathful  
c. unhappy  
d. excited

3. After another hour Lucy waked from her sleep, fresh and bright and seemingly not much the worse for her terrible **ordeal**.

An **ordeal** is a

a. vision  
b. test  
c. mistake  
d. nightmare

4. She had been restless all the morning, so that we were at first glad to know that she was sleeping. When, however, her husband mentioned **casually** that she was sleeping so soundly that he could not wake her, we went to her room to see for ourselves.

To mention something **casually** is to say it

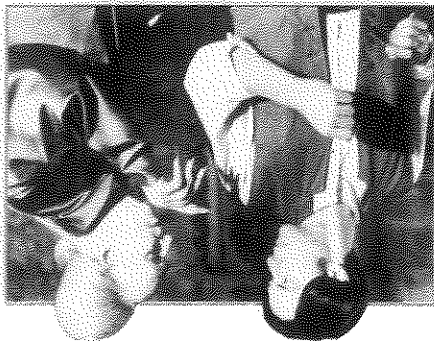
a. offhandedly  
b. solemnly  
c. humorously  
d. delicately

5. As he heard the voice his face brightened, through its mutilation, and he said, "That is Dr. Van Helsing. How good it is of you to be here. Give me some water, my lips are dry, and I shall try to tell you. I dreamed. . . ." He stopped and seemed fainting. We moistened the **parched** lips, and the patient quickly revived.

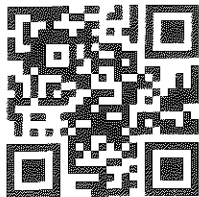
Parched lips are NOT

a. dry  
b. rough  
c. moist  
d. thin

Dracula, the fearsome vampire, is one of the most familiar villains in all of fiction.



Interactive  
Quiz



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## Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following passage in which some of the words you have studied in Units 7-9 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer the questions on page 119.

*This passage discusses the significant impact of the Civilian Conservation Corps on America's landscape and economy during the Great Depression.*

(Line)

- During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the **domestic** economy was all but destroyed. Joblessness was widespread, and millions of
- (5) Americans were hungry. In an effort to address the economic **catastrophe** gripping the nation, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created several ambitious programs
- (10) under a policy known as the New Deal. These programs were aimed not only at building the nation's economy but also at uplifting the American spirit.
- (15) Although the New Deal provided help to banks, farmers, and failing businesses, perhaps its most **notable** achievement was in the creation of programs to **decrease**
- (20) the number of the nation's unemployed. By 1932, twelve million people were jobless, and Roosevelt knew he had to put Americans back to work. Promising "direct, vigorous
- (25) action" in his Inaugural Address, the President created a variety of programs to help the jobless and **downtrodden**.
- One of the first and most
- (30) successful of these programs was the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, which operated from 1933 to 1942. This was a massive public works project that addressed two of
- (35) the President's interests: promoting conservation and providing jobs for the nation's unemployed youths. Calling the CCC a civilian "tree
- (40) army," Roosevelt put the program under the Army's control. Guided by engineers and experts in forestry and agriculture, nearly 3 million young men between the ages of 17
- (45) and 28 went to work. They planted trees, dug canals, conserved soil, cleared beaches and campgrounds, stocked lakes and rivers with fish, and even restored historic
- (50) battlefields. And they did it for just thirty dollars a month, warm clothing, and three meals a day.
- Although the CCC proved an **ordeal** for some, it gave others a lifeline. Unexpectedly, it also proved
- (55) to be a boon for the nation. As the future would show, it gave the Army much-needed experience in managing large numbers of recruits, while it also prepared the nation's
- (60) young men for the military discipline they would soon face in the Second World War.

1. Which is the best title for this passage?
- a. "Saving the Environment"
- b. "FDR's New Deal Programs"
- c. "\$30 and Three Meals a Day"
- d. "High Marks for the CCC"
- e. "A History of the Great Depression"

2. The meaning of **domestic** (line 2) is
- a. household
- b. foreign
- c. industrial
- d. national
- e. agricultural

3. **Catastrophe** (line 7) means
- a. disaster
- b. debate
- c. problem
- d. instability
- e. success

4. **Notable** (line 18) is best defined as
- a. mammoth
- b. impressive
- c. competent
- d. well-known
- e. attentive

5. **Decrease** (line 19) most nearly means
- a. assist
- b. employ
- c. increase
- d. reduce
- e. recruit

6. **Downrodden** (line 28) is best defined as
- a. needy
- b. uplifted
- c. homeless
- d. sickly
- e. oppressed

7. The function of paragraphs 1 and 2 (lines 1-28) is to provide
  - a. biographical information about Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - b. detailed information about the CCC
  - c. historical context for the CCC
  - d. the history of the Great Depression
  - e. an analysis of Roosevelt's New Deal
8. The CCC was founded to benefit
  - a. women and men in rural areas
  - b. engineers and experts in forestry
  - c. unemployed young men
  - d. out-of-work fathers
  - e. college students needing a job
9. From paragraph 3 (lines 29-51), you can infer that the main reason for joining the CCC was
  - a. to join the army
  - b. to leave home
  - c. to see the country
  - d. to be outdoors
  - e. to have a job
10. The meaning of **ordel** (line 53) is
  - a. challenging game
  - b. easy time
  - c. new adventure
  - d. hardship
  - e. pleasant experience
11. The writer's attitude toward the subject can best be described as
  - a. respectful
  - b. ironic
  - c. disinterested
  - d. sarcastic
  - e. critical
12. The CCC had all of the following beneficial effects EXCEPT
  - a. promoting conservation
  - b. creating several new national parks
  - c. giving the U.S. Army experience managing large numbers of recruits
  - d. providing jobs for unemployed young men
  - e. giving young men experience with military discipline

# Two-Word Completions

Select the pair of words that best completes the meaning of each of the following sentences.

- My throat became so \_\_\_\_\_ during that long trek over dusty trails on the hottest day of summer that I firmly believed nothing would ever \_\_\_\_\_ my thirst!
 

a. flawed . . . nurture	c. parched . . . quench
b. puny . . . decrease	d. flagrant . . . pervade
- "There's nothing \_\_\_\_\_ about feeling a bit \_\_\_\_\_ after you've been through a disappointment, such as not getting picked for a team," my teacher assured me.
 

a. gruesome . . . domestic	c. prudent . . . casual
b. abnormal . . . melancholy	d. puny . . . regal
- If you want to stop your automobile, apply the brakes. If you want it to gain \_\_\_\_\_, step on the \_\_\_\_\_.
 

a. momentum . . . accelerator	c. wrath . . . flaw
b. salvo . . . nub	d. incentive . . . paradox
- As we \_\_\_\_\_ violently to the right to avoid some rocks that suddenly sprang into view, our canoe \_\_\_\_\_ and pitched us headlong into the churning waters of the river.
 

a. flourished . . . flustered	c. swerved . . . capsized
b. canvassed . . . evicted	d. brawled . . . nurtured
- When prices go up, the value of our money \_\_\_\_\_. As the cost of living rises, the more deeply inflation \_\_\_\_\_ the purchasing power of the dollar.
 

a. accelerates . . . entices	c. persists . . . perjures
b. decreases . . . erodes	d. flourishes . . . parches
- "It isn't \_\_\_\_\_ to spend more than you make," I observed. "Only a fool would allow expenses to \_\_\_\_\_ income."
 

a. vital . . . fluster	c. abnormal . . . nurture
b. amiss . . . stifle	d. prudent . . . outstrip
- "An experienced worker doesn't usually have trouble handling a new job with \_\_\_\_\_," the personnel manager observed. "A beginner, however, will normally \_\_\_\_\_ around until he or she learns the ropes."
 

a. prudence . . . quibble	c. incentive . . . flourish
b. proficiency . . . flounder	d. vigilance . . . swerve