

Lesson Six

1. condone (kən'dɒn) v. to forgive or overlook an offense  
After hearing about the man's slaying family, most found it easy to condone his theft of the food.  
ant: pardon, excuse
2. nuance (nuː'æns) n. a slight or subtle degree of difference  
The sharpest listeners detected a nuance in the speaker's tone that revealed her opinion.  
syn: gradation, shade
3. connoisseur (kən'əʃiə) n. an expert in matters of culture, food, or wine  
The chef watched nervously as the connoisseur tasted the soup.  
ant: tyro, novice, neophyte
4. enigma (ɪ'nɪɡmə) n. a mystery; something seemingly inexplicable  
Mona Lisa's smile is an enigma because no one knows the thoughts behind her inscrutable expression.  
syn: riddle, puzzle
5. apathy (ə'pæti) n. lack of interest; state of not caring  
The fund drive to raise money for a new gym failed because of student apathy.  
syn: indifference ant: interest, eagerness
6. officious (ə'fɪʃiəs) adj. excessively eager to deliver unasked for or unwanted help  
I wish my officious sister would stop telling me how to run my life.  
syn: meddlesome, interfering
7. credence (kred'ns) n. belief or trust  
Surprisingly, Sharma's teacher gave credence to her story about how she lost her homework.  
syn: faith, confidence ant: disbelief
8. jaunty (dʒɔ:nti) adj. having a buoyant, self-confident air; brisk and crisp  
My three-year-old always walks in a jaunty manner when I put him in that sailor suit.  
syn: confident, peppy

9. dilettante (dɪ'lɪtənt) n. one who merely dabbles in an art or a science  
The dilettante felt that his superficial knowledge of art qualified him to judge the artist's work.  
syn: amateur, dabbler ant: expert, professional
10. cult (kʌlt) n. an organized group of people with an obsessive devotion to a person or set of principles  
To join the cult, recruits had to shave their heads and walk over burning coals.  
syn: sect

Exercise I

Words in Context

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

- condone nuance connoisseur apathy  
officious cult credence dilettante
- A. The chef, tucked away in the kitchen, nervously awaited the report from the latest critic. Knowing that Mr. Takoma was also \_\_\_\_\_ of Peruvian cuisine and a weekly newspaper columnist with a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ following, the chef hoped that the waiter's refrained from the \_\_\_\_\_ behavior that well-known food critics must often endure from servers. The chef had run the restaurant for twenty-eight years; he was certainly not a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in matters of cooking, but owing to a decline in customers, he worried about the fate of the business. He could only hope that Mr. Takoma would rave about the many subtle \_\_\_\_\_ of flavor in the menu. A positive review, combined with the \_\_\_\_\_ accorded to the column, might be all that the chef needed to save the restaurant.

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

credence condense nuance enigma apathy jaunty

9. Though she was a hostess at the restaurant, Rolinda remained seated even as customers entered the waiting area. Quietly expressing her about hungry suburbanites, Rolinda confined herself to a sigh and let younger servers greet the new potential diners at the door. She knew that no manager could be expected to such behavior. Rolinda also wondered why, even though she hadn't been sick, she had been so tired for the last month. If she didn't solve this \_\_\_\_\_ soon, she would have than likely lose her job. For another day, she would just have to put on a fake smile and affect an \_\_\_\_\_ manner until the end of her shift.

**Exercise II**

**Sentence Completion**

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

1. Parents cannot condone their children's actions when...
2. The *dilatant* never grew tired of watching the stars, hoping someday to...
3. "This case is quite an *enigma*," said the detective. We'll be lucky to...
4. To show their loyalty, members of the cult wear...
5. The *connoisseur* was world-renowned for her ability to identify the tastes of specific...
6. Giving *credence* to the refugees' story, the border guard...
7. Never voting or reading the newspaper revealed Kenton's *apathy* for...
8. After enduring her *officious* mother for more than thirty years, Loren decided to...
9. Nick had a *jaunty* walk after winning...
10. The extra seasoning in the recipe gave the chicken a nuance of...

**Exercise III**

**Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes**

Study the entries and answer the questions that follow.

The root *arch* means "rule," "govern," or "to be first." The roots *dem* and *deras* mean "people."  
 The roots *mit* and *mis* mean "send."  
 The suffix *ist* means "one who practices or believes."  
 The suffix *crasy* means "rule by."  
 The suffix *graphy* means "writing about" or "study of."

- A. Using literal translations as guidance, define the following words without using a dictionary.
  1. archetype
  2. transmit
  3. democracy
  4. demography
  5. monarchy
  6. remit
- B. A technocrat would be a supporter of \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The root *oligos* means few; therefore, an oligarchy would probably be \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. List as many words as you can think of that contain the forms *arch*, *dem*, *mit*, *mis*, or *crat*.
- E. The prefix *an* means "without" or "against." An anarchist is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise IV**

**Inference**

Complete the sentences by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

- A. The *connoisseur* refused a considerable sum to endorse the fast-food chain because she believed that...

- B When the speed of your coworkers causes them to ignore your requests, the best way to get their attention is to...
- C The case of the stolen emeralds remains an enigma, so the detective will probably...

## Exercise V

## Critical Reading

Below is a reading passage followed by several multiple-choice questions similar to the ones you will encounter on the ACT. Carefully read the passage and choose the best answer for each of the questions.

The author of the following passage offers a view on aging that is considerably different from the view espoused by popular culture, focusing on the benefits of aging rather than the disadvantages.

- We are told that by the year 2030, one of every four Americans will be at least 60 years of age, so one benefit of advancing age will be having lots of company. A secondary benefit is knowing that risks we look on as young adults are completed, and we can enjoy our years of relaxation.
- 5 Our bodies have been changing throughout our lives, and growth and change have been continuous parts of maturation. As infants, we experienced a change in eye color, bone strength, tooth formation, sex, and weight almost every day. Going from one stage to another is nothing new to us, but in our early growing years we were so busy waiting to be 13, 16, 18, and 21 that we were not paying much attention to slight differences in our physical makeup. When changes we were aware of, such as height and physical strength, were often welcomed.
- 10 Adjusting to any stage of life is common to us all, even if the changes we encounter are those found in aging. Aging is as natural as an infant's learning to walk and talk, and once perceived, no more difficult to get used to. As we all speak differently, so will each of us change differently with age, and our reactions to life as we advance will evolve as many different reactions.
- 15 Nothing really changes as far as basic needs are concerned. We will always need air, food, water, clothing, shelter, and sometimes medical care. Our handling of all these needs may change over the years as we find ourselves providing for someone else, and eventually, leaving someone else provide for us.
- 20 Limitations in sight, hearing, and mobility may herald our continuing progression through life's stages, but as long as we are aware that there are ways of coping with every situation, we need not be apprehensive.
- 25 People are inherently independent and have a tendency toward self-sufficiency that prevents us from ever giving up. Our needs for companionship and feelings of self-worth never diminish because we all want to be a productive part of our world community—to see a purpose for our lives. None of us desires uselessness, and we want to feel that we will never cease to have a place in the society to which we have already made many contributions.

## Vocabulary Power Plus for the ACT: Book Two

- 30 Penetrating mentally alert and maintaining a high level of emotional health are paramount in adjusting to advancing age. Being socially active is an important first step in the process, and volunteerism is a good way to achieve it. Sharing experiences with those who may benefit from hearing them and offering aid to worldly causes help us to maintain a positive outlook and self-image.
- 35 Physical limitations or even total confinement need not hamper social involvement. Mental acrobatics such as reading and keeping a journal are productive exercises that can be accomplished in one's own home. Interpersonal relationships can provide strong support but do not necessitate traveling away from home. The telephone has long been the device used for people to reach out and touch someone's secretary, the computer and the Internet now offer nearly everyone the ability to keep in touch through e-mail and instant messaging technology. Restrictive physical changes should be looked at as challenges rather than hindrances and may actually bring about the learning of new practices, arts, crafts, and outward expressions of personality or hidden talents.
- 45 As senescence brings about changes in hearing or vision, we find these differences can be undetected more readily than drastic changes in movement such as those brought on by stroke or serious accident. For hearing or vision loss, occupational therapists can make us aware of devices we can learn to rely on, or ways of enhancing remaining capabilities by injecting positive information on substituting one sense for another. Taste and smell, for example, can be dependable supportive senses when vision diminishes, and touch and sight can compensate for hearing loss. Eyeglasses and hearing aids may become part of everyday attire with relative ease; however, improvements in use of mobility may be considerably more challenging.
- 55 Occupational therapists can assist in regarding fall or partial freedom of movement after a period of inactivity following a stroke or accident. These therapists are specially trained experts who can help a person adapt to each physical challenge in ways that defy constraints of demanding situations at home or away. They can help us find new capabilities and adjust our attitudes by encouraging the natural instinct for self-sufficiency and independence. Their vast knowledge of many types of equipment, such as chair elevators, mobile carts, walkers, wheelchairs, canes, and the use of heat and massage, is extremely valuable reinforcement.
- 60 Health professionals can also help us to make correct decisions about our care if necessary. How occurs. They help us to determine whether a physical change is responsible for memory problems or whether further medical attention should be sought when conditions that are more serious are suspected.
- 65 The most important thing to keep in mind is that there are many more resources available than ever before. Aging is no longer something to be dreaded. We have access to a great deal of help from many different agencies and support groups with more resources emerging every day. Coping with changes in life has never been easier, but with so many shoulders to share the burden, the once difficult thing we may have to do is ask for help.
- 70

1. The intention of this passage is to
  - A. remind us that we will all be growing old.
  - B. inform young people that they will have certain maidies later in life.
  - C. reassure people that aging is not a condition to be feared.
  - D. offer suggestions for what older people can do while waiting to die.
2. In the beginning of the passage, what is meant by the statement, "Going from one stage to another is nothing new to us..." (lines 7-10)?
  - A. We are accustomed to changing our addresses, our clothes, our cars, our furniture.
  - B. We can live with changes in our own lives because we have seen changes in others.
  - C. We are not strangers to seeing different ages, such as the ice age, the iron age, the atomic age, etc.
  - D. We are used to seeing different ages, such as the ice age, the iron age, the atomic age, etc.
3. By emphasizing that adaptation is a common human trait, paragraph 3 (lines 12-16) is attempting
  - A. to show that babies learn to walk, and so does everyone else.
  - B. to show that there is nothing abnormal or unduly difficult in facing changes associated with aging.
  - C. to show that growing old is just like learning to talk and walk for the first time.
  - D. to prove that infants learn to talk in the same way as older people.
4. What is the purpose of telling us our basic needs if they remain the same (lines 17-20)?
  - A. We need to be reminded that we require all the things mentioned.
  - B. We need to be told we cannot survive without air, water, food, etc.
  - C. A checklist can be formed using the guidelines set forth in the passage.
  - D. Basic needs do not change, but our use of them does.
5. In lines 24-25, what is meant by "self-sufficiency that perseveres no matter the age"?
  - A. Self-sufficiency is something we all want, no matter which era we live in.
  - B. No matter how old we are, we still want to be able to take care of ourselves.
  - C. No matter how we age, we are still sufficiently aware of ourselves.
  - D. We persevere sufficiently, no matter how old we get.
6. The word "paramount" in line 31 is used to express
  - F. the highest level of our activity is mental.
  - G. that mental and emotional health are the same thing.
  - H. that only people with self-esteem are mentally alert.
  - J. the importance of mental and emotional health.
7. The main idea of paragraph 8 (lines 35-44) is
  - A. to remind us that only old people can stay at home because of physical impairment.
  - B. that we shouldn't stay at home just because we get old.
  - C. to show that physical impairment can lead to discovery of other capabilities.
  - D. to show that we all need friends, especially at home.
8. Given the context of the passage, the word *remittance* (line 45) most nearly means
  - F. a lack of interest in reading.
  - G. deteriorating physical abilities.
  - H. the inability to see and hear.
  - J. the process of aging.
9. What is the main purpose of the last two paragraphs?
  - A. They give final advice about aging, and how to seek help.
  - B. They conclude the passage with a summary of information.
  - C. They lead the reader to want to make notes about the passage.
  - D. They offer a few final words of encouragement.
10. If the title of this passage is "Aging in America," then which choice would be the best subtitle?
  - F. It's Not a Second Childhood.
  - G. Just Another Stage of Life
  - H. Help for the Elderly
  - J. Aging is Beneficial, So Get Used to It