

UNIT 12

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 12. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

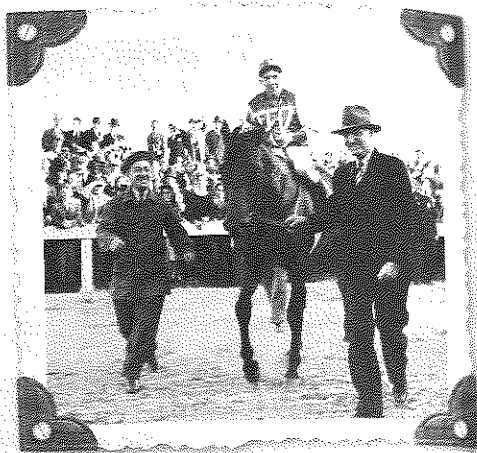
Hero From the Wrong Side of the Track Retires

<Profile>

by Chester Byron Langdon
November 11, 1940

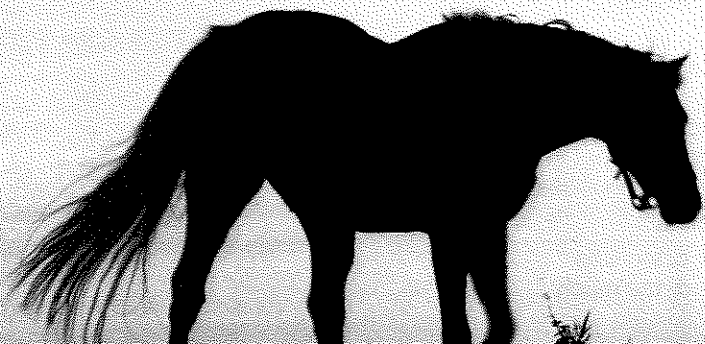
The Great Depression had darkened almost every door in this country, and war clouds were gathering on the European horizon. America was hungry for a hero. Then came a horse named Seabiscuit, whose looks hid the champion he would become. He was knobby-kneed and undersized, and had a laid-back, **leisurely** demeanor. But he hadn't a trace of a **malady** where it counts in a champion—his heart. His heart **abounded** in courage and overflowed with determination.

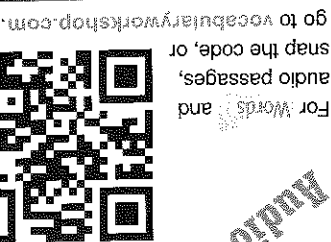
Foaled in 1933, Seabiscuit grew up in Kentucky. His performance in his first races was mediocre—hard work at a young age had made him **lethargic**; and in 1936, his owners sold the tired colt to Charles S. Howard. Howard, a wealthy businessman, had pioneered the sale of automobiles in California. Howard formed an unorthodox team: Seabiscuit's new trainer was Tom Smith, known for his reluctance to speak, and Johnny "Red" Pollard was Seabiscuit's jockey. Most people in the racing world did not know that Pollard was blind in one eye, thus depriving him of bifocal vision and depth perception.



From left to right: Tom Smith, George Woolf, Seabiscuit, and C.S. Howard

The team led a **nomadic** existence, escorting their horse to races in the eastern states, the Midwest, and California. Against the odds, Seabiscuit's record improved, and he quickly gathered increasing attention in the racing community. Howard was a born marketer, a Western-bred underdog challenging the East Coast racing establishment. It was just the role that millions of Americans wanted a winning horse to play. Amid the





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Audio

In early 1940, Seabiscuit pulled a quiet **section** of Howard's ranch. It was said he would never race again. Howard and Smith, however, did not become **despondent**; they believed in their horse. And Seabiscuit had one more race to claim: the coveted Santa Anita Derby in California, with its \$100,000 prize. Seabiscuit, with Pollard back in the saddle, came from behind to win, setting a record track time and **reinforcing** his **status** as the country's greatest racehorse. No wonder Seabiscuit had become an American legend. Now he will retire permanently at Howard's ranch to enjoy the lazy, **mellow** life he deserves.

rear admiral.

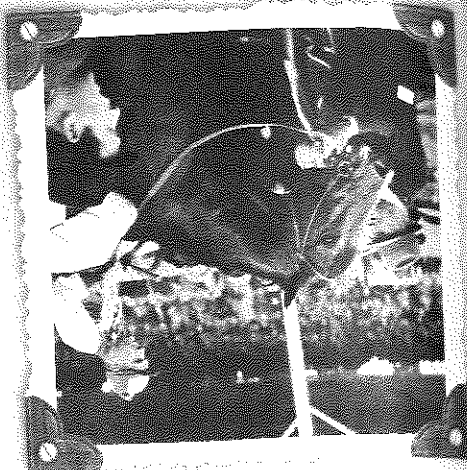
Seabiscuit makes a rear admiral out of War Admiral in their famous match race.



tumult and confusion of the Depression, down and out and starved for hope. Seabiscuit's fans saw in him a gritty fighter. The horse became a celebrity almost overnight. "Seabiscuit-itis" swept the nation. A huge **cache** of press clippings devoted to the thoroughbred showed that Seabiscuit, at one point, enjoyed more publicity than President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

But, as the saying goes, trouble rides a fast horse, and it caught up with this racing team. In early 1938, jockey Pollard fell from another horse and shattered his collarbone in a **heartrending** accident that kept him from riding. The same year, with Pollard sidelined, the **quest** for a match-race against War Admiral, a scion of the Eastern horseracing establishment, came to an exciting end. Pimlico Racecourse, near Baltimore, announced it would host the "match of the century" on November 1, 1938. A new jockey, George Woolf, would pilot Seabiscuit in the most important contest of both of their careers.

The outcome was sensational. Seabiscuit beat the favorite by four lengths—about 11 yards—to the delight of 40,000 fans at the track and an estimated radio audience of 40 million people. Never a **braggart**, Pollard



In the winner's circle after the match of the century

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. abound
(ə baʊnd')

(v.) to be plentiful, be filled

Lush fruit trees _____ in the orchards of central California.

SYNONYMS: burst with, overflow with, teem with

ANTONYMS: lack, want

2. braggart
(brag' ərt)

(n.) a boaster; (adj.) boastful in a loud, annoying way

There seems to be a _____ in every family who boasts about his or her achievements and worth.

Greek mythology is filled with _____ gods and heroes who take great pride in their deeds and skills.

SYNONYMS: (n.) bigmouth, blowhard

3. cache
(kash)

(n.) a hiding place; something hidden or stored

We found a _____ of canned food hidden under the stairs in the cellar.

SYNONYMS: stockpile, hoard, store

4. clarification
(klar ə fə kā' shən)

(n.) the act of making clear or understandable, an explanation

Reporters asked for a _____ of the politician's statement so that they could accurately report her position.

SYNONYM: elucidation

5. despondent
(di spän' dənt)

(adj.) sad, without hope, discouraged

The doctor was _____ over the loss of his patient and dear friend.

SYNONYMS: dejected, depressed, forlorn

ANTONYMS: jubilant, elated

6. embezzle
(em bez' əl)

(v.) to steal property entrusted to one's care

The senator's aide lost his job when he was caught trying to _____ campaign funds.

SYNONYMS: swindle, defraud

7. heartrending
(härt' ren dīŋ)

(adj.) causing mental pain or grief

The survivor told a _____ story about the shipwreck and the days she spent alone on the island.

SYNONYMS: moving, sad, heartbreaking, poignant

ANTONYMS: amusing, funny, hilarious

8. **leisurely**
(le' zhar le)

(*adj.*) unhurried, taking plenty of time; (*adv.*) in an easygoing or unhurried way
My parents enjoy taking a _____ stroll
through the park on a Sunday afternoon.
We ate _____ and spent hours talking
about old times.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) slow, relaxed
ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) hasty, hurried, rushed, hectic

9. **lethargic**
(la' thar' jik)

(*adj.*) unnaturally sleepy; dull, slow moving; indifferent
The twins often become _____ after eating
a large meal at their grandmother's house.
SYNONYMS: lazy, sluggish, listless
ANTONYMS: wide-awake, alert, energetic, dynamic

10. **malady**
(mal' ad e)

(*n.*) a sickness, illness, disease, disorder
Rheumatic fever, usually a childhood
damage to the heart.
SYNONYMS: ailment, affliction
ANTONYMS: health, well-being

11. **mellow**
(mel' o)

(*adj.*) ripe, well-matured; soft, sweet, and rich; gentle, pleasant;
(*v.*) to become gentle and sweet
Hawaii is known for its _____ fruit, all of
which is ripe and juicy.
Mom continued to hope that her upstart brother would
_____ with age and experience.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) dulcet, creamy

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) unripe, green, harsh, grating, strident

12. **nomadic**
(no' ma' dik)

(*adj.*) wandering, moving about from place to place
Many groups in the desert live a _____
life, traveling from place to place in search of water and
grazing land.
SYNONYMS: roaming, vagrant, migratory, itinerant
ANTONYMS: stationary, settled, rooted, fixed

(*adj.*) one piece at a time; (*adv.*) gradually

The committee's _____ approach to the
problem was taking more time and money than the school
board could afford.

Patchwork quilts are sewn _____

SYNONYM: (*adv.*) bit by bit
ANTONYM: (*adv.*) all at once

13. **piecemeal**
(pes' mel)

14. quest
(kwest)

(*n.*) a search, hunt; (*v.*) to search, seek, ask

In _____ of a safe water route to the Pacific, Lewis and Clark journeyed more than three thousand miles.

Diplomats _____ for peaceful solutions to global problems.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) pursuit, venture

15. random
(ran' dām)

(*adj.*) by chance, not planned or prearranged; irregular

According to a _____ sampling of voters, Proposition 10 will be approved by a wide margin.

SYNONYMS: haphazard, accidental

ANTONYMS: planned, systematic

16. rant
(rant)

(*v.*) to speak wildly and noisily; (*n.*) loud, violent talk

When the speaker began to _____ like a rabble-rouser, the crowd shouted him down.

Listening to the _____ of that radio personality makes me want to give up on talk shows.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) rave, fume, spout

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) whisper, murmur

17. reinforce
(rē in fōrs')

(*v.*) to make stronger with new materials or support

They used steel beams to _____ the structure of the building.

SYNONYMS: strengthen, bolster, prop up

ANTONYMS: weaken, undermine, sap, impair

18. seclusion
(si klü' zhən)

(*n.*) isolation from others, solitude

Some actors choose to live in _____, away from the prying eyes of journalists.

SYNONYMS: aloneness, solitariness

ANTONYM: the thick of things

19. status
(stā' tās)

(*n.*) a person's condition or position in the eyes of the law; relative rank or standing, especially in society; prestige

Winning the prestigious book award boosted the young writer's literary _____.

SYNONYMS: recognition, standing

20. turmoil
(tər' moil)

(*n.*) a state of great confusion or disorder; mental strain or agitation

For many years after the Civil War, the South remained a society in _____.

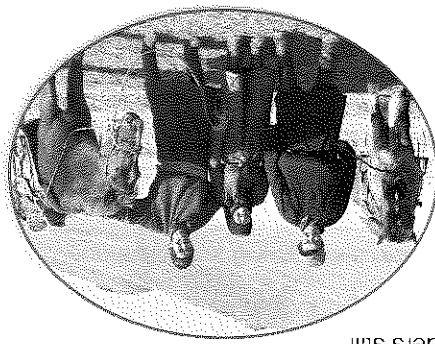
SYNONYMS: upheaval, tumult; ANTONYMS: peace and quiet, order

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 146–147 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. (Nomadic, Despondent) groups of horse breeders still wander the plains of Central Asia in search of pasturage for their herds.
2. As soon as I opened the book, I realized that I had stumbled on a rich (cache, bragart) of useful information for my report.
3. In the (heartrending, lethargic) conclusion of the film, the hero dies in the arms of his beloved friend.
4. Although she appeared calm and composed, her mind was in (turmoil, status).
5. As I was in no hurry to get where I was going, I decided to set a rather (random, leisurely) pace for myself.

The nomadic horse riders of Central Asia move from place to place as seasons change.



6. The eternal (quest, seclusion) for youth and beauty explains the huge sales of cosmetics, to men as well as to women.
7. There is a great difference between being quietly confident of your own ability and being an obnoxious (nomad, bragart).
8. Our present policy appears to be so contradictory that I believe some (clarification, turmoil) of it is in order.
9. Over the years, I have learned one thing about rumors: Where the facts are few, fictions (abound, clarity).
10. My experience on my summer job has (reinforced, abounded) many of the lessons I learned in the classroom.
11. Only the fact that they cannot see the seriousness of the emergency can explain their (lethargic, nomadic) response to our appeal for help.
12. Why would a world-famous writer choose to live in the (quest, seclusion) of a country village far from the "madding crowd"?
13. At the time of our very public argument, I was angry, but over the years my emotions have (mellowed, reinforced).
14. I believe that education, understanding, and experience provide the only cure for the (malady, status) of prejudice.
15. Many doctors believe that when sick people become (heartrending, despondent) over their health, it is more difficult for them to recover.

16. After receiving his paper marked with a big red *D* in his teacher's handwriting, the student sulked (**despondently, leisurely**) for hours.
17. For weeks, a gang of muggers wandered the streets aimlessly, choosing their victims at (**random, piecemeal**) from those who happened by.
18. The least useful thing you could do at this moment is to deliver a long, loud (**rant, turmoil**) against your opponents.
19. People say that Brianna is a (**mellow, status**) person, but I've seen her lose her temper too often to believe them.
20. Though he (**rants, embezzles**) and raves about the problems of the world, he has little to offer in the way of solutions to them.
21. They drove (**piecemeal, leisurely**) through the countryside, taking time to view hills, woods, and meadows full of blooming wildflowers.
22. The president went on the air to inform the general public of the present (**malady, status**) of the negotiations with the enemy.
23. Instead of such (**mellow, piecemeal**) efforts to prevent air pollution, we need a unified campaign that will be continued for as long as necessary.
24. People who waste the natural resources of this country are in a sense (**embezzling, reinforcing**) the wealth of future generations.
25. We repaired the house (**randomly, piecemeal**), doing one small task after another.

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. was among the last **roving** groups in Lapland _____
2. achieved a well-regarded **situation** among her peers _____
3. a loud **harangue** that persuaded no one _____
4. legal terms that will need **explication** _____
5. attempted to **make off with** money from the fund _____
6. made an **arbitrary** search for the lost keys _____
7. was caught up in the **chaos** left by the storm _____
8. is just another conceited **showoff** _____
9. rehearsed the play **little by little** _____
10. suffers from a serious **indisposition** _____

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.

Antonyms

1. **confusion** resulting from my explanation

2. will **safeguard** the company's money

3. unwisely chose to **mumble** at the crowd

4. a **unified** effort to complete the task

5. witnessed a **deliberate** act of kindness

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. Apparently, the man could pay off his staggering gambling debts only by _____ funds from the company that employed him.

2. Though Ponce de León's _____ for the Fountain of Youth proved futile, he did explore Florida and claim it as territory for the Spanish.

3. In order to prevent the bridge from collapsing, it has been necessary to _____ its girders and foundations.

4. The lake so _____ with trout and pickerel that even a person with my limited skill in fishing can catch them easily.

5. Most detectives solve crimes in a(n) _____ fashion, as clues come to light, rather than all at once.

6. The _____ of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era was succeeded by 100 years of relative peace and quiet in Europe.

7. Every once in a while, I like to take time out from my busy schedule to have a _____ dinner with old friends.

8. The park is always full of soapbox orators _____ about the inequality of government or society.

9. Arthritis is a(n) _____ that attacks many millions of people, especially in middle and old age.

10. After putting up all week with the noise and confusion of life in the big city, I enjoy the _____ of my mountain retreat on weekends.

11. Though I am always full of energy in the morning, I start to become a little _____ as the day wears on.
12. The tenor's voice was rich and _____, but the baritone's sounded somewhat harsh and unpleasant.
13. Instead of trying to decide which applicants were best suited for the job, he selected two at _____.
14. It's natural for you to feel a little _____ over not getting the job, but don't let that prevent you from applying for other positions.
15. At first, when I couldn't make out what she wanted me to do, I asked her for some _____ of her instructions.
16. Yesterday, I read a truly _____ account of the plight of millions of people suffering from the effects of a severe famine.
17. When I first entered this country, I was classified as a "resident alien," but my _____ has changed since then.
18. The two brothers are both fine athletes, but one is quiet and modest, while the other is an awful _____.
19. Many homeless people now lead essentially _____ existences on the streets of our major cities.
20. During warm months, foxes bury many animals they have killed, with the result that they have _____ to tide them over the winter.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "Hero From the Wrong Side of the Track Retires" (pages 146-147). Notice how the author describes Seabiscuit over the course of his career in racing. Think of at least three more words or phrases to describe the horse's character and physique, including at least two Unit words. Then write a brief description of Seabiscuit, using the details you think are most essential to convey the horse's notable traits.
2. Many athletes become national heroes and inspire people. Seabiscuit inspired people, but he was an animal. Do you consider a racehorse to be an athlete, like a baseball player or a runner? Write a persuasive essay in which you state why you think Seabiscuit was, or was not, an athlete. Support your opinion with specific examples from your observations, reading (refer to pages 146-147), or personal experience. Use three or more Unit words.

The following excerpts are from Victor Hugo's novel *Les Misérables*. 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. An aged and falling apple-tree leans far over to one side, its wound dressed with a bandage of straw and of clayey loam. Nearly all the apple trees are falling with age. . . . The skeletons of dead trees **abound** in this orchard. Crows fly through their branches, and at the end of it is a wood full of violets.

Trees that **abound** are

- a. widespread
- b. rare
- c. tall
- d. valuable

2. Once as he sat with his knees pressed together, and his eyes almost closed, in a **despondent** attitude, his daughter ventured to say to him, "Father, are you as angry with him as ever?"

Someone who is **despondent** feels

- a. sleepy
- b. enthusiastic
- c. humble
- d. hopeless

3. All heads were raised: the sensation was indescribable; there was a momentary hesitation in the audience, the voice had been so **heartrending**; the man who stood there appeared so calm that they did not understand at first. They asked themselves whether he had indeed uttered that cry; they could not believe that that tranquil man had been the one to give that terrible outcry.

A **heartrending** voice is one that

- a. frightens others
- b. depresses others
- c. stirs deep emotions
- d. makes no impression

4. She did not know what name to give to what she now felt. Is anyone the less ill because one does not know the name of one's **malady**?

Another word for **malady** is

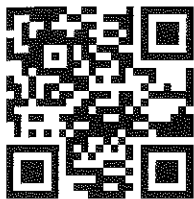
- a. feeling
- b. disease
- c. weakness
- d. grief

5. A little beyond the barricade, it seemed to him that he could make out something white in front of him. He approached, it took on a form. It was two white horses . . . who had been straying at **random** all day from street to street, and had finally halted there. An event that happens at **random** is NOT

- a. timely
- b. enjoyable
- c. accidental
- d. planned

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Interactive
Quiz



Hugo's novel tells the story of Inspector Javert's pursuit of the thief Jean Valjean.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following passage in which some of the words you have studied in Units 10–12 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer the questions on page 157.

This passage discusses how, long before the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, African Americans worked to end racial discrimination and segregation.

(Line)

- Have you ever heard the term the *Great Migration*? If so, you may know that between 1870 and 1920, hundreds of thousands of African Americans moved from rural areas in the Southeast to the industrialized urban areas in the Northeast and Midwest. For most, this huge migration meant an escape from poverty and the **malady** of discrimination, of being treated unfairly. To these African Americans, the movement north was a **quest** for a better life, as northern factory jobs were a great improvement over farm work.

- As more industrial jobs became available during World War I, about half a million African Americans went north. Although their economic **status** improved during the war years, African Americans in both the North and the South were still denied many basic rights. As a result, some notable African Americans rose to the challenge of righting injustices and achieving equal opportunity.

- One African American who fought to end injustice was Booker T. Washington. Born enslaved, Washington taught himself to read.

- Years later, in 1891, he founded the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There, African Americans were taught skills such as bricklaying, printing, and teaching, which would help them improve their lives as they worked peacefully toward equality.

- African American women also struggled for justice. Ida B. Wells, for example, strove to end the **notorious** practice of segregation—that is, of separating African Americans from other groups in society—and other forms of racial injustice. For Wells, her pen and her resolve were her only weapons. As editor of the newspaper *Free Speech*, which she founded in Memphis, Tennessee, Wells fought to end **random** acts of violence against African Americans. “Can you remain silent,” she wrote “. . . when such things are done in your own community and country?”

- As these African American leaders and others lectured across the country, they inspired the growth of the civil rights movement. In fact, even today, their words and deeds still motivate organizations to continue the struggle for justice.

7. **Notorious** (line 42) is best defined as
 - a. haphazard
 - b. widespread
 - c. official
 - d. cruel
 - e. disgraceful
8. The meaning of **random** (line 51) is
 - a. planned
 - b. brutal
 - c. arbitrary
 - d. shocking
 - e. shameful
9. The author's attitude toward Booker T. Washington and Ida B. Wells is best described as one of
 - a. disbelief
 - b. hostility
 - c. indifference
 - d. admiration
 - e. sympathy
10. From the sentence "For Wells, her pen and her resolve were her only weapons" (lines 46-47), you can infer that Wells
 - a. gave in to pressure to stop writing
 - b. wrote countless editorials
 - c. defended herself against enemies
 - d. was weak and easily intimidated
 - e. kept her opinions to herself
11. Which of the following states something that both Washington and Wells had in common?
 - a. They founded newspapers.
 - b. They visited the White House.
 - c. They wrote best-selling books.
 - d. They lectured all across the country.
 - e. They founded schools.
12. Which paragraph tells about the efforts of African American women to fight injustice?
 - a. paragraph 1
 - b. paragraph 2
 - c. paragraph 3
 - d. paragraph 4
 - e. paragraph 5

1. The main purpose of the passage is to
 - a. inform about African Americans' early struggles to end injustice
 - b. describe African American life in the North from 1870 to 1920
 - c. entertain the reader with several fictional anecdotes
 - d. tell a personal story about the writer's ancestors
 - e. persuade the reader to take action
2. The question in lines 1-2 functions as
 - a. paragraph 1
 - b. paragraph 2
 - c. paragraphs 3 and 4
 - d. paragraph 5
 - e. the entire passage
3. **Malady** (line 10) most nearly means
 - a. humiliation
 - b. stigma
 - c. sickness
 - d. oppression
 - e. crime
4. **Quest** (line 13) is best defined as
 - a. request
 - b. search
 - c. victory
 - d. competition
 - e. hope
5. In lines 12-16, it is clear that the main motivation for African Americans moving to the North from the South was their search for
 - a. political representation
 - b. sturdy housing
 - c. family and friends
 - d. a better life
 - e. a college education
6. **Status** (line 21) most nearly means
 - a. education
 - b. condition
 - c. skills
 - d. opportunities
 - e. successes

Two-Word Completions

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

- A communication between the warring factions' two leaders was the _____ to a bold new peace _____ that would end a twenty-year-long conflict.

a. beneficiary . . . veto	c. overture . . . pact
b. stalemate . . . status	d. surplus . . . farce
- Before we can even think about renovating this _____ old house, we must remove all the worthless _____ that is strewn around the rooms and blocking the entrances.

a. gigantic . . . cache	c. mellow . . . havoc
b. dilapidated . . . clutter	d. futile . . . surplus
- Among law enforcement, his _____ is that of a _____ con artist who targets segments of the population that are likely to fall prey to his convincing words.

a. havoc . . . braggart	c. dialogue . . . grueling
b. misdemeanor . . . narrative	d. status . . . notorious
- "I am still _____ the matter over in my mind," the president told the press. "When I have reached a decision, I will either sign the bill or _____ it."

a. mellowing . . . botch	c. mulling . . . veto
b. narrating . . . dismantle	d. clarifying . . . mar
- As he sat by the fire that glowed in the _____, the old sailor entertained the children with a(n) _____ of his adventures on the high seas, beginning when he was a boy of twelve, almost sixty years before.

a. lair . . . farce	c. hearth . . . narrative
b. cache . . . dialogue	d. clutter . . . overture
- The earliest inhabitants of North America lived _____ lives. They were constantly moving from place to place in search of the game that made up the greater part of their diet. This endless _____ for food eventually took them to all parts of the continent.

a. nomadic . . . quest	c. pampered . . . malady
b. grueling . . . cache	d. lethargic . . . status
- Since the soil is so remarkably rich and fertile, a variety of crops can be grown in _____. The farmers keep what they need for themselves and sell off the _____ at a handsome profit.

a. abundance . . . surplus	c. lavishness . . . hospitality
b. seclusion . . . reinforcements	d. leisure . . . adequacy