

UNIT SIX

VOCABULARY FROM LATIN AND GREEK ROOTS

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SOMN

Latin SOMNUS "sleep"

III Can you think of another common word that comes from this root?

SOMNOLENT (säm' nə lənt) *adj.* Drowsy; sleepyThe already *somnolent* professor found that sitting through a slow afternoon of student presentations was agonizing.

syn: drowsy

ant: alert

SOPOR

Latin SOPOR "sleep"

SOPORIFIC (sop əf əf' ək) *adj.* Causing sleep or fatigueL. *sopor* + *facere*, "to make" = *sleep-making*Although we had been promised that the play would "astonish and amaze" us, we found the whole thing rather *soporific*.**SOPOR** (sō' pər) *n.* Sleep; drowsinessTim explained that his *sopor* was a result of the medicine given to him by the dentist, not a lack of interest.**LANG**

Latin LANGUERE "to be weak, be faint"

LANGUID (lān' gwid) *adj.* Lacking energy; weakIn response to James' voice, the sick dog was still able to give a *languid* wag of its tail.

syn: tired

ant: active

LANGUISH (lān' gwish) *v.* To waste awayBernard feared that if he was not granted parole, he would *languish* in prison for the rest of his life.

syn: weaken

LANGUOR (lān' gər) *n.* Lack of physical or mental energyThe heat wave that the city had been experiencing for three weeks left residents in a state of *languor*.

syn: listlessness, lethargy



Angie's ANGER meets Larry's LANGUOR

VIGIL

Latin VIGIL "watchful"

VIGILANT (vi'jə lənt) *adj.* On the alert; watchful
 Having grown up in a tough neighborhood, Byron was known for keeping a *vigilant* eye on everything around him.
syn: aware

VIGILANTE (vi jə lān' tē) *n.* Someone who takes law enforcement into his or her own hands
 A number of mothers in the community decided that the police were not doing enough to combat teen violence, so they used *vigilante* tactics to clean up the neighborhood.

QUIES

Latin QUIESCERE, QUIETUS "to rest"

ACQUIESCE (ə kwe es') *v.* To consent or comply passively or without protest
 L. ad, "toward," + quiescere = *to rest towards*
 Geraldine finally *acquiesced* to her teacher's request to remain silent during the testing period.
syn: submit; accede *ant:* resist

REQUIEM (re'kwē əm) *n.* A song or religious service for the dead or lost
 Verdi composed a moving *requiem* about Romeo and Juliet.
syn: elegy

QUITTANCE (kwɪ' təns) *n.* A repayment; compensation
 After weeks of negotiation, the company finally allowed Jorge a *quittance* for his work.

III The first word of the Roman Catholic mass for the dead is *requies*, meaning "rest." A *requiem* can now mean any service or work intended to remember the departed.

EXERCISES - UNIT SIX

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the *italicized* vocabulary word.

1. Rather than *languishing* in his room during his mother's absence, the little boy...
2. Lieutenant Eliot warned that if the soldiers were not *vigilant*, they might...
3. The *sopor* into which Matthew drifted was a result of...
4. Denise's *languid* pose suggested that she was feeling...
5. In her *somnolent* state, Sandy should definitely not have been...
6. The *languor* that settled over the farm was dispelled by...
7. The lecturer's voice was exceedingly *soporific*, judging by...
8. The head of the mob was once a sheriff, but he became a *vigilante* when...
9. Trent would not *acquiesce* to his doctor's suggestion because...
10. The jazz singer's mournful ballad was a fitting *requiem* for Michelle because...
11. Many of the attorney's clients were businessmen seeking a *quittance* from...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

acquiesced vigilante languor soporific languid

1. Finding the magazine article _____, Kathleen fixed herself a cup of coffee and then finished reading it.
2. When the manager asked that I leave the store, I _____ only because I did not want to cause a scene.
3. There seemed to be no escape from the _____ brought about by the intense heat.
4. In response to the police officer's rapid-fire questions, the tired-looking boy gave a _____ shrug.

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Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

requiem vigilant somnolent quittance sopor

5. The insurance company granted Sam a _____ after his house was consumed by fire.
6. No amount of shouting could lift the children out of their television-induced _____.
7. Even the most superb gymnast must be _____ for flaws in his own performance.
8. The _____ expression of the taxi driver made the passengers fear for their safety.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

languish vigilante requiem sopor

9. When the regular army was destroyed, citizens gathered in _____ militias to protect the property.
10. Some critics have seen the actor's final film as a _____ for the bygone era of movies.
11. Without challenging and exciting subject material, the children will _____ in the classroom.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. The _____ effect of the drug made it difficult for Claude to remain _____ against mistakes in his work.
 - A. languid; vigilant
 - B. vigilant; somnolent
 - C. languid; soporific
 - D. soporific; vigilant
2. The unruly student was warned that if he did not _____ to the teacher's warnings, he would "_____ in this room with detentions until the end of the semester."
 - A. languish; acquiesce
 - B. acquiesce; languish
 - C. acquiesce; sopor
 - D. languish; vigilante
3. Sandra's already _____ mind was made sleepier by the _____ pace of the boat and the gentle rocking of the waves.
 - A. vigilant; soporific
 - B. soporific; vigilant
 - C. somnolent; languid
 - D. soporific; acquiescing

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4. While the _____ enforced strict and careful justice in Hodgeville, the uniformed police went about their tasks with a _____ that made them seem almost careless.
- soporific; quittance
 - vigilante; languor
 - languid; requiem
 - vigilante; requiem
5. Darren considered the pleasant _____ into which he now fell a fair _____ for week backbreaking work.
- requiem; quittance
 - vigilante; languor
 - languor; requiem
 - sopor; quittance

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the *italicized* word from its context.

- If Franklin says that the music played by the radio station is *soporific*, he probably thinks that the station should...
- When the doctor sees that her patient is *languishing*, she may wonder if...
- Dana will probably not *acquiesce* to Patrick's demand for money if...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

During World War II, the United States rounded up immigrants from Japan and American citizens of Japanese descent and kept them _____ (LANG) in internment camps for the duration of the war, so as to avoid the possible threat of plots against American security. During World War II, Nazi Germany rounded up Jews and locked them up in camps, blaming them for the economic problems in the country after World War I. In the German camps, forced labor combined with starvation was only the slowest killer; the gas chambers, crematoria, and even crueler forms of torture, including surgery without anesthesia, provided swifter death. Both societies chose a group of people based on ethnic backgrounds for confinement, and both societies were cruel to their captives—many Japanese had to wait as long as four years to return home, and even though the government offered reparations for documented losses in 1948, many Japanese-Americans received no payment from the government until the 1980's.

One major difference, though, is that, since Adolf Hitler had enough support from his military and enough unquestioning support from the German people, he was not held accountable within his nation for his decisions, and there was no force to check him from putting his theories of racial purity into practice. President Roosevelt, in contrast, had an American public, weary from twelve years of the Great Depression, monitoring his actions, and his lease on power was up for renewal

every four years. The insanity that was allowed to become official policy in Germany would have never passed the test of public approval, let alone the institutional roadblocks to impetive action—the Congress and the Supreme Court.

What, essentially, then separates a republic from a dictatorship? Public _____ (VIGIL) does. Decision making is much more efficient for dictators: they face no angry (or voters of any kind), their strongmen can usually persuade individual dissidents to be quiet, and the press that dictators typically control can sway the opinions of society.

Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor, said that "bread and circuses"—nourishment and entertainment—were necessary to keep a society sufficiently content to ignore the workings of the government. If there is a danger to American freedom, it is that our material wealth keeps us from noticing any news from the government that does not have to do with the economy. Because the average American does not know about sort of surveillance on the environment, on industry regulation, or on treaties with other nations, the government is not held accountable for many of its decisions. Therefore, any area in which the government is permitted to operate without accountability to the public has allowed the American people to lose their sense of citizenship.