Read the following passage, taking note of the boldface words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 7. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

Everything That Happens, Happens as It Should
<First-Person Narrative>

What a day! I am shivering and my feet are swollen from our long, grueling march, yet I must first attend to the needs of my master, Emperor Marcus Aurelius. We are on the northern frontier, on a campaign to put down an uprising of a rogue Germanic tribe. These barbarians fired the first salvo yesterday, raining arrows down on a number of our brave legionnaires. Today we moved to higher ground to gain momentum for an attack.

My master is exhausted and takes his dinner alone this evening, without his generals. I am starving but would not presume to eat. At least I got to taste a little beef and wine, as I sample everything first in case a foe tries to poison him. I am ever vigilant to possible plots against his life, and I trust no one, although I know my master trusts me. As well he should, for I was sold into slavery before birth to pay off my father's debts and have been in the Imperial household all my life.
We have been gone from Rome many months. Life is hard for all of us, from emperor and general to foot soldier and slave. But our monarch is benevolent, and foremost a devoted thinker and philosopher. Perhaps that is why he is rarely flustered, even when facing misfortune and suffering. For if Marcus is not putting down uprisings from uncouth savages, he is placating unruly senators prone to fighting and brawling. To me, these men display a flagrant disregard for the respect due an emperor. It's appalling!

The Stoic philosophy Marcus Aurelius subscribes to declares that all men are by nature equal. "Blasius," he said to me the other day, "you are cold. Go to the provisions tent and get warmer clothes." My master has nurtured my education, and so I have grown proficient in reading, writing, and music. Sometimes I play the lute while he converses with me. I pretend we are friends and equals instead of master and slave. I long for our days at the Imperial palace or at one of the country villas, with the many luxuries. Oh, what I would give for the taste of a honey-drenched fig! I also miss my dear friend, Grumio; I rarely see him even in Rome, for he is a domestic slave in the house of a rich merchant on the other side of the city.

Still, questioning my lot in life will get me nowhere. Marcus detests complaining and has told me many times that things are as they are and as they are meant to be, so I won't incur his wrath by appearing ungrateful. My friend Gaius, a freed slave, chose to fight as a gladiator for fame and fortune. Gaius is still alive, but just barely. Whereas I live a charmed life in comparison, thanks to my master.

Marcus Aurelius often reminds me that no man is given more hardship than he can endure. Even out here, in the midst of battle, he writes daily of life's paradoxes and how to accept the idea that what looks like contradiction may be true. He says he is flawed, like all men, but he has had a long reign over an unruly empire and is strong and unbowed. As for me, I wish that I had one-quarter of his fortitude and courage!
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. amiss
   (ə mis’)
   (adj.) faulty, imperfect, not as it should be; (adv.) in a mistaken or improper way, wrongly
   Under the circumstances it would not be _________________________ to offer our congratulations.
   SYNONYM: (adj., adv.) awry
   ANTONYM: (adv.) properly

2. brawl
   (brɔl)
   (n.) a noisy quarrel or fight; (v.) to quarrel or fight noisily
   The noise coming from the classroom sounded more like a _________________________ than a debate.
   SYNONYMS: (n.) scuffle, donnybrook; (v.) spar, scrap

3. detest
   (di test’)
   (v.) to hate, dislike very much, loathe
   Children who dislike green vegetables often _________________________ spinach.
   SYNONYMS: despise, abhor
   ANTONYMS: relish, love, admire, esteem

4. domestic
   (də mes’ tik)
   (adj.) native to a country, not foreign; relating to the life or affairs of a household; (n.) a household servant
   The newspaper is filled with information about our country’s _________________________ affairs.
   When my grandmother first came to this country, she took a job as a _________________________
   SYNONYMS: (adj.) native; (n.) servant
   ANTONYMS: (adj.) foreign, alien

5. flagrant
   (flä’ gran’)
   (adj.) extremely bad, glaring; scandalous, notorious
   Crossing against the light shows a _________________________ disregard for the law.
   SYNONYMS: blatant, gross, outrageous
   ANTONYMS: petty, piddling, trifling, inconsequential

6. flaw
   (flō)
   (n.) a slight fault, defect, crack
   We noticed a _________________________ in the plan to start building the house before the spring rains.
   SYNONYMS: imperfection, blemish
   ANTONYMS: faultlessness, perfection

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7. **fledgling**  
(flej' lin)  
(n.) an inexperienced person, beginner; a young bird about to leave the nest; (adj.) inexperienced, budding  
We placed the ____________ back in its nest.  
A ____________ police officer appeared on the scene and wisely called for assistance.  
SYNONYMS: (n.) novice, tyro, neophyte  
ANTONYMS: (n.) pro, expert, veteran

8. **fluster**  
(flas' tar)  
(v) to make or become confused, agitated, or nervous; (n.) a state of confusion or agitation  
During the trial, the judge told the attorney not to ____________ the witness.  
SYNONYMS: (v.) agitate, disconcert  
ANTONYMS: (v.) reassure, soothe, quiet

9. **foremost**  
(fôr' môst)  
(adj.) chief, most important, primary; (adv.) in the first place  
Among my interests, music is ____________.  
First and ____________, you must call home to let your family know you’ll be late.  
SYNONYMS: (adj.) leading, principal, paramount  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) hindmost, last, secondary

10. **momentum**  
(mô ment' am)  
(n.) the force or speed with which something moves  
The presidential campaign gained ____________ once the first primary was over.  
SYNONYMS: drive, thrust, impetus

11. **notable**  
(nôt' a bal)  
(adj.) striking, remarkable; (n.) a person who is well known, distinguished, or outstanding in some way  
Being chosen for the team was a ____________ event in our lives.  
The party was attended by ____________ from the film world.  
SYNONYMS: (adj.) noteworthy, exceptional  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) undistinguished, unremarkable; (n.) unknown

12. **nurture**  
(nûr' char)  
(v) to bring up, care for, train, nourish; (n.) rearing, training, upbringing  
It is wonderful to watch chimpanzees ____________ their young.  
The ____________ they received as children served them well as they grew into adulthood.  
SYNONYMS: (v.) raise, rear, foster  
ANTONYMS: (v.) neglect, ignore, discourage, hinder
13. paradox
(par·ə dåks) (n.) a self-contradictory statement that on closer examination proves true; a person or thing with seemingly contradictory qualities

It is a ___________________ to say that youth is wasted on the young.
SYNONYMS: riddle, enigma, anomaly, absurdity

14. perjury
(par' ja rē) (n.) the act of swearing to a lie

The witness was convicted of ___________________ and was sentenced to serve two years in prison.
SYNONYM: false witness

15. presume
(pri zūm') (v.) to take for granted, assume or suppose; to dare, take upon oneself, take liberties

The counselors ___________________ that the jobs they had last summer will be theirs this summer as well.
SYNONYMS: surmise, trespass, infringe

16. prior
(pri' ar) (adj.) earlier, former

Unfortunately, the governor had a ___________________ appointment and could not meet with the class.
SYNONYMS: anterior, preceding; ANTONYMS: later, ensuing, following

17. proficient
(pra fish' ant) (adj.) skilled, expert, or capable in any field or activity

Dad knows his way around the kitchen and is quite a ___________________ cook.
SYNONYMS: competent, adept
ANTONYMS: incompetent, inept, unskilled, ignorant

18. salvo
(sal' vō) (n.) a burst of gunfire or cannon shot, often as a tribute or salute; a sudden burst of anything; a spirited verbal attack

The audience erupted in a ___________________ of laughter.
SYNONYMS: barrage, volley

19. vigilant
(vij' ə lant) (adj.) wide-awake, alert, watchful

The ___________________ guards paced back and forth in front of the barracks.
SYNONYM: attentive; ANTONYMS: sleepy, inattentive, unobservant

20. wrath
(rath) (n.) intense anger

In Greek and Roman myths, characters fear the ___________________ of the gods.
SYNONYMS: rage, ire, choler, indignation
ANTONYMS: favor, approval, pleasure, blessing
Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 88–89 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. To say that the U.S. Constitution is one of the greatest documents of all time does not mean that it is entirely without (**momentum**, **flaws**).

2. **Romeo and Juliet** opens with members of the rival houses of Montague and Capulet (**brawling**, **perjuring**) in the streets of Verona.

3. She may have given wrong information in court, but this was an honest mistake and certainly does not make her guilty of (**perjury**, **wrath**).

4. How can you expect the court to excuse your repeated and (**flagrant**, **vigilant**) violations of the traffic laws?

5. Though I hadn’t expected to be treated quite so unkindly by the audience, I didn’t become (**flustered**, **nurtured**) or lose my professional cool.

6. As support for our candidate continued to gain (**momentum**, **salvo**), it soon became clear that she would win the election by a landslide.

7. Nowadays (**domestics**, **fledglings**) are seen more often in old books and movies than in real life.

8. No parent can ever be (**vigilant**, **amiss**) enough to prevent a small child from taking many a painful tumble.

9. Under the American system of justice, any person accused of a crime is (**presumed**, **flawed**) to be innocent until proven guilty.

10. I am disturbed by the (**momentum**, **paradox**) of impoverished people in the richest land on Earth.

11. Because there had been no (**prior**, **proficient**) notice of the scholarship competition, we had practically no time to prepare for it.

12. "Something is (**foremost**, **amiss**) in this room," said the detective, peering over the back of the sofa, "and I intend to discover what it is."

13. Abraham Lincoln had very little formal schooling, but his mind was (**nurtured**, **flawed**) by such great literary works as the Bible and the plays of Shakespeare.

14. It was error only a (**flaw**, **fledgling**), not a more experienced officer, could have committed.

15. I can forgive an honest mistake, but I (**presume**, **detest**) any attempt to cover up errors by lying.
16. The struggle against terrorism has been one of the (notable, proficient) features of our time.

17. The easternmost tip of Cuba was the first populated area in the region to feel the (paradox, wrath) of Hurricane Zelda.

18. The charges of incompetence the candidate leveled at her opponent were but the opening (brawl, salvo) in her campaign to become mayor.

19. The rather skinny boy whom we had noticed only two years before as a (prior, fledgling) quarterback was now an all-American!

20. (Foremost, Flagrant) among the reasons that so many millions of immigrants have come to the United States is the desire for freedom.

21. A happy (domestic, nurture) life can afford an executive a great deal of relief from the everyday strains of running a large company.

22. It was hard to believe that the small, rather ordinary-looking person who was standing before us was a world-famous (notable, fledgling).

23. Please don't take it (amiss, notably) if I suggest that your French accent sounds more like Paris, Texas, than Paris, France.

24. She worked so easily and quietly that at first we did not realize how remarkably (proficient, amiss) she was in the laboratory.

25. The unexpected award left me in a confused but thrilling (fluster, wrath).

**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. felt his enemy's *fury*  
2. witnessed a violent street *battle*  
3. did not *rattle* the experienced pilot  
4. was responsible for a variety of *household* chores  
5. committed *false oath* during the trial  
6. a really *impressive* effort  
7. became an *able* gymnast after much practice  
8. not trust the script to *apprentice* screenwriters  
9. had been involved in a *previous* arrest  
10. suspected that something had gone *off target*
Vocabulary in Context

The following excerpts are from Mark Twain's novel A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. 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 woman paled slightly, but quite perceptibly, and the man looked flustered and irresolute.
   Someone who is flustered is NOT
   a. steady        c. confused
   b. agitated      d. tired

2. "Take a rest, child; the way you are using up all the domestic air, the kingdom will have to go to importing it by to-morrow, and it's a low enough treasury without that."
   Air that is domestic is
   a. neat and tidy  c. native to a place
   b. unlikely to cause trouble  d. from a distant location

3. They are full of admiration of his vast bulk and his prodigious strength; they speak with pride of the fact that he can do a hundred marvels which are far and away beyond their own powers; and they speak with the same pride of the fact that in his wrath he is able to drive a thousand men before him.
   Someone who feels wrath is
   a. careful        c. brave
   b. mighty         d. angry

4. Ah, Sandy, what a right heart she had, how simple, and genuine, and good she was! She was a flawless wife and mother.
   A flawless person is
   a. impatient      c. perfect
   b. hasty          d. tired

5. The saving in expense was a notable economy. You will see that by these figures: . . . at former rates, this would have cost the government about $240; at the new rate we pulled through for about $35, thus saving upward of $200 at one swoop.
   A notable economy is
   a. impressive      c. indifferent
   b. ordinary        d. declining

Interactive Quiz
Snap the code, or go to vocabularyworkshop.com