

# MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

## Lesson 30 **CONTEXT: Writers, Their Work, and Their Worlds**

### *Writers and Research*

Writers often have to do research. A journalist needs to check her facts. A historian must examine records from the period he is writing about. A science-fiction writer wants to be sure that the word she is about to create is believable. Some writers do all their own research, but sometimes companies hire researchers to do the work for their writers.

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

- |            |            |             |        |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| assess     | comply     | contaminate | emerge | immunity    |
| collateral | condolence | depreciate  | expend | maintenance |

### 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.

assess

→

"How do you assess our chances of getting Jordan to run our story?" Julio Gonzales asks his partner Latisha Williams. "Will he think we have enough facts?"

↓

Your Guess:

↓

Other Forms:

←

Definition:

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2.

collateral

Latisha replies, "I think he's going to want stronger evidence that the bank loaned Evans the money without any **collateral**. After all, we only have one source that says she didn't give them anything to guarantee the loan."

3.

comply

"Well, we do have some evidence to show that the bank didn't make her **comply** with the regulations. It's always suspicious when a bank manager bends the rules."

4.

condolence

"If you're talking about the bank manager carrying all that cash in a briefcase, remember that he claims he visited Evans to offer her his **condolence**, and he just decided to carry the money along. Evans's mother did die that week."

5.

contaminate

"Okay, but we have proof that Evans's company has been dumping enough garbage in the river to **contaminate** the water all the way from here to Mount Morrison. The fish are dying from some kind of poisoning."

6.

depreciate

"But can we prove that she wanted the land on the east bank to **depreciate** in value so she could buy it at a cheaper price?"

7.

emerge

"I don't know. The truth is beginning to **emerge**, but I think we'll have to do more research to uncover all the facts."

8.

expend

"Who would have thought we would have to **expend** so much energy on this story? Who knew it would take up so much of our time?"

9.

immunity

"You know, I don't think we'll ever get the whole story unless they grant Evans's secretary **immunity** from prosecution. He had to know what was going on; maybe he would tell if he knew he would be protected."

10.

maintenance

"There still may be hope. Let's try interviewing someone in the **maintenance** department in Evans's building. People who clean up and are around at all hours often know a lot."

**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**

**COLUMN B**

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* anything that guarantees the fulfillment of a loan or obligation; *adj.* related to the main subject; secondary; parallel in rank, time, and so on

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

*v.* to come into view; to become visible; to become known

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

*v.* to act in accordance with a request, custom, or rule

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

*v.* to use up; to spend

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

*n.* sympathy for someone's grief or sorrow; an expression of sympathy

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

*v.* to determine the rate of charge or the amount to be paid; to set a value on for taxation; to evaluate

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

*v.* to pollute; to make impure; to spoil

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

*n.* the state of being free from; protection, especially from a disease or prosecution

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

*n.* support or upkeep of something; means of support or livelihood

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

*v.* to lessen in value or in price; to belittle; to lessen the importance of

(A) At the offices of *Jabberwocky* magazine, the head of the research department extends her **condolences** to her staff. "I'm sorry," she says. "You're about to put in a long, hard day."

(B) "Here is the information that the writers need. For the Slockton fire story, we need to know how long it took the insurance company to send a representative to the Slockton city hall after the fire. And how long did they take to **assess** the damage?"

(C) "Here's a **collateral**, or related, issue. Did it take the insurance company the same amount of time to determine the amount of damage to the Correnza campaign headquarters?"

(D) "For the Nevins story, the writer needs to know the date that Nevins was first accused of failing to **comply** with company regulations. Also, what rule was she accused of violating?"

(E) "Who was responsible for the **maintenance** of the files at Wicker and Wicker during the period of the trial? Get the name of whoever kept the files up to date."

(F) "For the story on Wagoner's Syndrome, find out if there is a shot that gives **immunity** to the disease. If so, why didn't Gleason get the shot?"

(G) "Our science writers need to know what bacteria are most likely to **contaminate** potato salad that has not been stored properly. Can people get sick from eating the spoiled food?"

(H) "They also need to know, when a person **emerges** from a dark cave after a week, how long will it take his eyes to adjust?"

(I) "Our finance writers need information on these issues: How much money did the government **expend** on the Lake Arapaho project? Did they go over the budget?"

(J) "And how fast does a new car **depreciate**? If a person bought a \$35,000 automobile, how much less would it be worth in a year?"

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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. Scientists, of course, \_\_\_\_\_ a great deal of time doing research before they write.  
 (A) assess  
 (B) comply  
 (C) emerge  
 (D) expend  
 (E) depreciate
22. Historians have to read and \_\_\_\_\_ their sources. This evaluation is necessary if the truth is to \_\_\_\_\_ from conflicting reports.  
 (A) contaminate . . . depreciate  
 (B) expend . . . emerge  
 (C) assess . . . emerge  
 (D) comply . . . assess  
 (E) depreciate . . . expend
23. A finance writer may need to do research into the kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ a bank will accept to guaranty a loan and the way someone determines if property will appreciate or \_\_\_\_\_ in value.  
 (A) maintenance . . . depreciate  
 (B) maintenance . . . emerge  
 (C) immunity . . . contaminate  
 (D) collateral . . . emerge  
 (E) collateral . . . depreciate
24. The writer of a historical novel may need to know how a character \_\_\_\_\_ from a carriage of the day. What rules of behavior would he or she have to \_\_\_\_\_ with when getting out?  
 (A) emerges . . . comply  
 (B) emerges . . . condole  
 (C) expends . . . comply  
 (D) expends . . . depreciate  
 (E) depreciates . . . expend
25. The writer of an article on the city's waste supply may need to know if the residents are doing anything that might \_\_\_\_\_ the water and make it unsafe to drink.  
 (A) assess  
 (B) contaminate  
 (C) depreciate  
 (D) emerge  
 (E) expend
26. Someone who writes sympathy cards needs to know the appropriate words for expressing \_\_\_\_\_ in several cultures.  
 (A) collaterals  
 (B) immunities  
 (C) condolences  
 (D) expends  
 (E) maintenances
27. An author writing a novel about a Peace Corps volunteer might need to know how the hero can acquire \_\_\_\_\_ against the diseases he or she may encounter and what regulations he or she needs to \_\_\_\_\_ with.  
 (A) condolence . . . assess  
 (B) maintenance . . . emerge  
 (C) maintenance . . . comply  
 (D) immunity . . . emerge  
 (E) immunity . . . comply
28. Sometimes a writer needs to find only one fact, but he may \_\_\_\_\_ hours tracking down that piece of information.  
 (A) contaminate  
 (B) expend  
 (C) assess  
 (D) emerge  
 (E) depreciate
29. One writer \_\_\_\_\_ from the library with pages and pages of notes on the \_\_\_\_\_ of train engines, only to discover she had wasted hours of her time. It turned out that her next-door neighbor was an expert on the upkeep of locomotives.  
 (A) expended . . . collateral  
 (B) contaminated . . . immunity  
 (C) emerged . . . maintenance  
 (D) emerged . . . immunity  
 (E) assessed . . . maintenance
30. If there is one rule with which all writers must \_\_\_\_\_, it is that research is essential to accurate and believable writing.  
 (A) depreciate  
 (B) assess  
 (C) emerge  
 (D) comply  
 (E) contaminate