

LESSONS 5 AND 6

Joining

LESSON 5

Modus vivendi.

A way of living (getting along).

Key Words		
abstain	commiserate	impertinent
coherent	commodious	pertinacious
colloquial	condone	tenacity
	contrite	

CUM <L. "with," "together with"

NOTA BENE: In English, words derived from *cum* almost never use classical spelling; through time, sounds have changed to make pronunciation easier, and spellings have changed as well. *Cum* has become *co*, often with the addition of *l*, *m*, *n*, or *r*, as the following examples illustrate:

before vowels, <i>h</i> , <i>gn</i>	<i>co</i>	<i>coincide, cohesion</i>
before <i>l</i>	<i>co + l</i>	<i>collect, collide</i>
before <i>b</i> , <i>f</i> , <i>m</i> , <i>p</i>	<i>co + m</i>	<i>combine, compare</i>
before <i>r</i>	<i>co + r</i>	<i>correct, correspond</i>
before all other consonants	<i>co + n</i>	<i>concur, contain</i>

Familiar Words

accommodate
coexistence
coincidence
collaborate
command
compel
complete
compose
compute
concern
condominium
consequence
corruption
decongestant
inconsiderate

Challenge Words

coerce
coeval
collate
colloquium
concave
convex
consonance
corrode
inconsolable
incorrigible

1. **coherent** (kō hêr'ənt, kō hër'ənt) [*haerere* <L. "to stick to"]
adj. 1. Showing an orderly relation of parts.

The play *Oedipus the King* is a model of **coherent** plot development, having a single line of action that takes place in one day.

2. Sticking together.

A honeycomb is a **coherent** structure of beeswax and honey.



cohere, *v.*; **coherence**, *n.*

Antonym: **incoherent**

2. **colloquial** (kə lō'kwē əl) [*loqui* <L. "to speak"]
adj. Characteristic of ordinary conversation rather than formal speech or writing.

"Let's stick together" is **colloquial**; "Let us be a coherent group" is formal.

colloquialism, *n.*; **colloquially**, *adv.*

3. **commiserate** (kə mīz'ə rāt)
[*miser* <L. "miserable," "wretched"]
tr. and *intr. v.* To feel or express sorrow or pity (used with *with*).

Following the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, hundreds of people sent poems and letters to newspapers as a way to **commiserate** with the nation.



commiseration, *n.*

4. **condone** (kən dōn') [*donum* <L. "gift"]
tr. v. To forgive; to disregard an offense.

The Ohlone people do not **condone** archaeologists' disturbing ancestral bones in tribal burying grounds.

5. **commodious** (kə mō'dē əs)
[*modus* <L. "measure"]
adj. Spacious, roomy, as in a house.

Mount Vernon, George Washington's house on the Potomac River, is a **commodious** dwelling, having spacious rooms with high ceilings.

commodiously, *adv.*; **commodiousness**, *n.*



6. **contrite** (kən trīt', kōn'trīt) [*terere* <L. "to grind," "to tear away"]
adj. Thoroughly remorseful and repentant of one's sins.

According to Psalm 51 in the Bible, God looks with tolerance upon a sinner's "broken and **contrite** heart."

contrition, *n.*

Familiar Words

contain
 content
 contents
 continent
 continue
 detain
 discontented
 entertain
 lieutenant
 maintain
 obtain
 pertain
 retain
 retainer
 retention
 sustain
 tennis
 tenor

Challenge Words

Continental
 Congress
 continuum
 continuity
 sustenance
 tenable
 untenable

TENEO, TENERE, TENUI, TENTUM <L. "to hold," "to keep"

7. **abstain** (ăb stān') [*ab* <L. "away from"]
intr. v. To refrain from something by one's choice.

Doctors advise pregnant women to **abstain** from smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages, which can damage the fetus.

abstention, *n.*; **abstinence**, *n.*; **abstinent**, *adj.*

8. **impertinent** (īm pûrt'n ənt) [*im = in* <L. "not"]
adj. 1. Impudent; rude.

When in *Alice in Wonderland* the Cheshire Cat says he'd rather not kiss the hand of the King, that monarch replies, "Don't be **impertinent**."

2. Irrelevant.

A description of a scientific experiment avoids such **impertinent** information as personal opinion.

impertinence, *n.*; **impertinently**, *adv.*

9. **pertinacious** (pûr tə nā'shəs) [*per* <L. "through"]
adj. Holding firmly, even stubbornly, to a belief.

A **pertinacious** crusader against slavery and for women's rights, Sojourner Truth transfixed audiences with her message and her gospel singing.

pertinacity, *n.*; **pertinaciously**, *adv.*

10. **tenacity** (tə nās'ə tē)
n. Hanging on to something persistently or stubbornly.

Having lost the golf tournament, the seasoned champion showed her **tenacity** when she said, "I'll be back next year."

tenacious, *adj.*; **tenaciously**, *adv.*



EXERCISE 5A

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

1. **contrition** after robbing a bank a. elation b. repentance
c. recantation d. exoneration e. sequestration
2. **impertinent** behavior a. polite b. unreasonable c. rude
d. ordinary e. playful
3. **tenacious** pursuit of a goal a. bovine b. capricious c. earnest
d. desultory e. tortuous
4. **a commodious** office a. copious b. mediocre c. compound
d. efficacious e. ample

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

5. to **abstain from** voting a. avoid b. participate in
c. recommend d. discourage e. subvert
6. **condoning** a misdemeanor a. approving b. reporting
c. averting d. forgiving e. condemning
7. a(n) **pertinacious** spirit a. uninvolved b. stubborn c. lively
d. tenacious e. yielding
8. familiar **colloquialisms** a. odes b. songs c. incantations
d. conversations e. formal speech

EXERCISE 5B

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

1. a. The poster was so large that no amount of tape would make it **coherent** to the wall.
b. The four movements of Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony **cohere** in musical patterns and heroic theme.
c. Designers of automobiles must understand the structure of each part and aim for **coherence** of the whole.
d. Although quilting from necessity, using unmatched scraps of cloth, nineteenth-century women often created works of art, **coherent** in design and gemlike in color.
2. a. Scornful of the dangers of the bullring and **tenacious** throughout rigorous training, a number of girls have become celebrated *toreras*, or bullfighters.
b. After their ship sank, the survivors kept a **tenacious** grip on floating debris until the Coast Guard rescued them.
c. Immigrants to the United States often cling **tenaciously** to their native culture.
d. People enjoy the **tenacity** of holding and petting furry animals.

3.
 - a. Acknowledging lack of information for the vote, two committee members said, “I **abstain**.”
 - b. Every gardener must **abstain** weeds before they subvert more valuable plants.
 - c. **Abstention** from regular exercise is injurious to your health, but **abstinence** from fatty foods is not.
 - d. Some people cannot **abstain** from eating chocolate.
4.
 - a. In both the Old and New Testaments, wearing sackcloth and ashes is considered an act of **contrition**.
 - b. The decoration committee regretted the **contriteness** of their homecoming float, judged a mediocrity.,
 - c. **Contrite** after slaying his children, Hercules performed the Twelve Labors to express his remorse.
 - d. In the novel *Crime and Punishment* Raskolnikov commits what he believes is the perfect crime but feels **contrite** when he realizes the great harm he has done.
5.
 - a. The Greek goddess Hera never **condones** impertinence that negates her power.
 - b. Insistent demand for attention is more easily **condoned** in a young child than in a teenager.
 - c. Although I understand your anxiety, I cannot **condone** plagiarism—your copying someone else’s thoughts and presenting them as your own.
 - d. As children grow older they are willing to **condone** their teddy bears and other toys to the closet or the attic.
6.
 - a. **Commiserating** with persecuted Jews in the 1940s, citizens of the French town Le Chambon-sur-Lignon united selflessly to conceal refugees.
 - b. Elated baseball fans **commiserated** with Nolan Ryan when he set a record by striking out batter number 5,000.
 - c. With the Hebrew prayer, the Kaddish, families express their **commiseration** with one another after the death of a relative.
 - d. Observing the poverty of workers seeking her husband’s medical help, the artist Käthe Kollwitz expressed her **commiseration** in realistic etchings and woodcuts.
7.
 - a. Although the fictional House of the Seven Gables can be called **commodious** in size, its ghostly occupants make it an uncomfortable house to live in.
 - b. Taking to the highways in **commodious** house trailers, travelers enjoy conveniences like those at home.
 - c. Most people choose friends who are **commodious**, willing to condone their odd notions and irritating habits.
 - d. The artist worked in a **commodious** studio that had once been a warehouse.

8. a. When rock fans become too eager for personal contact, their **pertinacity** sometimes verges on impertinence.
- b. Robert Frost's poem "Birches" is **pertinacious** to the idea that a boy once swung on the birch tree now bent with ice.
- c. Linus Pauling was a **pertinacious** exponent of the theory that regular doses of vitamin C will prevent colds.
- d. **Pertinacity** in her methods of breeding sled dogs and of her own physical preparedness has made Susan Butcher a repeat winner of the Iditarod, a race across Alaska.

EXERCISE 5C

The term *colloquial* applies to the language we use in casual speech but which is grammatically correct and avoids slang. For example, after dining at a friend's house a person might say, (1) "Hey, that was good grub" (slang); (2) "Thanks for a great meal" (colloquial); or (3) "Thank you for a splendid dinner" (formal, the latter more likely to be written than spoken).

The following underlined colloquialisms have a standard English equivalent among the words that you have learned in Lesson 5. In the space provided, rewrite the sentence using more formal words for the colloquialisms in italic type.

1. I *really feel* sorry for you.
2. I hardly ever *hold back* when I'm asked a question in class.
3. You live in a *pretty big* house.
4. When you want something badly, you show *the quality of really keeping at things*, don't you?
5. Stop making those *sassy* remarks!
6. How do you make things *fit together* so well?
7. When you said "bubbler" instead of "drinking fountain," your *everyday speech* let me know you are from the Midwest.
 _____ (Write one word in this space.)