

NAME _____

DATE _____

MATCHING WORDS AND DEFINITIONS

Unit 8

Match the definition in Column B with the word in Column A. Write the letter of the correct definition on the answer line.

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. orthodox | a. charmingly old-fashioned |
| 2. rarity | b. an individual mannerism or habit |
| 3. abnormal | c. not conforming to expected norms |
| 4. precedent | d. out of the ordinary; peculiar |
| 5. quaint | e. widespread; generally accepted or practiced |
| 6. conventional | f. adhering to tradition |
| 7. singular | g. something uncommon and valued |
| 8. idiosyncrasy | h. lacking in imagination |
| 9. prosaic | i. an action that later serves as an example |
| 10. prevalent | j. conforming to most standards |

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

USING WORDS CORRECTLY

Decide whether the italicized vocabulary word has been used correctly in the sentence. On the answer line, write *Correct* for correct use and *Incorrect* for incorrect use.

1. The *conventional* practice of democracies is to allow citizens to choose their representatives.
2. Dostoyevsky's novel *The Idiot* is an *idiosyncrasy*.
3. Barsanuphius Graham's name is certainly not *prosaic*.
4. Elias has decided that today he will *quaint* himself with the new student.
5. Lydia was elected *precedent* of the Victory Steel Corporation.
6. Twenty-five pounds is an *abnormal* weight for a zucchini.
7. Owen gave a *singular* performance of a Mozart piano sonata on the kazoo.
8. In my house a dinner of roast grouse and succotash is a *rarity*.
9. Clarisse tried to *prevalent* Cheryl from scoring a basket.
10. The *orthodox* belief in this country is that democracy is the most just form of government.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

CHOOSING THE BEST WORD

Decide which vocabulary word or related form best completes the sentence, and write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. In Ireland we stayed at a(n) _____ farmhouse that had not changed for centuries.
a. orthodox b. abnormal c. quaint d. rare
2. Michael and Kate hold the _____ opinion that good manners are important for success in life.
a. rare b. abnormal c. precedent d. orthodox

1. _____
2. _____

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 3. The Manfred law set a(n) _____ for all bicycle-safety legislation.
a. idiosyncrasy b. convention c. precedent d. singularity | 3. _____ |
| 4. Daisy gave a(n) _____ interpretation of the story, adding nothing new or interesting.
a. conventional b. idiosyncratic c. abnormal d. rare | 4. _____ |
| 5. Trueblood's <i>Winter</i> is a(n) _____ novel showing none of the imagination or originality of his <i>Speak! Ye Peonies</i> .
a. prosaic b. orthodox c. prevalent d. singular | 5. _____ |
| 6. Dr. Giavara suggested additional tests after the first indicated a(n) _____ low level of red blood cells.
a. conventionally b. abnormally c. rarely d. prosaically | 6. _____ |
| 7. Tuna ice cream—what a(n) _____ idea for dessert!
a. quaint b. prosaic c. orthodox d. singular | 7. _____ |
| 8. Marry me and you marry me with all my quirks and _____.
a. quaintness b. conventions c. idiosyncrasies d. prevalence | 8. _____ |
| 9. A flawless diamond is a(n) _____.
a. idiosyncrasy b. rarity c. abnormality d. convention | 9. _____ |
| 10. Malaria is _____ where the climate is hot and humid.
a. precedent b. prevalent c. quaint d. prosaic | 10. _____ |

USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Decide which form of the vocabulary word in parentheses best completes the sentence. The form given may be correct. Write your answer on the answer line.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Michael went to work in T-shirts, but Ryan preferred the more _____ attire of a business suit. (<i>orthodox</i>) | 1. _____ |
| 2. Governor Sedgwick delivered his address rather _____. (<i>prosaic</i>) | 2. _____ |
| 3. The _____ of tornadoes in Cleveland County accounts for the high number of reinforced basements. (<i>prevalent</i>) | 3. _____ |
| 4. Any _____ in the rock structure will be noted by the geologist. (<i>abnormal</i>) | 4. _____ |
| 5. The admission of men to a women's college in New York set a _____ that other women's colleges followed. (<i>precedent</i>) | 5. _____ |
| 6. A vacation is such a _____ treat for us that we really enjoyed our two weeks visiting relatives in Mexico. (<i>rarity</i>) | 6. _____ |
| 7. The _____ of Elizabeth's outfit guaranteed her the prize for the most original costume. (<i>singular</i>) | 7. _____ |
| 8. It is not so much the location of Center Sandwich that makes it popular as its _____. (<i>quaint</i>) | 8. _____ |
| 9. Roger's _____ winking is annoying. (<i>idiosyncrasy</i>) | 9. _____ |
| 10. Mrs. Potts conformed to all the standards set by her peers and was appreciated for her _____. (<i>conventional</i>) | 10. _____ |

READING COMPREHENSION

Each numbered sentence in the following passage contains an italicized vocabulary word or related form. After you read the passage, you will complete an exercise.

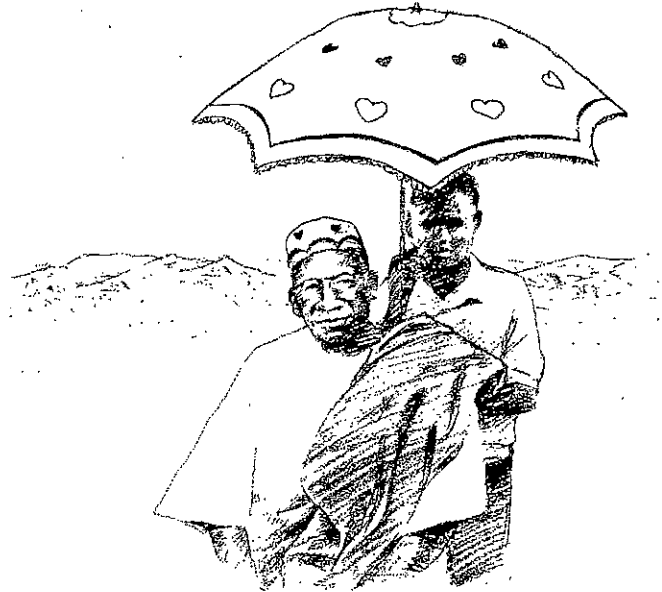
THE ODD HISTORY OF THE UMBRELLA

(1) Today the umbrella is considered a *prosaic*, everyday item, but it has not always been. (2) In fact, the umbrella has been considered everything from a mark of royalty to a sign of *abnormality*.

The first umbrellas date back to ancient times. Drawings of them are found among the remains of ancient Egyptian and Assyrian civilizations. (3) The custom of using an umbrella was *prevalent* in hot countries, where it served to protect people from the sun. We now call this kind of umbrella a parasol.

These parasols were once associated with royalty. Stone carvings show kings and high officials parading about while dutiful servants hold umbrellas over them. (4) In the nineteenth century, the King of Burma included among his titles the *singular* "He Who Reigns over the Umbrella-Using Chiefs of the Eastern Countries."

Manufacturers invented the rain umbrella in the 1700s. (5) Jonas Hanway, the first Englishman to carry an umbrella,



was considered highly *idiosyncratic*. (6) Until that time, the *orthodox* view was that human beings were meant to get wet in the rain.

(7) The umbrella was a *rarity* in colonial America. (8) A story is told of an event without *precedent* that took place in Windsor, Connecticut, in 1740. The first person to carry an umbrella was followed by a laughing crowd that mimicked him.

As the popularity of the rain umbrella grew, that of the parasol declined. (9) Today most Americans consider the parasol to be a *quaint* reminder of times past.

The next time that you reach for your umbrella, remember that customs and fashions change. (10) An item that is unusual today may be considered *conventional* in years to come.

READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE

Each of the following statements corresponds to a numbered sentence in the passage. Each statement contains a blank and is followed by four answer choices. Decide which choice fits best in the blank. The word or phrase that you choose must express roughly the same meaning as the italicized word in the passage. Write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. Most people now consider the umbrella a _____ item.
 a. useful b. beautiful c. necessary d. commonplace

1. _____

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| 2. At times the umbrella has been considered a sign of _____.
a. perfect taste
b. uselessness | c. the best in fashion
d. what is not normal | 2. _____ |
| 3. In warm climates the custom of using umbrellas was _____.
a. widespread
b. not fashionable | c. considered ridiculous
d. regal | 3. _____ |
| 4. "He Who Reigns over the Umbrella-Using Chiefs of the Eastern Countries" is a _____ title.
a. well-known b. peculiar c. lordly d. barbaric | | 4. _____ |
| 5. The behavior of Jonas Hanway was considered _____.
a. fitting and proper
b. unusual | c. distinguished
d. practical | 5. _____ |
| 6. Prior to Hanway, the _____ belief was that people were meant to get wet in the rain.
a. strange b. exciting c. noble d. traditional | | 6. _____ |
| 7. The umbrella was _____ in colonial America.
a. a fad
b. a necessity | c. something uncommon
d. an English tradition | 7. _____ |
| 8. The event in Connecticut was without _____.
a. peer
b. previous example | c. merit
d. dignity | 8. _____ |
| 9. We now consider the parasol _____.
a. attractive b. old-fashioned c. useful d. impractical | | 9. _____ |
| 10. An unusual item today may be _____ in the future.
a. practical b. fashionable c. customary d. well regarded | | 10. _____ |

PRACTICE WITH ANALOGIES

See page 79 for some strategies to use with analogies.

- Directions** On the answer line, write the letter of the phrase that best completes the analogy.
- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. REBEL : ORTHODOXY :: (A) nonconformist : convention
(B) radical : revolution (C) soldier : combat (D) scientist : theory | 1. _____ |
| 2. IMPOLITIC : JUDGMENT :: (A) sympathetic : compassion
(B) rational : logic (C) vague : clarity (D) authentic : validity | 2. _____ |
| 3. MEGALOPOLIS : CITY :: (A) heat : fire (B) hail : rain
(C) lake : pond (D) path : sidewalk | 3. _____ |
| 4. SINGULAR : ORDINARY :: (A) creative : artistic
(B) dull : boring (C) queer : unusual (D) rare : common | 4. _____ |
| 5. PROSAIC : IMAGINATION :: (A) abundant : fertility
(B) dull : excitement (C) merciful : forgiveness
(D) purposeful : goal | 5. _____ |