

UNIT 11

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 11. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

The Babe Is Here

<Magazine Article>

September 17, 1954

By Mitch P. J. Cunningham IV for *Sport and Game* magazine

You can hear a pin drop. It's almost a **stalemate** among several long-time rivals. Can Babe pull it off? She eyes the eighteenth hole, extends her arms for the downswing and—it's a hole in one! Babe Didrikson Zaharias, queen of the fairway, has triumphed, and the crowd goes wild. Her fans rush forward, and there's confusion and **havoc** on the greens.

There's a poignancy to this win because Babe, a co-founder of the LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association), was diagnosed with cancer at the height of her fame. Doctors said she'd never play again, but they should have known not to bet against this indomitable woman. After **mulling** it over for about a split second, she figured she wasn't going to let a little thing like a serious illness **mar** her remarkable athletic career. She had other fish to fry. She made a **pact** with her husband and manager, former pro wrestler George Zaharias, after undergoing surgery.

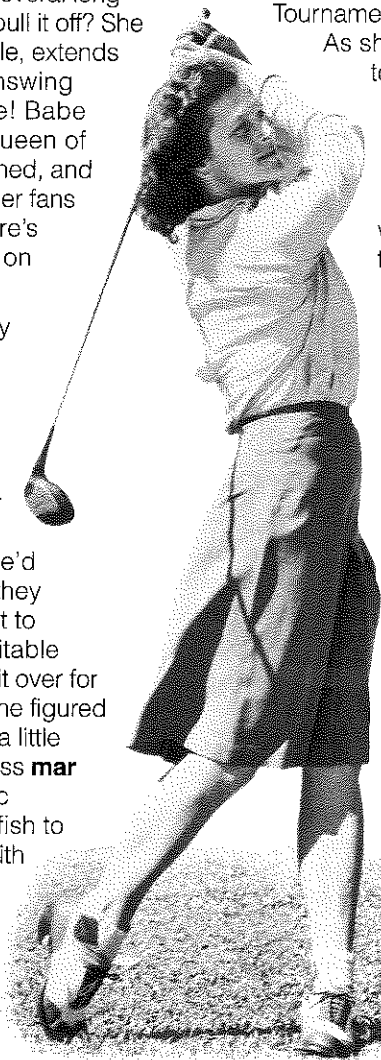
She swore she'd keep the door **ajar** to return, and return she did. Friends **implored** her to slow down. What did she have to prove? But Babe wasn't buying it. She won the Serbin Women's Open Tournament less than a year after surgery.

As she's been heard to say before a tournament: "The Babe's here.

Who's coming in second?"

It seems as if Port Arthur, Texas, native Mildred "Babe" Didrikson has the Midas touch when it comes to athletics. Is there any sport at which she doesn't excel? Her many talents are legendary and practically **innumerable**. Most agree she's the best woman athlete alive. In fact, in 1949 the Associated Press voted her the greatest female athlete of the half-century, and she's won a gaggle of other awards and lifetime achievement honors. No one comes close to this lady with the incredible gifts and **gigantic** heart of a champion.

Babe Didrikson Zaharias was one of the greatest golfers who ever lived, shown here in 1947.



The **narrative** of Babe's life reads like something out of a Hollywood movie script, complete with brash **dialogue** between Babe and whoever tries to get in her way. Born in 1911 to Norwegian immigrants, she

displayed exceptional physical prowess at a tender age. She excelled in baseball, swimming, diving, tennis, and bowling. Friends started calling her Babe—as in Babe Ruth—after she hit five home runs in one baseball game. She was an All-American high school basketball player. Then she became a bona fide star at the 1932 Summer Olympics, taking home two gold medals in track and field. (Some say she should have won a third for the high jump, but her **infamous** and illegal style of diving shoulders-first over the bar cost her first place.) Many would have **wilted** under the pressure, but Babe never

But Babe is no average woman. She was introduced to golf in 1935—and golf has never been the same since! She started winning titles in 1940, continued her unparalleled run, and completed the Grand Slam for women's golf in 1950, winning the U.S. Open, the Titleholders Championship, and the Women's Western Open. We'd be **lax** if we didn't mention that Babe is working on her autobiography, due out next year. The little girl from Port Arthur has done plenty to advance the ideals of women's sports and win the admiration of millions.

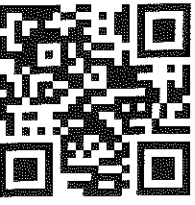
Babe Didrikson Zaharias was a champion in many different sports, here seen winning the hurdle event at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Babe Didrikson Zaharias won 82 tournaments in her golfing career.



Audio

For Words and audio passages, snap the code, or go to vocabularyworkshop.com.



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. adequate**
(ad' ə kwət)

(*adj.*) sufficient, enough

Be sure to allow _____ time to check in at the airport.

SYNONYMS: satisfactory, sufficing
ANTONYM: insufficient
- 2. ajar**
(ə jār')

(*adj., adv.*) partly open

That night, the children foolishly left the back gate _____, and the dog escaped.

ANTONYMS: (*adj., adv.*) closed tight, shut, open wide
- 3. dialogue**
(dī' ə lāg)

(*n.*) a conversation between two or more people; an interchange of opinions and ideas, free discussion

The witty _____ in the play kept the audience amused.

SYNONYM: exchange of ideas
ANTONYMS: monologue, soliloquy
- 4. emblem**
(em' bləm)

(*n.*) a symbol, sign, token

Like the heart, the red rose is an _____ of love.

SYNONYMS: badge, crest
- 5. gigantic**
(jī gan' tik)

(*adj.*) huge, giant, immense

When it fell to Earth, the meteorite made a _____ hole in the ground.

SYNONYMS: enormous, colossal, mammoth
ANTONYMS: tiny, infinitesimal, diminutive
- 6. havoc**
(hav' ək)

(*n.*) very great destruction, ruin; great confusion and disorder

The monkey created _____ at the fair as soon as it broke from its leash.

SYNONYMS: devastation, harm, disarray
ANTONYMS: peace and quiet, calm, order
- 7. hearth**
(härth)

(*n.*) the floor of a fireplace; the fireside as a symbol of the home and family

It was our custom to sit by the _____ and listen to my grandfather's stories.

SYNONYM: chimney corner

8. **implore**
(im plôr')

9. **infamous**
(in' fa mas)

10. **innumerable**
(i nûm' e ra bel)

11. **lax**
(laks)

12. **mar**
(mâr)

13. **misdemeanor**
(mis di mē' nər)

14. **mull**
(møl)

(v.) to beg earnestly for

The attorney proceeded to _____ the judge to show his client mercy.

SYNONYMS: entreat, beseech, pray
ANTONYMS: demand forcefully, clamor for

(adj.) very wicked; disgraceful, shameful

Because of the outlaw's _____ deeds, the town was offering a large bounty for his capture.

SYNONYMS: scandalous, villainous, flagrant, heinous
ANTONYMS: glorious, splendid, illustrious, praiseworthy

(adj.) too many to count, without number

The landlord heard _____ complaints about the noisy new tenant.

SYNONYMS: countless, beyond reckoning
ANTONYMS: countable, few in number

(adj.) not strict, careless; lacking discipline; not tense, relaxed

Some players took advantage of the new coach's somewhat _____ control of the team.

SYNONYMS: slack, remiss
ANTONYMS: strict, vigilant, conscientious, scrupulous

(v.) to spoil, damage, injure

Spilled cleaning fluid will surely _____ the wooden tabletop.

SYNONYMS: scar, disfigure
ANTONYMS: beautify, embellish, repair

(n.) a crime or offense that is less serious than a felony; any minor misbehavior or misconduct

He was not only fined for the _____ but also sentenced to serve 30 days in jail.

SYNONYMS: misdeed, petty offense or transgression
ANTONYMS: felony, serious crime

(v.) to think about, ponder; to grind or mix; to heat and flavor with spices

The governor had some time to _____ over the bill before signing it into law.

SYNONYMS: consider, reflect on

15. narrative
(nar' ə tiv)

(*n.*) a story, detailed report; (*adj.*) having the quality or the nature of a story

The _____ of the West African captive gives us a vivid picture of the horrors aboard a slave ship. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is considered a _____ poet because of the stories he tells in his poems.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) tale, chronicle

16. overture
(o' var chūr)

(*n.*) an opening move toward negotiation or action; a proposal or offer; an introductory section or part

Our family enjoyed the _____ to the opera better than the rest of it.

SYNONYMS: prelude, tender

ANTONYMS: finale, postlude

17. pact
(pakt)

(*n.*) an agreement, treaty

All the nations signed the _____ after the war in an effort to ensure world peace.

SYNONYMS: compact, alliance, deal

18. stalemate
(stäl' māt)

(*n.*) a situation in which further action by either of two opponents is impossible; (*v.*) to bring to a standstill

The negotiations ended in _____, as both sides refused to budge on the main issue.

Recent aggression on the part of one nation threatened to _____ the peace talks.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) standoff, draw; (*v.*) deadlock

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) victory; (*v.*) defeat

19. vindictive
(vin dik' tiv)

(*adj.*) bearing a grudge, feeling or showing a strong tendency toward revenge

The mayor was so _____ that he threatened to sue the newspaper for its unflattering remarks about his administration.

SYNONYMS: spiteful, malicious

ANTONYMS: forgiving, relenting

20. wilt
(wilt)

(*v.*) to become limp and drooping (as a flower), wither; to lose strength and vigor

Intense heat or lack of water will _____ the flowers.

SYNONYMS: sag, weaken, shrivel up

ANTONYMS: flourish, bloom, sprout, perk up, revive

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 136–137 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. British enlistment posters in World War I assured young men that they would be fighting for “king and country, (**hearth**, **havoc**) and home.”

2. The blustery winds on that cold November day played (**havoc**, **pact**) with my hair.

3. As long as the door to compromise is even slightly (**ajar**, **vindictive**), there is a chance that we will be able to reach an understanding.

4. The wonders of nature are as (**innumerable**, **adequate**) as the grains of sand on the seashore.

5. Jorge and Louise both want to be friends again, but somehow their sincere efforts have been (**stalemated**, **wilted**).

6. Instead of resorting at once to armed force, the two nations resolved the conflict by entering into a diplomatic (**dialogue**, **havoc**).

7. In spite of all the criticism, our flag still stands throughout most of the world as a(n) (**pact**, **emblem**) of justice and freedom.

8. After World War II, the United States was not (**vindictive**, **lax**) toward its former enemies but tried to help them recover and rebuild.

9. For many years Benedict Arnold served his country faithfully, but then he disgraced his name for all time by an (**ajar**, **infamous**) act of treason.

10. Contract talks have been stalled for weeks, and nothing either side has suggested can seem to break the (**stalemate**, **dialogue**).

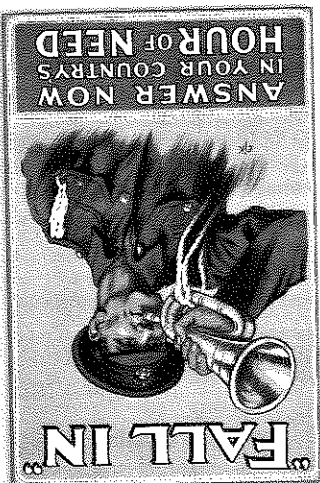
11. “(**Adequate**, **innumerable**) is simply not good enough,” the company president said. “We want to be the best in our field.”

12. The facts of history cannot always be arranged in the form of a smooth and logical (**pact**, **narrative**).

13. The man has such a (**vindictive**, **gigantic**) ego that absolutely nothing ever seems to fluster, faze, or deflate him.

14. “(**Stalemate**, **implore**) you not to take this reckless action,” the city council president pleaded with the mayor.

15. I wish you had (**marred**, **milled**) over all the pros and cons before you made your final decision.



Enlistment posters appeal to citizens' sense of honor and duty.

16. I was a little miffed when my polite (**stalemates, overtures**) of friendship were so rudely and nastily rejected.
17. Though jaywalking may be considered a(n) (**misdemeanor, overture**), murder is definitely not!
18. Some parents are quite strict with their children; others are somewhat (**lax, adequate**) and permissive.
19. Instead of continuing to (**null, implore**) over the injustices that people have done to you, forget about the past and concentrate on the future.
20. Our high hopes for an easy victory (**wilted, mulled**) away to nothing as we watched our opponents steadily increase their lead over us.
21. As I look over your record, I get the impression that your background in math and science is not (**adequate, ajar**) for an engineering course.
22. Since I am willing to contribute to any worthy cause, there is no need to (**wilt, implore**) me for aid in such an emotional way.
23. Her insistence on studying the terms of our tutoring agreement made me think that I'd signed a (**pact, hearth**) with a lawyer.
24. I will not allow our long and much cherished friendship to be (**marred, implored**) by this unfortunate misunderstanding.
25. I prefer (**narrative, dialogue**) fiction to drama or poetry.

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. committed a **vengeful** crime against his accuser _____
2. a peaceful scene by the **home fire** _____
3. a trash heap that would **deface** the view _____
4. began to **hang downward** in the extreme heat _____
5. wears an **insignia** on his collar _____
6. refused to make the first **advance** _____
7. signed the **accord** that would end the fighting _____
8. so **negligent** in her duties _____
9. to treat the crime as a **little mishap** _____
10. picked up where the **anecdote** left off _____

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. had committed a violent criminal act _____
2. the lovely conclusion of the symphony _____
3. a house with a working air conditioner _____
4. a completely meaningless gesture _____
5. a wonderfully merciful person _____

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. She _____ the doctor to tell her frankly how badly her son had been hurt.

2. On our trip to northern California, we felt very small and unimportant as we stood beside the _____ redwood trees.

3. The smoke from the logs burning on the _____ curled slowly upward into the chimney.

4. Because the front door was _____, the cat strolled into the living room.

5. As you will learn, in most operettas, the musical numbers are connected to one another by spoken _____.

6. One careless mistake can seriously _____ an otherwise perfect record.

7. You cannot expect to discipline a group of teenagers by making a capital offense _____ of every _____.

8. By entering into World War I, the United States broke the _____ on the Western Front and tipped the balance in favor of an Allied victory.

9. "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes is a(n) _____ poem that tells the story of a woman who sacrifices her life for her sweetheart.

10. Though Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia were bitter enemies, the two countries signed a nonaggression _____ in 1939.

11. Who has not gazed with awe at the _____ stars that fill the sky on a clear summer night!
12. Can any punishment be too severe for someone who has been guilty of such a(n) _____ crime?
13. The flood had wrought such _____ that the governor of the state declared the stricken region a disaster area.
14. Since I have never done him any harm, I don't understand why he should take such a(n) _____ attitude toward me.
15. Let me have some time to _____ over your proposal before I give you a definite answer.
16. Though some of Verdi's operas begin with short preludes, for others he composed full-length _____.
17. Before you leave, be absolutely sure that your supplies of food and water are _____ for an eight-day journey across the desert.
18. A white dove holding an olive branch in its beak is often used as a(n) _____ of peace.
19. No one questions the honesty and good intentions of the mayor, but he has been criticized for being _____ in carrying out his duties.
20. Though my sister started out looking as fresh as a daisy, she began to _____ noticeably after only five minutes in that humidity.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "The Babe Is Here" (pages 136–137). What trait do you think was most important in making Babe Didrikson Zaharias a champion? State your opinion and support it in a brief argument of two paragraphs or more. Include at least two details from the passage, and use at least three Unit words.
2. Babe Didrikson Zaharias's domination of several sports made her a cultural icon. Why do you think that sports heroes are so important to Americans? Write a brief essay in which you state your opinion and support it with examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 136–137), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this Unit.

1. He then told me that he would commence his **narrative** the next day when I should be at leisure. This promise drew from me the warmest thanks. I have resolved every night, when I am not imperatively occupied by my duties, to record, as nearly as possible in his own words, what he has related during the day.

To tell a **narrative** is to share a(n)

- a. essay
- b. story
- c. letter
- d. poem

2. No distinct ideas occupied my mind; all was confused. I felt light, and hunger, and thirst, and darkness; **innumerable** sounds rang in my ears, and on all sides various scents saluted me.

Sounds that are **innumerable** may NOT be

- a. infinite
- b. recorded
- c. limitless
- d. counted

3. What a miserable night I passed! The cold stars shone in mockery, and the bare trees waved their branches above me. . . . I, like the arch-fiend, bore a hell within me, and . . . wished to tear up the trees, spread **havoc** and destruction around me, and then to have sat down and enjoyed the ruin.

Havoc is a state of

- a. reason and calm
- b. pride and fear
- c. noise and confusion
- d. darkness and silence

4. A **gigantic** monster, they said, had arrived the night before, armed with a gun and many pistols, putting to flight the inhabitants of a solitary cottage through fear of his terrific appearance.

A **gigantic** monster has great

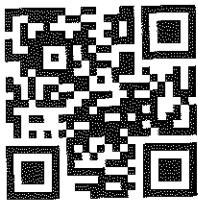
- a. ugliness
- b. wildness
- c. strength
- d. size

5. I doubted at first whether I should attempt the creation of a being like myself. . . . The materials at present within my command hardly appeared **adequate** . . . but I doubted not that I should ultimately succeed.

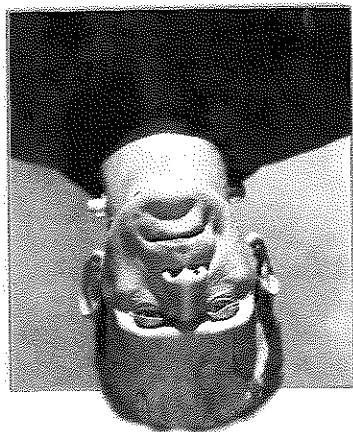
An **adequate** supply is

- a. enough
- b. the wrong kind
- c. too little
- d. too much

Interactive
Quiz



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Boris Karloff played Frankenstein's monster in several films, including *Bride of Frankenstein* in 1935.

The following excerpts are from Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*. 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.