

UNIT SIX

CURS, COURSE

Latin CURRERE, CURSUM, "to run"

EXCURSION (ek skər' zhən) *n.* A brief pleasure outing

L. ex, "out from," + "cursum" = *running out from*

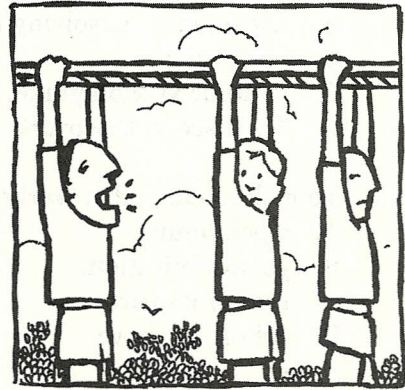
An extra week's vacation would give us time for an *excursion* into the mountains near our home.

syn: trip

DISCOURSE (dis' kôrs) *n.* Exchange of words; conversation

L. dis, "apart," + cursum = *running apart*

Discourse between the two sides was halted temporarily because of an outbreak of violence in the capitol.



The obstacle *COURSE* is no place for *DISCOURSE*.

CELER

Latin CELER, "fast, swift, quick"

ACCELERATED (ak sel' ə rā təd) *adj.* Made faster

L. ad, intensifier + celer = *speed*

The *accelerated* rise to stardom of a previously unknown actor was due in large part to his financial connections.

syn: quickened

ant: slowed

VOLA

Latin VOLARE, VOLATUM, "to fly"

VOLATILE (vol' ə təl) *adj.* Changing often; unpredictable

The *volatile* political situation in the city made people so nervous that they were ready to flee to the country at a moment's notice.

ant: unchanging

III A volant animal is one that can fly. Most, but not all, birds are volant.

MOV

Latin MOVERE, MOTUM, “to move”

IMMOVABLE (i mōv' ə bəl) *adj.* Impossible to move or change

L. in, “not,” + movere = *not able to be moved*

The housekeeper could not figure out how to clean the floor under the *immovable* chest of drawers.

MOBILE (mō' bəl) *adj.* Moving; able to move

Rita found herself in need of a *mobile* office when she started taking on clients who lived miles or even states away from one another.

DEMOTE (dē mōt') *v.* To lower in rank or authority

L. de, “down from,” + motum = *moved down from*

Because of his failure to properly supervise the camp's children, Frank was *demoted* from Head Counselor to Assistant Counselor.

ant: promote

FUG

Latin FUGARE, FUGATUM, “to flee”

FUGITIVE (fūj' ə təv) *n.* Someone who is running away or escaping

After the fire in the prison, two men escaped and became *fugitives*.

REFUGE (ref' ūj) *n.* Protection or safety

L. re, “back,” + fugare = *to flee back*

The political activist, wanted dead or alive by the government, sought *refuge* in the home of some of her supporters.

syn: sanctuary

SUBTERFUGE (sub' tər fūj) *n.* Trick; act of deception

L. subter, “secretly” + fugare = *to flee secretly*

In order to increase slow sales, Simon employed a *subterfuge* that involved claiming success where there had been none.

syn: trickery

III Fugitive often describes something or someone who is being chased; it can also, however, mean “something that goes away quickly” or “something passing.” Thus, you can have fugitive feelings of remorse for stealing the cookie, but then convince yourself that it was worth it.

EXERCISES - UNIT SIX

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

1. It was clear that the horse would not be *mobile* until...
2. Connie was *demoted* from her position as vice-captain of the hockey team because...
3. The picnickers' *excursion* was cut short by...
4. We noticed an *accelerated* decline in the economy when...
5. The hikers desperately sought *refuge* when...
6. Beth was tired of being a *fugitive* because...
7. Whoever had constructed this *immovable* piece of furniture had clearly wanted to...
8. The car salesman employed many kinds of *subterfuge* to...
9. Because Leah was an emotionally *volatile* person, she often...
10. Extended *discourse* between the boss and his employees resulted in...

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

accelerated refuge discourse immovable volatile

1. Many directors dreaded working with the _____ actor, who was known to explode into violent rages without warning.
2. My _____ with Ed continued even after he moved across the country.
3. Violent weather patterns moving across the Midwest were _____ by a storm system already in place.
4. We were amazed when the seemingly _____ tree stump turned out to be as light as an empty box.

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

excursion demote fugitive refuge

5. Before becoming a(n) _____, Richard had to dye his hair and shave his beard.
6. Although the chef was constantly threatening to _____ David, she was secretly pleased with his work.
7. Tanya went to her grandmother's house seeking _____ from her mother's constant criticism.

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

mobile subterfuge excursion accelerated

8. After a few unsuccessful attempts at _____, Claire told her uncle the truth.
9. It was important for the army to be _____ so that it could reach crucial defense points before the enemy did.
10. A weekly _____ to the bakery was a treat to which we always looked forward.

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

1. The country's _____ economy went through a series of drastic plunges and sudden jumps before beginning a(n) _____ downward slide.
A. fugitive; immovable
B. volatile; accelerated
C. mobile; fugitive
D. volatile; immovable
2. Because the campsite was completely _____, the campers could pack up and go any time they wanted to take a(n) _____ into one of the surrounding towns.
A. immovable; subterfuge
B. volatile; refuge
C. mobile; excursion
D. fugitive; discourse
3. Wesley used a form of verbal _____ that made _____ with him either tricky or impossible.
A. refuge; immovable
B. excursion; fugitive
C. mobile; discourse
D. subterfuge; discourse

4. The children tried to take _____ in their father's arms, but found him as _____ as their mother in his anger.
- subterfuge; mobile
 - refuge; immovable
 - excursion; fugitive
 - discourse; volatile
5. Alex's _____ sense of relief at not being fired quickly faded as he realized he was being _____.
- accelerated; mobile
 - immovable; volatile
 - fugitive; accelerated.
 - fugitive; demoted

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

- The chemistry teacher said, "Don't heat that *volatile* sample or..."
- Most criminals, especially non-violent ones, use some sort of *subterfuge* to...
- If the boss chooses to *demote* his least-capable worker, the other employees should probably...

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.

Americans who live in the Rocky Mountains often complain that inexperienced truckers and Eastern tourists need a lesson in mountain driving before turning the key in the ignition and taking the first _____ (CURS) into higher elevations. Novice drivers should be warned that mountain roads are narrow, often with no shoulders or guardrails, and that routes have plenty of sharp turns.

Inexperienced or inattentive drivers tend to treat mountain roads as they do flat roads, sometimes with disastrous results. Vehicle speed is a crucial factor. Most roads that run up, over, and down a mountain are fast, sharp, winding curves called "switchbacks," with speed limits often no higher than twenty miles per hour. These periodic turns enable the traveler to gradually climb to higher elevations without steep upgrades, lessening the strain on the vehicle's engine. However, this method of road design is often impossible for many trucks and recreational vehicles to navigate properly because of their length, so drivers must always be careful of trucks and RV's riding partially or wholly in the wrong lane.

Interstate highways that run over the mountains are easier to cross because they cut a straighter path. Interstates provide an additional lane for slower moving trucks and RV's to use, but dangers still exist. Going up the mountain road, heavier vehicles will strain to reach the summit,

sometimes causing engines to quit; the strain may actually bring on vehicle fires. At most peaks, there is a pullover or rest area so drivers—especially truckers—can stop for a period to let engines cool. On way down the road, however, truckers and RV drivers use the additional lane to roll freely, letting the weight of the vehicle provide momentum. So, the vehicles' speed is _____ (CELER) going down.

As a result, most vehicle accidents occur on the down-side of a mountain. Inexperienced drivers will come upon a sharp turn too fast and may burn away their brake pads in a desperate effort to slow their speed, discovering too late that they needed to decelerate by putting the car in a lower gear. It's a general rule to take this precaution, called "gearing down," at the summit of the mountain, just before beginning the downward ride.

Losing brakes will happen most often to eighteen-wheelers, simply because a full rig weighs many tons and requires much more brake to slow its momentum. Therefore, on the decline of many mountain highways is what's called a "runaway ramp." It's usually a hundred-yard-long dirt road off the right shoulder of the interstate slanted upward that will stop a brakeless vehicle simply by relying on gravity and gravel, provided a driver can keep control of his or her car or truck long enough to reach it. Happy trails!

- B
1. What is the primary cause of accidents in the Rocky Mountains, according to the essay?
 - A. sharp turns
 - B. steep inclines
 - C. long upward climbs
 - D. inexperienced drivers
 2. What causes engines to catch fire on a mountain's rising lane?
 - A. heat buildup in exhaust pipe
 - B. no oil in the engine
 - C. engine strain
 - D. None of the above
 3. Why are switchbacks better than a straight road over the mountain?
 - A. Drivers prefer a slower ride.
 - B. Drivers like curvy roads.
 - C. Switchbacks have an additional lane.
 - D. Switchbacks reduce engine strain.
 4. Why are mountain roads more dangerous than flat roads?
 - A. plenty of curves
 - B. narrowness
 - C. no guardrails
 - 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 *con* means "together with."

Although the Parade of the Lilies is *concurrent* with the Christmas holiday in my country, it has little in common with the Christian festival. Both occur at the same time by sheer accident. Early missionaries landed on the island after being stranded at sea for almost six months. Assuming it was Easter, they decided to simultaneously celebrate the holiday and give thanks by covering the streets of the island with the tropical lilies that grew nearby. This tradition continued even after the calendar had been adjusted. The *fugacious* beauty of the lilies dropping like snow always brings a tear to my eye, though the flowers fade as quickly as the season.