Words denoting Pleasure-Pain

Avocabo Word List 5

ABHORRENT, AFFRONT, ASSAIL, CAUSTIC, DULCET, FELICITOUS, GALL, GLEE, GRATIFY, HALCYON, HARROWING, HEDONISM, INVIDIOUS, ONEROUS, PALATABLE, PROVOCATION, REGALE, SATIATE, VEX, VOLUPTUOUS

"Every pleasure or pain has a sort of rivet with which it fastens the soul to the body and pins it down and makes it corporeal, accepting as true whatever the body certifies."

Socrates

"Pleasure cannot be shared; like Pain, it can only be experienced or inflicted, and when we give pleasure to our Lovers or bestow Charity upon the Needy, we do so, not to gratify the object of our Benevolence, but only ourselves. For the Truth is that we are kind for the same reason as we are cruel, in order that we may enhance the sense of our own Power."

Aldous Huxley

"Pain and pleasure are infectious. It depresses us to be much with those who have suffered long and are still suffering; it refreshes us to be with those who have suffered little and are enjoying themselves. But it is good for us to be depressed now and then."

Samuel Butler

Exercise 5-1 Exquisite Pain

Sort the list words in columns, indicating whether you think the word denotes pain or pleasure. *(20 marks)*

PAIN	PLEASURE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Exercise 5-2 Discriminating Appropriate / Inappropriate Usage

Indicate whether the sentences below use the list word (in italic boldface) correctly ☑ or incorrectly ☒ by circling or highlighting the appropriate icon. *(30 marks)*

☑ ☒ 1. The ***abhorrent*** policy of apartheid has finally succumbed to the pressures of international opprobrium.

☑ ☒ 2. The man was ***assailed*** by doubts, and he slept little until his determination to file charges.

☑ ☒ 3. The ***caustic*** smell of formaldehyde permetaed the biology labs during the two weeks of the dissection unit.

☑ ☒ 4. "Too ***caustic***?" To hell with the cost. If it's a good picture, we'll make it.

☑ ☒ 5. Drivers are all too often stressed into ***caustic*** rages directed at fellow commuters.

☑ ☒ 6. The angelic musician strummed her ***dulcet***, marking the start of the New Age Festival.

☑ ☒ 7. From down the street, I detected the ***dulcet*** tones of the youth choir rehearsing for their concert.

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☑ ☒ 8. Her statements about the unicorns at the Petting Zoo were clearly ***felicitous***.

☑ ☒ 9. All men by nature seek peace of mind, but few can expect to achieve continual ***felicity***.

☑ ☒ 10. "Can you believe that Mildred? She had the ***gall*** to invite herself to the movie night and she talked her way through the entire film.

☑ ☒ 11. To enjoy a truly ***gratifying*** friendship as one gets older and has a family, one must be willing to set aside the necessary time.

☑ ☒ 12. Dropping her first manuscript into the mailbox was a deeply ***gratifying*** act for the would-be author.

☑ ☒ 13. Seen from the perspective of first semester deadlines, even eventful summer days are comparatively ***halcyon***.

☑ ☒ 14. The bird itself is a little larger than a sparrow, sea-blue in color and reddish on the underside, with white feathers in the neck, and a long slender beak... They breed at midwinter, on what are called "***Halcyon*** days", during which the sea is calm and navigable, especially near Sicily. They make their nests a week before the shortest day, and lay a week after it."

☑ ☒ 15. Sitting through the suspense of the first Jurassic Park movie was a ***harrowing*** experience-- especially for mothers with small children.

☑ ☒ 16. As the ***hedonists*** idled under the summer's hot sun, more utiltarian members of society prepared food stores for the coming winter.

☑ ☒ 17. The new Environment Minister had the ***invidious*** responsibility of communicating his government's hitherto deplorable record on matters of air quality and ground water treatment.

☑ ☒ 18. I couldn't bear the macabre ***glee*** on the faces of those who were witness to the first televised execution of the serial killer.

☑ ☒ 19. For an excusable breach of conduct, Gary was given the ***onerous*** duty of laundry for his entire platoon.

☑ ☒ 20. The missionary found the native food ***palatable***, if not always delicious or plentiful.

☑ ☒ 21. The prospect of the trade to another city was made more ***palatable*** to the young goaltender by the promise of considerable more ice time.

☑ ☒ 22. We were sitting at a table with a man of about my age and a rowdy little girl who gave way upon the slightest ***provocation*** to uncontrollable laughter.

☑ ☒ 23. In this heat, every extra gesture was an ***affront*** to the common store of life.

☑ ☒ 24. Going along the narrow path to a little uncut meadow covered on one side with thick clumps of brilliant heart's-ease among which stood up here and there tall, dark green tufts of hellebore, Levin settled his guests in the dense, cool shade of the young aspens on a bench and some stumps purposely put there for visitors to the bee-house who might be afraid of the bees, and he went off himself to the hut to get bread, cucumbers, and fresh honey, to ***regale*** them with.

☑ ☒ 25. She possesses a ***regale*** look and would not appear out of place in the King's court.

☑ ☒ 26. A writer is obliged to titillate, not ***satiate***, his reader's attention in the opening pages of a story.

☑ ☒ 27. Elizabeth, who was left by herself, now smiled at the rapidity and ease with which an affair was finally settled, that had given them so many previous months of surprise and ***vexation***.

☑ ☒ 28. You are nothing but a troublesome ***vex***, and the sooner you depart, the sooner I can get on with the business that you ask of me.

☑ ☒ 29. She had in her nature a rich, ***voluptuous***, Oriental characteristic—a taste for the gorgeously beautiful, which, save in the exquisite productions of her needle, found nothing else, in all the possibilities of her life, to exercise itself upon. (Hawthorne, Scarlet Letter)

☑ ☒ 30. Though depicted as a decadent ***voluptuary***, Cleopatra remained celibate for more than half of her adult life.

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Exercise 5-3 Synonyms
From the three choices, circle the one that is *closest in meaning* to the bold list word in the context shown. *(21 marks)*

1. he is an **abhorrent** man
(a) hateful (b) cantankerous (c) spiteful

2. an **affront** to common decency
(a) testament (b) fine example of (c) outrage

3. **assailed** the enemy stronghold
(a) crumbled (b) circumnavigated (c) assaulted

4. snapped out a **caustic** retort
(a) defensive (b) sarcastic (c) slow-witted

5. be very careful with **caustic** chemicals
(a) valuable (b) corrosive (c) bottled

6. **dulcet** songbirds
(a) persistent (b) sweet-sounding (c) cloying

7. a life of **felicity**
(a) happiness (b) chastity (c) fraudulent double-dealing

8. his **galling** lack of trust
(a) persistent (b) infrequent (c) annoying

9. a **gratifying** round of applause
(a) lengthy (b) sudden (c) pleasing

10. **gleeful** mood throughout the school
(a) joyful (b) wary (c) restless

11. a **halcyon** time
(a) hectic (b) tranquil (c) immediately preceding

12. **harrowing** trek through the jungle
(a) tortuous (b) torturous (c) rushed

13. a convention of **hedonists**
(a) pleasure seekers (b) hairstylists (c) renegades

14. **invidious** practices at the Club de Boulevarde
(a) discriminatory (b) underhanded (c) exemplary

15. a Saturday filled with **onerous** tasks
(a) single (b) burdensome (c) cursory

16. **unpalatable** desserts
(a) finger food (b) inexpensive (c) unappetising

17. attacked with no **provocation**
(a) incitement (b) rationality (c) ferocity

18. **regaled** aboard the cruise liner
(a) drenched (b) treated (c) blown about

19. **satiated** his hunger at the buffet table
(a) provoked (b) prompted (c) gorged

20. **vex** your sleeping sister
(a) bother (b) confuse (c) awaken

21. **voluptuous** models are rare these days
(a) short (b) buxom (c) smiling

Exercise 5-4 Antonyms
From the three choices, circle the word that is *opposite in meaning* to the bold list word. *(20 marks)*

1. **abhorrent**
(a) detestable (b) pleasing (c) repugnant

2. **affront**
(a) indignity (b) discourtesy (c) compliment

3. **assail**
(a) appease (b) assault (c) set upon

4. **caustic**
(a) corrosive (b) vitriolic (c) tonic

5. **dulcet**
(a) dissonant (b) honeyed (c) mellifluous

6. **felicitous**
(a) unhappy (b) fortunate (c) joyful

7. **gall**
(a) chafe (b) assuage (c) impertinence

8. **gratification**
(a) satisfaction (b) vexation (c) pleasure

9. **gleeful**
(a) elated (b) jubilant (c) melancholy

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10. **halcyon**
(a) golden (b) prosperous (c) depressing

11. **harrowing**
(a) effortless (b) painful (c) agonizing

12. **hedonist**
(a) sensualist (b) ascetic (c) pleasure-seeker

13. **invidious**
(a) equitable (b) discriminatory (c) unfavourable

14. **onerous**
(a) taxing (b) casual (c) burdensome

15. **palatable**
(a) edible (b) tasteful (c) unappetizing

16. **provocation**
(a) irritation (b) aggression (c) submissiveness

17. **regale**
(a) cater (b) treat (c) deprive

18. **satiate**
(a) glut (b) stuff (c) increase

19. **vex**
(a) bedevil (b) please (c) nettle

20. **voluptuous**
(a) gaunt (b) curvaceous (c) shapely

Exercise 5-5 Making connections.
In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words. *(10 marks)*

1. halcyon kingfisher
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. hedonism Epicurus
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. provocation hair-trigger
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_____
_____
_____
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4. voluptuous Rubenesque
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_____

5. glee schadenfreude
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_____

Exercise 5-6 Ouch!
Among the possible physical pains one might suffer are a twinge, twitch, gripe, hurt, cut, sore, soreness; discomfort, headache, *malaise*, several pains in the head (megrim, migraine, cephalalgy, cephalalgia), earache (otalgia), backache (lumbago), inflammation of the joints (arthritis), inflammation of a nerve (neuritis), a painful big toe and foot (gout), painful disorder of the joints or muscles or connective tissues (rheumatism), acute spasmodic pain along the sciatic nerve (sciatica), intense paroxysmal neuralgia along the main sensory nerve of the face and motor nerve for the muscles of mastication (tic douloureux), toothache (odontalgia), stiffneck, an unnatural condition in which the head leans to one side because the neck muscles on that side are contracted (torticollis), spasm, cramp; nightmare, kink, crick, stitch; convulsion, or throe.

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Exercise 5-7 Whence pleasure is found
G. K. Chesterton, the English author of the enigmatic novel *The Man Who Was Thursday* says

"The man who finds most pleasure for himself is often the man who least hunts for it."

Would you support this statement? Why?

Exercise 5-8 Researching Unfamiliar Words
Still unfamiliar with some of this unit's list words? Look them up in a good dictionary. Note the definitions for each word, and determine which parts of speech these words may take. Depending on your dictionary, you may also note the plural forms of nouns, verb inflections, sample sentences, synonyms, antonyms, easily confused words and the etymologies.

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