Confidence-In-Context Coaching

Lesson 2 Workbook

A. Words For Undesirable Personal And Business Practices

The words in this section are ones you might not like hearing applied to yourself – but it's useful to know how to apply them. The five not very nice words we'll look at next are sycophant, fatuous, neophyte, infamous, and negligible.

Your words for undesirable personal and business practices explained

We've all known someone who was always flattering the boss, being a perfect "yes-man" – in general just a complete suck-up that no-one wanted to eat lunch with. But how often did we see that irritating person somehow end up with the plum job or the award at the company banquet? There's a not very nice name for that person: sycophant. A "**sycophant**" is someone who hangs around powerful people, using flattery to advance themselves. They're often rewarded with favors or promotions. You'll see them around politicians, movie stars, even football heroes. They're hangers-on, lackeys, brown-nosers.

Example: "A good leader relies on people who question her decisions, not on sycophants who praise every word she says."

One danger of being surrounded by sycophants is thinking that you're truly as talented, beautiful, and praiseworthy as they say you are. Some people, however, have no problem believing false flattery. They're completely unaware of the fact that they're making fools of themselves. They're "**fatuous**." They see themselves as absolute perfection, completely oblivious to their flaws. Not only that, fatuous people tend to act as their own sycophants, bragging and talking themselves up, while putting other people down.

Example: "Unaware that half of the dinner guests were professional winemakers, Uncle George had a fatuous smile on his face as he criticized the choice of champagne served with dessert."

Sometimes people make mistakes or act foolishly because they are so new to a situation they haven't had a chance to learn the correct information. A person like this is a "**neophyte**" – literally "newly planted," from the Greek root "neo" meaning "new." While this word merely means "beginner" or "novice," it's often used in a derogatory fashion, implying that because the person is new, they're also lower in social status than the speaker.

Example: “That secretary is such a neophyte she can’t even operate the fax machine.”

If someone has a habit of talking down to others and insulting them, they’ll probably get a reputation for being not a very nice person. They’ll be infamous. “**Infamous**” is an adjective meaning “having a bad reputation” or “notorious.” Don’t get it confused with the adjective “famous,” though they’re very similar: if you’re famous, you’re well-known in a good way, but if you’re infamous, you’re well known for the bad things you do. Some famous people are also infamous for certain things – think of movie stars who have trouble staying out of jail. If two people have a reputation for acting badly in the same way, one may be “more infamous” than the other.

Example: “Although Howard is extremely wealthy, he’s infamous for never paying his staff on time.”

There might be several reasons why Howard doesn’t pay his staff on time. Perhaps he has the fatuous belief that they don’t care about the money, because they’re so glad to be working for him. Maybe he’s a neophyte millionaire, and he hasn’t really figured out his payroll system yet. But he might just think that the amounts are too negligible to deal with right away. “**Negligible**” means “so small it doesn’t matter.” Something that’s negligible is easy to ignore because it has little impact on the situation. That’s a matter of perception, of course – to the people on Howard’s payroll, those salaries are quite important indeed.

Example: “The monthly total of all staff salaries is a huge sum, but compared to the rest of the budget, the figure is negligible.”

B. Words For Higher Powers

Are you worried that you won’t be able to remember these Ultimate Vocabulary words? Relax – the words in this section are a gift from above: five words that are heaven-sent to bless your vocabulary and inspire you to use them. They’re all words that relate to “higher powers” – or seem to. In this section, we’ll study the words catholic, trinity, aegis, harbinger, and proselytize.

Your words for higher powers explained

The first word, "**catholic**," is potentially the most confusing. We're not referring to the Catholic religion, or any religion for that matter. "Catholic" is an adjective meaning "broad in scope" and "comprehensive."

Example: "Her reading list is quite catholic; she has books on everything from astrology to zoo-keeping, *and* the complete 'Harry Potter' series."

Another word you might be familiar with in a religious sense is "**trinity**." The Christian belief in the "Holy Trinity" of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is well-known even to non-Christians. But as a general term, it merely refers to three things or people that are considered as a unit, inseparable. In the southern United States, Cajun cooks have their own "holy trinity" of onions, celery, and bell pepper that forms the basis of almost any dish.

Example: "Germany, Italy, and Japan formed the trinity of countries known as 'the Axis' during World War II."

Powerful countries sometimes provide protection for smaller countries, guarding their borders against enemies. The smaller countries are under the aegis of the larger ones. "**Aegis**" means "protection" or "shield." The word originally referred to the armored breastplate worn by the goddess Athena, the Greek goddess of knowledge and military power.

Example: "The star football player saw the other students teasing the new boy, so he took him under his aegis and kept the bullies away."

If the leaders of a country notice that their neighbors are increasing the size of their armies and stockpiling large supplies of food and weapons, they might see this as a harbinger of war. "**Harbinger**" means "a sign of things to come." Some synonyms for harbinger are "portent" and "omen." It's not always negative, though – the things to come can be good as well as bad.

Example: "Thought nearly covered by the two inches of snow that had fallen overnight, the early blossoms of the crocuses were a harbinger of spring."

Isn't it wonderful, learning these fantastic new words? You might be so enthusiastic about the program that you want everybody to learn the Ultimate Vocabulary way. Go ahead and

proselytize – we won't mind. "**Proselytize**" means to preach or talk about something, with the goal of converting other people to your way of thinking. Missionaries proselytize to convert people to their religion. Members of a political party sometimes proselytize to get more people to agree with their platforms and vote for them.

Example: "People who give up cigarettes are often the ones who proselytize most about the dangers of second-hand smoke."

C. Words About Words

By now we're sure you've realized the power of words. In this section we'll learn some words about words: polyglot, laconic, loquacious, saw, rhetoric.

Your words about words explained

This Ultimate Vocabulary course is focused on teaching you how to use powerful words in English in everyday conversation. Perhaps you're perfecting your English as a second language, or even third. If you're fluent in more than one language, you're a "**polyglot**". A polyglot is someone who can read, speak, and write in several languages.

Example: "The translators who work for the diplomats have to be polyglots**,** because they deal with ambassadors from many countries."

Just because a person can speak in many languages doesn't mean they talk all the time. Translators, of course, have to speak constantly as they interpret conversations between people. But off the job, they might be quite laconic. "**Laconic**" means "brief" or "to the point," referring to someone's speaking style. A laconic person uses just enough words to say what they mean, and no more.

Example: "He has a reputation for being laconic at work, but I think it's because he's so busy he just doesn't have time to chat."

The opposite of laconic is "**loquacious**." A loquacious person is one who talks all the time. Synonyms for loquacious are "chatty," "talkative," and "garrulous."

Example: "I tried to study at my desk, but my roommate is so loquacious I couldn't concentrate, and I went to the library instead."

It's usually not a good idea to be talking all of the time. You know what they say: "a closed mouth catches no flies." That's an old Italian proverb, or saw, on the wisdom of keeping quiet. A "**saw**" is a saying, usually one that's been around for a long time. And even if the saw is no longer much used in modern life, it still describes something that's true. Another saw, or saying, that you might know is "you can't teach an old dog new tricks." We're certainly teaching you some new words, though!

Example: "My grandmother always used her teabag twice, quoting that old saw 'waste not, want not.'"

Using words in just the right way can be a powerful tool for influencing other people. Creative and effective use of words is called "**rhetoric**." While this can refer to writing, it's more often used to describe a way of speaking, or a speech. Make sure that when you're speaking you're not getting too creative; "rhetoric" also refers to a speech that's so full of flowery language and unnecessary or misleading detail that it's hard to find the meaning in it.

Example: "Many politicians rely on paid writers to create the **rhetoric** they use when giving speeches at campaign events."

D. Words About Things That Are Difficult To Define

The words in this section are easy to define, but they're all used when talking about things that are hard to define. The five words we'll be looking at next are diffident, nebulous, implicit, putative, and hypothesis.

Your words about things that are difficult to define explained

"**Diffident**" means "timid" or "bashful." It's used to describe someone who lacks self-confidence or who is excessively modest. Shy people tend to be diffident, afraid to offer an opinion, even then they've got the right answer.

Example: "Jane is so diffident, it's hard to believe she runs her own company; when she's in a group, she never takes the lead."

Something that's hard to see clearly is "**nebulous**." You might be familiar with the astronomical term "nebula," which refers to a fuzzy cloud of gas and stars; a nebula is

nebulous, because it's hazy, vague, not clearly defined. An idea can be nebulous as well as an image or object.

Example: "The goal of the proposed project was too nebulous, and the planning committee rejected it until the organizers could provide more details."

The third word we're looking at also describes something that is not explicitly defined. But unlike "nebulous," something "**implicit**" is very clearly seen or understood, just not obviously or openly. "Implicit" means "understood and agreed on, but not stated openly."

Example: "The people she hired knew there was an implicit understanding that they'd join in the company's volunteer projects from time to time."

Another word for something that is understood without being directly stated is "**putative**." However, while "implicit" means the underlying substance is unstated but agreed on, "putative" refers to something that might not really be agreed on, but that no-one wants to bother to dispute. For example, if someone in a group takes charge and starts making all of the decisions, the other members of the group might allow that person to become the putative leader. They might disagree privately, and even not go along with some of the decisions, but they don't do anything to take that person out of a leadership role.

Example: "Michael was the only person who researched the mountain trails and access routes, so he became the putative leader of the Sunday hiking club."

The final word in this section is "**hypothesis**." A hypothesis is something that is assumed to be true, for the sake of argument. In a hypothesis, the known facts are sometimes ignored in order to provide material for further discussion. You might say that a hypothesis is a "what if ...?" statement.

Example: "Her hypothesis that global warming could be slowed significantly by eliminating all air travel is interesting, but not practical in this age of global commerce."

E. Words That Show Their Origins

Many words in English can be traced back to their roots in Ancient Greek or Latin. Here are five words and phrases that clearly show their origins: ad hoc, chronology, de facto, erudite, neologism.

Your words that show their origins explained

You'll frequently find Latin words and phrases being used in situations where law is involved – not surprising, as many of the world's modern legal systems are based on principles and laws codified by the Romans. Two of the Latin phrases that are well-known are "**de facto**" and "de jure." "De jure" means "by law" – that is, what should be done – and "de facto" means "In fact" or "in reality" – what actually is done. For example, it might be the rule on a road to only use the express lane if you're traveling over the minimum speed limit, but if everyone's driving above the speed limit, all lanes become de facto express lanes. "De jure" is usually only used in the courtroom, so only "de facto" is part of your Ultimate Vocabulary list right now – unless you're a lawyer, of course.

Example: "Although Keith was the elected chairperson, he was never at the meetings, and Thomas became the de facto head of the committee."

The other Latin phrase we'll look at is "**ad hoc**," meaning "for this." "Ad hoc" refers to something that has been created for a specific purpose or goal, often existing only until that goal has been achieved.

Example: "The school board needed more information on enrollment, so it called for an ad hoc panel to gather statistics about the current student body."

Both "ad hoc" and "de facto" are phrases that have been in use for thousands of years. Other words are newer: think of "spam" and "wi-fi" and "telecommute." Changes in society require changes in vocabulary, and these neologisms are created to describe them. "**Neologism**" means "new word", from the Greek roots "neo" (new) and "logos" (word).

Example: "It takes several years for the Oxford English Dictionary to officially add a neologism like 'fembot' or 'webmaster' to its word list."

It takes a while for a word or phrase to become part of the common vocabulary. First it's usually only used in a specific segment of society, like the hip-hop word "bling." As it gains widespread exposure, more and more people use it, and it becomes part of popular culture. Finally, the word either goes out of use – do you call anyone a "hep cat" these days? – or it settles into our standard vocabulary with a universally-understood meaning. This sequence of events, or "**chronology**," can take months or years, though with the internet, it might only take days to get a new word into popular use. The word "chronology"

comes from the Greek root “kronos” meaning “time.” A chronology is a series of events, or timeline.

Example: “Deep waterways like the Grand Canyon show the chronology of geologic deposits in the strata revealed on the cliff walls.”

Regular use of these powerful words will convince your friends that you’re erudite. Someone who is erudite is learned and scholarly, and has read many books to get that education. “**Erudite**” is from the Latin verb “erudio” or “to train.” You can use the Ultimate Vocabulary training course to become more erudite.

Example: “Kate has spent years studying and traveling abroad; she’s so erudite, she can talk knowledgeably about almost anything.”

F. Words Necessary For Developing Your Vocabulary

The five words in this section were very carefully chosen as necessary for developing your vocabulary. These essential words are pertinent, requisite, adroit, assiduous, and judicious.

Your important vocabulary development words explained

One important aspect of increasing your vocabulary is knowing which word is pertinent to your situation. “**Pertinent**” means relevant and to the point, something that is logically connected. These Ultimate Vocabulary words won’t be powerful if you use them incorrectly, so these lessons showing the words in context will help you a great deal.

Example: “Karen doesn’t always speak up in the weekly meetings, but when she does, she always has something pertinent to contribute.

Knowing the pertinent words to use in any context is requisite to being a good speaker. “**Requisite**” means essential or necessary. Many schools have classes they call “prerequisites” – these are classes that it is necessary to take before moving on to a higher-level class. A synonym for requisite is “indispensable.”

Example: “The two candidates were both very skilled, but only one had the requisite qualifications for the position.”

Once you've mastered the requisite vocabulary and know which words are pertinent to any topic, you'll be adroit at using them. "**Adroit**" means "skillful" or "adept." Someone who is adroit makes the best possible choices in any given situation.

Example: "His adroit use of humor kept the debaters calm, even though the topic was very controversial."

It does take time and effort to learn these words and their proper usage, but with assiduous study, you'll soon master them. The word "**assiduous**" means "with care and persistent effort." The best students are usually the ones who are assiduous in their study habits.

Example: "She is devoted to her mother and is assiduous in caring for her and her three cats."

You don't have to spend all of your time studying, though; a judicious amount of relaxation in your day is healthy. "**Judicious**" means "with good judgment" or "using common sense." A judicious balance of work and play is good for you.

Example: "The chef used a judicious blend of sweet and hot spices to season the grilled fish."

Tests for Reinforcing What you have Learnt

A. Words For Undesirable Personal And Business Practices

Test Sentences:

Managers might be surprised at what's being said in the lunch rooms at their companies. Your co-workers might be surprised when you start using these Ultimate Vocabulary words – though perhaps you shouldn't use these words *about* them. Practice with these five sentences, and fill in the correct word for each.

1. The president's decisions were harming the economy, but because he only listened to the _____ in his cabinet, he ignored the evidence from the economists.

2. The contractor made most of his profit by cheating his customers, and was _____ for using low-grade lumber for the floorboards and beams in his houses.
3. The _____ ballet dancers find it hard to remember to keep their heads up and their arms in a graceful arc at all times, even during rehearsals.
4. The pond is still frozen, but the ice is so thin that even the _____ weight of a landing bird will break it.
5. My brother doesn't even bathe regularly, but he's so _____ he's convinced that every woman he sees would love to date him.

Answers:

1. The president's decisions were harming the economy, but because he only listened to the **sycophants** in his cabinet, he ignored the evidence from the economists.

   *The economists were trying to tell the president that he was making bad choices, but he only listened to the people who were telling him that everything he was doing was correct. A **sycophant** is a person who flatters people in power, hoping to get favors from them in return.*

2. The contractor made most of his profit by cheating his customers, and was **infamous** for using low-grade lumber for the floorboards and beams in his houses.

   *Replacing high-quality materials for low-grade lumber and plywood will give a contractor a bad reputation. Someone who is **infamous** has a reputation for doing bad things; they are notorious.*

3. The **neophyte** ballet dancers find it hard to remember to keep their heads up and their arms in a graceful arc at all times, even during rehearsals.

   *The dancers are new to the rules of formal ballet. They are **neophytes**. "Neophyte" means a beginner, someone who is "newly planted" in a position, a role, or a situation.*

4. The pond is still frozen, but the ice is so thin that even the **negligible** weight of a landing bird will break it.

*Small birds with their hollow bones are very light; their weight is **negligible**. "Negligible" means "small and insignificant."*

5. My brother doesn't even bathe regularly, but he's so **fatuous** he's convinced that every woman he sees would love to date him.

   *A person who has faults but is completely unaware of them, believing themselves to be better than everyone else, is a **fatuous** person. A fatuous person is foolish and silly because they don't see in themselves what everyone else sees.*

Even if you're a **neophyte** to the Ultimate Vocabulary system, once you start practicing these words daily the amount of time it takes to learn their correct usage will be **negligible** compared to the time you might spend using a regular dictionary or other resource. Take the time now to check off these five words that you've just learned:

- sycophant
- neophyte
- fatuous
- negligible
- infamous

B. Words For Higher Powers

Whether you're talking about art or religion, culture or careers, you'll find these words useful in many conversations. Practice using these words by picking the correct one to go in one of each of the following five sentences.

Test Sentences:

1. I enjoy going out to eat with my brother; his tastes are so _____ we can go to any ethnic restaurant, and he'll willingly try whatever's on the menu.
2. The sounds of pipes and drums heard faintly in the distance were a _____ of the Scots Pride festival parade that would soon pass in front of the house.
3. Chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla make up the _____ of flavors in Neapolitan ice cream.

4. Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park has long been a traditional place for activists, missionaries, and would-be politicians to _____ in hopes of getting followers.
5. Because the migratory routes of the snow geese go through several national parks, they come under the _____ of the Wildlife Department, and hunting them is severely restricted.

Answers:

1. I enjoy going out to eat with my brother; his tastes are so **catholic** we can go to any ethnic restaurant, and he'll willingly try whatever's on the menu.

   My brother will try any food at least once, and he enjoys many different spices and dishes. His taste in food is catholic, meaning that it's wide-ranging, comprehensive, and broad in scope.

2. The sounds of pipes and drums heard faintly in the distance were a **harbinger** of the Scots Pride festival parade that would soon pass in front of the house.

   A harbinger is a sign of things to come. If you can hear the sounds of a parade, the parade will soon be in view - if you're waiting on the parade route, that is.

3. Chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla make up the **trinity** of flavors in Neapolitan ice cream.

   Since the mid-nineteenth century, these three flavors have been put together to make Neapolitan ice cream, and if you take one of them away, it's no longer Neapolitan. A set of three things that are always seen together is a "trinity."

4. Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park has long been a traditional place for activists, missionaries, and would-be politicians to **proselytize** in hopes of getting followers.

   The speakers talk as persuasively as they can to convince people to change their opinion and agree with the speaker's point of view. A person who is working hard to convert someone else to their way of thinking or believing is proselytizing.

5. Because the migratory routes of the snow geese go through several national parks, they come under the **aegis** of the Wildlife Department, and hunting them is severely restricted.

   The birds are protected by the Wildlife Department from being hunted in the national parks. An "aegis" is a protection or a shield.

We hope you find the words in this section to be a **harbinger** of better vocabulary in the future. We know that you'll soon discover for yourself that you're able to use these powerful vocabulary words in your everyday conversations:

- catholic
- trinity
- aegis
- harbinger
- proselytize

C. Words About Words

When Polonious asks Hamlet what he's reading, Hamlet answers "Words, words, words." Let's stop talking about words, and start using them. See if you can put the appropriate word into each of the following sentences.

Test Sentences:

1. The minister's _____ was so compelling it convinced me to go back to seminary and study religious history.
2. Living in Spain with a French father and a Swedish mother, that child was a _____ by the time he was six years old.
3. The old fisherman was famous for his _____ answers to the tourists who tried to engage him in conversation.
4. The idea of "think twice, speak once" appears in the _____ repeated over the generations in many countries around the world.
5. She's so _____ that she's been asked to leave concert halls during performances, after the people seated around her complained to the management.

Answers:

1. The minister's **rhetoric** was so compelling it convinced me to go back to seminary and study religious history.

   Powerful speech that persuades you to a new or different way of thinking and believing is called "rhetoric."

2. Living in Spain with a French father and a Swedish mother, that child was a **polyglot** by the time he was six years old.

   Children learn languages easily, and a child who attends school in Spanish and speaks French and Swedish with his parents will quickly know all three languages fluently. A "polyglot" is someone who is fluent in several languages.

3. The old fisherman was famous for his **laconic** answers to the tourists who tried to engage him in conversation.

   The tourists tried to have a conversation with the fisherman, but he gave them short answers to their questions, and didn't volunteer any information. Someone who uses the minimum number of words is "laconic" – though to others, they might also appear somewhat rude.

4. The idea of "think twice, speak once" appears in the **saws** repeated over the generations in many countries around the world.

   In Turkey, they say "Having two ears and one tongue, we should listen twice as much as we speak." A Middle Eastern saying is "Listen a hundred times; speak once." These sayings are saws; well-known proverbs that have a message that stays true over the years.

5. She's so **loquacious** that she's been asked to leave concert halls during performances, after the people seated around her complained to the management.

   This person just can't stop talking, even when there are performers on the stage playing beautiful music. That's the meaning of "loquacious" – talkative, chatty, a non-stop conversationalist.

Mark Twain said “The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.” Bring some power to your next conversation with one of the five words you’ve just learned:

- rhetoric
- loquacious
- saw
- polyglot
- laconic

D. Words About Things That Are Difficult To Define

To help you use these Ultimate Vocabulary words effectively in your future, here are five practice sentences with one of the target words left out in each. Fill in the correct word in each sentence.

Test Sentences:

1. That politician’s platform is so _____ that I’m not sure what legislation he does or doesn’t support.
2. When you vote for a politician, you’re giving _____ approval for the way they represent your interests.
3. He’ll never get elected; he’s got great ideas but he’s so _____ about presenting them that his opponents all seem more capable than he is.
4. Many autobiographies of famous movie stars were actually written by other people, even though the stars are the _____ authors of the books.
5. She did years of research to prove her _____ that the dissolved minerals in seawater can be linked to algae blooms around the world.

Answers:

1. That politician’s platform is so **nebulous** that I’m not sure what legislation he does or doesn’t support.

It was impossible to tell where the politician stood on important matters because his speeches were so vague and hard to pin down. "Nebulous" means vague, hazy, not well defined.

2. When you vote for a politician, you're giving **implicit** approval for the way they represent your interests.

   Even if you only have a nebulous idea of what sort of policies a person in government supports, your vote for that person implies that you also support those policies. "Implicit" means something that is implied indirectly. In this example, you're not necessarily saying out loud that you agree with certain policies, but your vote speaks for you, by allowing the government to continue them.

3. He'll never get elected; he's got great ideas but he's so **diffident** about presenting them that his opponents all seem more capable than he is.

   Someone who is diffident is shy and unwilling to speak up, so it's easy for other people with louder voices and stronger presentations to completely overwhelm them. "Diffident" means "lacking self-confidence" and refers to a timid person, or one who is overly modest.

4. Many autobiographies of famous movie stars were actually written by other people, even though the stars are the **putative** authors of the books

   WIth so many books being written by ghostwriters, it's hard to tell sometimes if the name of the author on the cover is really the name of the person who wrote it. But if a movie star claims to have written their own book, we'll accept what they say, even though we might not believe it. "Putative" means commonly accepted as true, but without real reason.

5. Although she proposed the idea at a scientific conference a decade ago, she did years of research to prove her **hypothesis** that the dissolved minerals in seawater can be linked to algae blooms around the world.

   At first, she had no proof that minerals in seawater caused algae bloom, but she thought it was possible, and presented it as a hypothesis as a topic for discussion at the conference. A hypothesis is something that is accepted as true, in order to make more exploration and discussion possible.

Our **hypothesis** is that the more you practice these Ultimate Vocabulary words, the more comfortable you'll be in using them. You might think the meanings of some of the words are **nebulous** and hard to define, but don't be **diffident** about using them in conversation right away. Your powerful new words are:

- diffident
- nebulous
- implicit
- putative
- hypothesis

E. Words That Show Their Origins

Here's some food for thought: the more you practice these words, the easier it will be to use them in conversations. Fill in the blanks in these five sentences with the correct word.

Test Sentences:

1. The spread of on-line communication and increased global access to the internet has given rise to many _____ like "emoticon."
2. That man must be very _____; he's there every day the library is open, reading books on a wide range of topics.
3. The food advisory board called for an _____ panel to study the effect of the newest artificial sweeteners before they are released for public use.
4. When books are written as a series, it's important to read them in the right order to keep the _____ straight.
5. Because the rules were unclear on that point, rather than merely interpreting the legal code, the judges became _____ lawmakers when reaching a decision.

Answers:

1. The spread of on-line communication and increased global access to the internet has given rise to many **neologisms** like "emoticon."

   A new way of communicating leads to new words to describe it. "Emoticon" is a new word, a "neologism," that stands for "emotional icon."

2. That man must be very **erudite**; he's there every day the library is open, reading books on a wide range of topics.

   Someone who has read a great many books and learned from them is "erudite".

3. The food advisory board called for an **ad hoc** panel to study the effect of the newest artificial sweeteners before they are released for public use.

   When a new product is proposed for sale, it's often tested for safety by a panel that is put together for that specific purpose. "Ad hoc" means "for that purpose".

4. When books are written as a series, it's important to read them in the right order to keep the **chronology** straight.

   If you read the third book in a series before you read the first book, you might not understand the plot, if it refers back to things that happened in the first two books. Most books describe a sequence of events, or a "chronology." Another word for chronology is "timeline."

5. Because the rules were unclear on that point, rather than merely interpreting the legal code, the judges became **de facto** lawmakers when reaching a decision.

   A judge is not supposed to create laws, but uphold them. However, in this situation, the law itself was unclear, and the judges had to decide on the meaning of the rule by themselves, and therefore created a new law by doing so. In reality, the judges became lawmakers. "De facto" means "in reality" or "in practice."

Whether the words are old or new, you'll benefit by knowing how to use them in conversation. You'll sound quite **erudite** as you use these five Ultimate Vocabulary words:

- chronology
- ad hoc
- neologism
- de facto
- erudite

F. Words Necessary For Developing Your Vocabulary

We've given you a lot to chew on with this set of words. And we've cooked up this set of five sentences for you to practice using each of these powerful vocabulary words. See if you can put each word in its proper place.

Test Sentences:

1. The house painters cleaned the elaborate molding around the windows with _____ care before starting to paint.
2. We can't contact these people who applied for the job, because they haven't followed the instructions to include the _____ references and telephone numbers in their applications.
3. The artist was known for her _____ use of color in her paintings.
4. He made a _____ choice of team members when he created his committee, trying to pick one person from each department to keep a balance between management and production.
5. That's an interesting observation, but it's not really _____ to the discussion; can we keep on topic, please?

Answers:

1. The house painters cleaned the elaborate molding around the windows with **assiduous** care before starting to paint.

   The plaster molding around the windows was easily damaged, so the painters were very careful when they were cleaning it. "Assiduous" means "with care and persistent effort."

2. We can't contact these people who applied for the job, because they haven't followed the instructions to include the **requisite** references and telephone numbers in their applications.

   The instructions said to list references and telephone numbers, and the applicants did not do what was necessary. "Requisite" means essential, necessary, or indispensable.

3. The artist was known for her **adroit** use of color in her paintings.

   This artist is a very skillful painter. "Adroit" means skillful or adept, making the best possible choice. You could also have chosen the word "judicious" in this case, if what you meant to say was that the artist only used as much color as was necessary to achieve the effect she wanted.

4. He made a **judicious** choice of team members when he created his committee, trying to pick one person from each department to keep a balance between management and production.

   He used good judgment and common sense when making his committee selections, therefore he was "judicious" in his selections. However, you could also have used the word "adroit" here, if you wanted to imply that he was very skilled in making his selection of team members.

5. That's an interesting observation, but it's not really **pertinent** to the discussion; can we keep on topic, please?

   If you're in the middle of a conversation, and someone says something that has no relevance to what you've been talking about, what they said was not pertinent to the conversation. "Pertinent" means relevant or logically connected.

With **assiduous** study, you'll soon have the **requisite** knowledge of these Ultimate Vocabulary words and will be **adroit** at including them at **pertinent** places in your conversations with other people. The five words you've learned in this section are:

- judicious
- adroit
- pertinent
- requisite
- assiduous