

LESSONS 3 AND 4

Position

LESSON 3

Nihil legebat quod non excerpere.

He read nothing from which he did not pluck something.

—PLINY THE YOUNGER

Key Words		
compound	exonerate	impose
excerpt	exorbitant	impostor
exhilarate	exposition	proponent
	expound	

EX <L. "from," "out of"

1. **excerpt** (ĕk'sûrpt) [*carpere* <L. "to pick," "to pluck," "to seize"]

n. A passage selected from a book, play, piece of music, etc.

Our anthology contains thousands of **excerpts** from literature around the world.

tr. v. To take a passage from a book, etc.; to quote.

The students **excerpted** their favorite numbers from *Cats* to perform at the variety show.

Familiar Words

exact
 exaggerate
 examination
 excellent
 exception
 excite
 exclaim
 excrescence
 excuse
 exercise
 exodus
 expand
 expect
 experience
 explain
 expletive
 express
 extend
 exult

Challenge Words

exalt
 excavate
 excise
 exorcise
 explicit
 exploit
 extant
 extricate
 exuberant

2. **exhilarate** (ĕg zĭl'ə rāt, ĭg zĭl'ə rāt)
 [*hilaris* <L. "cheerful," "happy";
hilaros <G. "cheerful," "happy"]
tr. v. To cheer; to stimulate; to enliven.

Her critically acclaimed performance at the opening of the 1961 season of the Metropolitan Opera must have **exhilarated** Leontyne Price.

exhilarated, *adj.*; **exhilaration**, *n.*



3. **exonerate** (ĕg zŏn'ə rāt) [*onus* <L. "burden," "load"]
tr. v. 1. To free from blame.

When new evidence **exonerated** the accused forger, the bank president reinstated him at a higher salary.

2. To relieve of a task.

As a reward for their hours of babysitting, their parents **exonerated** them from mowing the lawn.

exonerated, *adj.*; **exoneration**, *n.*

4. **exorbitant** (ĕg zŏr'bə tənt, ĭg zŏr'bə tənt) [*orbita* <L. "route"]
adj. Excessive.

The rhinoceros is in danger of becoming extinct because of the **exorbitant** price poachers receive for the animals' horns.

exorbitance, *n.*; **exorbitancy**, *n.*; **exorbitantly**, *adv.*

PONO, PONERE, POSUI, POSITUM <L. "to place," "to put"

5. **compound** (kŏm'pound') [*com* = *cum* <L. "with," "together"]
tr. v. To mix together; to combine two or more parts or elements.

In recent years the Kirov Ballet of the Soviet Union has **compounded** its traditional style with contemporary music and dance from other countries.

adj. (kŏm'pound) Having two or more parts or elements.

A **compound** sentence has two or more main clauses, as in "We ran fast, but they caught us."

n. A combination of elements, parts, or substances.

Steel is a **compound**, or alloy, of iron, carbon, and other substances such as copper, cobalt, and silicon.



Familiar Words

composition
deposit
dispose
expose
oppose
positive
postpone
posture
preposition
proposal
propose
suppose
transpose

Challenge Words

appositive
component
composite
depose
exponent
interpose
provost
repository

6. **exposition** (ĕk' spə zīsh' ən) [*ex* < L. "from," "out of"]
n. 1. A precise statement or explanation.

With both written text and 1,065 colored illustrations, John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, published in 1838, remains a model **exposition** on the subject.

2. A public exhibit or show.

The first international **exposition** was held in London's Crystal Palace in 1851.

expository, *adj.*



7. **expound** (ĕk spound', ĩk spound') [*ex* < L. "from," "out of"]
tr. and *intr. v.* To set forth an explanation or view of something in detail (usually used with *on*).

The travelers **expounded** on the animals they saw on their safari in Kenya.

8. **impose** (ĩm pōz') [*im* = *in* < L. "in"]
tr. v. To set up, or to force something (or oneself) on others.

In support of apartheid, the South African government **imposed** laws displacing Africans from their tribal lands.

intr. v. To take unfair advantage of someone.

In the play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, a guest who breaks his hip when departing **imposes** on his hosts for six months.

imposed, *adj.*; **imposition**, *n.*

NOTA BENE: The adjective *imposing* has a different meaning from the forms given above, a favorable one: "impressive" and "awe-inspiring." For example, An *imposing* figure physically, Paul Robeson was even more impressive for his talents as scholar, athlete, actor, and singer.

9. **impostor** (ĩm pōs'tər) [*im* = *in* < L. "in"]
n. One who deceives by using a false identity.

The wife of Martin Guerre wonders if the man claiming to be Martin is really her husband returning after eight years or an **impostor**.



10. **proponent** (prə pō'nənt) [*pro* < G. "before"]
n. One who argues in support of something.

Proponents of recycling newsprint, glass, and aluminum have found citizens more willing to cooperate than they expected.

Antonym: **opponent**

EXERCISE 3A

Circle the letter of the best **SYNONYM** (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word(s) in bold-faced type).

1. **excerpts from** an opera a. artifices in b. characters in
c. omissions from d. plots in e. portions of
2. to **expound on** one's success a. relive b. underestimate c. explain
in detail c. brag about e. subvert
3. **exoneration** of an offender a. disbelief b. pursuit
c. condemnation d. release e. imprisonment
4. **imposition** of a hardship a. infliction b. removal
c. endurance d. defense e. annihilation

Circle the letter of the best **ANTONYM** (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

5. **exhilarating** evenings a. depressing b. cheering c. tiring
d. unremarkable e. primordial
6. a(n) **proponent** of a vegetarian diet a. example b. opponent
c. enthusiast d. inventor e. interpreter
7. **exorbitant** fees a. reasonable b. precise c. excessive d. basic
e. very low

EXERCISE 3B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. Although a creator and **proponent** of the atomic bomb, Robert Oppenheimer became an opponent of its use.
b. Cinderella becomes the **proponent** character in the fairy tale when the matching slipper fits her foot rather than those of her stepsisters.
c. Growing up poor and having no formal education, President Andrew Johnson became an enthusiastic **proponent** of public schools.
d. Mother Jones was such a vocal **proponent** of child labor laws and concern for the poor that she sometimes went to jail for her beliefs.
2. a. Through friendship with James II, the English king, William Penn managed to arrange **exoneration** of religious prisoners.
b. Some food specialists have **exonerated** chocolate as the cause of headaches and acne.
c. Enrolling in a cooking class **exonerated** her from her dream of becoming a chef.
d. Falsely accused of treason and imprisoned on Devil's Island, Captain Alfred Dreyfus received full **exoneration** after Emile Zola and others challenged the verdict.

3. a. Before she was eighteen Adela Rogers St. Johns was **expounding** on the "police beat, sports, sin, and society" for a daily newspaper.
b. When baseball fans start talking about teams and heroes, they can **expound** all night.
c. I have a math test; **expound** me on quadratic equations.
d. Although shy, the artist was willing to **expound** upon her watercolors displayed in the exposition.
4. a. **Excerpts** of clothing were strewn around the room.
b. In the drum and bugle corps competition, the champions performed **excerpts** from *The Phantom of the Opera*.
c. Before copyright laws, people **excerpted** freely from the work of others without acknowledging authorship.
d. A preacher's homily, or sermon, often contains **excerpts** from religious and literary works.
5. a. Set to music, the poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" has become an **exhilarating** national anthem for African Americans.
b. **Exhilarating** vigorously, the tourists described the eerie emptiness of the Black Hills of South Dakota and their escape from the forest fire that swept through Yellowstone National Park.
c. Sea literature contains many scenes of sailors **exhilarated** by riding the waves with wind-filled sails.
d. After returning from the North Pole, Admiral Robert Peary wrote that "**exhilaration** of success lent wings to our sorely battered feet."
6. a. Although the Russian Dowager Empress accepted the self-proclaimed Anastasia as her granddaughter, most people believed her to be an **impostor**.
b. Rudyard Kipling says, "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster/ And treat those two **impostors** just the same," you show good judgment.
c. Performers who substitute for actors in scenes requiring dangerous stunts are called **impostors**.
d. A successful **impostor**, Deborah Sampson passed as an infantry volunteer for eighteen months during the Revolutionary War without being detected.
7. a. José Orozco was invited in 1940 to paint a mural for the Golden Gate International **Exposition** in San Francisco.
b. Showing that the way the universe began is determined by the laws of science is the subject of a complex **exposition** by the physicist Stephen Hawking.
c. Her carefully chosen **exposition** offered an excellent view of the stage.
d. Although complete records of eating habits are rare, one Franciscan friar offers **expository** proof, with recipes, that Aztec noblemen in the sixteenth century ate tortillas every day.

LESSON 4

In medias res.

In the middle (the thick) of things. —HORACE

Key Words

extraneous
extraterrestrial
extravert

mediate
mediocrity
medium
non sequitur

obsequious
sequester
subsequent

Familiar Words

extracurricular
extramural
extraordinary
extrasensory
extravagant
extravaganza

Challenge Words

extragalactic
extrajudicial
extramarital
extraterritorial

EXTRA <L. "on the outside"

1. **extraneous** (ĕk strā'nē əs)

adj. 1. Coming from outside; foreign.

To study a virus, laboratory technicians must remove all **extraneous** matter.

2. Not essential or vital.

Our history teacher said, "Keep to the subject; no **extraneous** details, please."

2. **extraterrestrial** (ĕk strə tər əs'trē əl) [*terra* <L. "earth"]

adj. Outside or originating outside the limits of the earth's atmosphere.

According to some scientists, the impact of an **extraterrestrial** object, such as a comet, caused conditions that led to the extinction of dinosaurs.

3. **extravert** (ĕks'trə vûrt) Also **extrovert**. [*vertere* <L. "to turn"]

n. A person chiefly interested in things outside the self, directing thoughts outward rather than inward.

Some **extraverts** express their social ease with facile talk and colorful clothing.

extraverted, *adj.*

Antonym: **introvert**

Familiar Words
 immediate
 intermediate
 medieval
 Mediterranean

Challenge Words
 medial
 mizzen
 moiety
 mullion

MEDIUS <L. "middle"

4. mediate (mē'dē āt')

tr. v. To act as negotiator between opposing sides in a dispute.

During his presidency Jimmy Carter **mediated** disagreements between Israel and Egypt.

mediation, *n.*; **mediator**, *n.*

5. mediocrity (mē'dē ōk'rə tē)

n. The condition of being commonplace or ordinary, somewhere in the middle between high and low; a very ordinary person.

Although twice elected prime minister of Great Britain, Sir Winston Churchill was considered an academic **mediocrity** as a schoolboy.

mediocre, *adj.*

6. medium (mē'dē əm; plural **media**: mē'dē ə)

n. 1. A substance or element through which something is transmitted.

For the Watusi, an African tribe, cattle are wealth and therefore become a **medium** of exchange.

2. A person thought to have communication with spirits of the dead.

Despite her implied powers as a **medium**, Madam Arcati cannot control the ghost of a first wife who complicates the lives of her successor and her helpless husband in the play *Blithe Spirit*.

NOTA BENE: Of course, *medium* also means "a condition halfway between extremes" (*n.*): Orange is the *medium* between yellow and red; (*adj.*): We sought a house in a *medium* price range.



Familiar Words
 consequence
 execute
 persecute
 prosecute
 pursue
 sect
 sequel
 sue
 suitor

SEQUOR, SEQUI, SECUTUM <L. "to follow"

7. non sequitur (nŏn sĕk'wī tŏr')

[*non sequitur* <L. "it does not follow"]

n. A statement that does not follow logically from evidence.

"A person who cries must be sad" is a **non sequitur** because there are other reasons for tears than feeling sad: laughing uncontrollably and peeling onions, for example.

Challenge Words
ensue
inconsequential
sequester

NOTA BENE: A deliberate non sequitur can be a comic device, as humorist Robert Benchley illustrates:

"Is life too easy for the youth of today? Are we raising a generation of pampered dawdlers? What is that on your necktie?"

8. **obsequious** (əb sə'kwē əs) [ob <L. "to"]
adj. Excessively willing to yield to others.

The powerful Japanese military dictators known as shōguns expected their followers to be **obsequious**.

obsequiously, *adv.*; **obsequiousness**, *n.*

9. **subsequent** (süb'sə kwənt) [sub <L. "under"]
adj. Coming after or later.

After the volcano erupted, geologists carefully monitored **subsequent** rumblings.

subsequently, *adv.*

10. **sequester** (sə kwēs'tər)
tr. v. 1. To go into hiding; to seek solitude.

Bears **sequester** themselves during the months of hibernation, sleeping through the winter.

2. To isolate.

Fearful of invasion during World War II, the U.S. government hastily **sequestered** American citizens of Japanese ancestry behind barbed wire in internment camps, an action now severely criticized.

sequestered, *adj.*; **sequestration**, *n.*

EXERCISE 4A

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

- obsequious** admirers a. annoying b. bossy c. too subservient
d. mimicking e. pretentious
- mediation** of a conflict a. stimulation b. definition
c. observation d. circumvention e. solution
- a series of **mediocre** jobs a. low-paying b. outstanding
c. central d. undemanding e. ordinary

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word(s) in bold-faced type).

- subsequent** events a. preceding b. revealed c. hidden
d. following e. recurring

5. famous for **non sequiturs** a. brilliant expositions b. illogical utterances c. artful connections d. cruel impositions e. extraverted remarks
6. **extraterrestrial** visitors a. earthdwelling b. ghostly c. unwelcome d. heavenly e. perverse
7. **extraneous** bits in the cereal a. extra b. essential c. minute d. foreign e. indigestible

EXERCISE 4B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. French is the **extraneous** language that I study in school.
 b. The soprano added **extraneous** flourishes to her aria.
 c. We stretched the stew to feed **extraneous** guests.
 d. Smart mountain climbers put nothing **extraneous** in their backpacks.
2. a. Sea turtles **sequester** their eggs in sand, laboriously digging out a nest and keeping watch until the nestlings crack their shells and creep to the sea.
 b. Amish folk **sequester** themselves from influences they consider corrupting, such as automobiles and television.
 c. Crowds **sequestering** at Coney Island on hot summer days stroll along the boardwalk and swim in the Atlantic Ocean.
 d. Convents are places of **sequestration** so that women with a religious vocation can devote their energies to contemplation.
3. a. The movie *E.T.* shows the development of friendship between a human family and an **extraterrestrial** being.
 b. Although the pole quivered, it did not fall as a high jumper set a new record with an **extraterrestrial** leap of eight feet.
 c. In 1938 a radio production of Orson Welles's *War of the Worlds* sounded so real that many listeners believed an **extraterrestrial** invasion was occurring.
 d. The first woman to experience **extraterrestrial** flight, Valentina Tereshkova, described the horizon as "a light blue, a blue band."
4. a. During the Watergate investigation in the 1970s an important **medium** of information was someone known only as "Deep Throat."
 b. Many voters think the **media** should not project winners in a national election before the closing of all voting places.
 c. Some people's happy **medium** is gossip.
 d. Through the **medium** of a camera lens Marguerite Higgins caught images of war in Korea and Vietnam.

5. a. A rebellious **extravert**, Isadora Duncan defied contemporary social conventions by dancing barefoot in gauze togas.
- b. If an **extravert** is willing to look silly in public for comic effect, then Lucille Ball was an **extravert**.
- c. The **extraverted** P.T. Barnum had the knack of gathering curiosities for his sideshows and delivering sales pitches that packed his circus tents with eager customers.
- d. The sign of an **extravert** is greed, always wanting something extraneous.

EXERCISE 4C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 4. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. Exploring _____ phenomena gives astronomers clues to the millions of galaxies in the universe.
2. At first considered a(n) _____ in the art world, Consuelo Gonzáles Amézcuca has achieved distinction for her pictures drawn with colored ball-point pens on cardboard.
3. To say that she is not a sensitive person because she doesn't like dogs is to use a(n) _____.
4. Organizations like Al-Anon provide trained people to _____ in cases of family conflict.
5. The satellite serves as a(n) _____ of information about weather, alerting watchers to storms and atmospheric aberrations around the globe.
6. Although the larval stage of the dragonfly may last for five years, the _____ stage as a gauzy-winged adult is brief, lasting perhaps five weeks.
7. Records of Dolley Madison's elegant gowns and large parties, when as the president's wife she was a White House hostess, strongly suggest that she was a(n) _____.
8. For centuries before the discovery of treatment for leprosy, sufferers of the disease lived as social outcasts, _____ ed in remote colonies.
9. When expected to converse with a celebrity, some people become tongue-tied and _____, especially if they are taken by surprise.