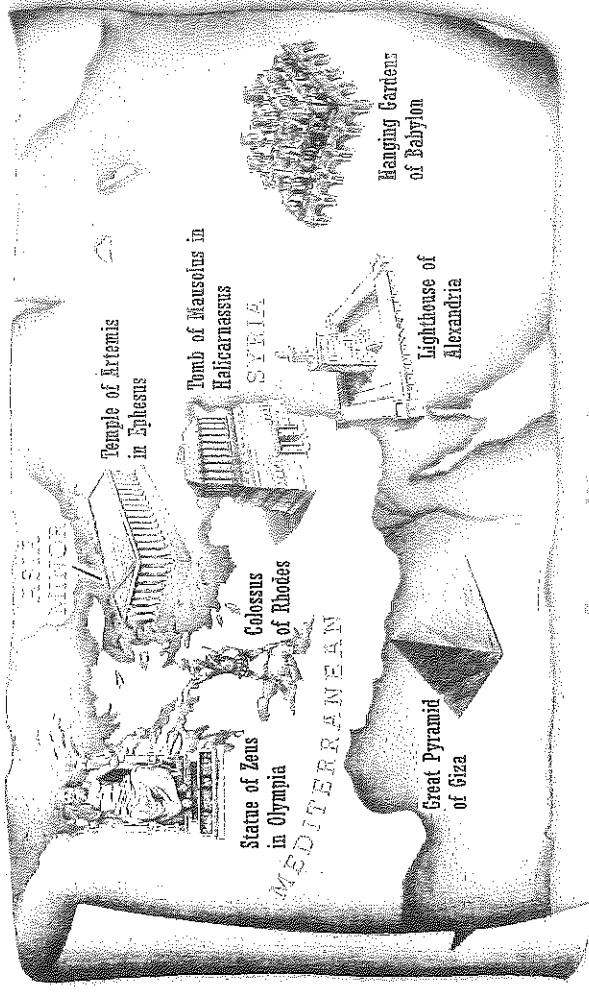


# UNIT 14

Read the following selection, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 14. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.



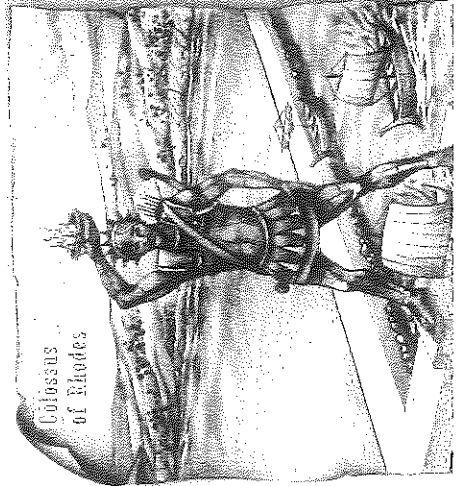
## Seven Wonders

—Megasthenes, *Indica*

The conquests of Alexander the Great broadened the horizons of the ancient Greek world. Many territories **annexed** by Alexander were home to civilizations with longer **pedigrees** than the Greeks'; such as Babylon and Egypt. Each of these civilizations had its own culture, its own style of architecture, art, music, and cuisine. Each had its own traditions and history. Commerce and curiosity **incited** interest in travel. A steady **influx** of travelers was drawn to major cities and famous landmarks. Moved by the **profuse** interest in travel, Greek authors compiled lists of spectacular sites. **Cleaving** to custom, these ancient travel writers normally included seven locations in their lists. In ancient times, the sites listed varied from one author to another. But today the landmarks mentioned in these ancient travel guides are remembered as the Seven Wonders of the World.

### Statues of the Gods

The Statue of Zeus soared more than 40 feet high. Built in 432 BCE, it sat in a temple in Olympia, on mainland Greece. Across the Aegean, on the island of Rhodes, a bronze statue of the sun god



Colossus of Rhodes

Helios guarded the harbor from atop a massive stone pillar, which served as its cornerstone. The giant statue of Helios was known as the Colossus of Rhodes.

### Temple and Tomb

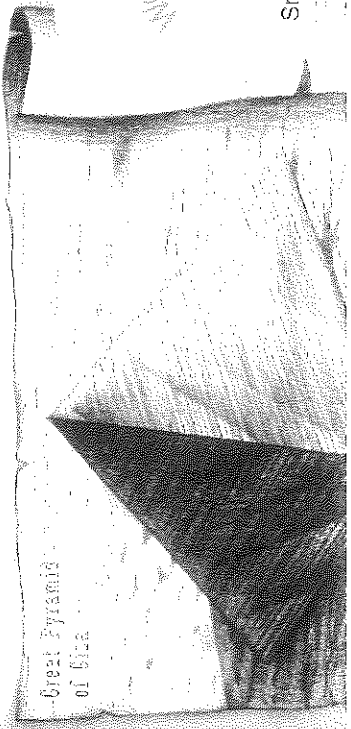
The Temple of Artemis was located in the town of Ephesus on the Anatolian coast, which is in modern-day Turkey. The temple was destroyed and rebuilt twice before the debacle of its final destruction at the hands of a rioting mob in 401 CE.

Also on the Anatolian coast was the Tomb of Mausolus, which stood nearly 150 feet high. A provincial governor of the Persian Empire, Mausolus had his capital in Halicarnassus. When he died in 353 BCE, his wife could hardly **reconcile** herself to his death. As a tribute to her husband, she had the great tomb built.

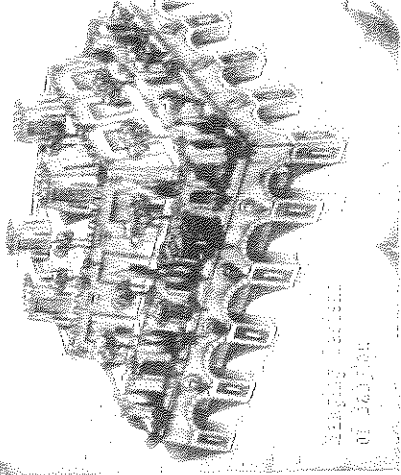
### The Lighthouse and the Pyramid

For centuries, the Lighthouse of Alexandria guided Mediterranean navigators into the busy Egyptian port. An engineering marvel that rose to a height of 400 feet above the water, it could be seen 29 miles away by approaching sailors.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest of the Seven Wonders and the only one that remains standing today. Its endurance is recalled in the old Arabic saying, "Man fears time, but time fears the Pyramids." The builders **improvised** the pyramid's bricks from the local limestone. Its **precipitous** stone walls extended nearly 500 feet in height and reflected the golden **pallor** of the desert sun. Contrary to many accounts, the laborers who built the pyramid were



Great Pyramid of Giza

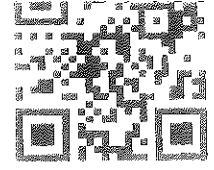


not slaves in shackles and threadbare clothing, but rather teams of villagers who took pride in their work.

### A Garden for a Homesick Queen

The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar was extremely active during his long reign. He spent much of his time embroiled in wars and engaged in massive building projects. He is credited with constructing the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. According to legend, the king's wife, Amytis of Media, deeply missed her homeland. Media was a land rich in forests and greenery, and Amytis felt **devaliated** in the plains of Babylon. To enliven Amytis's mood, the king ordered the construction of the Hanging Gardens, a lush expanse of trees and plants.

Though nobody can be sure the king's **cordial** gesture had its desired effect, the gardens, like the other wonders, were a marvel of ancient ingenuity, and they attracted sightseers from across the known world.



Snap the code, or go to

## Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

- 1. annex**  
(v. ə nek's;  
n. an' eks)

(v.) to add to, attach; to incorporate; (n.) an attachment or addition

The two nations protested when their militant neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ the disputed territory.

All back issues of magazines are kept next door on the second floor of the new library \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (v.) join, acquire, procure
- 2. cleave**  
(klev)

(v.) to cut or split open; to cling to

It is possible to \_\_\_\_\_ a ripe coconut neatly in two with just one swing of a machete.

SYNONYMS: sever, halve, adhere, clasp
- 3. cordial**  
(kôr' jəl)

(adj.) in a friendly manner; hearty; cheery; (n.) a liqueur

Our aunt's \_\_\_\_\_ welcome made us all feel right at home in her huge, drafty Victorian house.

Grasshopper pie is made not with grasshoppers but with crème de menthe, a \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) hospitable, affable, warm, convivial

ANTONYMS: (adj.) gruff, unfriendly, unsociable
- 4. cornerstone**  
(kôr' ner stôn)

(n.) the starting point of a building; a fundamental principle or element

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the American judicial system is the presumption of innocence.

SYNONYMS: base, underpinning, support
- 5. debacle**  
(di bāk' əl)

(n.) an overwhelming defeat, rout; a complete collapse or failure

After the \_\_\_\_\_ of their crushing loss in the World Series, the team vowed to return next year.

SYNONYMS: disaster, calamity

ANTONYMS: success, victory, coup
- 6. demoralize**  
(dē vī' ə līz)

(v.) to make weak or lifeless

The long, dark winter, with its cold rain and gloomy skies, \_\_\_\_\_ her usually buoyant spirit.

SYNONYMS: sap, enervate

ANTONYMS: enliven, stimulate, excite

## 7. embroil

(em brōil')

(v.) to involve in a conflict or difficulty; to throw into confusion

The last thing I want is to \_\_\_\_\_ myself a dispute between two of my best friends.

SYNONYMS: entangle, ensnarl

ANTONYMS: disentangle, separate, disconnect

## 8. exonerate

(eg zăn' ə rāt)

(v.) to clear from a charge or accusation

The prisoner was set free after ten years, thanks to new evidence that \_\_\_\_\_ him of all charges

SYNONYMS: absolve, acquit, vindicate

ANTONYMS: incriminate, inculpate

## 9. glib

(glīb)

(adj.) ready and fluent in speech; thoughtless, insincere

The salesman had such \_\_\_\_\_ answers every objection that I grew extremely skeptical of his claim

SYNONYMS: superficial, pat, oily, unctuous

ANTONYMS: halting, tongue-tied, speechless

## 10. haphazard

(hap haz' ərd)

(adj.) by chance, not planned; lacking order

The \_\_\_\_\_ arrangement of facts in his presentation left his listeners completely confused.

SYNONYMS: random, slapdash

ANTONYMS: deliberate, purposeful, orderly

## 11. improvise

(im' prə vīz)

(v.) to compose or perform without preparation; to construct from available materials

After the earthquake, stunned villagers were forced to \_\_\_\_\_ shelters from the debris.

SYNONYMS: ad-lib, play it by ear, wing it, extemporize

ANTONYMS: plan, rehearse

## 12. incite

(in sīt')

(v.) to rouse, stir up, urge on

Company agents were hired to \_\_\_\_\_ a riot at the steelworkers' protest demonstration.

SYNONYMS: spur, kindle, provoke, instigate, prompt

ANTONYMS: check, curb, impede, restrain, smother

## 13. influx

(in' flēks)

(n.) a coming in, inflow

An \_\_\_\_\_ of arctic air has brought unseasonably cold weather to half the country.

SYNONYMS: inpouring, inrush

ANTONYMS: outpouring, exodus, departure

14. **pallor**  
(pal' ə r)

(*n.*) an extreme or unnatural paleness  
"A ghost!" the girl gasped, her \_\_\_\_\_ making her look much like a ghost herself as she ran away.  
SYNONYMS: wanness, lividness, bloodlessness  
ANTONYMS: flush, blush, rosiness, bloom

15. **pedigree**  
(ped' ə grē)

(*n.*) a list of ancestors, family tree; the history or origins of something  
Despite his impressive \_\_\_\_\_, the colt showed little enthusiasm for racing.  
SYNONYMS: lineage, ancestry, genealogy  
(*adj.*) very steep

16. **precipitous**  
(pri sip' ə təs)

The novice hikers were very nervous as they carefully negotiated the \_\_\_\_\_ mountain trail.  
SYNONYMS: abrupt, sharp  
ANTONYMS: shallow, graded, incremental

17. **profuse**  
(prō fyūs')

(*adj.*) very abundant; given or flowing freely  
How can I stay upset with him when he is so sincere and \_\_\_\_\_ with his apologies?  
SYNONYMS: extravagant, lavish, bounteous, plentiful  
ANTONYMS: sparse, scanty, meager, insufficient

18. **reconcile**  
(rek' ə sil)

(*v.*) to restore to friendship; to settle; to resign (oneself)  
After so many years of feuding, it will be difficult for the brothers to \_\_\_\_\_ and begin anew.  
SYNONYMS: conciliate, mend fences  
ANTONYMS: antagonize, alienate, drive a wedge between

19. **shackle**  
(shak' ə l)

(*v.*) to put into chains; (*n.*, usually *pl.*) a chain, fetter  
The guards attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the prisoner before allowing him to board the waiting airplane.  
His wicked plot discovered, the prince was bound in \_\_\_\_\_ and taken to the dank dungeon.  
SYNONYMS: (*v.*) manacle, enslave; (*n.*) handcuffs, bonds, irons  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) free, unfetter, emancipate, liberate

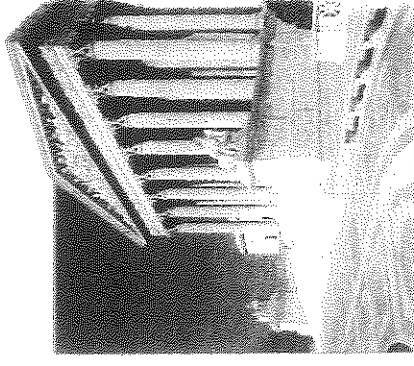
20. **threadbare**  
(thred' bār)

(*adj.*) shabby, old and worn  
My brother has carefully collected a closeful of faded, \_\_\_\_\_ jeans, sweatshirts, and sneakers.  
SYNONYMS: frayed, seedy, ragged, shopworn  
ANTONYMS: luxurious, costly, sumptuous

## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the selection on pages 174-175 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- Separation of powers is one of the (cornerstones, shackles) upon which the American form of government is built.
- We learned from the film that Spartacus was a Roman gladiator who (reconciled, incited) his fellow slaves to armed rebellion.
- The President said in his inaugural address that he firmly believes that we must not (embroid, devitalize) ourselves in the quarrels of other nations.
- The couple thanked me so (profusely, haphazardly) for the small favor I had done them that I was almost embarrassed.
- My campaign for the class presidency ended in an utter (influx, debacle) when I forgot my speech as I was about to address the assembly.
- Some people think that, because she wears mismatched clothing, her approach to dressing herself is (glib, haphazard), but I think she plans her outfits very carefully.
- Although I had never even met her, the emails she wrote to me were so (cordial, threadbare) that I felt we were old friends.
- The (pedigree, debacle) of that dog cannot be in question; the breeder has extensive documentation to prove that he is from a line of award-winning collies.
- After he was brought in by the police, he remained (shackled, embroidered) to a chair for about half an hour.
- What we need is not talkers with (glib, cordial) solutions for all our problems, but doers who are prepared to pitch in and help.
- How can he (cleave, reconcile) his claim that he is a "good citizen" with the fact that he doesn't even bother to vote?
- The famous actor applied a layer of ashen makeup to simulate the ghastly (pallor, pedigree) of a ghost.
- Let's (improvise, reconcile) a shelter from these fallen branches before it gets too dark to see in these woods.
- We are tired of listening to those (cordial, threadbare) old excuses for your failure to keep your promises.
- The story of his unhappy childhood aroused our sympathy but did not (exonerate, improvise) him from the charge of criminal assault.



The U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

The disaster was so great that the overcrowded hospital was forced to house some patients in a makeshift (annex, debacle).

With such a (precipitous, haphazard) way of keeping accounts, is it any wonder that your budget is a disaster?

True, he comes from an aristocratic family, but he won that promotion on the basis of merit, not because of his (pedigree, cornstone).

Runaway inflation can cause a (glib, precipitous) decline in the value of a nation's currency.

Modern processing methods (devitalize, annex) many foodstuffs sold today, resulting in a loss of both taste and nutritional value.

In spite of all the progress made in recent years, we are still not entirely free from the (shackles, debacles) of prejudice and superstition.

To seaside resorts, the annual (influx, pallor) of tourists marks the true beginning of the summer season.

In a time of unrest and bewildering change, it is more important than ever to (incite, cleave) to the basic principles that give meaning to our lives.

He is the kind of speaker who is more effective when he (improvises, exonerates) his remarks than when he reads from a prepared script.

The glade was resplendent with (profuse, glib) flowers.

Choose the word from this unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. The team became **enfeebled** due to the hot sun \_\_\_\_\_
2. a **sheer** drop of 300 feet into the old quarry \_\_\_\_\_
3. an **invasion** of deer stripping the foliage \_\_\_\_\_
4. **exculpated** by last-minute eyewitness testimony \_\_\_\_\_
5. able to **sunder** a knight's shield with one blow \_\_\_\_\_
6. pleasing design resulting from **accidental** paint drippings \_\_\_\_\_
7. conversation that revealed a **facile** wit \_\_\_\_\_
8. an **unpracticed** comic skit \_\_\_\_\_
9. bored by the driver's **trite** jokes \_\_\_\_\_
10. the embarrassing **fiasco** of her mother's party \_\_\_\_\_

### Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. a prisoner implicated by the evidence \_\_\_\_\_
2. an awkward explanation for his tardiness \_\_\_\_\_
3. the meticulous arrangement of her collection \_\_\_\_\_
4. the prepared statement of the representative \_\_\_\_\_
5. removed the plush winter coat from storage \_\_\_\_\_

### Completing the Sentence

From the words in this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. With one flashing stroke of his mighty axe, the skilled woodsman was able to \_\_\_\_\_ the heavy branch from the tree trunk.
2. Our dress rehearsal was a disaster: Actors blew their lines, and doors on the set got stuck shut; it was a complete \_\_\_\_\_!
3. We certainly did not expect to receive such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ greeting from someone who had been described to us as cold and unsociable.
4. The heavy rains of June brought a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of mosquitoes into the neighborhoods bordering the marshland.
5. Her deathly \_\_\_\_\_ and distraught expression told us she had already received the tragic news.
6. In the unintended garden the weeds were so \_\_\_\_\_ that they all but smothered the few flowers that managed to blossom.
7. With the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, Jefferson \_\_\_\_\_ a vast territory that doubled the size of the nation.
8. Millions of immigrants willingly came to America from all over the world, but many Africans arrived here in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. As we grow older and perhaps wiser, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to the fact that we will never achieve all that we had hoped for in life.
10. Rebels would find it difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ people who are reasonably well satisfied with their government to rise up against it.

## Vocabulary in Context

The following excerpts are from Stephen Crane's novel *The Red Badge of Courage*, his story "The Blue Hotel," and his novella *The Monster*. Some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in *boldface type*. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. "Who yeh talkin' to, Wilson?" he demanded. His voice was anger-toned. "Who yer talkin' to? Yeh th' derndest sentinel—why—hello, Henry, you here? Why, I thought you was dead four hours ago!... Where was yeh?"  
"Over on th' right. I got separated"—began the youth with considerable **glibness**. (*The Red Badge of Courage*)

To express something with **glibness** is to say it

- a. with great weariness
- b. in a shy, hesitant way
- c. in a loud, frightened voice
- d. with smoothness and conviction

2. Sometimes he would achieve a position half erect, battle with the air for a moment and then fall again, grabbing at the grass. His face was of a clammy **pallor**. (*The Red Badge of Courage*)  
A face that has a **pallor** is

- a. covered with sweat
- b. frozen in fear
- c. drained of blood
- d. yellowish and dry

3. He had no rifle; he could not fight with his hands.... Well, rifles could be had for the picking. They were extraordinarily **profuse**. (*The Red Badge of Courage*)  
Something **profuse** is NOT

- a. widespread
- b. scarce
- c. common
- d. everywhere

4. Each time that he held superior cards he whanged them, one by one, with exceeding force, down upon the **improvised** table.... ("The Blue Hotel")  
Something that has been **improvised** has been

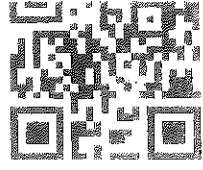
- a. made by a blacksmith
- b. reinforced with strong materials
- c. worn away from overuse
- d. put together from what is available

5. Trescott looked gravely at the other boys, and asked them to please go home. They proceeded to the street much in the manner of frustrated and revealed assassins. The crime of trespass on another boy's place was still a crime when they had only accepted the other boy's **cordial** invitation.... (*The Monster*)  
A **cordial** invitation is

- a. amiable
- b. saccharine
- c. angry
- d. commanding



Audie Murphy stars as The Youth in the 1951 film *The Red Badge of Courage*.



Snap the code, or go to [www.nhantriviet.com](http://www.nhantriviet.com)

11. His books are scattered around in such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ manner that it is a mystery to me how he can find the ones he wants.
12. I saw nothing but peril in the prospect of trying to scale a cliff so sheer and \_\_\_\_\_ that even expert climbers shied away from it.

13. He is certainly a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ talker, but does he have a firm grasp of the subject he is discussing?

14. Three customers fought noisily over the last sale-priced sweater until they finally \_\_\_\_\_ the store manager in their dispute.

15. My dog Rover may look like a mutt at first glance, but in fact he has a distinguished \_\_\_\_\_.

16. The illness so \_\_\_\_\_ her that it was several weeks before she could return to her job.

17. By proving that his eighteenth birthday came one day before the election, the student was \_\_\_\_\_ of the charge of unlawful voting.

18. The Roman numeral MCMXCVI is inscribed on the commemorative plaque that adorns the \_\_\_\_\_ of the building.

19. His old-fashioned clothes were patched and \_\_\_\_\_, but we could see that he had made every effort to keep them spotlessly clean.

20. The entertainer cleverly \_\_\_\_\_ limericks and other comic rhymes on subjects suggested by the audience.

## Writing Words in Action

1. Look back at "Seven Wonders" (pages 174–175). Imagine that remnants of all seven wonders, not just the Great Pyramid of Giza, still exist as tourist destinations. Choose the wonder you think is most interesting or impressive, and write a brief article about it for a travel magazine or Web site. Describe what the wonder looks like today and why people should travel to see it. Use at least two details from the passage and three unit words to support your claim.
2. The Seven Wonders were human creations of the ancient world. What are some wonders—either natural or human-made—that exist in the world today? Choose one amazing place, construction, or invention that you think should be considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Write a persuasive essay explaining and supporting your choice. Support your ideas with specific examples of your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 174–175), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this unit.