

# Chapter 1 Practice Exercises

## Synonyms

Using your knowledge of word roots, match the word on the left with the word most similar in meaning on the right.

### Set 1

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. antiauthority  | a. change         |
| 2. automatic      | b. collaborate    |
| 3. coauthor (v.)  | c. hollow         |
| 4. contrary       | d. increase       |
| 5. decelerate     | e. involuntary    |
| 6. excavate       | f. opposed        |
| 7. magnificent    | g. rebellious     |
| 8. magnify        | h. slow           |
| 9. morph          | i. splendid       |
| 10. metamorphosis | j. transformation |

### Set 2

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. nonfiction  | a. all-knowing  |
| 2. nonsense    | b. all-powerful |
| 3. nondescript | c. defer        |
| 4. omniscient  | d. everywhere   |
| 5. omnipotent  | e. external     |
| 6. omnipresent | f. foolishness  |
| 7. peripheral  | g. indistinct   |
| 8. postpone    | h. prophecy     |
| 9. prediction  | i. recover      |
| 10. rebound    | j. unimagined   |

## Words in Context

Read each passage and determine the meaning of the words in bold based on the context of the paragraph.

Most of the tomatoes I found at the supermarket had been shipped in from Canada, where they had been grown hydroponically in greenhouses. These were salad-sized “beefsteak” tomatoes, each one more perfectly round than the last, and basically **indistinguishable** in appearance from a large, deep pink racquetball.

1. **indistinguishable** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **to distinguish** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In 1752, Benjamin Franklin demonstrated through a series of kite experiments that lightning is a form of electricity. More than 250 years later, scientists still know relatively little about the causes of this **phenomenon**. Yet lightning plays such a significant role in weather and climate that it could eventually become a powerful tool in storm prediction. Current technology can detect the direction of a storm’s wind flow but cannot tell if these winds will pick up or die down. Lightning commonly occurs during tornadoes, and flashes increase significantly right before a twister touches ground. If understood, lightning, once considered a mysterious and frightening occurrence, could do much to save lives.

3. **phenomenon** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

People often base their perceptions of similarity between fraternal twins on factors other than actual physical resemblance. Mannerisms such as similar gestures and facial expressions can substantially amplify even a minor resemblance. Fraternal twins, who are no closer genetically than ordinary siblings, are very likely to share many of these behavioral **quirks**, since they often spend more time together than do siblings with a separation in age. Consequently, because they constantly provide each other with nonverbal feedback, they tend to converge in many of their unconscious habits, leading to a closer perceived resemblance to one another.

4. **quirk** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Bonus Word Roots

Study the definition of the words below and answer the questions that follow.

- **CIRCUMNAVIGATE** (sur kum NAV uh gayt) *v* to sail or travel all the way around
- **CIRCUMSCRIBE** (SUR kum skrybe) *v* to draw a line around; to set the limits; to define; to restrict
- **CIRCUMVENT** (sur kum VENT) *v* to get around something in a clever, occasionally dishonest way

1. What does it mean to **navigate**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a **scribe**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does a **vent** do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is a circle's **circumference**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the root **circum-** mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions 6–9:** Read the following passage, paying attention to the words in bold, and answer the questions that follow.

Why do we know so little about the life of William Shakespeare when we know comparatively so much about the lives of his less accomplished peers? Our lack of knowledge about Shakespeare has inspired countless conspiracy theories. The actual writing of Shakespeare's works has been attributed to others from contemporary playwrights Christopher Marlowe and Ben Jonson to the brilliant Renaissance scientist and philosopher Francis Bacon. Shakespeare was an immensely successful dramatist as well as a prosperous property owner. **Circumspect**, and only too aware of the government-inspired branding of Jonson, its torture of Thomas Kyd, and its murder of Marlowe, Shakespeare kept himself nearly anonymous. **Wary** to the end, Shakespeare led a life virtually without memorable incident, as far as we can tell.

6. **Circumspect** and **wary** are synonyms. In the context of the passage, what do they mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Write down three words that start with **spect-**:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does the root **spect-** relate to? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How do the roots **circum-** and **spect-** relate to the definition of **circumspect**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_