

# MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

## Lesson 21 **CONTEXT: Writers, Their Work, and Their Worlds**

### *Writing Nonfiction*

When we think of writers, we may think of the novelist poised at the computer to begin a new chapter of a novel. Or the image of a bearded poet, quill pen in hand, may come to mind. There are, however, other people who make their livings by writing. They do not produce poems, plays, or stories. These are the people who write columns for newspapers, articles for magazines, slogans for advertising agencies, fliers for insurance companies, and so on. Their words are everywhere.

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

- |          |              |          |              |           |
|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| assassin | bibliography | fatality | jurisdiction | recession |
| asterisk | brochure     | hygiene  | perspective  | statute   |

### 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 any 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.

assassin

→

Writers of true-crime novels may focus on famous **assassins**, but sometimes they focus on murderers that the public doesn't know much about.

↓

Other Forms:

Your Guess:

↓

Other Forms:

Definition:

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* a law; a rule; a regulation

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* a star-shaped mark (\*) used in printing (often to indicate a footnote)

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* a pamphlet

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* a system of principles for the preservation of health and the prevention of disease; the science of health; cleanliness

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* an act of withdrawing or going back; a temporary decline in economic activity

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* a death caused by a disaster; fate or necessity; something caused by fate; a deadly effect

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* the murderer of an important person or public official

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* point of view; the effects of distance or depth on the appearance of objects

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* authority or power; the limits or territory governed by an authority

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* a list of books or essays on a particular subject or by a particular author

**COLUMN B**

- (A) A **bibliography** of the works of Isaac Asimov (1920–1992), a very popular writer of nonfiction, would include more than a hundred books. The list would include science fiction as well as nonfiction.
- (B) Some writers include a lot of interesting trivia in their footnotes. Sometimes, when a text is boring, readers look forward to encountering an **asterisk** that will lead them to a fun footnote.
- (C) Writing travel **brochures** would be interesting work. It would also be fun to choose the photos and to design the layout for the pamphlets.
- (D) Many books have been written on the causes of economic **recession**. However, no one has discovered how to keep an economy permanently healthy.
- (E) Many writers have considered whether Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone **assassin**. Was there someone else involved in the murder of John F. Kennedy?
- (F) Old, old books on health and **hygiene** can be fun to read. Some medical writers once believed that the night air caused diseases!
- (G) A book on the history of art is likely to discuss the idea of **perspective**. Before the Renaissance, few European painters included this sense of depth in their pictures.
- (H) Writers of history often disagree. For example, some discuss the Civil War with a sense of **fatality**. They believe it was bound to happen. Others think it might have been avoided.
- (I) Some writers are actually employed to write for legislatures. They figure out how to phrase the laws, or **statutes**, that legislators propose.
- (J) Writers who focus on law know what areas of law are considered within the **jurisdiction** of the federal government and what areas belong to the states.

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**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 or sentences.

21. The students are in the library working on their papers. One student asks another, "Can you help me? Even with the footnote, I can't understand this sentence with the \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of it."  
 (A) assassin  
 (B) bibliography  
 (C) asterisk  
 (D) brochure  
 (E) perspective
22. "I can't find the \_\_\_\_\_ I need for my paper on dental \_\_\_\_\_. It's a pamphlet from the dentist's on brushing and flossing your teeth," a student complains.  
 (A) bibliography . . . hygiene  
 (B) bibliography . . . jurisdiction  
 (C) hygiene . . . perspective  
 (D) brochure . . . perspective  
 (E) brochure . . . hygiene
23. One girl says, "I wish I hadn't chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ John Wilkes Booth. I can find tons of information on Abraham Lincoln but almost nothing on his murderer."  
 (A) asterisk  
 (B) assassin  
 (C) brochure  
 (D) statute  
 (E) jurisdiction
24. Her friend says, "I'm having problems, too. I can't figure out if we are under the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_ on taxes. Does this law apply to people under eighteen?"  
 (A) statute . . . assassin  
 (B) statute . . . recession  
 (C) jurisdiction . . . assassin  
 (D) jurisdiction . . . statute  
 (E) perspective . . . statute
25. One student wails with a certain \_\_\_\_\_ in her voice. "I'm never going to be able to get this done on time," she insists.  
 (A) fatality  
 (B) jurisdiction  
 (C) statute  
 (D) recession  
 (E) assassin
26. "Just look how short my \_\_\_\_\_ on the effects of the \_\_\_\_\_ is. You'd think I'd be able to find more on it since people are so worried about the economy."  
 (A) brochure . . . recession  
 (B) statute . . . jurisdiction  
 (C) brochure . . . hygiene  
 (D) bibliography . . . recession  
 (E) bibliography . . . assassins
27. "I'm confused too. I know this guy I'm writing about died in a crash, but I can't tell whether his wife was also \_\_\_\_\_. "  
 (A) an assassin  
 (B) an asterisk  
 (C) a perspective  
 (D) a fatality  
 (E) a statute
28. "I've found two articles that look at my subject from totally different \_\_\_\_\_, and I don't know how to reconcile the differences."  
 (A) jurisdictions  
 (B) perspectives  
 (C) statutes  
 (D) recessions  
 (E) brochures
29. As the students continue to read books, magazines, and \_\_\_\_\_ to add to their \_\_\_\_\_, they are using the tools of the nonfiction writer.  
 (A) bibliographies . . . brochures  
 (B) brochures . . . bibliographies  
 (C) statutes . . . jurisdictions  
 (D) hygiene . . . bibliographies  
 (E) brochures . . . fatalities
30. Soon the last bell will ring, the students will gather their belongings, and there will be a mass \_\_\_\_\_ from the library.  
 (A) bibliography  
 (B) fatality  
 (C) jurisdiction  
 (D) perspective  
 (E) recession

