

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 14 **CONTEXT: Reading, Writing, and Performing** *What's a Critic For?*

No one has time to see all the films that come out or to read every book that is published. When we do find the time to go to the theater or to curl up with a book, we want to be sure that the experience will be a satisfying one. Before we spend time and money, we want to know what we're getting into. We don't want to know too much though, or our fun might be spoiled. That's when a critic is handy. Critics tell us something about what to expect from a film or a book. Critical reviews help us decide whether we should wait in line for a movie ticket and whether we should buy a book in hardback or wait for the paperback.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about the role of critics. Below are ten vocabulary words that will be used in these exercises.

- | | | | | |
|----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| addicted | evict | illiterate | lax | solvent |
| defraud | formidable | incompatible | ostracize | subsequent |

EXERCISE 1 *Mapping*

Directions. In the item below, a vocabulary word is provided and used in a sentence. Take a guess at the word's meaning and write it in the box labeled **Your Guess**. Then look the word up in your dictionary and write the definition in the box labeled **Definition**. In the **Other Forms** box, write as many other forms of the word, such as adjective and noun forms, as you can think of or find in your dictionary.

Then, following the same procedure, draw your own map for each of the nine remaining vocabulary words. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

addicted

→

A movie critic is often someone who is **addicted** to movies but who has turned this uncontrollable need to see every film ever made into a full-time career.

↓

Other Forms:

↓

Definition:

←

HRW material copyrighted under notice appearing earlier in this work.

EXERCISE 2 *Context Clues* 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the vocabulary word on the line preceding the definition.

COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____

adj. loose or slack; relaxed; careless; not strict

_____ 12. word: _____

v. to force a person by law to leave a building the person has leased or rented; to force out, eject

_____ 13. word: _____

v. to shut out or exclude from a group; to banish

_____ 14. word: _____

adj. unable to agree or get along; conflicting; mismatched

_____ 15. word: _____

adj. able to meet financial obligations; able to dissolve another substance; *n.* a liquid capable of dissolving another substance

_____ 16. word: _____

adj. later; coming after; following in time

_____ 17. word: _____

adj. hard to overcome or deal with; causing fear; awe-inspiring

_____ 18. word: _____

adj. given up to a habit or compulsion

_____ 19. word: _____

adj. uneducated; unable to read or write; ignorant of the basics of a particular art or branch of knowledge; *n.* one who is unable to read or write

_____ 20. word: _____

v. to take away or deprive of a right or property by deceit; to swindle

COLUMN B

- (A) Critics, like most serious filmgoers, experience the desire to **evict** from the theater people who talk during movies.
- (B) Sometimes we find the critic's view of a movie completely **incompatible** with our own, though usually we can find one or two points of agreement between a critic's judgment and our opinions.
- (C) If a critic misleads us about one movie early on, we are likely to mistrust the critic's **subsequent** reviews.
- (D) Film critics can be influenced by their own prejudices. For example, a reviewer who prefers films about the wealthy and well educated may not be interested in a movie about a poor **illiterate**.
- (E) Most critics love old films and regret how many old films have been lost. Many have crumbled in their containers, dissolving from neglect as surely as if **solvent** had been poured on them.
- (F) Film critics often know a lot about Hollywood's Golden Age. They know why the head of one studio told an actress "You'll never work in this town again" and then called on other studios to **ostracize** her.
- (G) Some people seem to be **addicted** to movies. They have developed the habit of watching movies rather than taking part in some active recreation.
- (H) The worst films, however, are junk, some of which **defraud** families of their hard-earned money. For instance, anyone would feel swindled after spending an afternoon watching a badly made cartoon.
- (I) Critics help to make up for the **lax** standards in the film industry. They let us know when, in addition to being labeled PG, a film ought to be labeled J for junk.
- (J) The film critic is not as **formidable** a figure to actors as is the drama critic. People will still flock to see a movie that the film critics don't like, but plays depend on the critics' approval.

EXERCISE 3**Sentence Completion** 

Directions. For each of the following items, circle the letter of the choice that best completes the meaning of the sentence.

21. Critics who review books for children are _____ in their duty when they fail to mention the age groups that the books are appropriate for.
 (A) lax
 (B) subsequent
 (C) formidable
 (D) illiterate
 (E) incompatible
22. Most critics enjoy a wide variety of books. They don't find reading about football to be _____ with reading about Shakespeare, because they hate to be _____ in any subject.
 (A) addicted . . . solvent
 (B) incompatible . . . illiterate
 (C) illiterate . . . incompatible
 (D) subsequent . . . formidable
 (E) lax . . . subsequent
23. Publishers hope that critics will review their books favorably. Only if their books sell well can publishing companies remain _____.
 (A) formidable
 (B) illiterate
 (C) solvent
 (D) lax
 (E) incompatible
24. If a book critic gives a bad review to a book we like, we may not pay attention to his or her _____ reviews.
 (A) illiterate
 (B) incompatible
 (C) subsequent
 (D) lax
 (E) solvent
25. Book reviewers truly love to read, so knowing that someone is _____ seriously disturbs them.
 (A) incompatible
 (B) illiterate
 (C) solvent
 (D) lax
 (E) formidable
26. A reviewer is _____ if he or she does not study the needs of the audience. A review of *Cooking with Fish* is _____ with the needs of the readers of a vegetarian magazine.
 (A) lax . . . incompatible
 (B) incompatible . . . subsequent
 (C) subsequent . . . lax
 (D) illiterate . . . incompatible
 (E) formidable . . . illiterate
27. Not all critics focus on novels. Some review popular nonfiction works, such as self-help books for people who are _____ to junk food; others review scholarly studies on the causes of such disorders.
 (A) illiterate
 (B) solvent
 (C) incompatible
 (D) addicted
 (E) subsequent
28. A famous writer can be a _____ subject for a book reviewer, but good critics do not let a writer's reputation have too much influence on them.
 (A) illiterate
 (B) incompatible
 (C) solvent
 (D) lax
 (E) formidable
29. At parties where famous writers gather, a critic may be first _____ and finally _____ as a result of writing negative reviews.
 (A) addicted . . . evicted
 (B) defrauded . . . ostracized
 (C) solvent . . . defrauded
 (D) ostracized . . . evicted
 (E) evicted . . . ostracized
30. If a reviewer's taste proves _____ with our own, we shouldn't assume that the reviewer is trying to _____ us into seeing a bad movie. After all, there can be honest differences of opinion.
 (A) illiterate . . . evict
 (B) formidable . . . defraud
 (C) subsequent . . . ostracize
 (D) incompatible . . . ostracize
 (E) incompatible . . . defraud

