

Introducing the Words

Read the following ancient myth about what happens after a poor couple meets a pair of travelers. Notice how the highlighted words are used. These are the words you will be learning in this unit.

Baucis and Philemon

(Ancient Myth)





In his palace on Mount Olympus, Jupiter, the supreme Roman god, was furious. “People are so corrupt!” he told his grandson Mercury. “They lie, they cheat, they steal—it’s a disgrace.”

“Is it really that bad?” asked Mercury.

“Worse,” replied Jupiter. “People don’t even show hospitality to strangers anymore.” This last blemish on the character of humans bothered Jupiter the most. Welcoming guests kindly was important to the king of the gods. “I have to teach people a lesson!” the great god continued.

“Before you unjustly accuse people and persecute them, let’s travel to Earth and see for ourselves,” suggested Mercury. “Maybe there are more good people than you think.”

Using Mercury’s winged sandals, the two gods transported themselves to the city of Phrygia. There, they disguised themselves in ragged cloaks so that no one would know they were gods. Looking at them, you would conclude that they were poor travelers.

From house to house, the two nomads wandered, asking for water and bread. Sad to say, the situation was as bad as Jupiter had predicted. No one welcomed the travelers.

“On your way!” one farmer warned, threatening to turn his dogs loose on them.

“Get out of here!” a woman shouted, waving a blunt ax.

So it went at every house in the city until at last the travelers came to Baucis and Philemon. Their one-room hut was falling down, for Baucis and Philemon were poor. They were also old, in their eighties, and had been married sixty years.

“Come in, come in!” Philemon welcomed the strangers. “You have walked a long way, for I can see the dust and the fatigue on your faces.”

“Will you stay for dinner?” Philemon’s wife Baucis asked. “It isn’t much—fruit, bread and olives—but you’re welcome to share our meal with us.”

The gods sat down at the rough wooden table, and Baucis lit candles to give the meal a festive atmosphere. As Philemon served the food, Baucis again apologized for the meal. “We live very simply,” she said. “The important thing is that we love each other.”

Philemon nodded, but he had just detected something very strange. He brought his guests more food and drink every time their plates were empty, yet the serving pot and jug remained full. Only a god was capable of such a miracle!

Reading Philemon’s mind, Jupiter and Mercury threw off their cloaks and shone in all their glory. “In this entire city,” Jupiter said, “only this house has shown us hospitality.”

As he spoke, another wonder occurred. The wooden hut fell away and in its place stood a shining marble house. “Tell me what you wish for most,” said Jupiter, “and I will give it to you.”

“Let this building be your temple, and let us be the priests here,” Philemon began.

“And let us die together, so neither ever has to live without the other,” Baucis concluded.

And so it was. Baucis and Philemon served in the temple for many years, and when they were about to die, Jupiter turned them into trees—an oak and a linden. Remarkably, both trees grew from the same trunk. Together, their long branches shaded the temple for generations.





Definitions

You were introduced to the words below in the passage on pages 46–47. Study the pronunciation, spelling, part of speech, and definition of each word. Write the word in the blank space in the sentence that follows. Then read the synonyms and antonyms.

Remember

A **noun** (n.) is a word that names a person, place, or thing.

A **verb** (v.) is a word or words that express action or a state of being.

An **adjective** (adj.) is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.

1. **blemish** (ble' mish)

(n.) a mark or stain that damages the appearance of something; a weakness or flaw

The carpenter noticed a _____ in the finish of the cabinet.

SYNONYMS: a scar, spot, smudge; a defect, weak spot

2. **blunt** (blunt)

(adj.) having a dull point or edge, not sharp; honest but insensitive in manner

My uncle gave me some _____ advice.

(v.) to make less sharp

Misuse will _____ a knife blade.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) dull; outspoken, frank, direct

ANTONYMS: (adj.) sharp, keen; tactful, diplomatic; (v.) to sharpen



3. **capable** (kā' pə bəl)

(adj.) able and prepared to do something; fit or skilled

A _____ teacher should be rewarded.

SYNONYM: qualified

ANTONYMS: unqualified, incapable, unfit

4. **conclude** (kən klüd')

(v.) to finish; to bring something to an end; to decide after careful thought

After electing a new secretary, the committee voted to _____ the meeting.

SYNONYMS: to close, complete, stop; to reason, judge

ANTONYMS: to open, begin, start, commence

5. **detect** (di tekt')

(v.) to find or discover something, notice

A test may _____ chemicals in the water supply.

SYNONYMS: to observe, spot

ANTONYMS: to miss, overlook

**6. fatigue**

(fə tēg')

(n.) weariness or exhaustion from work or lack of sleep

By the end of the day, I felt overcome with _____.

(v.) to make very tired

The riders were warned not to _____ the horses.

SYNONYMS: (n.) tiredness, sleepiness, weakness; (v.) to tire

ANTONYMS: (n.) liveliness, energy; (v.) to energize, perk up

7. festive

(fes' tiv)

(adj.) having to do with a feast or celebration

Decorations will help lend a _____ atmosphere.

SYNONYMS: happy, merry, playful

ANTONYMS: sad, gloomy, somber

**8. hospitality**

(häs pä ta' lə tē)

(n.) a friendly welcome and treatment of guests

The innkeepers were famous for their _____.

SYNONYMS: friendliness, generosity, warmth

ANTONYMS: unfriendliness, hostility

9. nomad

(nō' mad)

(n.) a member of a people who move from place to place; a person who roams aimlessly

The adventurer lived the life of a _____.

SYNONYMS: a wanderer, roamer, rover

10. persecute

(pūr' si kyüt)

(v.) to treat unjustly or cause to suffer

The dictator may try to _____ the minority group.

SYNONYMS: to torment, hurt, annoy

ANTONYMS: to reward, favor, comfort, help, protect

11. supreme

(sə prēm')

(adj.) highest in power, rank, authority, quality, or degree

He acted as if giving up his seat were the _____ sacrifice.

SYNONYMS: first, greatest, dominant, outstanding

ANTONYMS: low, lowly, worst

12. transport

(v., trans pôrt';

n., trans' pôrt)

(v.) to move or carry from one place to another

A mover was hired to _____ the furniture.

(n.) a vehicle used to move things from place to place; the act or process of moving something from one place to another

The ocean liner was used as a troop _____ during the war.

SYNONYMS: (v.) to haul, cart, send, convey





Match the Meaning



For each item below, choose the word whose meaning is suggested by the clue given. Then write the word in the space provided.

1. People who never settle down in one place are called _____.
a. blemishes b. transports c. hospitalities d. nomads
2. To _____ someone is to be cruel to that person.
a. conclude b. persecute c. blunt d. detect
3. To prove your ability at something is to show yourself _____.
a. capable b. festive c. supreme d. blunt
4. A train is a good form of _____ if you want to enjoy the scenery.
a. nomad b. transport c. blemish d. fatigue
5. Weddings and birthdays are examples of _____ events.
a. blunt b. capable c. festive d. supreme
6. To notice something is to _____ it.
a. detect b. conclude c. persecute d. blunt
7. You can usually overcome _____ by getting a good night's sleep.
a. transport b. blemishes c. fatigue d. hospitality
8. The _____ Court is the highest in the land.
a. Supreme b. Blunt c. Festive d. Capable
9. It's a good idea to _____ a speech with a summary.
a. blunt b. conclude c. detect d. persecute
10. A smudge in a paint job is an example of a _____.
a. blemish b. transport c. nomad d. hospitality
11. Improper use of a knife may _____ its edge.
a. detect b. transport c. blunt d. conclude
12. Good hosts would be sure to show _____.
a. transport b. hospitality c. blemish d. fatigue



An experienced jeweler will likely spot every **blemish** in a gemstone.

Synonyms

For each item below, choose the word that is most nearly the **same** in meaning as the word or phrase in **boldface**. Then write your choice on the line provided.

1. her **outstanding** accomplishment

- a. blunt b. festive c. supreme d. capable _____

2. tried to conceal the **flaw**

- a. blemish b. nomad c. fatigue d. hospitality _____

3. **carry** the grain to distant markets

- a. conclude b. detect c. blunt d. transport _____

4. a **skilled** performer, but not a star

- a. supreme b. capable c. blunt d. festive _____

5. followed the trail of **wanderers**

- a. transports b. blemishes c. nomads d. hospitalities _____

6. a **happy** atmosphere

- a. festive b. capable c. supreme d. blunt _____

Antonyms

For each item below, choose the word that is most nearly **opposite** in meaning to the word or phrase in **boldface**. Then write your choice on the line provided.

1. **overlook** the danger

- a. detect b. conclude c. persecute d. transport _____

2. spoke in a **diplomatic** manner

- a. supreme b. festive c. blunt d. capable _____

3. **begin** the homework project

- a. detect b. persecute c. transport d. conclude _____

4. **protected** the strangers

- a. blunted b. persecuted c. concluded d. detected _____

5. surprised by their **liveliness**

- a. nomad b. blemish c. fatigue d. hospitality _____

6. showed **unfriendliness** to the visitors

- a. fatigue b. hospitality c. transports d. blemishes _____



Completing the Sentence

Choose the word from the box that best completes each item below. Then write the word in the space provided. (You may have to change the word's ending.)

blemish	blunt	capable
conclude	detect	fatigue
festive	hospitality	nomad
persecute	supreme	transport

Speaking Out Against Bias

- The principal did not mince her words but spoke in _____ terms on the subject of prejudice to the students assembled in the school auditorium.
- She described the ugly insult that had been written on a wall as a _____ on the school's honor.
- She went on to warn that she would not allow a handful of students to be _____ just because they held different religious beliefs from most.
- "Sometimes it requires a _____ effort," she said, "to overcome our prejudices and respect the dignity of others."
- She asked that everyone work together to make ours a school that is known for the _____ it shows to all.

On the Move

- Though many Native American peoples lived in settled villages and farmed the land, many others lived the life of _____.
- The nomadic tribes of the Great Plains marked successful buffalo hunts with _____ ceremonies of thanks.
- In Asia the nomadic Kazakhs use camels to _____ their tents, called *yurts*, and other belongings from place to place.
- Because they lose body water very slowly, camels are _____ of traveling for days, even in extreme heat, without drinking a drop.

A Train Derails

- The safety panel looking into the train crash _____ that the most likely cause was human error.
- It was learned that the engineer had not slept in over 36 hours and was probably suffering from extreme _____.
- Furthermore, tests of the equipment did not _____ any signs of failure in the train's braking system.



Word Associations



Circle the letter next to the word or expression that best completes the sentence or answers the question. Pay special attention to the word in **boldface**.

1. If you feel **fatigue**, you might
- a. take a nap.
 - b. run 3 miles.
 - c. swim 50 laps.
 - d. clean out the garage.

2. Which cannot offer **hospitality**?
- a. a school
 - b. a gift box
 - c. a town
 - d. a person

3. Someone who is **blunt** might
- a. cheer you up.
 - b. hurt your feelings.
 - c. lie to you.
 - d. forget your birthday.

4. Which is a **festive** event?
- a. a final exam
 - b. a terrible tragedy
 - c. a birthday party
 - d. a criminal trial

5. A **capable** student is one who
- a. travels a long way to school.
 - b. misses a lot of school.
 - c. does well in school.
 - d. knows everyone in school.

6. Which of the following might you use to **detect** something?
- a. a pencil
 - b. a magnifying glass
 - c. a sandwich
 - d. a pair of scissors

7. A **blemished** jewel will probably
- a. cost less than a flawless one.
 - b. be stolen.
 - c. be found in a museum.
 - d. cost more than a flawless one.

8. A good detective might **conclude** a robbery case by
- a. turning in her badge.
 - b. looking for clues.
 - c. having donuts and coffee.
 - d. arresting the thief.

9. Your **supreme** achievement is
- a. your greatest.
 - b. your worst.
 - c. your first.
 - d. your last.

10. A **nomad's** home might be
- a. an apartment.
 - b. a castle.
 - c. a tent.
 - d. a farmhouse.

11. If I were **persecuted**, I would
- a. feel happy.
 - b. feel hungry.
 - c. feel hurt.
 - d. feel sleepy.

12. Which might **transport** an elephant?
- a. a skateboard
 - b. a shopping cart
 - c. a hot-air balloon
 - d. a big truck



Word Study • Words Often Confused

Words that look similar and have similar pronunciations but that have different meanings often cause confusion. For example, the word *persecute* (page 49) is often confused with the word *prosecute*. Read this sentence: *The king who had **persecuted** the peasants was **prosecuted** for his crimes.* Here, *persecuted* means “caused to suffer” and *prosecuted* means “to bring legal action against.”

Look at the chart to find other examples of words that are often confused.

access	(<i>n.</i>) an entrance or approach
excess	(<i>adj.</i>) beyond what is needed; extra
advice	(<i>n.</i>) an idea that is offered
advise	(<i>v.</i>) to give help and information
cease	(<i>v.</i>) to stop
seize	(<i>v.</i>) to take hold of

PRACTICE Underline the word in **boldface** that best completes the sentence.

1. During a trip to the restaurant, our class was given (**access**, **excess**) to the kitchen.
2. At closing time each day, the workers store (**access**, **excess**) food in large refrigerators.
3. When I could not decide which club to join, I asked my friend for (**advise**, **advice**).
4. “Please (**advise**, **advice**) me on what to do,” I said.
5. The wind blew so hard I had to (**cease**, **seize**) the rail to keep from falling.
6. The windstorm did not (**cease**, **seize**) for the rest of the day.

APPLY Complete each sentence using a **boldface** word from the chart above.

7. I _____ you to _____ my arm if you feel as if you might fall.
8. Before we gain _____ to the beach, we must wait for the storms to _____.
9. The business owner hired an accountant to give her _____ about spending the _____ funds.



Here are two more word pairs that can cause confusion. Write a sentence for each of the words. Then look in a dictionary to make sure you used each word correctly.

picture / pitcher

costume / custom



Shades of Meaning • Words That Name Travelers

In the passage “Baucis and Philemon” on pages 46–47, you read this sentence: *From house to house, the two **nomads** wandered, asking for water and bread.* In the passage, Jupiter and Mercury are the *nomads*. They are travelers wandering the city of Phrygia and looking for someone to show them hospitality.

Here are some other words that name travelers. Notice that one difference among the travelers is their purpose for traveling.

nomad	A nomad roams from place to place.
commuter	A commuter travels a long distance between home and work.
tourist	A tourist travels to visit a place for pleasure.
pilgrim	A pilgrim journeys to a sacred place, usually for religious reasons.

PRACTICE Write the word from the chart that best names the person making each statement.

1. I traveled a great distance to visit a holy shrine. _____
2. I take the train to work every day. _____
3. I never live in one place for a long time. _____
4. I went to the Grand Canyon to see the sights. _____
5. Each year, I travel with my family to visit the origins of my religion. _____
6. The job requires me to be in Boston every month. _____

APPLY Answer each question to show the meaning of the word in **boldface**. Be sure to use the **boldfaced** word in your answer.

7. Who is a **commuter** you know? Why is that person a commuter?

8. What might a **tourist** do in your area?

9. What are some examples of places a **pilgrim** might travel to?

10. What reasons might a person have for being a **nomad**?
