

Level
C

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 3. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.



Grand Columbian Carnival Unites the World

<Press Release>

Level C

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World's Columbian Exposition to Open

Chicago Rolls Out Red Carpet for World Visitors

Chicago, Illinois—Drum roll, please! After years of **prodigious** preparation and immense hard work, the World's Columbian Exposition, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's landing in America, opens to the public on May 1, 1893. It's spectacular! It's **audacious**! It's like nothing you've ever seen before!

Come one, come all, and experience the great World's Fair on the shores of Lake Michigan. President Grover Cleveland will be on hand to officially cut the ribbon.

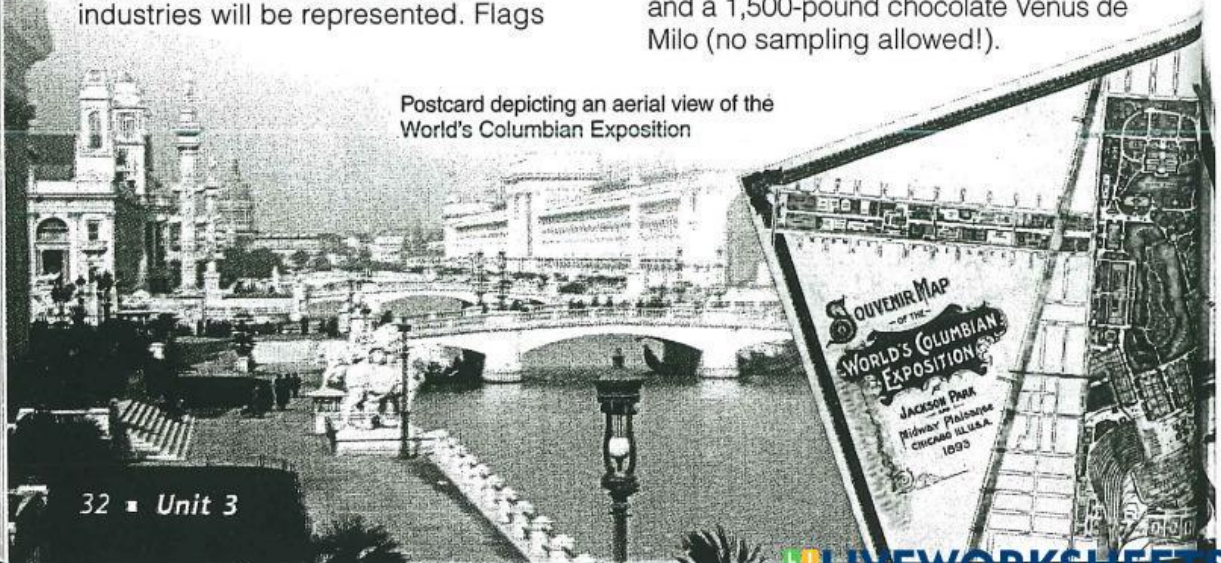
Hundreds of thousands of electric lightbulbs will light up the night sky and illuminate the buildings. There will be exhibits from each state in the union and from many foreign countries that show the **relevant** inventions, achievements, and wares of each. Commercial, agricultural, scientific, and artistic industries will be represented. Flags

of the world will be **tethered** together in harmony. It promises to be the greatest monument to human progress witnessed thus far.

But the Fair will offer much more than homage to hard work and ingenuity. The organizers have **amassed** a plethora of captivating sideshows and entertainment. The Midway Plaisance has been **allotted** as the site for musical reviews and street buskers, dancing, and carnival rides—including Mr. George Ferris's magnificent Chicago Wheel, standing 250 feet tall and offering a bird's-eye view of the Fair.

There is sailing on the lake and lagoons, and gondola rides on the Venetian waterways and canals. A long, moving sidewalk along the lakefront pier will take you to the casino—for just a nickel a ticket! Norway is sending a life-sized model of a Viking ship, and the Liberty Bell is traveling from Philadelphia aboard a flatbed rail car. Pyrotechnics and fireworks will herald the arrival of a replica of Columbus's vessels from Spain. Plus, the Hall of Agriculture will feature an 11-ton "Monster Cheese" sent by Canada and a 1,500-pound chocolate Venus de Milo (no sampling allowed!).

Postcard depicting an aerial view of the World's Columbian Exposition



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The Great Wheel designed by George Ferris will debut at the exposition.

For the ladies, an added enticement is The Women's Building, designed by Miss Sophie Hayden, who graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in architecture—the only woman to date to do so. And the Horticultural Hall is a paradise of exotic plants and flowers. Also not to be missed: The Court of Honor, at the center of the expo, known as the White City for its luminous white buildings.

The Court of Honor and the Statue of the Republic (nicknamed "Big Mary")



New York, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., and our own hometown **vied** for the honor of hosting the exposition, and Chicago won. Some were **skittish**: Could Chicago pull it off? After the city suffered such devastating losses in the Great Fire two decades earlier, skeptics voiced concern. One wag said the choice of Chicago was "as mad as a March hare." And while it is true that planners **grappled** with delays, bad weather, and **myriad** logistical nightmares, prominent leaders and ordinary citizens worked in **unison** to make the exposition a success.

An **elite** group of top architects led by Daniel Burnham designed the 200 magnificent exposition buildings. These designers chose a classical architectural theme, which vexed and **perturbed** a few **willful** modernist planners but pleased the majority. Renowned landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted—creator of New York's lush Central Park—laid out the fairgrounds at Jackson Park, and it will be a most welcome addition to the city's panorama.

From our **perspective** (admittedly biased!), the Windy City is the perfect choice to host world visitors and celebrate our age of innovation and prosperity. The discovery of America deserves a splendid commemoration, and all indications point to a grand triumph!

Audio

For iWords and audio passages, snap the code, or go to vocabularyworkshop.com.



Definitions

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

1. allot
(ə lāt')

(v.) to assign or distribute in shares or portions

The teacher _____ books and supplies to each student on the first day of school.

SYNONYMS: apportion, parcel out, allocate

2. amass
(ə mas')

(v.) to bring together, collect, gather, especially for oneself; to come together, assemble

A prudent investor can _____ a fortune in the stock market over the long run.

SYNONYMS: pile up, garner

ANTONYMS: scatter, dissipate, squander, waste

3. audacious
(ô dâ' shəs)

(adj.) bold, adventurous, recklessly daring

The audience cheered the _____ feats of the trapeze artists.

SYNONYMS: enterprising, brave

ANTONYMS: timid, cowardly

4. comply
(kəm plī')

(v.) to yield to a request or command

Employees who fail to _____ with a company's rules may lose their jobs.

SYNONYMS: consent, acquiesce

ANTONYMS: reject, refuse, decline

5. devoid
(di void')

(adj.) not having or using, lacking

The old well on my grandparents' property has long been _____ of water.

SYNONYMS: wanting, bereft

ANTONYMS: full, abounding

6. elite
(â lēt')

(n.) the choice part of a group of people or things;

(adj.) superior

Each year, the social _____ of the community sponsors several events to benefit local charities.

You can get a fine education regardless of whether you attend an _____ school.

SYNONYMS: (n.) cream of the crop, upper crust

ANTONYMS: (n.) rank and file, dregs of society

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7. grapple
(grap' əl)

(*n.*) an iron hook used to grab and hold; (*v.*) to come to grips with, wrestle or fight with

A ship equipped with _____ may be used to recover large pieces of wreckage from the ocean floor.

Store employees _____ with the thieves and held them until the police arrived.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) tackle, confront, struggle with

8. incapacitate
(in kə pas' ə tāt)

(*v.*) to deprive of strength or ability; to make legally ineligible

In the 1940s and 1950s, polio _____ many thousands of people each year all over the world.

SYNONYMS: debilitate, paralyze, cripple

ANTONYMS: rehabilitate, renew

9. instigate
(in' stə gāt)

(*v.*) to urge on; to stir up, start, incite

Several demonstrators in the angry crowd did their best to _____ a riot.

ANTONYMS: stop, quell, squelch, quash

10. longevity
(län jev' ə tē)

(*n.*) long life, long duration, length of life

The sea turtle is known for its _____.

ANTONYMS: shortness, transience

11. myriad
(mir' ē əd)

(*adj.*) in very great numbers; (*n.*) a very great number

Scientists continue to make new discoveries in their studies of the _____ life-forms of the jungle.

You will find information about a _____ of subjects on the Internet.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) innumerable, countless

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) few, scant, sparse

12. perspective
(pər spek' tiv)

(*n.*) a point of view or general standpoint from which different things are viewed, physically or mentally; the appearance to the eye of various objects at a given time, place, or distance

The designs for the children's playhouse were drawn to scale and in the right _____.

SYNONYMS: viewpoint, sense of proportion

13. perturb
(pər tərb')

(*v.*) to trouble, make uneasy; to disturb greatly; to throw into confusion

The rude and disruptive behavior of several party guests _____ the host and hostess.

SYNONYMS: upset, agitate, anger

ANTONYMS: delight, gladden, please

14. prodigious
(prə dij' əs)

(*adj.*) immense; extraordinary in bulk, size, or degree

Few intellects have rivaled the _____ mind of Albert Einstein.

SYNONYMS: gigantic, tremendous, astounding
ANTONYMS: puny, minuscule, insignificant

15. relevant
(rel' ə vənt)

(*adj.*) connected with or related to the matter at hand

I found several Web sites that provided information _____ to the topic of my research paper.

SYNONYMS: pertinent, germane, applicable
ANTONYMS: unconnected, extraneous

16. skittish
(skit' ish)

(*adj.*) extremely nervous and easily frightened; shy or timid; extremely cautious; unstable, undependable

Only an experienced and confident rider should mount a _____ horse.

SYNONYMS: jumpy, restive, capricious, fickle
ANTONYMS: bold, daring, reckless, cool, unflappable

17. tether
(teth' er)

(*n.*) a rope or chain used to fasten something to a fixed object; the outer limit of strength or resources; (*v.*) to fasten with a rope or chain

Some young people find it difficult to break the emotional and financial _____ that bind them to their parents.

Before the storm, I _____ the boat securely to the dock.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) tie up, chain up, leash
ANTONYMS: (*v.*) untie, let loose

18. unison
(yü' nə sən)

(*n.*) a sounding together; agreement or accord

The members of our new student orchestra need to practice playing in _____.

SYNONYMS: harmony, concord, assent

19. vie
(vī)

(*v.*) to compete; to strive for victory or superiority

Many actors _____ for the leading role in the famous director's new film.

SYNONYMS: contend, rival

20. willful
(wil' fəl)

(*adj.*) stubbornly self-willed; done on purpose, deliberate

After lengthy deliberations, the jury found the defendant guilty of _____ murder.

SYNONYMS: headstrong, obstinate, premeditated
ANTONYMS: docile, obedient, tractable

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 32–33 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- Jane Addams was not only profoundly (**perturbed, instigated**) by the suffering of other people but also tried hard to help them.
- Great new discoveries in science can be made only by men and women with intellectual (**compliance, audacity**).
- He has had such bad experiences with motorcycles that he has become extremely (**audacious, skittish**) of them.
- If we have to share the same locker, please try to keep your things in the space (**allotted, amassed**) to you.
- Perhaps in the long-term (**longevity, perspective**) of history, some events that seem very important now will prove to be minor.
- She had devoted her life to (**amassing, minimizing**) not material riches but the love, respect, and thanks of every member of this community.
- She delivered a simple, low-key speech, completely (**devoid, relevant**) of fancy language or emotional appeals.
- My neighbor has all kinds of colorful kites and wind socks (**devoid, tethered**) to stakes in her yard, claiming that they keep the deer from eating her plants.
- The bitter strike closed shops, shut down factories, and (**incapacitated, allotted**) an entire industry for months.
- The defense has told you about the defendant's unhappy childhood, but how is this (**relevant, willful**) to the question of innocence or guilt?
- Mr. Ponce knew that it was Tyler who blew the whistle in class, as Tyler is always (**amassing, instigating**) trouble.
- I wonder why the camp directors were unwilling to (**comply, vie**) with my request to keep a pet snake in my tent.
- How do you explain the fact that in practically every country the (**elite, longevity**) of women is greater than that of men?
- (**Willful, Perturbed**) with her son's lazy ways, Ms. Lowry called the boy into the house, demanding that he clean up his room immediately.
- As I glanced upward at the giant sequoia, I realized how (**prodigiously, audaciously**) tall these trees truly are.



Jane Addams opened Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago.

16. We will never have a well-organized or effective club if all the members insist (**willfully, skittishly**) on having their own way.
17. As I stared at the luscious chocolate swirl cake, I bravely (**incapacitated, grappled**) with temptation—but the chocolate cake won!
18. People who come from rich and socially prominent families don't always belong to the intellectual (**myriad, elite**).
19. Our course in life sciences has given us some idea of the (**myriad, unison**) varieties of plants and animals inhabiting the earth.
20. I don't think anyone can hope to (**vie, perturb**) with Gloria in the election for "Most Popular Student."
21. Unless you want to (**amass, instigate**) a quarrel, don't make insulting remarks about my friends and family.
22. By the twentieth mile of a marathon, many runners have reached the end of their (**perspective, tether**).
23. Can you imagine what a (**relevant, prodigious**) amount of research is needed for a multivolume reference book such as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*?
24. In the next chorus, *please* try to sing in (**unison, compliance**).
25. Do you really think your story is (**relevant, compliant**) to this conversation?

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.

1. environment **deficient in** water resources _____
2. repeated delays that **irritated** the passengers _____
3. seems determined to **provoke** an argument _____
4. **doled out** four tickets to each member of the cast _____
5. **accumulated** a huge collection of folk art _____
6. **submit to** the terms of the treaty _____
7. arrived at **consensus** on the course of action _____
8. chose only the **select few** _____
9. bred for their **endurance** _____
10. an illness that **disables** young and old alike _____

Vocabulary in Context

Literary Text

The following excerpts are from *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau. 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. Sometimes one [whip-poor-will] would circle round and round me in the woods a few feet distant as if **tethered** by a string, when probably I was near its eggs. They sang at intervals throughout the night, and were again as musical as ever just before and about dawn.

If something is **tethered** it is NOT

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| a. fastened | c. nearby |
| b. free | d. caught |

2. I called on the king, but he made me wait in his hall, and conducted like a man **incapacitated** for hospitality. There was a man in my neighborhood who lived in a hollow tree. His manners were truly regal. I should have done better had I called on him.

A person who is **incapacitated** of a trait is

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| a. filled with it | c. deprived of it |
| b. concealed from it | d. suitable for it |

3. To speak literally, a hundred Irishmen, with Yankee overseers, came from Cambridge every day to get out the ice. They divided it into cakes by methods too well known to require description, and these, being sledged to the shore, were rapidly hauled off on to an ice platform, and raised by **grappling** irons and block and tackle, worked by horses, on to a stack . . .

An object described as **grappling**

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| a. heaps | c. crushes |
| b. grasps | d. hauls |

4. . . . I was surprised to find myself surrounded by **myriads** of small perch, about five inches long, of a rich bronze color in the green water, sporting there, and constantly rising to the surface and dimpling it, sometimes leaving bubbles on it.

If there are **myriads** of fish, the fish are

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| a. astonishing | c. admired |
| b. multicolored | d. plentiful |

5. Let us rise early and fast, or break fast, gently and without **perturbation**; let company come and let company go, let the bells ring and the children cry—determined to make a day of it.

A **perturbation** is a(n)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| a. disturbance | c. question |
| b. formality | d. agreement |



Walden describes Thoreau's experience in the woods, where he built a cabin and lived for several years.

Interactive
Quiz



Snap the code, or go to
vocabularyworkshop.com