

LESSON 6

Jungere dextras.

To join right hands (i.e., to shake hands).—VIRGIL

Key Words

adjunct
aptitude
astringent
conjugate

inept
injunction
juncture

strait
stringent
subjugate

Familiar Words

apt
lariat

APO, APERE, EPI, APTUM <L. "to fasten," "to attach"

1. **aptitude** (ăp'tə tōd)

n. A natural talent or ability; quickness in learning.

Fulfilling an essential role, Cherokee women for centuries proved their **aptitude** for agriculture, developing ingenious farming methods.

2. **inept** (īn ěpt') [*in* = <L. "not"]

adj. 1. Without skill.

So **inept** that he cannot kick a football or fly a kite, Charlie Brown suffers Lucy's perennial contempt.

2. Inappropriate or out of place; foolish or absurd.

To say "Hi, there!" upon meeting a dignified official would be **inept**.

ineptitude, *n.*



Familiar Words

conjunction
join
junction

JUNGO, JUNGERE, JUNXI, JUNCTUM

<L. "to join"



3. **adjunct** (ăj'ŭngkt) [*ad* <L. "to," "toward"]

n. An added part not essential to the whole.

The coccyx, or "tailbone," an **adjunct** of the spinal column, no longer has a function.

adjunctive, *adj.*

Challenge Words

conjoin
enjoin
junta
subjoin
subjunctive

4. **conjugate** (kŏn'jə gāt) [*con = cum* <L. "with"]
tr. v. To give forms of verbs in a fixed order.

Conjugate the present tense of the verb "to see" as follows: I see, you see, he sees (singular); we see, you see, they see (plural).

conjugation, n.

5. **injunction** (ĭn jŭngk'shən) [*in* <L. "in"]
n. An authoritative command or order.

University students in China received an **injunction** against protest marches.

6. **junction** (jŭngk'chər)
n. 1. A serious state of affairs.

Environmentalists say that at this **junction** we must protect rain forests around the globe to prevent harmful atmospheric changes.

2. The condition or point of being joined.

The Panama Canal has provided the **junction** of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

7. **subjugate** (sŭb'jə gāt') [*sub* <L. "under"]
tr. v. To conquer; to dominate completely.

Soon after the German army **subjugated** Poland in 1939, Britain declared war.

subjugation, n.

**STRINGO, STRINGERE, STRINXI,
STRICTUM** <L. "to draw together tightly,"
"to tie"



8. **astrigent** (ə strĭn'jənt) [*a = ad* <L. "to"]
adj. Harsh; severe.

Astringent criticism from one political candidate often draws an equally biting response from an opponent.

n. A substance that tightens tissues. (In medicine, a substance constricting living tissue.)

If you nick yourself, apply an **astrigent** to stop the bleeding.

astringency, n.

Familiar Words

strict
prestige
restrict
restriction

Challenge Words

constrain
constraint
restrictive
stricture

9. **strait** (strāt)
n. 1. A narrow passage of water connecting two large bodies of water.
The **Strait** of Gibraltar links the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
2. (usually plural) A difficulty or bad position.
During the Depression of the 1930s, many people were in economic **straits**.
10. **stringent** (strīn'jənt)
adj. 1. Severe; constricted; tight.
Members of the Constitutional Convention met under **stringent** rules of secrecy lest rumor leak out and subvert their effort.
2. Pertaining to scarcity of money.
Because of **stringent** budget cuts, some schools could no longer finance programs in music and art.
stringency, *n.*; **stringently**, *adv.*

EXERCISE 6A

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

1. a **junction** in the family's welfare a. confusion b. crisis
c. separation d. puncture e. healing
2. a presidential **injunction** a. award b. suggestion c. command
d. committee e. issue
3. **aptitude** in science a. experience b. fame c. opinion
d. failure e. talent
4. to **subjugate** a people a. exonerate b. offend c. mollify
d. fight e. conquer
5. an expert in **conjugation** a. chairing meetings b. cheerleading
c. marriage counseling d. ordering verb forms e. manufacturing bottles
6. a(n) **adjunct** to the campsite a. benefit b. route c. recent
addition d. essential addition e. nonessential addition

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

7. a **stringent** rule a. perennial b. severe c. relaxed d. perverse
e. useful
8. a songwriter's **astriugent** parody a. soothing b. asinine
c. omniscient d. salient e. abject
9. sudden academic **straits** a. difficulties b. confusion c. channels
d. successes e. rigors
10. a(n) **inept** renegade a. artless b. clever c. clumsy d. capricious
e. devious

EXERCISE 6B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. The city council placed an **injunction** against new buildings of more than three stories.
b. My parents' **injunction** was "Be home by midnight."
c. She sent out fifteen **injunctions** to her birthday party.
d. Some Muslim women obey the **injunction** to wear a *chador*, a garment covering all but the face and hands.
2. a. By urging independence from Great Britain, Mahatma Gandhi brought on a sharp **junction** in Indian affairs.
b. We agreed to meet at the **junction** of three major highways.
c. At **junctions**, when the world's supply of petroleum appears to dwindle, nuclear energy becomes a crucial issue.
d. Although we had studied the map carefully, we were surprised to find the two roads **junctioning**.
3. a. After William the Conqueror **subjugated** the Anglo-Saxons in 1066, French became the official language in England.
b. **Subjugating** our bad habits is a life-long task.
c. Distinguished actresses like Katharine Cornell and Helen Hayes are able to **subjugate** their personalities in order to play a variety of characters unlike themselves.
d. English trifle is a dessert that **subjugates** layers of cake and fruit under whipped cream.
4. a. The family's financial **straits** forced a move to a smaller house.
b. Ships carrying oil passed from the Persian Gulf through the **Strait** of Hormuz to the Gulf of Oman.
c. **Strait** talk is better than beating around the bush.
d. When a company shuts down, the entire town where it is located can be thrown into dire **straits**.

5. a. For a small wound, such as a pierced ear, peroxide is a recommended **astrigent**, with less sting than rubbing alcohol.
- b. Comedians like Lily Tomlin and Woody Allen are sometimes **astrigent** in the characters they create but are nevertheless sympathetic to most human weakness.
- c. Sailors need to know how to tie **astrigent** knots.
- d. Students complained about the **astringency** of the punishment for excessive tardiness: a week of suspension.

EXERCISE 6C

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from Lesson 6. Use a word or any of its forms only once.

1. A(n) _____ to the flight of the satellite *Voyager 2* past Neptune has been the discovery of that planet's eight moons, previously thought to be only two.
2. Comedy teams like Abbott and Costello and Laurel and Hardy make us laugh because they are so _____ in handling objects and so ready to misunderstand one another.
3. Having not only a(n) _____ for but also a love of flying, Amelia Earhart proved that women could play an important role in aviation.
4. When you _____ the verb *swim* through six tenses in the third person plural, you supply the following: they swim, they swam, they will swim, they have swum, they had swum, and they will have swum.
5. Although adolescents often complain that parental rules about dating are too _____, they usually grow to appreciate the limitations.

REVIEW EXERCISES FOR LESSONS 5 AND 6

1 Matching: On the line at the left, write the letter of the word or phrase that most accurately defines the word in the left-hand column.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ 1. tenacity | A. an uncrucial addition |
| _____ 2. strait | B. serious matters |
| _____ 3. subjugation | C. severity |
| _____ 4. contrition | D. shared sorrow |
| _____ 5. coherence | E. avoidance |
| _____ 6. colloquialism | F. skin tightener |
| _____ 7. stringency | G. sincere repentance |
| _____ 8. commiseration | H. order of verb forms |
| _____ 9. injunction | I. clumsiness |
| _____ 10. ineptitude | J. everyday speech |
| _____ 11. junctures | K. persistence |
| _____ 12. aptitude | L. command |
| _____ 13. astringent | M. narrow water passage |
| _____ 14. abstention | N. sticking together |
| _____ 15. conjugation | O. domination |
| _____ 16. adjunct | P. natural ability |

2 Fill in the blank or circle the letter of the best answer.

1. colloquial : stiffly formal speech : :
 - a. stringent : tight control
 - b. conjugated : orderly formation of verbs
 - c. inept : awkward movement
 - d. commodious : cramped living quarters
 - e. subjugated : freedom
2. *stringere* : to tie : : *tenere* : _____
3. Which of the following English words does *not* contain a Latin root or prefix meaning "to join"?
 - a. conjugate
 - b. juncture
 - c. aptitude
 - d. subjugate
 - e. adjunct

3 Writing or Discussion Activities

1. Many situations can make a person feel *contrite*. Write a brief letter of apology from yourself or someone else giving details to show *contrition* in a particular situation, imaginary or real. Make clear the reasons for the strong feelings.
2. The word *condone* moves in the opposite direction from *contrite*. a person observes a fault in someone else but does not let it interfere with the relationship. Write a brief letter to assure someone that you *condone* an action that another person might not view so sympathetically. Include a brief description of the action or offense and give reasons for supporting the person involved.
3. Answer one of these three questions in a short paragraph, explaining why you said *yes* or *no*.
 - a. Are you a *pertinacious* person?
 - b. Do you have a particular *aptitude*?
 - c. Have you been in a situation to *commiserate* with someone?