

Read the following selection, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 15. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

## Jesse Owens: 1913-1980

< Objective >

April 1, 1980  
by Mindy K. Valentine

Olympic hero Jesse Owens died yesterday in Tucson, Arizona. The cause was cancer.

Jesse Owens's story and his **legion** of achievements is compelling. The African-American track-and-field luminary captured four gold medals and set three records at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, and his astounding achievements shattered the Nazi ideology of a so-called master race.

James Cleveland Owens was born in the segregated South, in Oakville, Alabama, in 1913. His grandparents had been enslaved, and his parents were sharecroppers who struggled to feed their children. Hoping to improve its prospects, the family resettled in Cleveland, Ohio, when J.C. was nine years old. At this time "J.C." became "Jesse"—a teacher misunderstood his attendance Southern drawl when taking attendance, and the nickname stuck.

A coach in junior high recognized young Jesse's **dormant** talents and launched his track-and-field career. As a teenager, Jesse set or tied national high school records, and as a student at Ohio State University, the "Buckeye Bullet" was invincible, breaking and setting world records.

In 1936, Jesse Owens and his teammates journeyed to Berlin, Germany, to compete against the world in the Summer Olympics. Adolf Hitler was using the Games to showcase Nazi propaganda and advance his theories of racial superiority. His intentions were clear, but despite the official line, some Germans embraced Owens. One in particular, fellow Olympian Luz Long, demonstrated that not all Germans were knaves and villains. Owens had stepped over the start line, a fault, while trying to qualify for the finals in the long jump. This mistake actuated Long's helpful intervention. Following Long's advice, Owens placed a towel in front of the start line and jumped from there, keeping a safe distance from the line, and averting another fault and disqualification. Later, Long died a combatant in the German army during World War II.

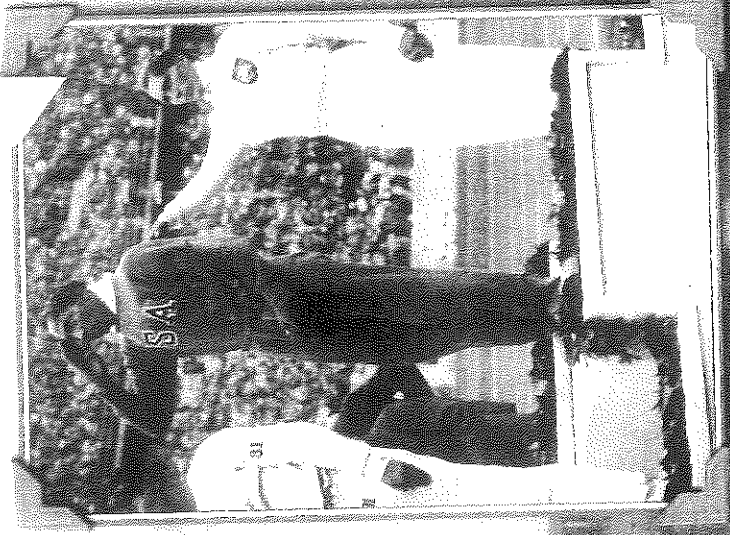


Jesse Owens won four gold medals and the admiration of the world.

Legend has it that Hitler openly spurned Owens at the medal ceremony, but according to some historians, this part of the story is dubious. Owens denied that Hitler's boorish behavior was directed solely at him, as other African-American athletes were also present, and six of the 10 black athletes won individual gold. But news accounts said Owens bore the brunt of the snub, and the legend endured. Despite the achievements of Owens and his teammates, Hitler was impenitent; his belief in Aryan supremacy never wavered. Newsreels show him haranguing huge crowds about German superiority.

Owens returned home in triumph to great acclaim and a ticker-tape parade in his honor, but reality threatened to negate his achievements. In the United States, he was still a second-class citizen whom many wanted to bring down or abase.

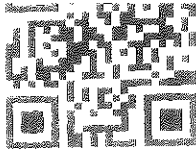
Jesse Owens and Luz Long at the Berlin Olympics.



Only after a protracted delay of several decades did he get his due. Despite setbacks, Owens was known for his generosity and liberality, and also for his generosity and support of young people. He started a successful national program to involve young people in track and field that enhanced his own stellar reputation.

Belatedly, Jesse Owens's own country officially recognized the significance of his achievements. He was named a Presidential Goodwill Ambassador, and he received the Medal of Freedom and the Living Legend Award.

Owens is survived by his wife, Ruth, and his three daughters. His body will lie in state at the Capitol Rotunda tomorrow before his burial in Cleveland, Ohio. Further details are available.



Snap the code, or go to



Jesse Owens traveled the country for public speaking engagements.

## 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. abase (ə bāz')

(v.) to lower in esteem, degrade; to humble

My friend refused to \_\_\_\_\_ herself by admitting to something she had not done.

SYNONYMS: lower, humiliate, prostrate, demean  
ANTONYMS: elevate, ennoble, exalt

### 2. actuate (ak' chū āt)

(v.) to move to action; to impel

A third bad accident at the notorious intersection finally \_\_\_\_\_ an angry community protest.

SYNONYMS: incite, instigate

### 3. avert (ə vɜrt')

(v.) to turn aside, turn away; to prevent, avoid

Rigorous training of the new lifeguards will quite probably \_\_\_\_\_ several tragedies each summer.

SYNONYMS: stop, deflect, ward off  
ANTONYMS: invite, induce, provoke

### 4. boorish (būr' ish)

(adj.) rude, unrefined; clumsy

Her musical genius was rivaled only by her legendary \_\_\_\_\_ behavior in public.

SYNONYMS: vulgar, crude, uncouth, ill-mannered, gauche  
ANTONYMS: suave, urbane, polished, courtly, well-bred

### 5. brunt (brant)

(n.) the main impact, force, or burden

Fortunately, a sparsely populated area bore the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hurricane.

SYNONYMS: blow, shock

ANTONYMS: aftershock, aftermath, repercussion

### 6. combatant (kəm bat' ant)

(n.) a fighter; (adj.) engaged in fighting

Several times the referee had to step in and separate the two \_\_\_\_\_ after the bell rang.

The \_\_\_\_\_ forces from France and England met on the fields near Agincourt.

SYNONYMS: (n.) soldier, disputant, warrior; (adj.) hostile, battling  
ANTONYMS: (n.) civilian; (adj.) peaceful, neutral

### 7. dormant (dɔr' mənt)

(adj.) inactive; in a state of suspension; sleeping  
The warm spring sun stirred the \_\_\_\_\_ daffodil bulbs we planted in the park last fall.

SYNONYMS: resting, still, quiescent  
ANTONYMS: awake, active, lively, productive

### 8. dubious (dū' bē əs)

(adj.) causing uncertainty or suspicion; in a doubtful or uncertain state of mind, hesitant

Experts have said that the manuscript first attributed to Mark Twain was of \_\_\_\_\_ authenticity.

SYNONYMS: questionable, suspect, unsettled, undecided  
ANTONYMS: certain, positive, indubitable, reliable

### 9. harangue (hə rɑŋ')

(v.) to deliver a loud, ranting speech; (n.) a loud speech

From the moment we walked in, our math teacher began to \_\_\_\_\_ us about our midterm exam scores.

The speaker was supposed to discuss the criminal justice system, but delivered a \_\_\_\_\_ against lawyers

SYNONYMS: (v.) rant, lecture; (n.) diatribe  
ANTONYMS: (n.) whisper, murmur, undertone

### 10. harry (har' ē)

(v.) to make a destructive raid on; to torment, harass

My parents are forever \_\_\_\_\_ me about cleaning up my room and playing music too loudly.

SYNONYMS: hound, pillage, ravage

### 11. impetuous (im pen' ə tət)

(adj.) not feeling remorse or sorrow for errors or offenses

His \_\_\_\_\_ demeanor during the trial probably encouraged the judge to impose a harsh sentence.

SYNONYMS: remorseless, unrepentant, incorrigible  
ANTONYMS: ashamed, remorseful, contrite, apologetic

### 12. knave (nāv)

(n.) a tricky, unprincipled, or deceitful fellow

Her friends always knew that \_\_\_\_\_ of a first husband was only after her inheritance.

SYNONYMS: rascal, rogue, miscreant

### 13. legion (lē' jən)

(n.) a large military force; any large group or number; (adj.) many, numerous

It would undoubtedly take a \_\_\_\_\_ of skilled mechanics to repair an old rattletap like my car.

Her reasons for not attending the Community Gourmet Club's "Cooking with Beets Night" were \_\_\_\_\_

SYNONYMS: (n.) multitude, host, throng, division, regiment  
ANTONYMS: (n.) squad, platoon; (adj.) few, sparse

**liberality**  
(lib ə ral' ə tē)

(*n.*) generosity, generous act; breadth of mind or outlook  
The dean's well-known \_\_\_\_\_ allowed an atmosphere of spirited debate to flourish at the college.

SYNONYMS: magnanimity, broad-mindedness  
ANTONYMS: stinginess, miserliness, narrow-mindedness

**plaintiff**  
(plan' tiff)

(*n.*) one who begins a lawsuit  
His lawyers objected that the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the defendant was being put on trial.  
SYNONYM: complainant; ANTONYM: defendant

**probe**  
(prōb)

(*v.*) to examine, investigate thoroughly; (*n.*) an investigation; a device used to explore or examine  
An auditor was brought in to \_\_\_\_\_ the company's financial irregularities.  
An unmanned \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to examine the geology of the Martian surface.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) explore; (*n.*) inquiry, detector  
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) hide; (*n.*) cover-up, whitewash

**protract**  
(prō trakt')

(*v.*) to draw out or lengthen in space or time  
Militants opposed to the peace treaty attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the negotiations.

SYNONYMS: elongate, spin out  
ANTONYMS: contract, compress, concentrate

**quarry**  
(kwär' ē)

(*v.*) to cut or take from (or as if from) a quarry; (*n.*) a place from which stone is taken; something that is hunted or pursued  
The Internet makes it easier to \_\_\_\_\_ information from the world's vast supply.  
Bargain hunters armed with sale ads raced through the store, urgently seeking their \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) prey, game, victim, excavation, mine  
ANTONYMS: (*n.*) hunter, predator

**spurn**  
(spərn)

(*v.*) to refuse with scorn, disclaim  
He \_\_\_\_\_ a full scholarship offered by a small college to go to a big state university instead.

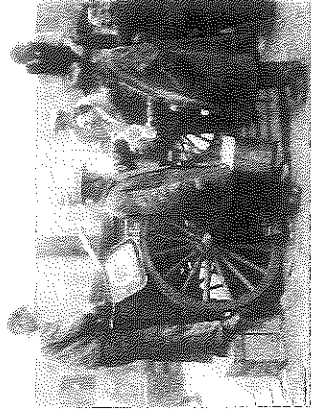
SYNONYMS: turn down, decline, snub, repudiate  
ANTONYMS: accept, welcome, greet

**subterfuge**  
(səb' tar fyūj)

(*n.*) an excuse or trick for escaping or hiding something  
The accused embezzler's "heart attack" could be a clever \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid his upcoming trial.  
SYNONYMS: dodge, blind, deception, artifice

## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the selection on pages 184–185 to see how most of these words are used in context.



Soup kitchens and bread lines were the only source of food for countless unemployed people during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

1. During the Great Depression millions of Americans were out of work, as much of the nation's productive capacity lay **(dormant, impenitent)**.
2. When the referee called back a touchdown by the home team, he had to bear the **(probe, brunt)** of the crowd's anger.
3. Whenever I even suspect that a gory scene is about to start in a movie, I **(avert, actuate)** my eyes or even cover them with my hands.
4. After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became locked in a(n) **(protracted, actuated)** struggle known as the Cold War.
5. Your **(liberality, subterfuge)** is to be admired, but it must be controlled so that it is not out of proportion to your means.
6. At a time when we need good will and cooperation, nothing will be gained by an emotional **(quarry, harangue)** about old abuses and mistakes.
7. People who think only of themselves, with no concern for the feelings of others, are bound to be **(brunt, boorish)**.
8. The applicant's list of accomplishments, which went on for two pages, was **(dubious, impenitent)** at best.
9. I think that we can settle this dispute in a friendly way, without either of us becoming a defendant or a **(quarry, plaintiff)**.
10. The dinner to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mrs. Roth's teaching career was attended by a **(legion, probe)** of her former students.
11. For many years after the Civil War, thousands of **(combatants, legions)** in the great battle of Gettysburg met in annual reunions.
12. We'll need to **(quarry, probe)** for the large stones necessary for securing the foundation.
13. He pretended to be speechless with anger, but we recognized this as a **(subterfuge, harangue)** to avoid answering the charges against him.
14. Although we were fairly certain that the ice would be thick enough to hold us, we used a long stick as a **(subterfuge, probe)** to see if any part of the ice was too thin.
15. A new popular singing idol will often **(actuate, abase)** changes in clothing fashions

- 3. I was ashamed of my poor behavior at the debate and hope I did not (**dormant, abase**) myself in the eyes of the moderator.
- 7. In the school library, all activity seemed to have become (**dormant, spurned**) as students napped with their heads and arms draped across desks.

1. The detective story was so cleverly constructed that the character whom we took to be the pursuer turned out to be the (**quarry, brunt**).

1. We began with confidence in his success in the election, but as he made one mistake after another, we grew more and more (**obvious, abased**).

1. Let us not (**spurn, avert**) our attention from the sufferings of the people living in the slums of our community.

- Since his absurd scheme was never really intended to harm us, we regard him as more of a fool than a (**quarry, knave**).
- We demand that the committee be made up of legislators who will (**actuate, probe**) fearlessly into the causes of the energy crisis.
- Since the prisoner remained defiantly (**impenitent, boorish**), the review panel saw no reason for granting him parole.
- A pack of reporters (**averted, harried**) the senator with pointed and persistent questions even as he was being whisked into his limousine.
- How can that heartless beauty (**combat, spurn**) my offers of devotion!

**SYNONYMS**

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.

- the **accuser** took the stand to testify \_\_\_\_\_
- a conflict **extended** by cease-fire violations \_\_\_\_\_
- escape by means of a **ruse** involving false noses \_\_\_\_\_
- a **tirade** prompted by a messy room \_\_\_\_\_
- an attempt to **trigger** impeachment proceedings \_\_\_\_\_
- an arts foundation famous for its **largesse** \_\_\_\_\_
- a new contract that **precluded** a labor dispute \_\_\_\_\_
- mined limestone from a large **pit** near the site \_\_\_\_\_
- investigators who will **scrutinize** their files \_\_\_\_\_
- tried to **pester** her mother into changing her mind \_\_\_\_\_

**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. will **appease** the pompous politician \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. maintained **transparency** during the audit \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. **conceal** the evidence \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. interviewed the **accused** after the verdict \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. the determination and stamina of the **pursuer** \_\_\_\_\_

**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. Divers from the salvage ship will try to \_\_\_\_\_ the ocean floor where the Confederate warship sank in 1863.
- 2. In A.D. 79, the sudden and violent eruption of a volcano that had been \_\_\_\_\_ for many years destroyed Pompeii in two days.
- 3. The entire boardwalk at the beach was smashed to bits when the full \_\_\_\_\_ of the hurricane struck it.
- 4. Because his feelings were hurt, he \_\_\_\_\_ any attempts on my part to provide help.
- 5. We learned that the bizarre sequence of events was \_\_\_\_\_ by an accidental tug on the switching device.
- 6. On the surface she seemed stubbornly \_\_\_\_\_, but secretly she regretted the damage her thoughtlessness had caused.
- 7. The soldiers of the mighty Roman \_\_\_\_\_ were organized in battle units called cohorts and maniples.
- 8. Why should you \_\_\_\_\_ yourself by begging to be admitted to a club made up of snobs and phonies?
- 9. As a lawyer for the \_\_\_\_\_, you will have full opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses for the defendant.
- 10. The police were quickly ordered to the scene as a precautionary measure to \_\_\_\_\_ a threatened riot.

The two \_\_\_\_\_ fought it out with words rather than with fists.

The bloodhounds pursued their human \_\_\_\_\_ through the swamps.

Bands of guerillas \_\_\_\_\_ the straggling soldiers as they retreated in disarray.

The "Speakers' Corner" in London's Hyde Park is home to soapbox orators who \_\_\_\_\_ idlers and passersby.

His many donations of large sums of money to organizations dedicated to relieving world hunger are evidence of his \_\_\_\_\_.

The Mississippi riverboats were home to crooks and \_\_\_\_\_ of every description, from cardsharps to confidence men.

Our planned stopover in Denver was unexpectedly \_\_\_\_\_ when a blizzard prevented us from leaving the city for days.

Fortunately, the loud and generally \_\_\_\_\_ behavior of a few of the guests did not spoil the party for the rest of us.

Isn't friendship with a person who mistrusts you of \_\_\_\_\_ value?

His illness was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to get out of taking me to the dance!

### Writing Words in Action

1. Look back at "Jesse Owens: 1913-1980" (pages 184-185). Which of Jesse Owens's accomplishments most likely brought him national fame and accolades? Which of his characteristics do you think are most deserving of admiration? Write a brief character sketch of Jesse Owens in which you focus on the dominant traits that make him an admired figure. Use at least two details from the passage and three unit words to support your claim.

2. Hero is a word that is used in many contexts. There are sports heroes and celebrity heroes, fictional heroes and historical heroes. What is a true hero, though? Is it someone who shows courage, someone who is exceptionally talented at something, or someone who accomplishes something great? In a brief essay, present your definition of a hero, and support your definition with several examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 184-185), or personal experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this unit.

## Vocabulary in Context

The following excerpts are from Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's novel Frankenstein. 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. Miserable himself that he may render no other wretched, he ought to die. The task of his destruction was mine, but I have failed. When **actuated** by selfish and vicious motives, I asked you to undertake my unfinished work, and I renew this request now, when I am only induced by reason and virtue."

To be **actuated** is to be

- a. assisted c. driven
- b. obvious d. hidden

2. The idea of renewing my labors did not for one instant occur to me; the threat I had heard weighed on my thoughts, but I did not reflect that a voluntary act of mine could **avert** it.

If you **avert** something, you

- a. preclude it c. conquer it
- b. weather it d. approach it

3. "The light became more and more oppressive to me, and the heat wearying me as I walked, I sought a place where I could receive shade.... I lay by the side of a brook resting from my fatigue, until I felt tormented by hunger and thirst. This roused me from my nearly **dormant** state, and I ate some berries which I found hanging on the trees or lying on the ground."

Someone who is in a **dormant** state is NOT

- a. sleepy c. still
- b. quiet d. alert

4. ...[M]y residence there being no longer conducive to my improvements, I thought of returning to my friends and my native town, when an incident happened that **protracted** my stay.

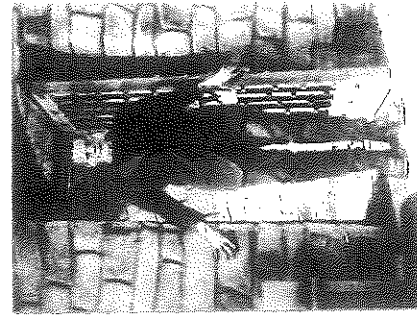
Something that has been **protracted** has been

- a. confused c. shortened
- b. prolonged d. enlivened

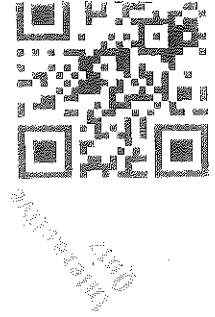
5. "All men hate the wretched; how, then, must I be hated, who am miserable beyond all living things! Yet you, my creator, detest and **spurn** me, thy creature, to whom thou art bound by ties only dissoluble by the annihilation of one of us."

To **spurn** is to

- a. strike c. reject
- b. comfort d. forget



Boris Karloff plays the monster in the 1931 film Frankenstein.



Snap the code, or go to