

Lesson 19

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

apex

ā' peks

n. The highest point of something.

Visitors can climb to the **apex** of the temple of the sun, a pyramid in Mexico.

collusion

kə ləʊ' zhən

n. A secret agreement between parties for a criminal or deceitful purpose.

The four companies were cited for acting in **collusion** to fix prices illegally.

incinerate

in sin' ər āt'

v. To burn to ashes.

Before recycling became the norm, we used to **incinerate** all our old newspapers in the furnace.

indict

in dīt'

v. To charge with a crime.

After a preliminary hearing, the defendant was **indicted** for shoplifting.

indictment *n.*

In 1971, a grand jury brought an **indictment** against several top-level officials in the Watergate scandal.

judicial

jʊə dīsh' əl

adj. Having to do with judges, the law, or the courts.

Standard **judicial** attire in the United States is a long black robe.

martyr

mārt' ər

n. One who chooses to suffer or die rather than give up beliefs or principles.

Joan of Arc was the French **martyr** burned at the stake by the English in 1431.

v. To be put to death for one's beliefs.

Christians in ancient Rome were **martyred** for their religious beliefs by being thrown to the lions.

multitude

mul' tə təəd

n. 1. A large number of people or things.

This report on global warming covers a **multitude** of topics.

2. A large group of people; a crowd.

Helicopters flew overhead as the president addressed the **multitude**.

rescind

rē sind'

v. To do away with; to cancel.

The Citadel, a South Carolina military college, **rescinded** its ban on admitting women following a court order in 1995.

revere

rē vīr'

v. To have great respect and affection for.

His contemporaries **revered** George Washington for his character and leadership.

scion

sī' ən

n. 1. A descendant or heir.

Britain's Prince Charles is a **scion** of the House of Windsor.

2. A cutting from a plant used to produce new growth.

The **scions** you grafted onto the apple trees should produce fruit in three years.

sordid

sôr' dīd

adj. Dirty or disgusting.

The **sordid** details of the senator's bribe-taking were revealed in his diary.

suave

swāv

adj. Smoothly polite; blandly pleasing.

She had such a **suave** demeanor that she charmed almost everyone she met.

travesty

trav' əs tē

n. A distorted example or imitation.

Some news stations turn the reporting of world events into a **travesty** of responsible journalism.

vindicate

vin' də kāt

v. 1. To free from blame, guilt, or suspicion.

The suspect was released when an eyewitness came forward with testimony to **vindicate** him.

2. To show to be true or right.

The company was asked to **vindicate** its claim that its products were safe.

vitriolic

vi' trē əl' ik

adj. Having a sharp, biting quality; bitterly sarcastic.

I concluded from the **vitriolic** Boston reviews that the play would not make it to Broadway.

19A Understanding Meanings

Read the sentences below. If a sentence correctly uses the word in bold, write C on the line below it. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it so that the vocabulary word in bold is used correctly.

1. To **rescind** an offer is to withdraw it.

2. A **martyr** is a person who subjects others to harsh treatment.

3. **Collusion** is an underhanded collaboration.

4. To **vindicate** something is to conquer it.

5. A **scion** is a shoot from a plant that can be grafted onto another plant.

6. A **multitude** is a gathering of many people.

7. To **revere** someone is to take revenge on that person.

8. An **indictment** is a legal accusation of wrongdoing.

9. A **sordid** crime is one that is especially evil or reprehensible.

10. A **judicial** decision is one that can be enforced by the court.

11. To **incinerate** something is to suggest it without offering proof.

12. A **suave** person is one who makes promises and doesn't keep them.

13. The **apex** is the top of something.

14. A **vitriolic** statement is one that can express angry criticism.

15. A **travesty** is a way of crossing from one side to the other.

apex
collusion
incinerate
indict
judicial
martyr
multitude
rescind
revere
scion
sordid
suave
travesty
vindicate
vitriolic

19B Using Words

If the word (or a form of the word) in bold fits in a sentence in the group below it, write the word in the blank. If the word does not fit, leave the space empty.

I. **vindicate**

- (a) Admitting that you did wrong does not _____ you.
- (b) Please _____ the location of your house on this map.
- (c) De Gaulle's aim was to _____ France's honor after the Nazi invasion.

2. martyr

- (a) The slain Malcolm X was mourned as a _____ by his followers.
- (b) _____ saints are venerated by some religions.
- (c) Thousands of civilians were _____ in the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

3. multitude

- (a) A great _____ gathered to hear Janis Joplin sing.
- (b) She had a _____ of excuses for not cleaning up after dinner.
- (c) A vast _____ of stars stood out against the velvety blackness of the sky.

4. collusion

- (a) The police believe the two brothers acted in _____ to rob the bank.
- (b) The _____ occurred when the truck failed to stop at a red light.
- (c) Suspected _____ between drug dealers and some police officers is under investigation.

5. scion

- (a) The _____ containing buds was grafted onto the root stock of the tree.
- (b) Prince William and Prince Harry are _____ of the royal family in England.
- (c) A mare's _____ is called a foal.

6. suave

- (a) In winter, she wore a _____ wool coat that reached her ankles.
- (b) The _____ actor starred in a series of light comedies.
- (c) His _____ manner carried him through many difficult situations.

7. indict

- (a) There were fourteen charges in the _____ handed down by the grand jury.
- (b) The district attorney has plenty of evidence to _____ the gang members.
- (c) The bus driver didn't _____ whether she would be taking on additional passengers.

8. rescind

- (a) The company agreed to _____ the order requiring overtime work.
- (b) I told the server I wished to _____ my original order because I wanted chili instead.
- (c) The blizzard forced the sporting goods store to _____ its super sale.

19C Word Study

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

1. ASHES : INCINERATE ::

(a) melt : ice	(c) smoke : rise
(b) toast : burn	(d) ice : freeze

2. BLIGHT : DAMAGE ::

(a) measles : disease	(c) bark : tree
(b) hospital : doctor	(d) cure : recovery

3. NOMINAL : SUBSTANTIAL ::

(a) articulate : speaking	(c) small : large
(b) widespread : ubiquitous	(d) trite : facetious

4. MULTITUDE : MANY ::

(a) pair : two	(c) size : small
(b) paucity : none	(d) jungle : sylvan

5. DIFFIDENT : OVERBEARING ::

(a) harrowing : traumatic	(c) haphazard : convoluted
(b) belated : posthumous	(d) nondescript : flamboyant

6. MEDAL : REGALIA ::

(a) hubbub : riot	(c) plaudit : lament
(b) facet : visage	(d) mask : costume

7. JUDICIAL : JUDGE ::

(a) gratis : price	(c) studious : student
(b) royal : monarch	(d) incontrovertible : fact

8. APLOMB : SUAVE ::

(a) alacrity : fast	(c) fear : brave
(b) integrity : disingenuous	(d) chagrin : idyllic

9. APEX : ZENITH ::

(a) time : clock	(c) verve : indolence
(b) facet : face	(d) circle : center

10. DESPISE : REVERE ::

(a) garner : glean	(c) give : receive
(b) accentuate : emphasize	(d) regret : lament

apex
 collusion
 incinerate
 indict
 judicial
 martyr
 multitude
 rescind
 revere
 scion
 sordid
 suave
 travesty
 vindicate
 vitriolic

19D Images of Words

Circle the letter of each sentence that suggests the numbered bold vocabulary word. In each group, you may circle more than one letter or none at all.

1. **judicial**

- (a) A judge's decisions are subject to review by a higher court.
- (b) A series of wise business decisions made Gladys a rich woman.
- (c) The legal system in Louisiana differs from that of other states.

2. **apex**

- (a) The Washington Monument is about 555 feet tall.
- (b) The Japanese writer Yasunari Kawabata won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1968.
- (c) Jackie Joyner-Kersey holds the world's record in the heptathlon.

3. **vitriolic**

- (a) The author felt devastated when he read the critic's nasty review.
- (b) Carmen ran for ice cubes when boiling water splashed her hand.
- (c) The teacher evaluated her students with a written report.

4. **revere**

- (a) Once she had let the car warm up, she backed out of the driveway.
- (b) Sue was quite fond of her grandmother and visited her as often as possible.
- (c) Martin Luther King Jr. was held in high esteem by many people.

5. **incinerate**

- (a) The sand was so hot under the blazing sun that it hurt our bare feet.
- (b) The forest fire left not a tree standing for miles around.
- (c) Several tons of garbage were reduced to ashes each day by the town.

6. **sordid**

- (a) Willie admitted returning his library books late.
- (b) The immigrants were virtually imprisoned in the crumbling brick factory.
- (c) Some tabloid newspapers revel in printing sensational details of celebrities' private lives.

7. **martyr**

- (a) Charles Dickens died in 1870 at the age of 58.
- (b) Millions died from smallpox before a vaccine was discovered to combat the disease.
- (c) President Lincoln was fatally shot by a man who opposed his politics, as he watched a play at Ford's Theater.

8. **travesty**

- (a) The guilt of the defendants had been decided before the “trial” began.
- (b) A musical version of *Macbeth*, set in Las Vegas, closed after just one night.
- (c) “This season’s television sitcoms are the worst in many years,” the writer said.

9. **collusion**

- (a) William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan worked together on many operettas.
- (b) The gatekeeper admitted giving the thieves a key to the warehouse.
- (c) The airline was known for losing people’s luggage.

10. **scion**

- (a) The healthy shoot is inserted into a slit cut in the rootstock.
- (b) Prince Hal was the son of Henry IV and succeeded him as king.
- (c) Emperor penguins warm the eggs they lay by holding them atop their feet and hunching over them.

19E Passage

Read the passage below; then complete the exercise that follows it.

A Controversial Prime Minister

On December 1, 1988, Benazir Bhutto, aged 35, was sworn in as prime minister of Pakistan, the first woman in modern times ever to be elected the head of state in a Muslim country. She reached the **apex** of political power, a remarkable feat in a country whose culture is dominated by men. Her election **vindicated** the honor of her father, the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who ten years earlier had been taken prisoner and ordered executed by the military ruler General Zia after a trial that Benazir Bhutto condemned as a **travesty** of justice.

Benazir Bhutto grew up a child of privilege. Her father, an Oxford-educated lawyer, the **scion** of a wealthy and influential family, was drawn into politics at an early age. Following the defeat of Pakistan in its 1971 war with India, the **suave** diplomat-turned-politician and founder of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) was first appointed president, then, under a new constitution, officially elected prime minister. He encountered opposition almost immediately when he began the difficult task of cleaning up Pakistan’s **sordid** political system, which was run by the military in **collusion** with some of the country’s elite families.

Her autobiography, *Daughter of Destiny*, suggests that Benazir Bhutto **revered** her father, and that he, in turn, idolized her. Taking her into his confidence, he introduced her to many world leaders and sent her to Radcliffe and Oxford to study government. In 1977, having completed her studies, she returned to Pakistan. She scarcely had time to unpack before General Zia, the army chief of staff, overthrew her father in a military coup and shortly thereafter had him **indicted** on charges of ordering the assassination of a political opponent. Despite appeals from world leaders, her father was executed, an act she considers **judicial** murder. Benazir Bhutto and her mother were then placed under house arrest.

The eleven-year rule of General Zia was marked by the brutal suppression of civil liberties. The PPP was outlawed, and when supporters of the **martyred** Bhutto demonstrated, they were tear-gassed, arrested, and clubbed. Benazir Bhutto felt that the torch of leadership had been passed to her, and her **vitriolic** expression of contempt for General Zia led to her imprisonment. In 1981

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she was held in solitary confinement for five months, with no toilet or running water. During this time, she was denied medical treatment, and her guards would sometimes leave a bottle of poison in her cell.

General Zia failed to break her spirit, however. In 1984 she was permitted to leave the country; she chose to settle in London. Two years later, responding to international pressure, General Zia **rescinded** his ban on political parties. Bhutto was allowed to return to Pakistan and went on a triumphant tour of the country, greeted by **multitudes** of joyous PPP supporters. In August 1988, a plane carrying Zia and his top military advisers crashed, **incinerating** everyone aboard.

Several months later, Benazir Bhutto led the PPP to victory and held the office of prime minister for two years, restoring civil liberties and releasing political prisoners. She faced political opposition at every turn, and was even forced to combat charges of corruption within her own administration. Though her narrow reelection in 1993 secured her place in office for a few years, Benazir Bhutto lost the race for prime minister in 1997. The military quickly overthrew the newly elected government and Bhutto was exiled from her own country. In the fall of 2007, Bhutto returned to Pakistan to continue her struggle against the country's corrupt political system. Her battle came to a tragic end on December 27, 2007, when she was assassinated at a political rally in Pakistan. Like her father before her, Bhutto gave her life fighting to do what was best for her country and its people.

Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from this lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. What attributes suited Zulfikar Bhutto for diplomacy?

2. What happened to Zulfikar Bhutto when he refused to act in **collusion** with the military?

3. How did Benazir Bhutto view her father's trial and execution?

4. What was a result of Benazir Bhutto's resistance to General Zia?

5. Describe the conditions of Benazir Bhutto's prison cell.

6. How does the author of the passage show that people **revered** Benazir Bhutto?

7. Why was Benazir Bhutto able to run for office after her return from exile?

8. What happened to General Zia's plane?

9. How was Zulfikar Bhutto's faith in his daughter's abilities **vindicated**?

10. Why is Zulfikar Bhutto described as Pakistan's **martyred** leader?

11. At the end of the passage, is Benazir Bhutto's political career at its **apex**? Why or why not?

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

Don't confuse **judicial** with *judicious*, which means "wise; carefully thought out." A *judicial* decision is one made by a judge or a court of law; it may or may not be *judicious*. Both words are formed from the Latin *iudic*, "judge."

Martyr comes from the Greek *martus*, which means "witness." It originally referred to persons who bore witness to their beliefs by being willing to die for them. Such persons could have escaped death by denying their beliefs, but refused to do so. *Martyr* has acquired broader meanings over the centuries and can refer to persons who are murdered

or unjustly put to death. It can also be applied to one who suffers over a long period, but bears pain without complaining.

Sulfuric acid is one of the most destructive substances known. It will burn, corrode, or dissolve its way through any container in which it is placed, with few exceptions. One of the materials that can withstand its corrosiveness is glass. Another name for sulfuric acid is oil of vitriol. A **vitriolic** attack on someone is one that is vicious or destructive, and invites comparison to the corrosive qualities of sulfuric acid.