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WORD

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FROM THE
READER'S DIGEST

WORD
POWER
FROM THE
READER'S DIGEST

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Introduction

Words are an adventure, words are fun. We cannot live without them. But what do we really know about them?

Over the years, the monthly issues of *The Reader's Digest* have contained, and still contain, a feature called IT PAYS TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER which was devised by the great lexicographer Wilfred Funk. This monthly feature is a test of twenty key words each followed by four possible meanings. The reader ticks the meanings he believes are nearest to the key words, and checks his opinions against the answers which are provided.

In many of these answers the derivations are given, and derivations can be exciting, for many words are alive with history. Do you know where the word 'canter' comes from? In an article in *The Reader's Digest* written by I. A. R. Wylie she quotes a friend who told her, 'Most of the pilgrims on their way to Thomas à Becket's tomb at Canterbury travelled on horseback and, I suppose, got rather bored by their sedate progress. To have galloped would have been indecorous, but a sober intermediate gait broke the monotony.' People along the roads began calling this easy lope the 'Canterbury pace' or 'gait', and in time this was shortened to 'the Canterbury'. About two hundred years later the word was shortened to canter.

Miss Wylie tells us that some words we suppose are simply modern slang are actually historically respectable.

For instance, when we call a young man a 'chap' we are actually calling him a customer. This apparently modern term is short for 'chapman'—a client or purchaser in the sixteenth century.

All of us eat sandwiches at one time or another without giving a thought to their noble inventor, the Earl of Sandwich, who refused to take time off from the gambling table to eat a regular meal. It was the Earl of Cardigan who popularized the style of woollen jacket which he wore during the Crimean War. We have to thank another officer in that campaign, Lord Raglan, for the raglan sleeve.

We all know how a steeplechase is run, over a prescribed course dotted with fences, ditches and other hazards. But why 'steeple'? Well, in the old days young racing bloods would pick out a distant church steeple and ride for it hell-for-leather over fields, hedges, brooks and gardens, the shorter and more dangerous the cut the better.

Wilfred Funk once said, 'Words are little windows through which we can look at the past.' But before we look at the past let's see how many words we really understand and use in the right places, for you remember the story told by the sailor whose plump, good-natured shipmate was teaching himself to play the saxophone. One evening he played so well, his tunes were recognizable, and the sailor said, 'My goodness, you're getting quite a repertoire.' Whereupon the shipmate's podgy face fell. 'I believe you're right,' he replied. 'I've been sitting about on it too much lately.'

So test yourselves on these extracts from *The Reader's Digest*. Use them to help you in your reading and writing, and use them, as well as the word-play pieces which are included here and there throughout the book, to have fun with your friends and your family.

THE EDITORS

Simple words are easy?

The most useful working words are often the simplest. But watch out! Some short, one-syllable words are deceptive. Tick the meanings you think are nearest to the key words. Answers on pages 9 and 10.

- 1 GIRD—a: to honour. b: to prod. c: to prepare for action. d: to shackle.
- 2 JAUNT—a: smart appearance. b: shock. c: short trip. d: stumbling.
- 3 CRAFT—a: strength. b: cunning. c: weight. d: building.
- 4 FLARE—a: a spreading outward. b: talent or skill. c: spotlight. d: anger.
- 5 GLINT—a: to be hard; b: to shine steadily. c: to be sharp. d: to sparkle.
- 6 STRESS—a: to emphasize. b: to object. c: to bother. d: to overcome.
- 7 KNELL—a: kneeling cushion or stand. b: tolling of a bell. c: worship. d: despair.
- 8 KNAVE—a: loutish fellow. b: jester. c: rogue. d: knight.
- 9 SPLEEN—a: lustre. b: bad temper. c: smoothness. d: surface.
- 10 SLOTH (slōth; slōth)—a: clumsiness. b: sadness. c: stupidity. d: idleness.
- 11 LEWD—a: indecent. b: profane. c: lazy. d: amusing.
- 12 BALM (bahm)—a: calmness. b: charity. c: soothing oil or ointment. d: blessing.
- 13 CHASTE—a: ornamental. b: economical. c: artistic. d: virtuous.
- 14 ZEST—a: irritation. b: keen enjoyment. c: talkativeness. d: ironical taunt.
- 15 DIRGE—a: prophecy. b: music of mourning. c: curfew. d: scarcity.
- 16 GIBE (jibe)—a: sneering remark. b: oath. c: sail. d: measure.
- 17 BLITHE—a: swift. b: graceful. c: gay. d: clever.
- 18 BUFF—a: joke. b: protective cushion. c: cliff. d: dull-yellow colour.
- 19 WEIGH—a: to carry. b: to consider carefully. c: to hope. d: to help.
- 20 SWATHE (swāth)—a: to sweep. b: to soothe. c: to wash. d: to wrap.

- 21 GRILL—a : to take a firm hold on.
b : to complain. c : to question searchingly and persistently. d : to engrave.
- 22 LANK—a : thin. b : sallow. c : loose.
d : weak and sickly-looking.
- 23 WEIR—a : ghost. b : basin. c : decorative latticework. d : dam.
- 24 GRIST—a : courage. b : grain to be ground. c : substance of a statement.
d : husks of grain.
- 25 DRUDGE—a : servant. b : lazy worker.
c : one who toils at any difficult task.
d : ambitious person.
- 26 RUCK—a : wide starched collar.
b : track worn by a wheel. c : commotion. d : crowd of ordinary people.
- 27 ADZE—a : hand cutting-tool.
b : helmet. c : sword. d : dagger.
- 28 PREY—a : to worship. b : to exert a wearing and harmful influence. c : to confuse. d : to surrender.
- 29 PALL (pawl)—a : to anger. b : to frighten. c : to become boring. d : to darken.
- 30 LAVE—a : to wash. b : to heal. c : to desert. d : to spend extravagantly.
- 31 FLANK—a : rear. b : border. c : side.
d : projecting edge.
- 32 PLAIT (plät)—a : braided strand.
b : tangle. c : seam. d : hem.
- 33 TINE—a : musical note. b : small object. c : prong of a fork. d : slender thread.
- 34 DAUNT—a : to lose hope. b : to journey. c : to smear. d : to discourage.
- 35 QUAY (kē)—a : lake. b : wharf. c : bay.
d : mouth of a river.
- 36 FÊTE (fate)—a : spirit. b : sudden outburst. c : feud. d : festival.
- 37 STARK—a : brave. b : complete and utter. c : angry. d : dangerous.
- 38 SLUICE (slōōs)—a : marsh. b : artificial channel. c : tide. d : backwash.
- 39 RATE—a : to demean. b : to speed up or quicken. c : to criticize. d : to consider or regard.
- 40 CARP—a : to twist a meaning unfairly.
b : to find fault unreasonably. c : to tie fast. d : to sharpen.

Answers on pages 9 and 10



The kindergarten teacher handed out sheets of coloured paper and told the children to share the one pair of scissors she placed on each table. 'What does share mean?' I heard one five-year-old ask his neighbour. 'Share,' his friend whispered back, 'is what you do when you only have one of something and the teacher is looking.'

Paul Davis

Answers to

SIMPLE WORDS ARE EASY?

- 1 GIRD—c: to prepare for action, as with protective armour; to brace for effort or trial; as, to *gird* oneself for the contest. Old English *gyrdan*, 'to enclose'.
- 2 JAUNT—c: short trip; pleasure excursion; as, to embark on a week-end *jaunt*.
- 3 CRAFT—b: cunning or skill, often with base motives; as, a man devoted to his *craft*. Old English *craeft*.
- 4 FLARE—a: a spreading outward in a bell shape; as, a dress with a graceful *flare*.
- 5 GLINT—d: to sparkle; to gleam; to glitter; as, 'the waters *glint* in the morning sun'. Middle English *glinten*.
- 6 STRESS—a: to emphasize; to accent; as, to *stress* the main point in a speech. Latin *stringere*, 'to draw tight'.
- 7 KNELL—b: the tolling of a bell, as that announcing death or a funeral. Old English *cnyll*, from *cnyllan*, 'to knock'.
- 8 KNAVE—c: rogue; rascal; dishonest person; as, a wily *knave*. Old English *cnafa*, 'servant'.
- 9 SPLEEN—b: bad temper; spite; as, to vent one's *spleen*. Greek *splēn*.
- 10 SLOTH—d: idleness; laziness; as, *sloth*, mother of poverty. Old English *slāw*, 'slow', plus *the*, 'quality of being'.
- 11 LEWD—a: indecent; lustful; lascivious; as, a *lewd* remark. Old English *laewede*.
- 12 BALM—c: soothing oil or ointment; figuratively, anything that soothes, heals or comforts; as, the *balm* of prayer. Latin *balsamum*, 'balsam'.
- 13 CHASTE—d: virtuous; pure in thought and action; also, simple in line; not ornate; as, a *chaste* design. Latin *castus*, 'pure'.
- 14 ZEST—b: keen enjoyment; relish; gusto; as, to tackle a job with *zest*. French *zeste*, orange or lemon peel added as flavouring.
- 15 DIRGE—b: music of mourning or grief; funeral hymn; from first word of a liturgical response adapted from Psalm 5, in Latin *dirige*, 'direct, make straight, lead'.
- 16 GIBE—a: sneering remark; expression of sarcasm and ridicule; as, a cruel *gibe*.
- 17 BLITHE—c: gay; merry; as, a *blithe* spirit. Old English *blithe*, 'joyous'.
- 18 BUFF—d: dull-yellow colour; as in *The Buffs*, East Kent Regiment, from the buff-coloured facings on their scarlet uniforms. French *buffle*, 'buffalo'.
- 19 WEIGH—b: to consider carefully; as, to *weigh* the advantages and disadvantages. Old English *wegan*.
- 20 SWATHE—d: to wrap or swaddle with a bandage; as, to *swathe* in cotton gauze. Old English *swathian*, 'to bind'.

- 21 GRILL—c: to question searchingly and persistently; as, to grill a suspect. French *griller*, 'to burn, to scorch'.
- 22 LANK—a: thin; gaunt; slender; of hair, straight without curl. Old English *hlanc*.
- 23 WEIR—d: dam in a stream to raise the water; also, a fence of stakes in a stream or tideway for catching fish. Old English *wer*.
- 24 GRIST—b: grain to be ground, or that has been ground, leaving the husks. Often used figuratively; as, 'all is grist to his mill'—that is, all that comes to him is useful or profitable. Old English *grist*, from *grindan*, 'to grind'.
- 25 DRUDGE—c: one who toils at any difficult or monotonous task; as, a common *drudge*. Probably related to Old English *dræogan*, 'to work, to endure'.
- 26 RUCK—d: crowd of ordinary people or things. Middle English *ruke*, 'heap of combustible material'.
- 27 ADZE—a: hand cutting-tool, something like an axe, but with its blade at right angles to the handle. Used for dressing timber. Old English *adesa*, 'axe, hatchet'.
- 28 PREY—b: to exert a wearing and harmful influence; as, 'fears prey on his mind'. Old French *preie*, from Latin *praeda*, 'booty'.
- 29 PALL—c: to become boring, tiresome; to cease to please; as, 'his jokes began to pall'.
- 30 LAVE—a: to wash; to bathe oneself. Latin *lavare*.
- 31 FLANK—c: side, as of an animal, between the ribs and hip; the right or left of an army or fleet. Old French *flanc*.
- 32 PLAIT—a: braided strand, especially of hair or straw; also, a flat fold; a doubling back, as of cloth on itself; pleat. Latin *plicare*, 'to fold'.
- 33 TINE—c: prong of a fork. Old English *tind*.
- 34 DAUNT—d: to discourage; to intimidate; to overcome; as, 'problems didn't daunt him'. Latin *domare*, 'to tame, subdue'.
- 35 QUAY—b: wharf or paved bank where vessels can load and unload. French *quai*.
- 36 FÊTE—d: festival; especially, an outdoor entertainment on a lavish scale. French *fête*.
- 37 STARK—b: complete and utter; downright; as, *stark* misery. Old English *stearc*, 'stiff'.
- 38 SLUICE—b: an artificial channel for water, fitted with a valve or gate for stopping or regulating the flow. Old French *escluse*, from Latin *excludere*, 'to shut out'.
- 39 RATE—d: to consider or regard; as, to rate him a great statesman. Latin *rata*, from *reri*, 'to reckon'.
- 40 CARP—b: to find fault unreasonably; to talk complainingly; as, to carp about rations. Latin *carpere*, 'to pluck, slander'.

Vocabulary Ratings

- 40-38 correct — excellent
 37-30 correct — good
 29-26 correct — fair

Important but not impossible

Here are some words beginning with 'im'. How many do you know? Test yourself on the meanings of each one and check against the answers on page 12.

- 1 **IMPUTATION** (im pū tā' shun)—a : inference. b : act of charging. c : sharp command. d : entreaty.
- 2 **IMBROGLIO** (im brōl' yō)—a : engraving. b : ban. c : complicated situation. d : brawl.
- 3 **IMBUE** (im bū)—a : to saturate. b : to absorb. c : to accustom. d : to colour.
- 4 **IMPOST** (im' pōst)—a : trick. b : tax or levy. c : fertilizer. d : dispatch.
- 5 **IMPOVERISH** (im pōv' er ish)—a : to be unthrifty. b : to oppress. c : to punish. d : to make poor.
- 6 **IMMINENT**—a : about to happen. b : high in station. c : remaining within. d : powerful.
- 7 **IMPORTUNATE** (im por' tū nūt)—a . uncertain. b : tardy or dilatory. c : unsuccessful. d : insistent.
- 8 **IMPERMEABLE** (im per' mē ä b'l)—a : temporary. b : opinionated. c not permitting passage. d : dependable.
- 9 **IMPASSIVE**—a : exciting attention. b : without emotion. c : dignified. d : disturbed.
- 10 **IMPEACH** (im peech')—a : to accuse. b : to remove from office. c : to slander. d : to put in jail.
- 11 **IMPORT** (im' port)—a : bearing. b : strength. c : collision. d : meaning.
- 12 **IMPALE** (im pale')—a : to terrify. b : to entrap. c : to transfix. d : to summon for jury duty.
- 13 **IMPEDE** (im peed')—a : to encourage. b : to hinder. c : to speed up. d : to stutter.
- 14 **IMPIOUS** (im' pī us)—a : shrewd. b : holy. c : mischievous. d : irreverent.
- 15 **IMPOSTURE** (im pōs' tūr)—a : excessive burden. b : stooping position. c : fraud. d : handicap.
- 16 **IMPALPABLE**—a : doubtful. b : cannot be felt. c : bad-tasting. d : wholly false.
- 17 **IMPETUOUS** (im pet' ū ūs)—a : hasty. b : stimulating. c : erratic. d : disrespectful.
- 18 **IMPROMPTU** (im promp' tū)—a : anxious. b late. c . improvised. d punctual
- 19 **IMPROVIDENT** (im prōv' ĩ dent)—a shabby b . incapable of proof. c : prophetic. d : thriftless.
- 20 **IMPASSE** (im' pas; am' pas)—a : stubbornness. b : something out of date. c predicament affording no escape. d : intolerance.

Now turn to page 12

Answers to

IMPORTANT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE

- 1 IMPUTATION—b : act of charging; attribution, especially of fault or crime; as, an *imputation* of dishonesty. Latin *imputare*, 'to reckon against'.
- 2 IMBROGLIO—c : complicated situation; serious misunderstanding; as, the British-Nigerian *imbroglio* in 1963 arising out of the extradition of Chief Enahoro.
- 3 IMBUE—a : to saturate; to cause to become impressed or penetrated; as, to *imbue* with wisdom. Latin *imbuere*.
- 4 IMPOST—b : tax or levy; especially, a customs duty. Latin *imponere*, 'to place upon'.
- 5 IMPOVERISH—d : to make poor; to exhaust the strength or richness of; as, to *impoverish* the soil. Old French *empovrir*.
- 6 IMMINENT—a : about to happen (usually of danger); impending; as, an *imminent* attack. Latin *imminens*, from *imminere*, 'to overhang'.
- 7 IMPORTUNATE—d : insistent; urgent in demanding; annoying in pertinacity; as, an *importunate* beggar. Latin *importunus*, 'troublesome'.
- 8 IMPERMEABLE—c : not permitting passage, especially of fluids; impervious. Latin *impermeabilis*.
- 9 IMPASSIVE—b : without emotion; apathetic; showing no feeling; as, a cold *impassive* stare. From *im-*, 'not' and Latin *passivus*, 'suffering'.
- 10 IMPEACH—a : to accuse; to charge with crime or misdemeanour; especially, to charge a public official with misbehaviour in office. Also, to call in to question; as, to *impeach* one's motives. Latin *impedicare*, 'to fetter'.
- 11 IMPORT—d : meaning or significance, as of a word, phrase or document; as, the *import* of the speaker's remarks. French *importer*, 'to signify'.
- 12 IMPALE—c : to transfix upon a pointed object; to torture or punish by fixing on a sharp stake. French *empaler*.
- 13 IMPEDE—b : to hinder; to limit or obstruct; as, to *impede* progress. Latin *impedire*, 'to entangle the feet'.
- 14 IMPIOUS—d : irreverent; lacking in respect; wicked; as, profane and *impious* language. Latin *impius*.
- 15 IMPOSTURE—c : fraud or trickery to gain an end; deception under a false or assumed character. Latin *impostura*.
- 16 IMPALPABLE—b : that cannot be felt; intangible; so fine and delicate as not to be easily discerned; as, *impalpable* feelings. From *im-*, 'not', and Latin *palpare*, 'to touch gently'.
- 17 IMPETUOUS—a : hasty; impulsive; rash; as, a man of *impetuous* courage. Latin *impetuosus*.
- 18 IMPROMPTU—c : improvised; made, done or uttered on the spur of the moment; as, an *impromptu* speech. Latin *in promptu*, 'in readiness'.
- 19 IMPROVIDENT—d : thriftless; lacking foresight or forethought; failing to provide for the future; as, an *improvident* ne'er-do-well. Latin *improvidus*.
- 20 IMPASSE—c : predicament affording no escape; deadlock; as, an *impasse* in strike negotiations. French.

Vocabulary Ratings

20-19 correct	—	excellent
18-16 correct	—	good
15-14 correct	—	fair

Are you a Mrs. Malaprop?

In Sheridan's play 'The Rivals', Mrs. Malaprop continually used long words in the wrong places. Here is a list of 'paired' words which may prove troublesome. Check your answers with those on page 14.

- 1 COMPLEMENT (kom' ple ment)—
a : freight shipment. b : complete number. c : flattering comment. d : strong force.
- 2 COMPLIMENT (kom' pli ment)—
a : expression of praise. b : powerful group. c : duplicate copy. d : cargo.
- 3 RESOURCE (re sōrs')—a : request for protection. b : reserve source of supply. c : demand. d : origin.
- 4 RECOURSE (re cōrs')—a : repetition. b : race track. c : something ready when needed. d : application for help.
- 5 TORTUOUS (tor' tū ūs)—a : rough. b : full of turns. c : burning. d : cruel.
- 6 TORTUROUS (tor' tūr ūs)—a : winding. b : morally irregular. c : painful. d : hot.
- 7 CONSCRIPT (kon' skript)—a : compulsorily-enrolled recruit. b : reproduction in writing. c : prisoner. d : enclosed area.
- 8 TRANSCRIPT (trān' skript)—a : change or alteration. b : information or news. c : copy. d : going across.
- 9 DISQUISITION (dis kwī zish' un)—
a : cross-examination. b : unrest. c : mental inclination. d : formal discourse.
- 10 INQUISITION (in kwī zish' un)—
a : punishment. b : long speech. c : thorough investigation. d : curiosity.
- 11 DISPORT (dis pōrt')—a : to be wasteful. b : to get rid of. c : to brag. d : to amuse.
- 12 DEPORT (de pōrt')—a : to leave. b : to imprison. c : to banish. d : to make known.
- 13 COLLOQUY (kōl' o kwī)—a : conference. b : file of papers. c : argument. d : lecture.
- 14 OBLOQUY (ōb' lo kwī)—a : dispute. b : humility. c : abusive language. d : courtesy.
- 15 TEMPORIZE (tem' po rīze)—a : to deliver an unprepared speech. b : to pursue a policy of delay. c : to harden. d : to grow angry.
- 16 EXTEMPORIZE (eks tem' po rīze)—a : to make on the spur of the moment. b : to honour. c : to play for time. d : to talk on and on.
- 17 HYPERCRITICAL (hī per krīt' l kāl)—
a : desperately ill. b : very witty. c : completely insincere. d : excessively fault-finding.
- 18 HYPOCRITICAL (hīp o krīt' l kāl)—
a : fussy. b : crucial. c : pertaining to one who professes to be what he is not. d : unduly harsh in judgment.
- 19 PRESCRIBE (pre skribe')—a : to forbid. b : to order. c : to limit. d : to explain.
- 20 PROSCRIBE (pro skribe')—a : to protect. b : to announce. c : to command. d : to prohibit.

Turn to page 14 for the answers

Answers to

ARE YOU A MRS. MALAPROP?

- 1 **COMPLEMENT**—b : number or quantity required to fill or complete; as, 'the vessel carried its peacetime complement of men'. Latin *complementum*.
- 2 **COMPLIMENT**—a : expression of praise or admiration; as, to pay a person a *compliment*. Latin *complere*, 'to fill up'.
- 3 **RESOURCE**—b : reserve source of supply, strength or support; as, to exhaust every *resource*. Latin *resurgere*, 'to rise again'.
- 4 **RECOURSE**—d : application for or resort to help; as, to have *recourse* to a library. Latin *recurere*, 'to run back'.
- 5 **TORTUOUS**—b : full of turns, twists or bends; as, a *tortuous* mountain trail. Latin *tortuosus*, 'full of turns'.
- 6 **TORTUROUS**—c : cruelly painful; agonizing; as, hours of *torturous* worry. Latin *torquere*, 'to torture'.
- 7 **CONSCRIPT**—a : recruit; one compulsorily enrolled in one of the services. Latin *conscribere*, 'to enrol'.
- 8 **TRANSCRIPT**—c : handwritten or typed copy of an original. Latin *transcribere*.
- 9 **DISQUISITION**—d : formal discourse based on careful research; elaborate essay. Latin *disquirere*, 'to inquire diligently'.
- 10 **INQUIRY**—c : thorough investigation; judicial or official inquiry, often with the intent to fix guilt. Latin *inquirere*, from *in*, 'in', and *quaerere*, 'to seek'.
- 11 **DISPORT**—d : to amuse or divert; as, to *disport* oneself in the water. Old French *desporter*, from *des* (Latin *dis*, 'away' or 'apart') and *porter*, 'to carry'.
- 12 **DEPORT**—c : to banish; to exile; to transport; as, to *deport* a criminal alien. Latin *deportare*, 'to remove, convey away'.
- 13 **COLLOQUY**—a : conference; mutual (and usually formal) discussion; as, a *colloquy* about literary affairs. Latin *colloqui*, 'to speak together'.
- 14 **OBLOQUY**—c : abusive language; public defamation; calumny; as, to subject a person to *obloquy*. Latin *obloqui*, 'to speak against'.
- 15 **TEMPORIZE**—b : to pursue a policy of delay; to avoid immediate decision in order to gain time; as, 'he didn't dare refuse, so he tried to *temporize*'. French *temporiser*.
- 16 **EXTEMPORIZE**—a : to make or do on the spur of the moment, without preparation; to improvise; as, to *extemporize* a speech. Latin *extemporalis*, 'without prior consideration'.
- 17 **HYPERCRITICAL**—d : excessively fault-finding; unfairly critical; as, a *hypercritical* review. Greek *hyper*, 'over', and *kritikos*, 'able to judge'.
- 18 **HYPOCRITICAL**—c : pertaining to one who professes to be what he is not in order to win approval; as, a *hypocritical* person. Greek *hypokrites*.
- 19 **PRESCRIBE**—b : to order or direct; to dictate; to lay down as a rule of action; as, to *prescribe* the hours of study. Latin *praescribere*, 'to write beforehand'.
- 20 **PROSCRIBE**—d : to prohibit; to denounce; to condemn; as, to *proscribe* smoking. Latin *proscribere*, 'to publish, outlaw'.

Vocabulary Ratings

20-19 correct	—	excellent
18-16 correct	—	good
15-14 correct	—	fair

Action stations

Verbs are the 'dynamos' of language; you can't get along without them. How many of the meanings of these verbs do you know? Tick those you think are nearest. Answers on pages 17 and 18.

- 1 ADJUDICATE (ǎ joo' dī kate)—a : to accuse. b : to determine judicially. c : to determine the boundaries of. d : to renounce or swear off.
- 2 INVEIGLE (in vē' g'l; in vā' g'l)—a : to lead on by deceit. b : to flatter sincerely. c : to invite. d : to steal from.
- 3 EXCULPATE (eks' kul pate)—a : to fashion a piece of statuary. b : to involve in crime. c : to cut out. d : to free from blame.
- 4 PORTRAY (por tray)—a : to carry. b : to disclose unintentionally. c : to depict. d : to aid.
- 5 INVEIGLE (in vē' g'l)—a : to worship. b : to enrage. c : to stimulate. d : to inhale.
- 6 INCARCERATE (in kar' ser ate)—a : to flay. b : to visit scorn upon. c : to dissect. d : to imprison.
- 7 RESCIND (rē sīnd)—a : to admit error. b : to retreat from a position. c : to repeal or abrogate. d : to apologize.
- 8 OBFUSCATE (ob' fus kate)—a : to confuse. b : to argue with. c : to block and prevent. d : to scold.
- 9 CAVIL (kāv' ll)—a : to make fun of. b : to find fault. c : to insult. d : to whine.
- 10 ENTHRAL (en thrawl)—a : to captivate. b : to idealize. c : to terrify. d : to punish.
- 11 REGALE (rē gale)—a : to gossip. b : to entertain prodigally. c : to dress up. d : to laugh at.
- 12 INCULCATE (in' kul kate)—a : to grasp. b : to absolve from guilt. c : to impress upon the mind by repetition. d : to charge with wrongdoing.
- 13 CONFISCATE (kon' fis kate)—a : to complicate. b : to seize by authority. c : to obscure. d : to steal.
- 14 EVINCE (ē vīns)—a : to show plainly. b : to see clearly. c : to be interested. d : to shrink back.
- 15 INVEIGH (in vē' ā)—a : to transport. b : to encroach. c : to entice. d : to rail.
- 16 ENTRANCE (en trans)—a : to encourage. b : to deceive. c : to charm. d : to flatter.
- 17 EVOKE (ē voke)—a : to anger. b : to explain. c : to exhibit. d : to call forth.
- 18 DEPLOY (dē ploī)—a : to be busy. b : to dismiss. c : to spread out. d : to strengthen.
- 19 OSTRACIZE (ōs' trā size)—a : to exclude. b : to strut or show off. c : to point out. d : to offend.
- 20 PERPETRATE (per' pē trate)—a : to cause to last indefinitely. b : to enter into. c : to pass through. d : to perform.

- 21 **APPEASE** (ǎ pēz')—a : to anger. b : to assist. c : to pacify. d : to surrender.
- 22 **ACQUIESCE** (ak wí es')—a : to greet. b : to accept passively. c : to rest. d : to be greedy.
- 23 **DETONATE** (dét' ō nate)—a : to quiet. b : to brag loudly. c : to make a discord. d : to explode.
- 24 **RANSACK** (ran' sack)—a : to pack up. b : to run wild. c : to search thoroughly. d : to wreck.
- 25 **ENJOIN** (en join')—a : to forbid. b : to connect. c : to agree upon. d : to flow together.
- 26 **REPUDIATE** (rē pū' dī ate)—a : to offend. b : to regret. c : to answer back. d : to reject or disclaim.
- 27 **FOMENT** (fō ment')—a : to sparkle. b : to stir up. c : to become sour. d : to boil.
- 28 **PRE-EMPT** (prē empt')—a : to appropriate. b : to order bluntly. c : to contradict. d : to obstruct.
- 29 **BURGEON** (bur' jun)—a : to intrude. b : to rage. c : to hit with a club. d : to send forth buds.
- 30 **EXPUNGE** (eks punj')—a : to blot out. b : to borrow from. c : to squeeze dry. d : to forgive.
- 31 **CULMINATE** (kul' mǎ nate)—a : to slander. b : to reach a final effect. c : to overwhelm. d : to heap together.
- 32 **APPERTAIN** (ap er tane')—a : to comprehend. b : to procure. c : to belong. d : to find out.
- 33 **COUNTENANCE**—a : to oppose. b : to encourage. c : to grimace. d : to embarrass.
- 34 **COVET** (kūv' et)—a : to find fault. b : to frolic. c : to outwit. d : to desire.
- 35 **ELICIT** (ē līs' it)—a : to act illegally. b : to deceive. c : to draw forth. d : to entreat.
- 36 **DALLY**—a : to trifle or play with. b : to decorate or adorn. c : to hang from. d : to flatter.
- 37 **PROLIFERATE** (prō līf' er ate)—a : to exaggerate. b : to talk too much. c : to produce frequently. d : to wander aimlessly.
- 38 **CONCOCT** (kōn kōkt')—a : to falsify. b : to prepare or make up. c : to hide. d : to fool.
- 39 **DENOMINATE** (dē nōm' ī nate)—a : to elect to office. b : to dismiss. c : to trouble. d : to name.
- 40 **ARRAIGN** (ǎ rane')—a : to call to account. b : to withdraw. c : to stop. d : to put in proper order.

Answers on pages 17 and 18



The phrase 'giving him the cold shoulder' dates back to a medieval custom in French chateaux. Honoured guests were served hot meat dishes, but when they overstayed their welcome, or became otherwise unpopular, their host literally gave them a 'cold shoulder' of beef or mutton.