

UNIT FIVE

HUM

Latin HUMUS, "ground, earth"

III The English words *humble* and *humility* both come from *humus*. To be *humble*, or to show *humility*, you must be close to the ground rather than proudly raising yourself above others.

HUMILITY (hū mil' ə tē) *n.* Lack of pride; modesty

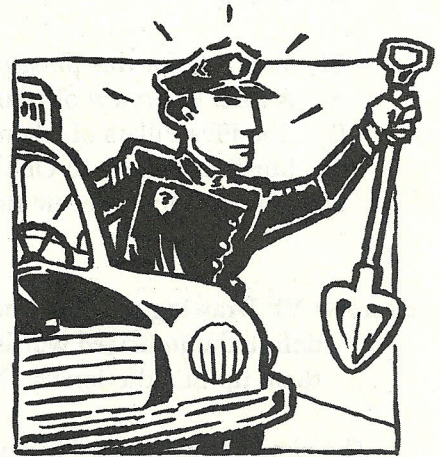
Although the leader had influenced the lives of thousands of people, he always spoke with the utmost *humility*.

EXHUME (ək zōm') *v.* To remove from the ground; dig up

L. *ex*, "out of," + *humus* = *out of the ground*

In order to prove his theory about the murder, the District Attorney ordered that the body be *exhumed*.

ant: bury



The detective ZOOMED to EXHUME the body.

STELL

Latin STELLA, "star"

STELLAR (stəl' ə) *adj.* Excellent; outstanding

For her *stellar* performance in her first year at the company, Emily was honored with a special luncheon.

ant: subpar

ASTR

Greek ASTRON, "star"

III Astronomy is literally the "study of stars," a field of learning which covers outer space and objects in outer space. Something astronomical can relate to this study or can be as huge as the stars are high.

ASTRONOMICAL (as trə nom' ə kəl) *adj.* Enormous; immense

The *astronomical* cost of gasoline forced many citizens to start taking the bus.

syn: huge

ant: tiny

NEB, NIMB

Latin NEBULA, "cloud"

NIMBUS, "cloud"

NEBULOUS (neb' yōō ləs) *adj.* Not definite; vagueWhen the student gave a *nebulous* answer to the question, his teacher asked him for more information.

syn: uncertain

ant: clear; understandable

NIMBUS (nim' bəs) *n.* A cloudThe *nimbus* of fog around the crest of the mountain lingered until a wind came up and blew it away.

III A nebula is a cloud of gas and dust in outer space; its shape constantly changes.

CELES

Latin CAELUM, "sky"

CELESTIAL (se les' shəl) *adj.* Having to do with the sky or heavensAs a child, Inez was always on the lookout for angels and other *celestial* beings.**TERR**

Latin TERRA, "earth, ground"

TERRESTRIAL (te res' trē əl) *adj.* Earthly; of or from landStudies of the mysterious creature have failed to determine whether it is mainly *terrestrial* or not.

ant: extraterrestrial

INTER (in ter') *v.* To put into the ground; to buryL. in, "in," + terra = *in the ground*The solemn ceremony ended when the body had been *interred*, and the priest had given the blessing.**SUBTERRANEAN** (sub ter ā' nē ən) *adj.* Beneath the groundL. sub, "beneath," + terra = *under the earth*Because the money was hidden deep in a *subterranean* cavern, it was not discovered for many years.

ant: aboveground

EXERCISES - UNIT FIVE

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

1. Even animals with *subterranean* habits must occasionally...
2. The ancient Greek gods were said to have a *celestial* home rather than...
3. I have always thought that Morton was a *stellar* actor because he...
4. Nick admitted his mistake with such *humility* that we all...
5. Harmony's ideas about her upcoming English paper were so *nebulous* that we wondered if...
6. The body of the murder victim had to be *exhumed* so that...
7. While one species of bird is primarily *terrestrial*, its cousin...
8. A *nimbus* of smoke hung over the mountain like...
9. When the citizens tried to *inter* their Nazi past, they found that they could not...
10. The *astronomical* increase in housing costs led many people to...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

nimbus subterranean celestial stellar exhume

1. The journalist wondered whether she should _____ the long-dead controversy simply for the sake of a story.
2. A(n) _____ of mosquitoes seemed to surround my head every time I went outside.
3. Anthony's _____ accomplishments as a woodworker are reflected in his numerous awards.
4. On some _____ transit systems, passengers do not see daylight for up to an hour.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

terrestrial celestial nebulous humility

5. The _____ splendor of the Northern Lights has amazed stargazers for centuries.
6. As I read more, my _____ understanding of photosynthesis became clear and sharp.
7. Though the commentators found the tennis player somewhat lacking in _____, they had to agree with him that he was the best player in history.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

inter astronomical terrestrial stellar

8. The farmers who found the strange object believed that it was not _____ in origin, but had fallen from the sky.
9. The children wished to _____ the gerbil that had died.
10. The cost of vegetables at the neighborhood store is high, but not _____.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. The _____ that Howard showed when talking about his academic work gave no hint of his _____ performance in school.
 - A. humility; stellar
 - B. nimbus; astronomical
 - C. nebula; subterranean
 - D. nimbus; terrestrial
2. In order to _____ the buried city, archaeologists first had to map a series of _____ water tunnels that wove in and out of the area.
 - A. inter; astronomical
 - B. exhume; subterranean
 - C. exhume; stellar
 - D. inter; celestial
3. When a member of the royalty died, he or she was _____ in a grand tomb, and _____ conditions—alignment of the sun, moon, stars, and planets—were recorded in the book of the priests.
 - A. stellar; terrestrial
 - B. exhumed; stellar
 - C. nimbus; celestial
 - D. interred; celestial

4. Even people who have seen the strange, rare creature can give only _____ descriptions of its size and speed; all that we know for sure is that it is _____ in habitat.
- astronomical; stellar
 - celestial; astronomical
 - nebulous; astronomical
 - nebulous; terrestrial
5. On the night when the holy man appeared on television, his head bathed in a(n) _____ of light, ratings for the network were _____.
- nebula; terrestrial
 - celestial; stellar
 - nimbus; astronomical
 - nebula; subterranean

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

- If Sheila takes a course on *terrestrial* mammals, she should be prepared to study...
- The review for the horror movie mentioned *exhuming* bodies, so I think...
- Roberto speaks of his accomplishments with such *humility* that it seems...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

During the Age of Exploration, many a mariner became lost at sea, even with the best of charts and compasses. Sailors died when ships swept upon rocks, and the gold and goods of nations were lost. To avoid such _____ (ASTR) disasters, navigators needed to determine their exact whereabouts—their latitude and longitude.

The lines of latitude, which parallel the equator, circle the earth; the lines of longitude do the same, but they run north to south. Both lines together create an imaginary grid, which enables sailors to pinpoint their exact position on the Earth. Latitude can be determined by the length of day, the position of the sun, or the stars in the sky. Longitude, however, is a much more complicated matter, because it is partly determined by time. One needs to know what time it is aboard ship and what time it is at a place of known longitude, at the very same moment. The difference in time can then be translated into a geographical separation by a simple calculation. The earth takes twenty-four hours to complete a revolution (three hundred sixty degrees). Therefore, one hour equals one twenty-fourth of a spin, or fifteen degrees.

What, one might ask, was the problem? Couldn't the ship's captain check the time when he left the port, then check his clock out at sea? That would be easy today, in the era of cheap wristwatches. However, the older ocean explorations took place in the era of pendulum clocks. On a rolling ship, such clocks would slow down, speed up, or

stop altogether; changes in temperature would also thin or thicken a clock's lubricating oil, which interfered with proper running. Other factors affecting such clocks were barometric pressure or variations in the earth's gravity from one latitude to another. There was absolutely no way to tell exact time, so sailors had to guess or estimate their location. The great astronomers and scientists of the day struggled with one method after another, hoping to find a solution to the problem. Governments of the great maritime nations, including England, Spain, the Netherlands, and Italy, offered huge rewards to anyone discovering how to determine longitude. England's prize was the largest: the equivalent of several million dollars in today's currency.

It was an English clockmaker, John Harrison, a man of humble birth but high intelligence, who solved the problem. He devoted his life to the quest for an accurate way to determine longitude and finally invented a clock that would keep time faithfully from its home port to its destination. His experiments included doing away with the pendulum and using rust-resistant materials (brass and steel) and parts that did not require lubrication.

Many astronomers were jealous of Harrison's success and felt they could find a better answer in _____ (CELES) bodies, but in the end, only Harrison's clock worked. In 1773, aged and tired after forty years of work, Harrison was awarded his prize by King George III.

1. Latitude can be determined by
 - A. length of the day.
 - B. location of the sun.
 - C. position of the stars in the sky.
 - D. All of the above.

2. Longitude can be determined by
 - A. knowing the exact latitude.
 - B. knowing what percentage of 360 degrees one has traveled.
 - C. knowing the time at the place of departure as well as the time aboard ship.
 - D. All of the above.

3. The best title for this essay would be
 - A. Astronomy: Resolving the Mystery of Longitude.
 - B. Longitude
 - C. Latitude vs. Longitude.
 - D. The Race to Discovery.

4. To make a clock that worked at sea, Harrison needed
 - A. a pendulum.
 - B. good lubrication.
 - C. rust-proof parts.
 - D. All of the above.

Exercise VI. Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the *italicized* words. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary. Note that *trans* means “across” and *colous* means “dwelling in.”

The *transhumance* of our herd of Guernsey cows always began in the early spring, when the lush grasses on the south hillsides began to sprout at an incredibly fast rate. During the winter, the herd had been pastured in a field north of the farm, where tougher winter grasses grew in moderate amounts. As the thaw of the ground began, *terricolous* creatures like worms and beetles, in the process of tunneling to the surface of the ground, began breaking apart the tough sod from underneath, allowing the soil to absorb oxygen and nourish young plants.