

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 2 CONTEXT: Expression

The Stagecoach Never Stops: Westerns

Just like the stagecoaches that rumble through them, westerns keep delivering. Like their cowboy heroes, westerns are dependable and plentiful. Stories about the western United States—those in novels, in movies, or on television shows—always have an audience. With clearly defined “good guys” and “bad guys” and simple conflicts over cattle, land, or love, westerns seem to express basic U.S. cultural concerns and interests.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about westerns and their popularity. Below are ten Vocabulary Words that will be used in these exercises.

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|-----------|------------|---------|----------|------------|
| analogy | electorate | excerpt | paternal | posthumous |
| antiquity | ethical | heresy | pauper | prophetic |

EXERCISE 1 *Wordbusting*

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word’s meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

analogy → “Hey, Mom, let’s talk about westerns. I just thought of an **analogy** that will interest you: Those westerns that you’ve been watching and reading all these years are like modern folk tales.”

Context:	Structure:	Sound:
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Dictionary:

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2.

antiquity

"I don't like the sound of 'all these years,' Jake. You make me sound ancient, like someone of great **antiquity**. I'm not older than the American West, you know."

3.

electorate

"Mom, you're part of the **electorate**, those who have the right to vote. If you had to vote for a western movie star for president, which one would you vote for?"

4.

ethical

"Well, John Wayne, of course—if he were alive—because the cowboy heroes he played always knew right from wrong. They were **ethical**. Do you remember him as Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit*?"

5.

excerpt

"Yeah, and I remember how you used to read to me your favorite **excerpts** from that book. I bet you can quote them by heart even now."

6.

heresy

"All I know is that John Wayne was the best western actor. If anyone were to state otherwise, it would be pure **heresy** as far as I'm concerned. You don't have a different opinion, do you?"

7.

paternal

"Well, Mom, John Wayne is a **paternal** figure because he's strong and capable, as the traditional father is supposed to be. But I prefer a tougher hero, a loner, like some of the characters Clint Eastwood portrays."

8.

pauper

"There's room for all kinds of different heroes in westerns, you know, Jake. Some are **paupers**, and some are wealthy; some are shy, and some are outgoing; some are wanderers, and some are settlers."

9.

posthumous

"Mom, since you're such a John Wayne fan, I know you can answer this question: Did John Wayne receive a **posthumous** Academy Award®, or did he receive the award while he was alive?"

10.

prophetic

"He accepted an Academy Award® in 1969, ten years before his death. Months before the awards I predicted he would win, which shows how good my **prophetic** abilities are."

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 person who is very poor, especially one dependent upon public charity
- ____ 12. word: _____
n. a selected passage or scene from a literary work or piece of music; an extract;
v. to take out or select passages; to quote
- ____ 13. word: _____
n. a likeness between different things; a similarity; a comparison
- ____ 14. word: _____
adj. pertaining to right and wrong; conforming to certain rules or standards; moral
- ____ 15. word: _____
adj. relating to someone or something that foretells events
- ____ 16. word: _____
n. a belief different from accepted doctrine
- ____ 17. word: _____
adj. inherited from or related through one's father; fatherly
- ____ 18. word: _____
n. ancient times; a thing or people of ancient times; the quality of being ancient
- ____ 19. word: _____
adj. coming after death
- ____ 20. word: _____
n. all persons having the right to vote

COLUMN B

- (A) "Mom, I guess your interest in westerns is a result of **paternal** influence since you learned so much about them from Grandfather."
- (B) "Well, Jake, westerns can teach you a great deal about morals. The cowboy heroes and lawmen usually take **ethical** stands and do a lot of good."
- (C) "I know. Read an **excerpt** from just about any western novel, such as *Shane*, and you get an idea that good triumphs over evil in westerns."
- (D) "Westerns relive the frontier days of the 1800s. Don't look to westerns for predictions of the future because they aren't **prophetic**."
- (E) "Westerns are sort of American epics, like Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were to the Greeks. It's an interesting **analogy**, don't you think?"
- (F) "Well, Jake, I've never thought of comparing westerns to stories of **antiquity**, but I'm sure people of ancient times had similar stories."
- (G) "And westerns have a broad appeal, like a popular presidential candidate has to the general **electorate**."
- (H) "Westerns depict every kind of character: **paupers** who come to town for charity, wealthy ranchers, and mysterious loners."
- (I) "Mom, do you recall a western movie about a clergyman who didn't believe the teachings of his church and so was tried for **heresy**?"
- (J) "No, but I don't think I could live long enough to see all the western movies that have been made. After I'm gone, there'll have to be some **posthumous** showings!"

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. "I remember how good it felt when my father watched western movies with me. I really appreciate his _____ interest now. I wish I could tell him."
 (A) prophetic
 (B) posthumous
 (C) ethical
 (D) paternal
 (E) analogous
22. "Mom, you can't have _____ talks with your Dad; he's been dead for ten years."
 (A) ethical
 (B) prophetic
 (C) posthumous
 (D) paternal
 (E) heretical
23. "Jake, I may seem like a survivor from _____ to you, but I prefer the old westerns, which probably seem ancient to someone your age."
 (A) analogy
 (B) excerpt
 (C) electorate
 (D) heresy
 (E) antiquity
24. "Well, I know you think it's _____, but I guess I do go against your belief that old westerns are superior to newer ones."
 (A) antiquity
 (B) analogy
 (C) pauper
 (D) heresy
 (E) excerpt
25. "I guess I'm _____ after all, Jake. I predicted a long time ago that you would eventually like westerns."
 (A) ethical
 (B) paternal
 (C) posthumous
 (D) pompous
 (E) prophetic
26. "Mom, just because you sometimes feel as old as someone from _____ doesn't mean that you are _____ and can predict the future."
 (A) electorate . . . posthumous
 (B) pauper . . . prophetic
 (C) antiquity . . . prophetic
 (D) analogy . . . ethical
 (E) heresy . . . paternal
27. "Now, don't get upset like a member of the _____ throwing a candidate out at election time. Say, that's a good _____!"
 (A) heresy . . . antiquity
 (B) antiquity . . . pauper
 (C) electorate . . . analogy
 (D) pauper . . . electorate
 (E) electorate . . . heresy
28. "Mom, if I ever write an autobiography, a number of _____ from it will be about you. I don't want to tell you that I love you _____; I want to tell you while you're still alive."
 (A) excerpts . . . posthumously
 (B) analogies . . . paternally
 (C) heretics . . . ethically
 (D) electorates . . . heretically
 (E) paupers . . . paternally
29. "You know, Jake, many of my moral values came from _____ ideas in westerns. These values helped me to rise from a poor background—we were practically _____—to become a successful judge."
 (A) paternal . . . electorates
 (B) ethical . . . analogies
 (C) posthumous . . . antiquities
 (D) ethical . . . paupers
 (E) prophetic . . . excerpts
30. "Well, I guess I'm guilty of _____ because I don't hold your belief about the ethical value of westerns. But I can recite a few _____ and quotes from famous westerns."
 (A) antiquity . . . electorates
 (B) heresy . . . excerpts
 (C) electorate . . . heresies
 (D) analogy . . . excerpts
 (E) excerpt . . . heresies