

## NEW WORDS

wistful  
wist' fəl

raiment  
rā' mēnt

brigand  
brig' ənd

corpulent  
kōr' pyə lənt

rail  
rāl

## IN DAYS OF YORE

Current novels are replete\* with lurid\* crimes, carnage\* and death. Do you get *wistful* when you recall the romantic tales that begin with an innocent maiden travelling through the rustic\* countryside? She is dressed in glittering *raiment*. The scene is idyllic.\* Without warning, the group is set upon by a virile\* *brigand*, who, in the most perfunctory\* and callous\* fashion, carries her off. Pandemonium\* results! Her entourage\* is in a state of bedlam.\* Her *corpulent* escort is irate,\* but unable to do anything to thwart\* this debacle.\* All he can do is *rail* against the catastrophe. What to do? What to do?

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

1. The potpourri\* of au courant\* fashionable \_\_\_\_\_ includes the fatuous\* and the discreet.\*
2. While all disgruntled\* men may \_\_\_\_\_ against malevolent\* or Machiavellian\* leaders, democracy offers a way to ameliorate\* iniquities\* through the ballot.
3. Is there any veracity in the platitude\* that \_\_\_\_\_ men are jocose?\*
4. To be candid,\* there is little to be \_\_\_\_\_ about in the "good old days."
5. They captured the \_\_\_\_\_, and he was incarcerated\* for a mandatory\* period.

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

- |               |       |                                    |
|---------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 6. wistful    | _____ | a. dress, clothing                 |
| 7. raiment    | _____ | b. scold, use abusive language     |
| 8. brigand    | _____ | c. longing, pensive,* wishful      |
| 9. corpulent  | _____ | d. robber, bandit                  |
| 10. rail (v.) | _____ | e. fleshy, obese,* excessively fat |

## TODAY'S IDIOM

**to flog a dead horse**—to continue to make an issue of something that is over

He thought he could keep the pot boiling\* about his opponent's winking at\* crime, but he *was flogging a dead horse*.

**New Words**

**raconteur**  
rak' on ter'

**sullen**  
sul' ən

**rift**  
rift

**emissary**  
em' ə ser' ē

**ruminate**  
rū' mə nāt

**WEEK 45 ♦ DAY 2****WOE IS ME!**

The *raconteur* of our story about idyllic\* times gone by goes on to elucidate\* how the comely\* heroine is taken to the bandits' hideout. There, a *sullen* crew of cutthroats is gathered. They don't wish to procrastinate;\* she must be taken immediately to a foreign land where much treasure will be paid for her. Their cupidity\* knows no bounds. The leader wants to hold her for ransom from her wealthy parents. The gang demurs;\* they are reticent.\* There is a *rift* among the criminals. Their leader remains truculent, and they agree to wait for just two days for the ransom money. An *emissary* from the grief-stricken parents is expected at any moment. The war\* maiden, her spirits at their nadir,\* has time to *ruminate* about her lugubrious\* fate.

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

1. He alluded\* to the \_\_\_\_\_ caused in the school by the plethora\* of hirsute\* boys who ignored the criterion\* for appearance.
2. Well known as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, he was never chagrined\* when asked to tell a story from his large repertoire.\*
3. Despite all attempts to mollify\* her, she remained \_\_\_\_\_ about the levity\* caused by her slovenly\* raiment.\*
4. The obscure\* country, an aspirant\* for membership in the United Nations, sent a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
5. An anomaly\* of our modern technology\* is that the more we need to know, the less time we have to \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- |              |       |                          |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 6. raconteur | _____ | a. ill-humored, grim     |
| 7. sullen    | _____ | b. ponder, reflect upon  |
| 8. rift      | _____ | c. a skilled storyteller |
| 9. emissary  | _____ | d. a split, an opening   |
| 10. ruminate | _____ | e. an agent              |

**TODAY'S IDIOM**

***the die is cast*—an unchangeable decision has been made**

The fat was in the fire\* and *the die was cast* when he decided to tell the white lie about how he had found the money.

## NEW WORDS

taut  
tót

livid  
liv' id

martinet  
márt' n' et'

yen  
yen

bagatelle  
bag' a tel'

## TO THE RESCUE

Back at the castle, the situation is *taut* with emotion. The fair maiden's mother is *livid* with fear and anxiety; she has attacks of vertigo.\* She talks about her daughter's audacity\* in riding out into the ominous\* forests despite many similar kidnappings. The girl's father, a *martinet* who rules his family with an iron hand, staunchly\* refuses to pay the ransom. Iniquity\* shall not be rewarded! At this moment of crisis a heroic knight volunteers to rescue our heroine; he has had a secret *yen* for the young beauty. Avoiding rhetoric,\* he pledges his all to castigate\* those responsible for this ignominious\* deed. He holds his life as a mere *bagatelle* against the duty he owes his beloved mistress. At the propitious\* moment, he rides off to do or die for her.

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

1. The rabid\* baseball fan lost his equanimity\* and became \_\_\_\_\_ when the star pitcher became pugnacious\* and was removed from the game.
2. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ international situation caused by the proximity\* of unidentified submarines to our coasts.
3. When one enlists in the army, one expects to be under the aegis\* of a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. His \_\_\_\_\_ for imbibing\* and romping\* with girls worked to his detriment\*.
5. The little boy tried to wheedle\* a larger allowance from his father by the caustic\* observations that it was a mere \_\_\_\_\_ when compared to the allowances of his friends.

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

- |               |       |                                  |
|---------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| 6. taut       | _____ | a. strict disciplinarian         |
| 7. livid      | _____ | b. tense, keyed up, on edge      |
| 8. martinet   | _____ | c. pale                          |
| 9. yen        | _____ | d. a trifle                      |
| 10. bagatelle | _____ | e. strong desire, strong longing |

## TODAY'S IDIOM

*a cat's paw*—a person used as a tool or dupe\*  
The spy used the innocent girl as *a cat's paw* to get military information from the grapevine.\*

## NEW WORDS

**callow**  
kal' o

**appalled**  
ə pōld

**penchant**  
pen' chənt

**decapitate**  
di kap' ə tāt

**termagant**  
tēr' mə gənt

## WEEK 45 ❖ DAY 4

### WELL DONE, SIR KNIGHT!

Seeking his adversaries,\* the knight rides to their hideout. Despite his *callow* appearance, he is reputed\* to disdain\* danger and to be a prodigious\* horseman. The kidnappers lose their equanimity\* at his approach. They are *appalled* at the prospect, and they are in a quandary\* as to which one will meet him on the field of combat. The leader, under duress,\* rides out. "Do you have a *penchant* to die?" derides\* the knight. More vituperative\* remarks follow. They spur their horses toward each other. It takes but one blow for our hero to *decapitate* the villain. The others flee to avoid their imminent\* destruction. The knight takes the maiden on his horse, and they ride back to the castle. Their wedding soon follows. Little does the knight realize that the fair maiden is a garrulous\* *termagant* who will make his life miserable with caustic\* remarks. Still, the cliché,\* "And they lived happily ever after," must conclude our fabricated\* tale.

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

1. We do not \_\_\_\_\_ criminals because of our aversion\* to such repugnant\* punishments.
2. I do not wish to deprecate\* your \_\_\_\_\_ for cowboy music, but I find it banal.\*
3. Why do you remain docile\* while that \_\_\_\_\_ besmirches,\* maligns,\* and belittles\* you?
4. Each long holiday weekend we are \_\_\_\_\_ at the carnage\* on our highways.
5. It was deplorable\* the way the capricious\* girl led the \_\_\_\_\_ youth on a merry chase.

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

- |               |       |                              |
|---------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 6. callow     | _____ | a. youthful, inexperienced   |
| 7. appalled   | _____ | b. behead                    |
| 8. penchant   | _____ | c. a strong leaning in favor |
| 9. decapitate | _____ | d. a scolding woman, a shrew |
| 10. termagant | _____ | e. dismayed, shocked         |

### TODAY'S IDIOM

*coup de grâce*—the finishing stroke

When my girlfriend left me, it was a bitter pill to swallow,\* but the *coup de grâce* was that she kept my engagement ring.

Language grows and changes. In "days of yore" there were not nearly as many words in our language as we have today. Within the next 50 years hundreds of new words will be added. Educated and alert individuals make new words part of their vocabulary as quickly as they come into accepted use.

**REVIEW WORDS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. appalled
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. bagatelle
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. brigand
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. callow
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. corpulent
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. decapitate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. emissary
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. livid
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. martinet
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. penchant
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. raconteur
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. rail
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. raiment
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. rift
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. ruminate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. sullen
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. taut
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. termagant
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. wistful
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. yen

**DEFINITIONS**

- a. behead
- b. shocked, dismayed
- c. pale
- d. a trifle
- e. bandit, robber
- f. an agent
- g. grim, ill-humored
- h. clothing, dress
- i. on edge, keyed up, tense
- j. strict disciplinarian
- k. wishful, pensive,\* longing
- l. a strong leaning in favor
- m. an opening, a split
- n. a skilled storyteller
- o. inexperienced, youthful
- p. excessively fat, fleshy, obese\*
- q. reflect upon, ponder
- r. a shrew, a scolding woman
- s. use abusive language, scold
- t. strong desire, strong longing

**IDIOMS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. a cat's paw
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. the die is cast
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. coup de grâce
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. to flog a dead horse
- u. the finishing stroke
- v. an unchangeable decision has been made
- w. to continue to make an issue of something that is over
- x. a person used as a tool or dupe

Check your answers on page 310.

**WORDS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

**MEANINGS**

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