

LESSONS 7 AND 8

Business

LESSON 7

Sumptus census ne superet.

Let not your spending exceed your income
(i.e., Live within your means).—MARTIAL

Key Words

acquisitive	importune	premise
demise	inquisition	presumption
dynamo	meretricious	querulous
dynasty	meritorious	subsume
emissary	opportunist	sumptuary

Familiar Words

conquer
exquisite
inquiry
prerequisite
quarrel
quest
question
require

**QUAERO, QUAERERE, QUAESIVI,
QUAESITUM** <L. "to seek,"
"to search for"

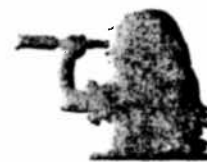
1. acquisitive (ə kwīz' ə tīv)

[*ac* = *ad* <L. "to," "toward"]

adj. Eagerly seeking to obtain things, wealth, or information.

The astronomer Henrietta Leavitt, an **acquisitive** collector of data, discovered four novae and 2,400 variable stars and recognized the crucial relationship between stellar cycles and degrees of brightness.

acquire, n.: acquisition, n.: acquisitiveness, n.



Challenge Words

disquisition
inquest
perquisite
query
requisition

2. **inquisition** (ĩn' kwə zĩsh' ən, ĩng' kwə zĩsh' ən) [*in* < L. "in"]
n. 1. A prolonged inquiry or questioning, especially a harsh investigation on religious or political issues.

In 1952 when Lillian Hellman faced a government **inquisition** asking her to name people in the movie industry who might be Communists, she said, "I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions."

2. (capitalized) The special court of the Roman Catholic church in the Middle Ages to combat, suppress, and punish heresy, i.e., any belief varying from orthodox doctrine.

In the belief that all scientific truth was contained in the Bible and the works of ancient Greek philosophers, the **Inquisition** suppressed all medical experimentation as heresy.

inquisitive, *adj.*; **inquisitor**, *n.*; **inquisitorial**, *adj.*

NOTA BENE: Although the Catholic church was the chief inquisitorial agency, a Protestant inquisition developed in the fifteenth century to combat elements in Catholic dogma. John Calvin in Geneva was especially harsh in persecuting those who questioned Protestant orthodoxy.

3. **querulous** (kwər' yōō ləs)
adj. Complaining; irritable; peevish.

David Copperfield encounters Mrs. Gummidge, a **querulous** widow given to whimpering, "How could I expect to be wanted, being so lone and lorn, and so contrary!"

querulousness, *n.*

**Familiar Words**

aerodynamics
dynamic
dynamite

DUNAMIS <G. "power"

DUNASTHAI <G. "to be able," "to have strength"

4. **dynamo** (dĩ' nə mō)
n. 1. An electric generator.

In his autobiography, *The Education of Henry Adams*, the author cites two forces that epitomize the spiritual energy of their respective eras: the Virgin Mary in the Middle Ages and the **dynamo** in modern times.

2. An extremely forceful, energetic, or hardworking person.

A **dynamo** throughout his life, Thomas Edison experimented ceaselessly and collected patents for 1,093 inventions, among them the electric light, the phonograph, and the motion picture.

Challenge Words

aerodyne
dynamism
dynamometer
dynast
dynatron
dyne
electrodynamics
thermodynamics

5. **dynasty** (dī' nās tē)

n. 1. A succession of rulers from the same family group or line.

The establishment of the Ming **dynasty** in 1368 brought a return to native hegemony in China after nearly a century of rule by Mongols.

2. A succession of influential people linked by familial, political, social, or cultural association.

The Redgrave theatrical **dynasty** comprises Michael Redgrave and Rachel Kempson, their offspring Vanessa, Corin, and Lynn, and their grandchildren.

dynastic, *adj.*; **dynastical**, *adj.*

Familiar Words

admit
commitment
compromise
dismiss
emit
impermissible
inadmissible
intermission
intermittent
mass
mess
message
missile
mission
omit
noncommittal
permit
promise
remission
submit
surmise
transmit

MITTO, MITTERE, MISI, MISSUM <L. "to send"6. **demise** (dī mīz') [*de* <L. "away from"]

n. Death, or the end of existence or operation of something.

The practice of bloodletting with leeches, thought to be a cure-all, finally came to its **demise** in the 1850s when it proved to be either harmful or useless.

7. **emissary** (ēm' ĩ sēr' ē)

[*e* = *ex* <L. "from," "out of"]

n. A person sent on a special mission.

When John Alden, acting as an **emissary**, relays Miles Standish's marriage proposal to Priscilla Mullins, she asks, "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?"

8. **premise** (prēm' ĩs) [*pre* <L. "before"]

n. 1. A proposition offered as a basis for argument.

In Tony Hillerman's mystery stories the police officers Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee base their **premises** of guilt or innocence on a deep understanding of Navajo culture.

2. In logic, each of the first two propositions in a syllogism.

In the syllogism, "All human beings die; I am a human being; therefore I shall die," the first two sentences are the major and the minor **premises**.

premise, *v.* (used only as a legal term)

Challenge Words

commissar
demit
emissivity
intromit
manumit
missal
missive
mittimus
pretermit

NOTA BENE: The word *premises* can also mean "a building and its grounds": for example, A visitor to San Simeon, the Hearst estate designed by Julia Morgan, may wander about the *premises*—the "castle," the terraces, and the extensive grounds overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Familiar Words
demerit
merit

Challenge Words
emeritus, emerita
meritocracy

MEREO, MERERE, MERUI, MERITUM <L. "to earn,"
"to deserve," "to merit"

9. **meretricious** (mĕr' ī trīsh' əs)

adj. 1. Attention-getting in a vulgar way; tawdry or tacky.

When James Gatz in *The Great Gatsby* transforms himself to Jay Gatsby at age seventeen, he becomes committed to "the service of a vast, vulgar, and **meretricious** beauty."

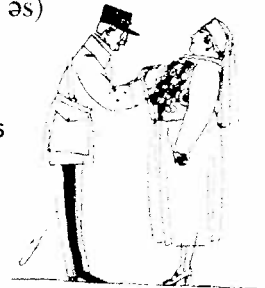


2. Insincere; based on pretense or deception.

The Better Business Bureau accepts complaints about **meretricious** car repair: shoddy work, unnecessary repairs, or billing for repairs that have not been made.

10. **meritorious** (mĕr' ī tōr' ē əs, mĕr' ī tōr' ē əs)
adj. Praiseworthy; deserving reward or esteem.

Barbara McClintock's **meritorious** contribution to the understanding of DNA and "jumping" genes earned her the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1983.



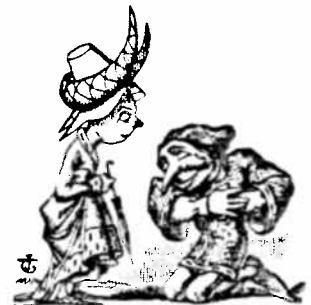
Familiar Words
porch
portal
porthole
portico
Portugal

Challenge Words
portcullis
porte cochere
portulaca

PORTUS <L. "harbor," "gate"

11. **importune** (īm pōr tōōn', īm pōr tyōōn',
īm pōr' chən) [*im* = *in* <L. "in"]
tr. v. To make repeated and insistent demands or requests.

Describing to her father how Prince Hamlet has been courting her, Ophelia declares, "My lord, he hath **importuned** me with love / In honourable fashion."



importunate, *adj.*; **importunity**, *n.*

12. **opportunist** (ōp' ər tōō' nīst, ōp' ər tyōō' nīst)
[*op* = *ob* <L. "off," "against"]

n. A person (or animal) taking advantage of any chance to achieve an end in a forceful or self-serving way.

When trained dolphins are on display, they appear playful and gentle, but in the wild they can become **opportunists**, attacking ruthlessly in groups to test the power of potential mates or rivals.

opportunistic, *adj.*; **opportunistically**, *adv.*; **opportunism**, *n.*

Familiar Words

assume
consume
resume
sumptuous

Challenge Word

consumptive

SUMO, SUMERE, SUMPSI, SUMPTUM <L. "to take," "to obtain"

13. **presumption** (prī zūm' shən) [*pre* <L. "before"]
n. 1. Arrogance; excessive self-assurance; unbecoming boldness.

The Queen of Hearts intimidates the denizens of Wonderland by threatening to behead anyone who has the **presumption** to contradict her.

2. Grounds for belief; assumption or supposition.

The European **presumption** that Native Americans lacked "advanced culture" ignored their skill at resolving conflict by consensus of the whole community.

presume, *v.*; **presumptive**, *adj.*; **presumptuous**, *adj.*;
presumptuousness, *n.*

NOTA BENE: Keep in mind that a presumption is not necessarily based on logical reasoning; it can be a whim and be entirely wrong. A premise is expected to undergo the test of logic or scientific evidence to determine its accuracy or truth.

14. **subsume** (səb sōm', səb syōm') [*sub* <L. "under"]
tr. v. To place in a larger category or under a general heading or principle.

"Political buttons are **subsumed** under the larger collectors' category of ephemera, along with old theatre programs, menu cards from long-defunct ocean liners, and lobby posters advertising *Bulldog Drummond Returns*."—Gretchen Ackerman.*

subsumption, *n.*

15. **sumptuary** (sūmp' chōō ěr' ē)
adj. Pertaining to or regulating expenditure, often for religious or moral reasons, usually relating to clothing or food.

The letter A that Hester Prynne wears, "in fine red cloth, surrounded with an elaborate embroidery . . . was of a splendor in accordance with the taste of the age, but greatly beyond what was allowed by the **sumptuary** regulations of the colony."—Nathaniel Hawthorne



NOTA BENE: The word *sumptuous*, although a relative of *sumptuary*, has an opposite meaning: "lavish; suggesting great expense or splendor."

*Quoted with permission from the author. "At the Sign of the Elephant and Donkey: Button-Hunting in New Hampshire," *The Walpole Gazette*, August 21, 1992.

EXERCISE 7A

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM for the word in bold-faced type.

1. a diplomatic **emissary** a. businessperson b. chaplain
c. merchant d. lecturer e. go-between
2. to **subsume** book titles a. list b. hypothesize c. debase
d. classify e. renounce
3. the **demise** of the U.S.S.R. a. founding b. end c. descent
d. ascent e. failure
4. a(n) **acquisitive** coin collector a. curious b. querulous
c. clever d. knowledgeable e. grasping
5. seizing the **opportune** moment a. timely b. ephemeral
c. propinquitous d. subjective e. meritorious
6. egregious **inquisitors** a. annunciators b. test makers
c. demagogues d. interrogators e. respondents
7. beginning with the **premise** a. assumption b. syllogism
c. boldness d. antithesis e. archetype
8. a powerful **dynamo** a. fanatic b. succession of rulers
c. genius d. engine e. opportunist
9. a(n) **importunate** class treasurer a. impatient b. meretricious
c. opportunistic d. hesitant e. insistent
10. a **meretricious** style of decoration a. phony b. quiescent
c. garish d. dignified e. popular

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM for the word in bold-faced type.

11. unceasing **querulousness** a. acquiescence b. fretfulness
c. cheerfulness d. inquisitiveness e. spitefulness
12. a(n) **meritorious** performance a. insincere b. costly
c. admirable d. egregious e. charitable
13. an interloper's **presumptuousness** a. timidity b. gregariousness
c. pomposity d. slyness e. smoothness

EXERCISE 7B

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

1. a. The death in 1991 of Rajiv Gandhi, the grandson of Jawaharlal Nehru and the son of Indira Gandhi, ended forty years of **dynastic** Nehru-Gandhi rule.
b. The phrase "Virginia **dynasty**" refers to the regional origin of four of the first five U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.

- c. With the exception of two years when they lost the pennant, the New York Yankees' World Series **dynasty** lasted from 1949 to 1964.
- d. The noted Presbyterian minister Lyman Beecher **dynastied** thirteen children, one of whom was Harriet Beecher Stowe.
2. a. The Music Man, an opportunist with **meretricious** motives, convinces townspeople that buying his trombones will discourage their children from playing pool.
- b. In order to appear **meretricious** and well-read, some people fill their bookshelves with leatherbound pieces of wood and cardboard that look like the real thing.
- c. Proud and independent, Tatanka Iotanka, whom American settlers had the presumption to rename Sitting Bull, steadfastly refused to sign a treaty with agents of the U.S. government or to accept **meretricious** gifts he knew to be bribes.
- d. Writers who indulge in inappropriately ornate passages that trivialize the text are guilty of **meretriciousness** known as "purple prose."
3. a. All young Americans from infancy to adulthood are at some point **subsumed** under the term "kid."
- b. The genre of the mystery novel **subsumes** stories according to their protagonists, such as amateur sleuths, hard-boiled detectives, precinct police, spies, and historical figures.
- c. The term *folk art* **subsumes** a variety of forms and materials: primitive painting and sculpture, decoys, weathervanes, carousel animals, household tools, and baskets.
- d. In its fountains, gardens, and decorated archways, Segovia still **subsumes** the culture implanted during eight hundred years of Moorish presence in Spain.
4. a. Several Roman emperors attempted without success to enforce **sumptuary** control over the use of royal purple, which required costly dye from Tyre.
- b. During the English Regency, Queen Charlotte, mother of the Prince Regent, entertained more than 2,000 guests at a **sumptuary** garden party.
- c. When entering mosques or cemeteries in Muslim countries, visitors must adhere to **sumptuary** restrictions governing dress.
- d. The Roman emperor Diocletian's **sumptuary** *Edict on Maximum Prices* listed more than 1,000 items, including food, clothing, tools, and salaries of workers, artisans, and teachers.
5. a. As the emperor parades in new "clothes" woven with invisible thread by a pair of swindlers, the stunned crowd remains silent until a child has the **presumption** to say, "He doesn't have anything on!"

- b. By **presuming** that her destruction of Eilert Løvberg's manuscript is permanent, Hedda Gabler underestimates the power of Mrs. Elvsted to assist in its reconstruction.
- c. As heir **presumptive** to leadership of *The Washington Post*, Katharine Graham became president in 1963 and later publisher, encouraging aggressive investigative reporting of political and social issues.
- d. Excessive **presumption** of sweets leads to tooth decay.

EXERCISE 7C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 7. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. Oliver Goldsmith's Vicar of Wakefield observes, "When Sunday came, it was indeed a day of finery, which all of my _____ edicts could not restrain."
2. Contestants on television quiz programs must be intellectually _____ in order to summon answers to questions on a wide range of subjects.
3. Encouraged by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, the Grand Inquisitor of the Spanish _____, Tomás de Torquemada, had by 1492 accomplished the expulsion from Spain of 200,000 Jews who refused to convert to Catholicism.
4. Mary Wollstonecraft urged in her *Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) that girls and women be educated to become _____, able to earn a living in medicine, nursing, and business.
5. Formed in the 1980s, the Coalition for Women's Economic Development in Bangladesh functions on the _____ that small businesses can succeed with small loans if trust and cooperation are guaranteed.
6. In a sea battle against the Athenians, the Persian Artemisia _____ rammed another Persian vessel in order to save her own trireme.
7. Viewers grow weary of repetitive advertising that _____ them to acquire products and services.
8. While many American citizens of Japanese ancestry were egregiously incarcerated during World War II, Japanese-Americans were performing _____ military service at the same time.

9. Weary of his wife Zeena's _____ and nagging, Ethan Frome finds brief solace in the company of Mattie until a sledding accident makes invalids of them both.
10. For some stars of motion pictures the _____ of silent films meant the end of a career, but not for Lillian Gish, who continued performing in movies into the 1980s.
11. Participants in the Peace Corps, sharing expertise in teaching, health care, business, and other enterprises, have served as American _____ to countries throughout the world.
12. Queen Elizabeth II of England continues the royal _____ of the House of Windsor begun with King George V in 1910.

EXERCISE 7D

Replace the word or phrase in *italics* with a key word (or any of its forms) from Lesson 7.

According to official archives—manuals, checklists, and trial notes—religious (1) *interrogations, prolonged and harsh*, flourished intermittently in Europe from the twelfth to the nineteenth century. The (2) *reasoned basis* of the interrogations was that any failure to adhere to Christian doctrine threatened social order. However, at the same time, the clergy acted on their (3) *grounds for belief* that Satan and his demons existed and that witchcraft and sorcery were at work in what we now consider natural phenomena. The inquisitors could charge a defendant with various forms of witchcraft (4) *categorized* as divination, harmful magic, incantations and charms, and even healing.

(5) *Information-collecting* spies and informers pursued subjects, and (6) *insincere and deceptive* evidence could condemn a person. Inquisitors traveled from place to place to (7) *make insistent demands of* the accused to prove their innocence, confess their guilt, or recant. Resistance led to torture; those convicted of heresy or witchcraft were anathematized and put to death, often by being burned at the stake. The (8) *final days* of these inquisitions occurred in Spain in 1834.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |