

Lesson 1

"All words are pegs to hang ideas on."

Henry Ward Beecher, *Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit*

Words To Learn This Week

abandon
keen
jealous
tact
oath
vacant
hardship
gallant
data
unaccustomed
bachelor
qualify

collins

1. **abandon** (ə ban' dən) desert; leave without planning to come back; quit
 - a. When Roy **abandoned** his family, the police went looking for him.
 - b. The soldier could not **abandon** his friends who were hurt in battle.
 - c. Because Rose was poor, she had to **abandon** her idea of going to college.
2. **keen** (kēn) sharp; eager; intense; sensitive
 - a. The butcher's **keen** knife cut through the meat.
 - b. My dog has a **keen** sense of smell.
 - c. Bill's **keen** mind pleased all his teachers.
3. **jealous** (jel' əs) afraid that the one you love might prefer someone else; wanting what someone else has
 - a. A detective was hired by the **jealous** widow to find the boyfriend who had abandoned* her.
 - b. Although my neighbor just bought a new car, I am not **jealous** of him.
 - c. Being **jealous**, Mona would not let her boyfriend dance with any of the cheerleaders.
4. **tact** (takt) ability to say the right thing
 - a. My aunt never hurts anyone's feelings because she always uses **tact**.
 - b. By the use of **tact**, Janet was able to calm her jealous* husband.
 - c. Your friends will admire you if you use **tact** and thoughtfulness.
5. **oath** (ōth) a promise that something is true; a curse
 - a. The President will take the **oath** of office tomorrow.
 - b. In court, the witness took an **oath** that he would tell the whole truth.
 - c. When Terry discovered that he had been abandoned,* he let out an angry **oath**.
6. **vacant** (vā' kent) empty; not filled
 - a. Someone is planning to build a house on that **vacant** lot.
 - b. I put my coat on that **vacant** seat.
 - c. When the landlord broke in, he found that apartment **vacant**.
7. **hardship** (hārd' ship) something that is hard to bear; difficulty
 - a. The fighter had to face many **hardships** before he became champion.
 - b. Abe Lincoln was able to overcome one **hardship** after another.
 - c. On account of **hardship**, Bert was let out of the army to take care of his sick mother.
8. **gallant** (gal' ənt) brave; showing respect for women
 - a. The pilot swore a **gallant** oath* to save his buddy.
 - b. Many **gallant** knights entered the contest to win the princess.
 - c. Ed is so **gallant** that he always gives up his subway seat to a woman.
9. **data** (dāt' ə or dat' ə) facts; information
 - a. The **data** about the bank robbery were given to the F.B.I.
 - b. After studying the **data**, we were able to finish our report.
 - c. Unless you are given all the **data**, you cannot do the math problem.
10. **unaccustomed** (ən ə kəs ' təmd) not used to something
 - a. Coming from Alaska, Claude was **unaccustomed** to Florida's heat.
 - b. The king was **unaccustomed** to having people disobey him.
 - c. **Unaccustomed** as he was to exercise, Vic quickly became tired.
11. **bachelor** (batch' ə lər) a man who has not married
 - a. My brother took an oath* to remain a **bachelor**.
 - b. In the movie, the married man was mistaken for a **bachelor**.
 - c. Before the wedding, all his **bachelor** friends had a party.

12. **qualify** (kwəl ə-ſī) become fit; show that you are able
- I am trying to **qualify** for the job which is now vacant.*
 - Since Pauline can't carry a tune, she is sure that she will never **qualify** for the Girls Chorus.
 - You have to be over 5'5" to **qualify** as a policeman.

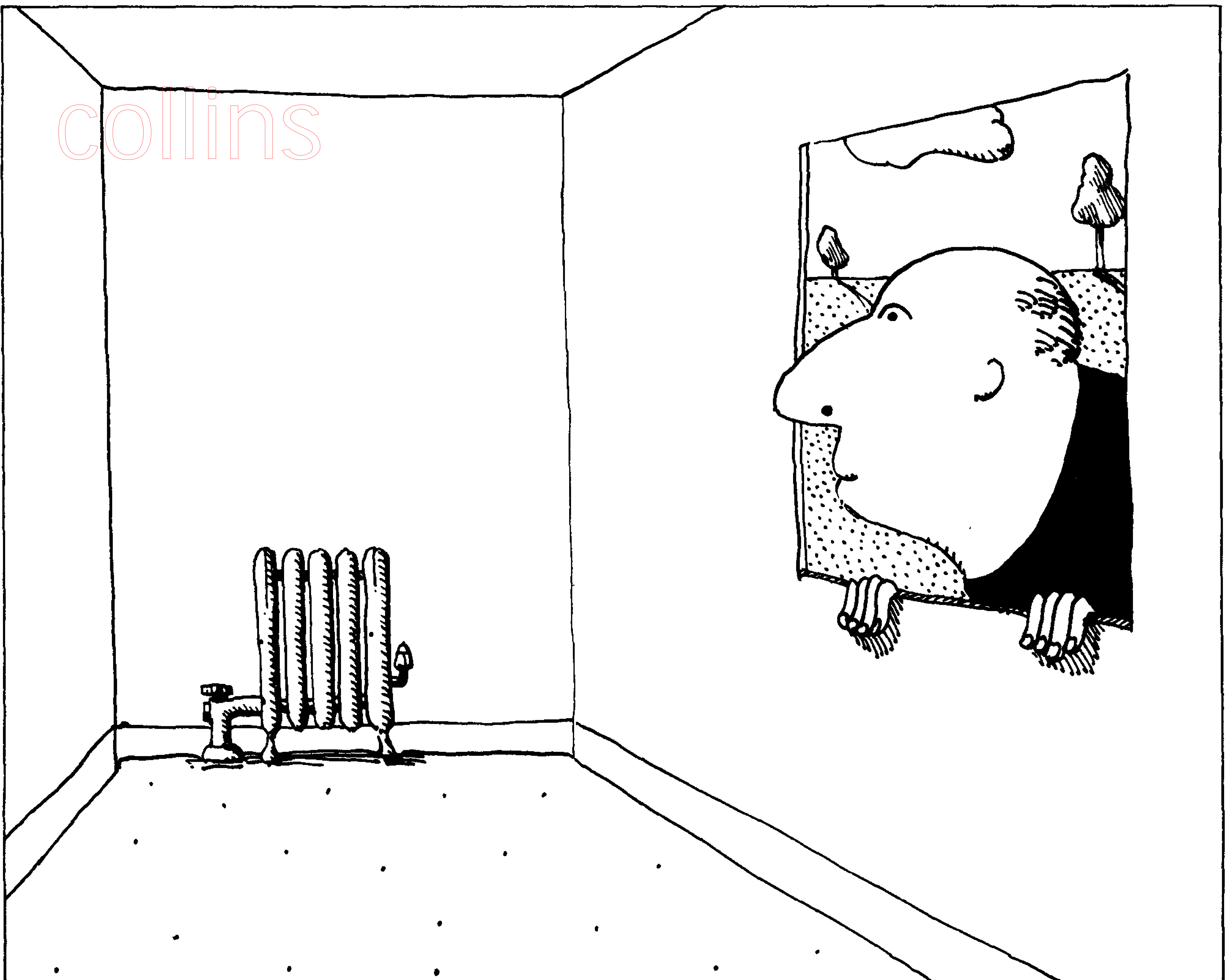
Read the following story to see how the new words are used in it.

My Brother, the Gentleman

The story of Sir Walter Raleigh who spread his cloak on the ground to keep Queen Elizabeth from the **hardship** of crossing a muddy puddle can **qualify** that nobleman for an award as a man of **tact** and good breeding. My brother Kenny, a **bachelor** with a **keen** interest in history, was impressed by that anecdote and thought he might demonstrate his excellent upbringing in a parallel situation. Accordingly he decided to **abandon** his subway seat in favor of a woman standing nearby.

Although **unaccustomed** to such generous treatment, the young woman was pleased to accept Kenny's kind offer. However, her **jealous** boyfriend swore an **oath** under his breath because he thought my brother was flirting with his girlfriend. I don't have any **data** on the number of young men who get into similar trouble as a result of a **gallant** gesture, but it's probably one in a thousand. Poor Kenny! He pointed to the now **vacant** seat.

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?



Lesson 2

"Alice had not the slightest idea what Latitude was, or Longitude either, but she thought they were nice grand words to say."

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Words To Learn This Week

corpse
conceal
dismal
frigid
inhabit
numb
peril
recline
shriek
sinister
tempt
wager

collins

1. **corpse** (kôrps) a dead body, usually of a person
 - a. When given all the data* on the **corpse**, Charlie Chan was able to solve the murder.
 - b. The **corpse** was laid to rest in the vacant* coffin.
 - c. An oath* of revenge was sworn over the **corpse** by his relatives.
2. **conceal** (kən sēl') hide
 - a. Tris could not **conceal** his love for Gloria.
 - b. Count Dracula **concealed** the corpse* in his castle.
 - c. The money was so cleverly **concealed** that we were forced to abandon* our search for it.
3. **dismal** (diz' mæl) dark and depressing
 - a. When the weather is so **dismal**, I sometimes stay in bed all day.
 - b. I am unaccustomed* to this **dismal** climate.
 - c. As the **dismal** reports of the election came in, the senator's friends tactfully* made no mention of them.
4. **frigid** (frij' id) very cold
 - a. It was a great hardship* for the men to live through the **frigid** winter at Valley Forge.
 - b. The jealous* bachelor* was treated in a **frigid** manner by his girlfriend.
 - c. Inside the butcher's freezer the temperature was **frigid**.
5. **inhabit** (in hab' it) live in
 - a. Eskimos **inhabit** the frigid* part of Alaska.
 - b. Because Sidney qualified,* he was allowed to **inhabit** the vacant* apartment.
 - c. Many crimes are committed each year against those who **inhabit** the slum area of our city.
6. **numb** (num) without the power of feeling; deadened
 - a. My fingers quickly became **numb** in the frigid* room.
 - b. A **numb** feeling came over Mr. Massey as he read the telegram.
 - c. When the nurse stuck a pin in my **numb** leg, I felt nothing.
7. **peril** (per' əl) danger
 - a. The hunter was abandoned* by the natives when he described the **peril** which lay ahead of them.
 - b. There is great **peril** in trying to climb the mountain.
 - c. Our library is filled with stories of **perilous** adventures.
8. **recline** (ri klīn') lie down; stretch out; lean back
 - a. Richard likes to **recline** in front of the television set.
 - b. After **reclining** on her right arm for an hour, Maxine found that it had become numb.*
 - c. My dog's greatest pleasure is to **recline** by the warm fireplace.
9. **shriek** (shrēk) scream
 - a. The maid **shrieked** when she discovered the corpse.*
 - b. With a loud **shriek**, Ronald fled from the room.
 - c. Facing the peril* of the waterfall, the boatman let out a terrible **shriek**.
10. **sinister** (sin' is tər) evil; wicked; dishonest; frightening
 - a. The **sinister** plot to cheat the widow was uncovered by the police.
 - b. When the bank guard spied the **sinister**-looking customer, he drew his gun.
 - c. I was frightened by the **sinister** shadow at the bottom of the stairs.

11. **tempt** (tempt) try to get someone to do something; test; invite
 - a. A banana split can **tempt** me to break my diet.
 - b. The sight of beautiful Louise **tempted** the bachelor* to change his mind about marriage.
 - c. Your offer of a job **tempts** me greatly.
12. **wager** (wā' jər) bet
 - a. I lost a small **wager** on the Superbowl.
 - b. After winning the **wager**, Tex treated everyone to free drinks.
 - c. It is legal to make a **wager** in the state of Nevada.

Read the following story to see how the new words are used in it.

Terror In the Cemetery

I like to bet on anything that is exciting, so when my friends tried to **tempt** me with an offer, I took it. The idea was for me to spend a **frigid** December night in a cemetery, all alone, in order to win twenty dollars. Little did I realize that they would use dirty tricks to try to frighten me to abandon* the cemetery and, therefore, lose my **wager**.

My plan was to **recline** in front of a large grave, covered by a warm blanket, with a flashlight to help me cut through the **dismal** darkness. After midnight, I heard a

wild **shriek**. I thought I saw the grave open and a **corpse** rise out of it! Although I was somewhat **numb** with fear, I tried to keep my senses. Using good judgment, I knew that no **peril** could come to me from that **sinister** figure. When I did not run in terror, my friends, who had decided to **conceal** themselves behind the nearby tombstones, came out and we all had a good laugh. Those spirits which may **inhabit** a cemetery must have had a good laugh, too.

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below.

1. The chances of my winning the election were so _____ that I decided to quit before the votes were counted.
2. I won the _____ that my bachelor* friend would be married by June.
3. Kit Carson's keen* eyesight protected him from the _____ in the forest.
4. While escaping from the bank, the robbers forced the teller to _____ on the floor of their car.
5. Since the shack was vacant,* we did not expect to hear the terrible _____ which came from it.
6. With a _____ smile, the gangster invited Martha into his Cadillac.
7. You cannot _____ the truth when you are questioned by the keen* lawyer.
8. It is said that many ghosts _____ the old Butler house.
9. In _____ weather I always wear three or four sweaters.
10. After standing guard duty for four hours, I became completely _____.
11. As the closet was opened, the _____ fell out, frightening the janitor out of one year's growth.
12. With the promise of a raise in pay, my boss tried to _____ me to stay on in the job.

Exercise

Now make up your own sentences, one for each of the new words you have just been taught.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Lesson 3

"Good words anoint a man, ill words kill a man."

John Florio, *First Fruits*

Words To Learn This Week

typical
minimum
scarce
annual
persuade
essential
blend
visible
expensive
beau
devise
wholesale

1. **typical** (tip' ə kəl) usual; of a kind
 - a. The sinister* character in the movie wore a **typical** costume, a dark shirt, loud tie, and tight jacket.
 - b. The horse ran its **typical** race, a slow start and a slower finish, and I lost my wager.*
 - c. It was **typical** of the latecomer to conceal* the real cause of his lateness.
2. **minimum** (min' ə məm) the least possible amount; the lowest amount
 - a. Studies show that adults need a **minimum** of six hours sleep.
 - b. The **minimum** charge for a telephone, even if no calls are made, is about nine dollars a month.
 - c. Congress has set a **minimum** wage for all workers.
3. **scarce** (skārs) hard to get; rare
 - a. Chairs which are older than one hundred years are **scarce**.
 - b. Because there is little moisture in the desert, trees are **scarce**.
 - c. How **scarce** are good cooks?
4. **annual** (an' ūəl) once a year; something that appears yearly or lasts for a year
 - a. The **annual** convention of musicians takes place in Hollywood.
 - b. The publishers of the encyclopedia put out a book each year called an **annual**.
 - c. Plants that live only one year are called **annuals**.
5. **persuade** (pər swād') win over to do or believe; make willing
 - a. Can you **persuade** him to give up his bachelor* days and get married?
 - b. No one could **persuade** the captain to leave the sinking ship.
 - c. Beth's shriek* **persuaded** Jesse that she was in real danger.
6. **essential** (ə sen' shəl) necessary; very important
 - a. The **essential** items in the cake are flour, sugar, and shortening.
 - b. It is **essential** that we follow the road map.
 - c. Several layers of thin clothing are **essential** to keeping warm in frigid* climates.
7. **blend** (blend) mix together thoroughly; a mixture
 - a. The colors of the rainbow **blend** into one another.
 - b. A careful **blend** of fine products will result in delicious food.
 - c. When Jose **blends** the potatoes together, they come out very smooth.
8. **visible** (viz' ə bəl) able to be seen
 - a. The ship was barely **visible** through the dense fog.
 - b. Before the stars are **visible**, the sky has to become quite dark.
 - c. You need a powerful lens to make some germs **visible**.
9. **expensive** (eks pen' səv) costly; high-priced
 - a. Because diamonds are scarce* they are **expensive**.
 - b. Margarine is much less **expensive** than butter.
 - c. Shirley's **expensive** dress created a great deal of excitement at the party.
10. **beau** (bō) boyfriend; suitor
 - a. When her **beau** talked to other girls, Diane became jealous.*
 - b. Even if you have no **beau**, you are welcome at the dance.
 - c. Miss Evans and her **beau** went shopping for furniture.

11. **devise** (də vīz') think out; plan; invent
 - a. The burglars **devised** a scheme for entering the bank at night.
 - b. I would like to **devise** a method for keeping my toes from becoming numb* while I am ice skating.
 - c. If we could **devise** a plan for using the abandoned* building, we could save thousands of dollars.
12. **wholesale** (hōl' sāl) in large quantity; less than retail in price
 - a. The **wholesale** price of milk is six cents a quart lower than retail.
 - b. Many people were angered by the **wholesale** slaughter of birds.
 - c. By buying my ties **wholesale** I save fifteen dollars a year.

Read the following story to see how the new words are used in it.

Start Saving for Sable

You have just won first prize in a lottery, and you need a new winter coat. How about a sable fur coat? A sable coat may be **expensive**, but it is soft, light, and warm.

A **typical** sable coat costs more than a Cadillac, as much as an education at a good college, more even than some inexpensive homes. Why? A **minimum** of sixty **scarce** little pelts, at nearly \$600 per pelt, go into each coat. Fur merchants gather each year in frigid* Leningrad, Russia, to bid for the furs at the **annual** auction there. Then the furs are shipped to America and processed in chemicals and oils until soft. After the customer chooses the skins for her coat, the dismal* process of matching begins — a long but **essential** job.

Each coat is made from a bundle of skins that ranges from light to dark in color, and the skins have to **blend** so that the seams are not **visible**. Finally, the coat is styled and finished.

If you don't win a lottery, see if you can **persuade** your **beau** to **devise** a way to get a sable coat for you **wholesale**. Oh, well, you can always wear an extra sweater or two if it gets really cold this winter, and knowing that sixty innocent animals did not die in order to make you a coat may help to keep you warm.

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below.

1. The March of Dimes makes its _____ appeal in the early spring.
2. Oil paints _____ easily to form thousands of different shades.
3. The _____ passing mark in most schools is 65%.
4. Since we have been invited by couples, I'll ask my _____ to accompany me.
5. Your gifts do not tempt* me and will not _____ me to change my mind.
6. In the cemetery the corpse* was _____ in the bright moonlight.
7. A _____ day in Florida is full of sunshine and warm breezes.
8. Let's _____ a plan for doing away with homework.
9. Everyone agrees that friendship is _____ for all of us.
10. A sharp rise in _____ prices is bound to affect the prices in our neighborhood stores.
11. The buffalo which once roamed the plains is quite _____ today.
12. Government experts told us to buy chicken without realizing how _____ it had become.

Exercise

Now make up your own sentences, one for each of the new words you have just been taught.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Lesson 4

"Good words are worth much and cost little."

George Herbert, *Jacula Prudentum*

Words To Learn This Week

vapor
eliminate
villain
dense
utilize
humid
theory
descend
circulate
enormous
predict
vanish

collins

1. **vapor** (vā' pər) moisture in the air that can be seen; fog; mist
 - a. Scientists have devised* methods for trapping **vapor** in bottles so they can study its make-up.
 - b. He has gathered data* on the amount of **vapor** rising from the swamp.
 - c. A **vapor** trail is the visible* stream of moisture left by the engines of a jet flying at high altitudes.
2. **eliminate** (i lim' ə nāt) get rid of; remove; omit
 - a. When the railroad tracks are raised, the danger of crossing will be **eliminated**.
 - b. When figuring the cost of a car, **eliminate** such extras as air conditioning.
 - c. If we were to **eliminate** all reclining* chairs, no one would fall asleep while watching television.
3. **villain** (vil' ən) a very wicked person
 - a. A typical* moving picture **villain** gets killed at the end.
 - b. The **villain** concealed* the corpse* in the cellar.
 - c. When the **villain** fell down the well, everyone lived happily ever after.
4. **dense** (dens) closely packed together; thick
 - a. The **dense** leaves on the trees let in a minimum* of sunlight.
 - b. We couldn't row because of the **dense** weeds in the lake.
 - c. His keen* knife cut through the **dense** jungle.
5. **utilize** (ū' tə līz) make use of
 - a. No one seems willing to **utilize** this vacant* house.
 - b. The gardener was eager to **utilize** different flowers and blend* them in order to beautify the borders.
 - c. Does your mother **utilize** leftovers in her cooking?
6. **humid** (hū' mid) moist; damp
 - a. It was so **humid** in our classroom that we wished the school would buy an air conditioner.
 - b. New Yorkers usually complain in the summer of the **humid** air.
 - c. Most people believe that ocean air is quite **humid**.
7. **theory** (thē' ə rē) explanation based on thought, observation, or reasoning
 - a. Einstein's **theory** is really too difficult for the average person to understand.
 - b. My uncle has a **theory** about the effect of weather on baseball batters.
 - c. No one has advanced a **theory** explaining the beginnings of writing.
8. **descend** (di send') go or come down from a higher place to a lower level
 - a. If we let the air out of a balloon, it will have to **descend**.
 - b. The pilot, thinking his plane was in peril,* **descended** quickly.
 - c. Knowing her beau* was waiting at the bottom of the staircase, Eleanor **descended** at once.
9. **circulate** (sər' kū lāt) go around; go from place to place or person to person
 - a. A fan may **circulate** the air in summer, but it doesn't cool it.
 - b. My father **circulated** among the guests at the party and made them feel comfortable.
 - c. Hot water **circulates** through the pipes in the building, keeping the room warm.
10. **enormous** (i nôr' mæs) extremely large; huge
 - a. The **enormous** crab moved across the ocean floor in search of food.
 - b. Public hangings once drew **enormous** crowds.
 - c. The gallant* knight drew his sword and killed the **enormous** dragon.

11. **predict** (pri dikt') tell beforehand
 - a. Weathermen can **predict** the weather correctly most of the time.
 - b. Who can **predict** the winner of the Superbowl this year?
 - c. Laura thought she could **predict** what I would do, but she was wrong.
12. **vanish** (van' ish) disappear; disappear suddenly
 - a. Even in California the sun will sometimes **vanish** behind a cloud.
 - b. Not even a powerful witch can make a jealous* lover **vanish**.
 - c. Give him a week without a job and all his money will **vanish**.

Read the following story to see how the new words are used in it.

A Fan in the Air

Fog, tiny droplets of water **vapor**, is the **villain** of the airports. In an effort to **eliminate dense** fog from airports, weathermen **utilize** giant fans, nylon strings, and chemicals dropped from planes or shot upwards from strange machines on the ground. Nothing works as well, though, as a new weapon in the fight against fog: the helicopter. Researchers believe that if warm dry air above the fog could somehow be driven down into the **humid** blanket of fog, the droplets would evaporate, thus clearing

the air. In a recent experiment to test their **theory** the researchers had a helicopter **descend** into the fog above barely visible* Smith Mountain Airport near Roanoke, Virginia. The blades of the helicopter caused the air to **circulate** downwards and an **enormous** hole in the clouds opened above the airport. Weathermen **predict** that with larger, more expensive* helicopters they will be able to make the thickest fog **vanish**.

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?

collins

