

## NEW WORDS

**nullify**  
nul' ə fī

**deluge**  
del' yūj

**futility**  
fyū til' ə tē

**carnage**  
kār' nij

**technology**  
tek nol' ə jē

## HAVE WE MASTERED OUR ENVIRONMENT?

Natural disasters tend to *nullify* the best efforts of mankind. It is as though there are forces at work that are contemptuous\* of our proud achievements. Who has not read of or seen the waters that *deluge* our towns and cities, jeopardizing\* lives and culminating\* in the destruction of the results of endless work in the space of a few moments? We are all vulnerable\* to feelings of *futility* as we view the *carnage* caused to cattle from the sudden inundation.\* Despite the laudable\* advances made in *technology*,\* it can be seen that we cannot yet say we have mastered our environment. Disasters of this type, leaving only pathetic\* vestiges\* of homes and shops, are accepted as inevitable,\* and all we can do is to attempt to ameliorate\* the conditions that result.

**Sample Sentences** Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. In spite of his efforts to cajole\* the girl, she remained aloof,\* and the \_\_\_\_\_ of his efforts made him lugubrious.\*
2. To our consternation,\* modern \_\_\_\_\_ has made feasible\* a spate\* of lethal\* devices that could lead to the inadvertent\* destruction of the world.
3. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ the height advantage of his adversary,\* he abjured\* smoking and did an inordinate amount of exercise until he was the acme\* of litheness\* and dexterity.\*
4. We found it impossible to mollify\* the irate\* owner of three prize cats as he viewed the \_\_\_\_\_ caused by our large dog.
5. The office was \_\_\_\_\_ with requests for his autograph as the girls became cognizant\* of his identity.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

- |                |       |                    |
|----------------|-------|--------------------|
| 6. nullify     | _____ | a. slaughter       |
| 7. deluge (v.) | _____ | b. to flood        |
| 8. futility    | _____ | c. abolish, cancel |
| 9. carnage     | _____ | d. applied science |
| 10. technology | _____ | e. uselessness     |

## TODAY'S IDIOM

*to build upon sand*—to have a poor base, or not sufficient preparation  
Because they were amateurs and without money, the political campaign was *built upon sand* and the candidate was a flash in the pan.\*

libel  
lī' bəl

defamatory  
di fam' ə tōr ē

plaintiff  
plān' tīf

canard  
kə nārd'

deprecate  
dep' rə kət

**GOOD NEWS—AND BAD**

One of the latent\* dangers indigenous\* to our constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press has to do with the protection of the individual against the detriment\* that might come from news reports involving him. There are libel laws that protect against false charges. If an individual believes his character or livelihood have been damaged by a defamatory article, he can sue. As the plaintiff he must refute\* the story and show how the defendant caused him harm by printing a canard. The defendant attempts to substantiate\* the truth of the article. The printing of news may besmirch\* an individual's character, but there is no way to alleviate\* this problem without changes in the Constitution. This would be tantamount\* to destroying the efficacy\* of our coveted\* right to learn the truth from the press. We all deprecate a situation in which someone suffers because of exposure in the newspapers. Only when the harm is caused by someone with a desire to malign\* under the guise\* of printing the news can the individual expect to win compensation\* through the courts.

**Sample Sentences** Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. The mayor vehemently\* denied there was any antipathy\* between the governor and himself and blamed this \_\_\_\_\_ on their political opponents.
2. I resent your \_\_\_\_\_ remark that depicts\* me as a culprit.\*
3. The egregious\* calumny\* of the defendant worked to the advantage of the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Publishers of newspapers and magazines augment\* their staff with lawyers to represent them when they are sued for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The cynic\* will \_\_\_\_\_ the motives of anyone who tries to ameliorate\* the iniquities\* in our society.

**Definitions** Study these carefully for the fine differences in meaning.

- |               |       |   |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 6. libel (n.) | _____ | a. express disapproval                  |
| 7. defamatory | _____ | b. the complaining party, in law        |
| 8. plaintiff  | _____ | c. degradation by writing or publishing |
| 9. canard     | _____ | d. damaging character by false reports  |
| 10. deprecate | _____ | e. a made-up sensational story          |

**TODAY'S IDIOM**

*a pretty kettle of fish*—a messy situation, a problem

He knew that when he attacked the sacred cow\* he would be in *a pretty kettle of fish*.  
(Do you remember this idiom? It was used earlier in the book and should be familiar.)

**NEW WORDS**

reputed  
rī pyū' tid

frail  
frāī

potent  
pōt' nt

excoriate  
ek skōr' ē āt

devout  
dī vout'

**A PHILOSOPHER FOR OUR TIME**

Soren Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher who is *reputed* to be the forerunner of the current vogue\* of existentialism. In appearance he was a *frail* and ungainly man. An extremely erudite\* thinker and writer, he was a *potent* force in propagating\* the new approach to life. His philosophy would *excoriate* those who believed that man could stand aside from life. In his philosophy it is a heresy\* to take a detached point of view; it is incumbent\* upon the individual to get involved. What is germane\* is not that we exist, but that our existence is determined by our acts. He was a religiously *devout* man who fervidly\* believed that the individual is always paramount.\*

**Sample Sentences** Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. Even though she was piqued\* at his indolent\* manner, it was pathetic\* to listen to her \_\_\_\_\_ him in public.
2. His awesome\* mental dexterity\* compensated\* for his \_\_\_\_\_ physical condition.
3. When Ben's muscles began to atrophy,\* the doctor initiated\* therapy\* with a \_\_\_\_\_ new drug.
4. The drug is \_\_\_\_\_ to have a salubrious\* effect on nascent\* conditions of this type.
5. Although he was a \_\_\_\_\_ adherent\* of the party, he remained aloof\* during the vitriolic\* primary campaign.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

- |              |       |                                |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 6. reputed   | _____ | a. thought, supposed, believed |
| 7. frail     | _____ | b. religious, sincere          |
| 8. potent    | _____ | c. delicate, weak              |
| 9. excoriate | _____ | d. criticize severely          |
| 10. devout   | _____ | e. powerful, strong, intense   |

**TODAY'S IDIOM**

*to toe the mark*—to obey or stick to a rule or policy

He wanted to kick over the traces,\* but his parents made him *toe the mark*.

THE ISLAND OF WILD DOGS

The saga\* of the introduction of that *diminutive* song bird, the canary, into the homes of the world as tame pets is an interesting one. In the sixteenth century a trading ship going to Italy stopped at an island named "Canis," from the Latin word for wild dog, which could be found there in *profuse* numbers, off the coast of Africa. The *dulcet* song of the wild birds whetted\* the interest of the captain. In *impromptu* cages hundreds were taken aboard to be traded. The sailors called these gray-green birds, spotted with yellow, "canaries." As they approached the island of Elba, near Italy, a *malevolent* storm put the boat in jeopardy\* of sinking. A member of the crew released the birds, and the intrepid\* canaries instinctively flew towards land. The peasants on Elba took the wild canaries in as pets. Eventually, the birds found their way into homes throughout Europe where they were domesticated and bred for variety of song and shades of colors. The canaries prevalent\* today differ greatly from the ones discovered over four hundred years ago.

NEW WORDS

**diminutive**  
də min' yə tiv

**profuse**  
prə fyūs'

**dulcet**  
dul' sit

**impromptu**  
im promp' tū

**malevolent**  
mə lev' ə lənt

**Sample Sentences** Insert the new words in these sentences.

1. As the music reached a frenetic\* tempo, the audience lost all decorum\* and broke into \_\_\_\_\_ dancing.
2. He had no qualms\* about opposing the clique\* who insidiously\* exerted a \_\_\_\_\_ influence on the president.
3. The connoisseur\* was able to glean\* a worthwhile painting from the \_\_\_\_\_ variety of poor ones at the exhibit.
4. Europeans drive \_\_\_\_\_ cars because their narrow roads and high prices for gasoline are not conducive\* to or compatible\* with our large ones.
5. The blasé devotee of the opera was awakened from his ennui\* by the \_\_\_\_\_ tones of the new soprano.

**Definitions** Match the new words with their definitions.

- |                |       |                                  |
|----------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| 6. diminutive  | _____ | a. ill-disposed, ill-intentioned |
| 7. profuse     | _____ | b. tiny, small                   |
| 8. dulcet      | _____ | c. spur of the moment, offhand   |
| 9. impromptu   | _____ | d. sweet or melodious to the ear |
| 10. malevolent | _____ | e. overflowing, abundant         |

TODAY'S IDIOM

*to be under a cloud*—to be in temporary disgrace or trouble  
Until they discovered the real thief, he *was under a cloud*.

The history, or derivation, of words is called "etymology." This is a fascinating study and it gives insight to the background of words such as "canary," and thousands of others. Knowing the history of a word helps you remember it.

## REVIEW WORDS

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. canard
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. carnage
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. defamatory
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. deluge
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. deprecate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. devout
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. diminutive
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. dulcet
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. excoriate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. frail
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. futility
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. impromptu
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. libel
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. malevolent
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. nullify
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. plaintiff
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. potent
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. profuse
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. reputed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. technology

## DEFINITIONS

- a. flood
- b. express disapproval
- c. intense, strong, powerful
- d. sincere, religious
- e. sweet or melodious to the ear
- f. abundant, overflowing
- g. slaughter
- h. uselessness
- i. criticize severely
- j. damaging character by false reports
- k. a made-up sensational story
- l. small, tiny
- m. cancel, abolish
- n. ill-disposed, ill-intentioned
- o. weak, delicate
- p. the complaining party, in law
- q. applied science
- r. believed, thought, supposed
- s. offhand, spur of the moment
- t. degradation by writing or publishing

## IDIOMS

- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. a pretty kettle of fish
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. to be under a cloud
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. to toe the mark
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. to build upon sand
- u. to be in temporary disgrace or trouble
- v. to obey or stick to a rule or policy
- w. a messy situation, a problem
- x. to have a poor base, or not sufficient preparation

## WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY

## MEANINGS

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Check your answers on page 309.