

UNIT 1

Read the following selection, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 1. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

The Globe Theatre: Then and Now

<Historical Nonfiction>

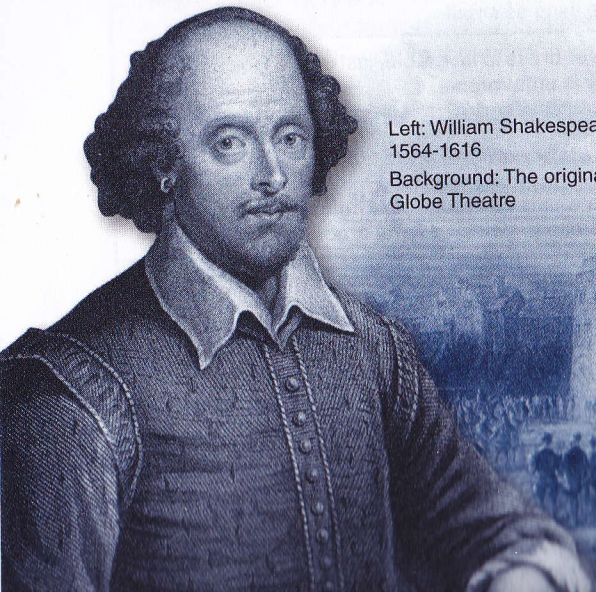
Do you laugh and **gape** at the antics of TV reality-show stars? Chances are you would have done more than that at a performance at the Globe Theatre, circa 1600. Today's dubious celebrities have nothing on the old Globe's daring actors and their raucous, rowdy audiences. In Elizabethan London, many in the ruling class viewed theatrical productions as dangerous. They thought theaters—and actors themselves—threatened the common good. That's why theaters were banished to the city's seedier neighborhoods. Built on the south banks of the River Thames in 1599, the Globe was one of the more famous theaters of its day. It was part-owned by William Shakespeare, and aristocrats and commoners alike came to see his plays. If these playgoers were lucky, they might also see Shakespeare himself.

The open-roofed Globe could hold up to 3,000 people. At the base of the apron stage (a raised platform with the audience on three sides), there was a pit where people—called “groundlings”—would stand and watch the play for a penny. Those who paid slightly more to sit in the stadium-style seats had to tread **warily**, or risk falling into the pit. The actors were almost always men, playing both male and female parts. Audience members were both **unkempt** and unruly, so actors had to endure the insults, taunts, and **gibes** of the rambunctious crowd—and often had to dodge the rotten produce hurled at them.

The Globe continued to thrive even after Shakespeare's death in 1616. It remained a lively and exciting place, but the **dour**, **stolid** Puritans in power disapproved of playacting. Their strict, joyless views on life contrasted with the Globe's **opulent**, rollicking productions, which were considered **insidious** and corrupting.

Left: William Shakespeare, 1564-1616

Background: The original Globe Theatre



So in 1642, Parliament ordered the Globe and all other London theaters closed. Constables were **deployed** to enforce the rule, actors were punished and even jailed, and anyone caught attending a play was fined. The building was dismantled, and those long-ago theater lovers were left **bereft**.

More than three centuries later, the American actor and director Sam Wanamaker went looking for the remains of this historic theater. He was appalled to find only a dirty plaque that read, “This is on or around where Shakespeare had his Globe.” Wanamaker started the Shakespeare Globe Trust in 1970 to raise funds to rebuild Shakespeare's historic theater. Not everyone was convinced of his vision. Early support was **tentative**. What some called a replica of the Globe, others dismissed as a theme park that would **adulterate** Shakespeare's legacy. But Wanamaker's **fortitude** and perseverance paid off: In 1997, Shakespeare's Globe officially opened

Inset: Eamonn Walker in *Othello*;
Background: The reconstructed Globe Theatre



near the site of the original. The modern Globe has proven the doubters wrong—if anything, it **augments** Shakespeare's reputation as the greatest playwright of all time.

Today, the new Globe plays to packed houses. While most seasons emphasize the works of Shakespeare, often performed **verbatim**, contemporary plays are also featured. The Bard, renowned for his love of mischief, might have approved of a recent production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, one featuring an all-female cast in the **guise** of princes, lords, and soldiers. Shakespeare's Globe transports us back to the experience of theater as it was 400 years ago. Yet occasional hints of modern life, such as jets flying overhead during performances, remind us that the Globe Theatre is part of 21st century London—and not just a footnote in history books.



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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. adulterate
(ə dæl' tə rāt)

(v.) to corrupt, make worse by the addition of something of lesser value

Hospitals take strict precautions to assure that nothing _____ the blood supply.

SYNONYMS: contaminate, pollute, sully
ANTONYMS: purify, purge, expurgate

2. ambidextrous
(am bi dek' strəs)

(adj.) able to use both hands equally well; very skillful; deceitful, hypocritical

Occasionally a teacher will come across a child who displays _____ abilities when taught to write.

SYNONYMS: versatile, flexible
ANTONYMS: clumsy, all thumbs

3. augment
(ôg ment')

(v.) to make larger, increase

Many couples have to _____ their income in order to pay the mortgage on a new home.

SYNONYMS: supplement, amplify
ANTONYMS: decrease, diminish

4. bereft
(bi reft')

(adj., part.) deprived of; made unhappy through a loss

Individuals who live to be very old may eventually find themselves completely _____ of friends and family.

SYNONYM: bereaved
ANTONYMS: replete, well provided

5. deploy
(di ploi')

(v.) to position or arrange; to utilize; to form up

A bugle call is a signal used to _____ troops for inspection, parade, or battle.

SYNONYMS: station, organize

6. dour
(daür)

(adj.) stern, unyielding, gloomy, ill-humored

Dickens's Mr. Gradgrind in the novel *Hard Times* is an example of a character with a _____ and sullen disposition.

SYNONYMS: harsh, bleak, forbidding, saturnine
ANTONYMS: cheery, inviting, genial

7. fortitude
(fôr' ti tüd)

(n.) courage in facing difficulties

The residents of the Mississippi delta showed remarkable _____ during and after the flood that destroyed their homes and businesses.

SYNONYMS: resolve, steadfastness, mettle
ANTONYMS: fearfulness, faintheartedness

8. gape
(gāp)

(v.) to stare with open mouth; to open the mouth wide; to open wide

First-time visitors to Niagara Falls can be expected to _____ at the spectacular sights nature has provided for them.

SYNONYM: ogle

9. gibe
(jīb)

(v.) to utter taunting words; (n.) an expression of scorn

The recruits rushed into battle so that no one could _____ at them for cowardice.

Voters may reject a candidate who resorts to personal _____ instead of discussing the issues.

SYNONYMS: (v.) ridicule, mock, deride, jeer
ANTONYMS: (n.) compliment, praise

10. guise
(giz)

(n.) an external appearance, cover, mask

The thieves gained entry to the home by presenting themselves in the _____ of police officers.

SYNONYMS: costume, semblance, pretense

11. insidious
(in sid' ē əs)

(adj.) intended to deceive or entrap; sly, treacherous

The investigators uncovered an _____ scheme to rob people of their life savings.

SYNONYMS: cunning, dastardly, perfidious
ANTONYMS: frank, ingenuous, aboveboard

12. intimation
(in tə mā' shən)

(n.) a hint, indirect suggestion

They were too proud to give any _____ of their financial difficulties.

SYNONYMS: clue, inkling

13. opulent
(əp' yə lənt)

(adj.) wealthy, luxurious; ample; grandiose

The tour guide showed us the _____ living quarters of the royal family.

SYNONYMS: rich, plentiful, abundant
ANTONYMS: poverty-stricken, wretched, destitute

- 14. pliable**
(pli' ə bəl) (adj.) easily bent, flexible; easily influenced
Spools of _____ copper wire are standard equipment for many kinds of maintenance workers, including electricians.
SYNONYMS: adaptable, resilient
ANTONYMS: inflexible, recalcitrant
- 15. reiterate**
(rē it' ə rāt) (v.) to say again, repeat
Effective speakers often _____ an important statement for emphasis.
SYNONYMS: restate, recapitulate
- 16. stolid**
(stäl' id) (adj.) not easily moved mentally or emotionally; dull, unresponsive
_____ people can generally be expected to take most things in stride.
SYNONYMS: impassive, phlegmatic
ANTONYMS: emotional, oversensitive
- 17. tentative**
(ten' tə tiv) (adj.) experimental in nature; uncertain, hesitant
Negotiators have come up with a _____ agreement that will keep both sides at the bargaining table past the strike deadline.
SYNONYMS: provisional, inconclusive
ANTONYMS: conclusive, confirmed
- 18. unkempt**
(ən kempt') (adj.) not combed; untidy; not properly maintained; unpolished, rude
According to my parents, the latest fashions make me and my friends look _____.
SYNONYMS: sloppy, disordered, rough
ANTONYMS: well-groomed, tidy
- 19. verbatim**
(vər bā' təm) (adj., adv.) word for word; exactly as written or spoken
Newspapers often publish the _____ text of an important political speech.
At the swearing-in ceremony, the Chief Justice reads each line of the Oath of Office, and the new President repeats the oath _____.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) exact; (adv.) precisely
ANTONYM: (adj.) paraphrased
- 20. warily**
(wār' ə lē) (adv.) cautiously, with great care
The hikers made their way _____ up the steep and rocky trail.
SYNONYMS: prudently, gingerly
ANTONYMS: recklessly, heedlessly, incautiously

Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the essay on pages 12–13 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- Cassius, Brutus, and the other conspirators against Julius Caesar had developed a(n) (**opulent, insidious**) plot to assassinate the Roman dictator on the Senate floor.
- Because the situation is changing so rapidly, any plans we make to deal with the emergency can be no more than (**verbatim, tentative**).
- I must have been (**bereft, pliable**) of my senses when I bought that old car!
- The speaker (**deployed, adulterated**) all the facts and figures at her command to buttress her argument.
- I soon found out that my supposed friend had taken it upon himself to repeat (**unkempt, verbatim**) every word I said about Frieda's party.
- How annoying to hear the same silly advertising slogans (**gaped, reiterated**) endlessly on television!
- By studying the reactions of simpler life forms, researchers have greatly (**adulterated, augmented**) our knowledge of human behavior.
- Do you believe that the curriculum has been (**deployed, adulterated**) by the inclusion of courses on aspects of popular culture?
- A sort of heaviness in the air and an eerie silence were the first real (**reiterations, intimations**) of the approaching cyclone.
- Have you heard the joke about the (**ambidextrous, opulent**) loafer who was equally adept at not working with either hand?
- One of the chief reasons for your dateless weekends is undoubtedly your (**opulent, unkempt**) appearance.
- Do you expect me to listen to a lot of tired old ideas dressed up in the (**fortitude, guise**) of brilliant new insights?
- What they call their "(**insidious, pliable**) outlook on life" seems to be simply a lack of any firm moral standards.
- Recruits who complain of the cold should try to show a little more (**fortitude, intimation**) in facing the elements.
- There we were at the very edge of the cliff, with our front wheels about to plunge into a(n) (**gaping, intimidating**) ravine!



Marble bust of Roman ruler Julius Caesar, assassinated on March 15, 44 B.C.

16. Let us not forget that the early fighters for women's rights were greeted with the (**gibes, guises**) of the unthinking mob.
17. The young prince, who much preferred blue jeans, had to dress in the (**stolid, opulent**) robes designed for the coronation.
18. Because of my inexperience, I did not recognize at first his (**insidious, ambidextrous**) attempts to undermine our employer's confidence in me.
19. The ticking grew louder as the bomb squad (**warily, pliantly**) opened the package found on the grounds of the governor's residence.
20. In this scene of wild jubilation, my (**stolid, tentative**) roommate continued to eat his peanut butter sandwich as though nothing had happened.
21. The librarian hoped to (**deploy, augment**) the rare book collection by purchasing a first edition of Walt Whitman's book of poetry, *Leaves of Grass*.
22. To make beaded jewelry, it is essential that the materials you use to thread the beads, such as fine gauge wire, silk, leather, or cord, be (**pliable, ambidextrous**) and easy to work with.
23. When the famous pop star appeared at a local restaurant and began playing her guitar, it was difficult for the patrons not to (**gape, adulterate**).
24. Though all hope of victory had faded, the remaining troops continued to resist the enemy with a (**bereft, dour**) tenacity.
25. The proctor (**intimated, reiterated**) the directions for the test before we began.



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 **supple** limbs of a dancer _____
- a **facile** and graceful writer _____
- gawk** at the huge jaws of the crocodile _____
- gave no **indication** of being nervous _____
- rehash** the same old theories _____
- post** the remaining guards at the exits _____
- attend a **lavish** holiday banquet _____
- proceed **carefully** in unknown waters _____
- need to **enlarge** the computer's memory _____
- an **underhanded** attack on my good name _____



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.

- a person with a **rigid** viewpoint _____
- his **direct statement** to the board of directors _____
- refused to repeat** the joke _____
- surprisingly **maladroit** handling of the ball _____
- a **definite** date for the party _____



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.

- How can you tell whether the chopped-meat patty you ate for lunch had been _____ with artificial coloring and other foreign substances?
- Many ballplayers can bat from either side of the plate, but they cannot throw well with each hand unless they are _____.
- The company commander called his troops together and asked for more volunteers to _____ the strength of the raiding party.
- Perhaps I would be bored with the _____ lifestyle of a millionaire, but I'm willing to try it.
- Why would someone who is usually so neat and well-dressed appear in public in such a(n) _____ state?
- As the magician's assistant seemed to vanish into thin air, the entire audience _____ in amazement.
- Why should I be the object of all those _____ just because I'm wearing a three-piece suit on campus?
- In Shakespeare's famous tragedy *Othello*, Iago comes to Othello in the _____ of a friend but proves to be a deadly enemy.
- I recorded the speaker's presentation, but now I wish I had a software program that could help me transcribe the speech _____ so that I can find appropriate quotations to use in my report.
- America's earliest settlers faced the hardships of life on the frontier with faith and _____.

11. Having learned to respect the power in his opponent's fists, the boxer moved _____ around the center of the ring.
12. Since his acceptance of the invitation was only _____, the host may be one man short at the dinner party.
13. Her unchanging facial features and controlled voice as she received the news gave no _____ of her true feelings.
14. What a tragedy that in the twilight of her life the unfortunate woman should be _____ of all her loved ones!
15. At the risk of being boring, let me _____ my warning against careless driving.
16. The _____ expressions on the jurors' faces as they grimly filed back into the courtroom did not bode well for the defendant.
17. We learned that beneath his _____ exterior there was a sensitive, highly subtle, and perceptive mind.
18. To this day, historians are still debating whether or not Aaron Burr was guilty of a(n) _____ plot to break up the United States.
19. The twigs that were to be woven into the basket were soaked in water to make them more _____.
20. An experienced baseball manager _____ his outfielders according to the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing batters.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "The Globe Theatre: Then and Now" (pages 12–13). Suppose that you are Sam Wanamaker's assistant in 1970, helping him to raise funds to rebuild Shakespeare's Globe Theater. You want to persuade donors to help restore the historic theater by convincing them of three ways in which a replica of the Globe would be a cultural asset not only to London but also to the world. Write a persuasive letter, using at least two details from the passage and three unit words to make your point.
2. Think about how the experience of attending live theater is different from the experience of going to a movie theater. Write a brief essay in which you compare and contrast watching a play at a theater or playhouse to watching a film at a movie theater. Use examples from your reading (refer to pages 12–13), personal experiences, and prior knowledge to support your points of comparison. Use three or more words from this unit.

Vocabulary In Context

Literary Text

The following excerpts are from Charles Dickens's novel *A Tale of Two Cities*. 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. The wretched wife of the innocent man thus doomed to die, fell under the sentence, as if she had been mortally stricken. But, she uttered no sound; and so strong was the voice within her, representing that it was she of all the world who must uphold him in his misery and not **augment** it, that it quickly raised her, even from that shock.

Someone who does NOT **augment** misery tries to

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| a. reduce it | c. intensify it |
| b. modify it | d. ignore it |

2. Affected, and impressed with terror as they both were, by this spectacle of ruin, it was not a time to yield to such emotions. His lonely daughter, **bereft** of her final hope and reliance, appealed to them both too strongly.

A person who is **bereft** of hope is one who has

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| a. failed to act | c. moved forward |
| b. tried to help | d. given up |

3. Next followed the thought that much of the future peace of mind enjoyable by the dear ones, depended on his quiet **fortitude**. So, by degrees he calmed into the better state, when he could raise his thoughts much higher, and draw comfort down.

Fortitude means

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| a. intelligence | c. determination |
| b. limitations | d. defenses |

4. The gentleman from Tellson's had nothing left for it but to empty his glass with an air of **stolid** desperation, settle his odd little flaxen wig at the ears, and follow the waiter to Miss Manette's apartment.

A **stolid** act is one that is

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. brave | c. arrogant |
| b. unemotional | d. exaggerated |

5. East, West, North, and South, through the woods, four heavy-treading, **unkempt** figures crushed the high grass and cracked the branches, striding on cautiously to come together in the courtyard.

Someone who is **unkempt** is

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| a. orderly | c. disheveled |
| b. loud | d. malicious |



A still from the 1935 film *A Tale of Two Cities*, with Ronald Colman as Sydney Carton

Interactive
Quiz



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