

Exercise 4-4 Discriminating Appropriate / Inappropriate Usage

Indicate whether the sentences below use the list word correctly or incorrectly by circling or highlighting the appropriate icon. You will find explanations for incorrect usage in the answer portion of this workbook.

1. It is not the trickery of the magician that creates a convincing illusion of a levitating woman. It is the physical prowess of his *alleviate*.
2. The *arduous* task of rebuilding the bombed out bridge was made more difficult by the need to do so at night, out of view of frequent aerial enemy reconnaissance.
3. The diver kicked wildly with his flippers, *ballasting* his way toward the surface.
4. It is no wonder that she won the Spirit Award. Her *buoyancy* brought cheer and hope to even the bleakest days of grade eleven.
5. The *diaphanous* fingers of cloud did little to mask the full UV force of the sun.
6. Samson *heft* the large crate to determine whether it could be holding the stowaway known to be aboard the ship.
7. By the fifth week of the sanitation strike, an *impenetrable* wall of refuse lined the curbsides of the city.
8. Barry returned his pants to the store, complaining that despite his best efforts with the steam iron, they were made of some *irrepressible* fabric.
9. The child screamed in fear when she walked through the filmy *gossamer* of a small spider's web.
10. Studies confirmed a marked increase in the incidence of heart failure in *obese* persons.
11. In Greek mythology, Sisyphus is doomed by Zeus to eternal labour, perpetually rolling a *massive* boulder to the top of a mountain.
12. Michael's guilt was like a *millstone* around his neck, making him miserable throughout the latter half of his life.
13. Our shipping woes were solved by means of a *portable* sawmill that could be wheeled right into the woods and the source of the logs.
14. Allan proved adept at hand-to-hand combat, but was most *unwieldy* with the broadsword.
15. The *gravity* of their predicament was not communicated to the shuttle crew until mission control experts could rule out several possible resolutions to the crisis.
16. Armadillo, roasted over the glowing embers of a Texas campfire, tastes like high-quality pork and is a *delicacy* to some.
17. Monet's paintings are characterized by brushwork of such great *delicacy*.
18. The complete tuxedo included jacket, trousers with a silken stripe down the side, a bow tie, and a *cumbersome*.
19. A fire of withered pine-boughs added sociability to the gathering and by degrees the natural *levity* of our sodden camp returned.
20. Now it was a herd of diabolic shapes, that grinned and mocked at the pale minister, and beckoned him away with them; now a group of shining angels, who flew upward heavily, as sorrow-laden, but grew more *ethereal* as they rose.
21. Statics is a branch of mechanics concerned with the equilibrium of bodies by the interaction of forces upon them. It incorporates the study of the centre of *gravity* and inertia.
22. The pharmacist recommended a drug that *alleviates* cold symptoms.
23. With the legerdemain of a practised magician, Zolo made a half-dollar *levitate* right in front of my eyes before causing it to vanish.

☑ ☒ 24. Attempts to free the young boy from the **profundity** of the well using ropes and a crude harness were unsuccessful.

☑ ☒ 25. Sean's comments revealed his **profound** insights into the themes and mechanics of Blake's poetry.

☑ ☒ 26. The presence of some parents at the prom served as **ballast** to the otherwise potentially riotous conduct of the some of the grads.

Exercise 4-5 Synonyms

From the three choices, circle the one that is closest in meaning to the list word (in boldface) in the context shown.

1. **alleviate** your worries
(a) relieve (b) worsen (c) confirm
2. an **arduous** climb to the top
(a) problematic (b) quick (c) laborious
3. a ship's **ballast**
(a) stabilizing weight (b) wake (c) fuel
4. in a **buoyant** mood
(a) downcast (b) lighthearted (c) relieved
5. **cumbersome** luggage
(a) portable (b) secure (c) bulky
6. **delicacy** of his health
(a) fragility (b) steadfastness (c) deterioration
7. **diaphanous** fabric
(a) coarse (b) thick (c) sheer
8. **ethereal** visitors crossed his vision
(a) insubstantial (b) hypnotic (c) unwanted
9. floating on **gossamer** wings
(a) delicate (b) robust (c) invisible

SPELLING ALERT! It is easy to misspell DIAPHANOUS and IMPENETRABLE. (The 'phan' in diaphanous and the 'im' prefix of impenetrable are tricky.)

10. the **gravity** of his manner
(a) seriousness (b) thoughtfulness (c) ingratitude

11. the wrestler's **heft**
(a) slightness of stature (b) wrath (c) weight
12. **impenetrable** calculus jargon
(a) incomprehensible (b) concise (c) circuitous

13. **irrepressible** laughter
(a) uncontrollable (b) guttural (c) squelched

14. the parade's **levity**
(a) slowness (b) buoyancy (c) rapidity

15. hark! a **levitating** sword
(a) fearsome (b) floating (c) lethal

16. Egad! a **massive** iceberg!
(a) heavy (b) tall (c) incredible

17. the **millstone** that he is about my neck
(a) threat (b) bauble (c) burden

18. Alas! here comes the **obese** platypus
(a) overweight (b) slippery (c) dangerous

19. **portable** toilets on the worksite
(a) easily movable (b) side-by-side (c) hastily built

20. has a **profound** respect for
(a) changeable (b) intense (c) superficial

21. **unwieldy** parcel
(a) fragile (b) awkward (c) solid

Exercise 4-6: Antonyms

From the three choices, circle the word that is *opposite in meaning* to the list word (in boldface).

1. **alleviate**
(a) aggravate (b) ease (c) facilitate

2. **arduous**
(a) toilsome (b) straining (c) effortless

3. **ballast**
(a) destabilize (b) steady (c) calm

4. **buoyancy**
(a) airiness (b) perkiness (c) despondency

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5. *cumbersome*

(a) awkward (b) handy (c) unwieldy

6. *delicacy*

(a) fragility (b) finesse (c) robustness

7. *diaphanous*

(a) vaporous (b) gauzy (c) heavy

8. *ethereal*

(a) substantial (b) celestial (c) gossamer

9. *gravity*

(a) levity (b) somberness (c) sobriety

10. *heft*

(a) heaviness (b) lift (c) light

11. *impenetrable*

(a) dense (b) flimsy (c) heavy

12. *irrepressible*

(a) uncontrollable (b) rampant (c) manageable

13. *levity*

(a) graveness (b) frivolity (c) mirth

14. *levitate*

(a) hover (b) float (c) slump

15. *massive*

(a) monolithic (b) large (c) diminutive

16. *millstone*

(a) duty (b) liberty (c) burden

17. *obese*

(a) haggard (b) fat (c) rotund

18. *portable*

(a) cumbersome (b) movable (c) transferable

19. *profound*

(a) superficial (b) deep (c) intense

20. *unwieldy*

(a) clumsy (b) wieldy (c) unmanageable

Exercise 4-7 Making connections.

In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words.

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|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. opaque | impenetrable |
| 2. alleviate | analgesic |
| 3. Jovian planets | massive |
| 4. schlep | arduous |
| 5. anorexia nervosa | obese |
| 6. gossamer | cobwebs |
| 7. portable | laptop |
| 8. ballast | railroad |
| 9. geotropism | gravity |
| 10. coconut | buoyant |

Exercise 4-8 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.

NOTES: