

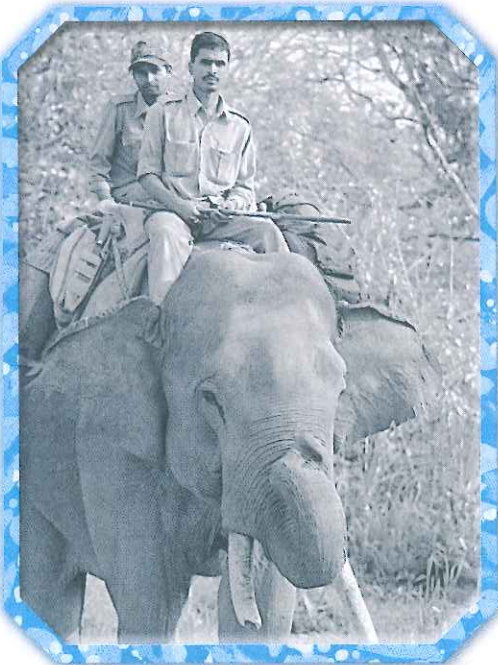
## UNIT 4

Read the following selection, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 4. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

### Elephant Culture and Conservation

#### <Expository Writing>

Throughout history, humans have admired elephants for their strength, their intelligence, and their courageous, **intrepid** behavior. The largest land mammal, elephants are divided into two species, named for the continents on which each is found. The African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) stands twelve feet high and weighs up to eight tons. The Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is slightly less massive. For centuries, Asian elephants have been carefully trained to perform the most **arduous** of tasks, such as carrying heavy loads and patrolling protected forests over rough terrain. Asian elephants have proved more **pliant** than



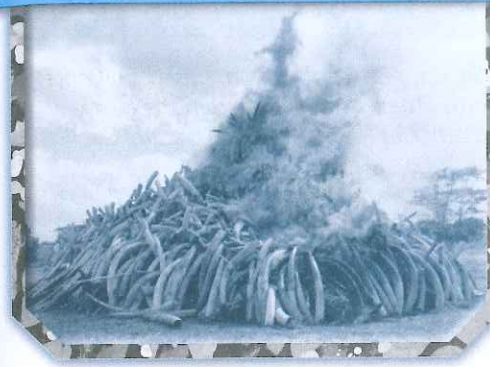
Asian elephants are strong work animals that can be trained to carry heavy loads.

the African species. They can respond to more than thirty vocal commands from their handlers, called *mahawats* in India.

Elephants are highly social creatures, living in herds under the leadership of a matriarch. Without the coordination this senior female provides, **anarchy** might prevail in the herd. The animals show affection by wrapping their trunks around one another, and they are especially attentive to the young calves. Elephants sleep little because they are always on the move in search of far-flung sources of food and water. In Africa, drought is a herd's biggest threat. Recently, elephants have been shown to communicate using infrasound—deep rumbles inaudible to the human ear—to ensure **access** to water and to keep the herd together. Elephants are peaceful animals, with no natural predators except humans. An elephant's trunk is a remarkable limb that could serve as an ancient **prototype** for a modern precision tool. Two fingers at the end of the trunk are so delicate that an elephant can hold an egg without breaking it.

There is one appendage, however, that critically endangers elephants: their ivory tusks. The tusks have made elephants vulnerable to poaching in both Africa and Asia. Poachers employ a variety of brutal methods to kill a wild elephant. They then slash off the animals' tusks for the illegal ivory trade and **abscond** with their loot, a clear-cut case of **larceny**.

It has proved especially difficult to **disentangle** the complex issues surrounding poaching and the ivory trade, a practice that puts all elephants at risk. The threat to elephants is serious enough to have made them one of the



To discourage poaching and the illegal trade in ivory, Kenyan authorities destroyed \$3 million worth of elephant tusks.

chief concerns of wildlife conservationists, especially in Asia. Advocates of tough antipoaching laws argue that only severe penalties will **rectify** the situation and ease the threat to Asian elephants, now numbering only 30,000 to 50,000 spread over thirteen countries. India has the largest population by far. Fortunately, elephants have an **auspicious** reputation in India, and in 1992, it established Project Elephant as a national agency to protect *Elephas maximus*. In Africa, certain countries assert that they have too many elephants. These countries have,

therefore, devised culling campaigns to reduce the herds. Such programs are **reviled** as cruel by many conservationists, who warn that elephants are teetering on a **precipice** that could lead to extinction. So though it is said that an elephant never forgets, it appears that people might forget the elephant. The many challenges posed by conservation efforts are **daunting**. Are these majestic animals **fated** to suffer extinction? Or can well-designed conservation programs afford them a **reprieve** from such a bleak future? In 1989, conservationist Richard Leakey convinced Kenya's president to kick off a vigorous antipoaching campaign by publicly **incinerating** a 12-ton pile of elephant tusks. The pile was 20 feet high and worth \$3 million. This celebrated bonfire drew worldwide attention.

Words



Snap the code, or go to [vocabularyworkshop.com](http://vocabularyworkshop.com)





## Definitions

Note the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank spaces in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms.

**1. abscond**  
(ab skänd')

(v.) to run off and hide

The thieves who \_\_\_\_\_ with several of the museum's most valuable paintings have never been found.

SYNONYMS: bolt, make off, skip town

**2. access**  
(ak' ses)

(n.) approach or admittance to places, persons, things; an increase; (v.) to get at, obtain

\_\_\_\_\_ to information on a seemingly unlimited number of topics is available over the Internet.

You need a password in order to \_\_\_\_\_ your e-mail accounts.

SYNONYMS: (n.) entry, ingress

ANTONYM: (n.) total exclusion

**3. anarchy**  
(an' ə r kē)

(n.) a lack of government and law; confusion

In the final days of a war, civilians may find themselves living in \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: chaos, disorder, turmoil, pandemonium

ANTONYMS: law and order, peace and quiet

**4. arduous**  
(är' jü əs)

(adj.) hard to do, requiring much effort

No matter how carefully you plan for it, moving to a new home is an \_\_\_\_\_ chore.

SYNONYMS: hard, difficult, laborious, fatiguing

ANTONYMS: easy, simple, effortless

**5. auspicious**  
(ō spish' əs)

(adj.) favorable; fortunate

My parents describe the day that they first met as a most \_\_\_\_\_ occasion.

SYNONYMS: promising, encouraging, propitious

ANTONYMS: ill-omened, sinister

**6. daunt**  
(dōnt)

(v.) to overcome with fear, intimidate; to dishearten, discourage

Despite all its inherent dangers, space flight did not \_\_\_\_\_ the Mercury program astronauts.

SYNONYMS: dismay, cow

ANTONYMS: encourage, embolden, reassure

**7. disentangle**  
(dis en tanj' gəl)

(v.) to free from tangles or complications

Rescuers worked for hours to \_\_\_\_\_ a whale from the fishing net wrapped around its jaws.

SYNONYMS: unravel, unwind, unscramble, unsnarl

ANTONYMS: tangle up, ensnarl, snag

**8. fated**  
(fā' tid)

(adj.) determined in advance by destiny or fortune

The tragic outcome of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is \_\_\_\_\_ from the play's very first scene.

SYNONYMS: destined, preordained, doomed

ANTONYMS: fortuitous, chance, random

**9. hoodwink**  
(hūd' wɪŋk)

(v.) to mislead by a trick, swindle

Many sweepstakes offers \_\_\_\_\_ people into thinking they have already won big prizes.

SYNONYMS: put one over on, fool

ANTONYMS: disabuse

**10. inanimate**  
(in an' ə mit)

(adj.) not having life; without energy or spirit

Although fossils are \_\_\_\_\_, they hold many clues to life on Earth millions of years ago.

SYNONYMS: dead, spiritless

ANTONYMS: living, alive, energetic, sprightly

**11. incinerate**  
(in sin' ər āt)

(v.) to burn to ashes

Because of environmental concerns, many cities and towns no longer \_\_\_\_\_ their garbage.

SYNONYMS: burn up, cremate, reduce to ashes

**12. intrepid**  
(in trep' id)

(adj.) very brave, fearless, unshakable

\_\_\_\_\_ Polynesian sailors in outrigger canoes were the first humans to reach the Hawaiian Islands.

SYNONYMS: valiant, audacious, daring

ANTONYMS: timid, cowardly, craven, pusillanimous

**13. larceny**  
(lār' sə nē)

(n.) theft

Someone who steals property that is worth thousands of dollars commits grand \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: stealing, robbery

**14. pliant**  
(plī' ənt)

(adj.) bending readily; easily influenced

The \_\_\_\_\_ branches of the sapling sagged but did not break under the weight of the heavy snow.

SYNONYMS: supple, flexible, elastic, plastic

ANTONYMS: rigid, stiff, inflexible, set in stone

15. **pompous**  
(päm' päs)

(adj.) overly self-important in speech and manner; excessively stately or ceremonious

Political cartoonists like nothing better than to mock \_\_\_\_\_ public officials.

SYNONYMS: highfalutin, bombastic  
ANTONYMS: unpretentious, plain

16. **precipice**  
(pres' ə pis)

(n.) a very steep cliff; the brink or edge of disaster

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world hovered on the \_\_\_\_\_ of nuclear war.

SYNONYMS: crag, bluff, ledge  
ANTONYMS: abyss, chasm, gorge

17. **prototype**  
(prō' tə tip)

(n.) an original model on which later versions are patterned

The assembly line managers studied the \_\_\_\_\_ of the new car for weeks before production began.

SYNONYMS: example, sample  
ANTONYM: copy

18. **rectify**  
(rek' tə fi)

(v.) to make right, correct

The senators debated a series of measures designed to \_\_\_\_\_ the nation's trade imbalance.

SYNONYM: set right  
ANTONYMS: mess up, botch, bungle

19. **reprieve**  
(ri prēv')

(n.) a temporary relief or delay; (v.) to grant a postponement

A vacation is a kind of \_\_\_\_\_ from the cares and responsibilities of everyday life.

A judge may \_\_\_\_\_ a first-time offender from jail time until sentencing.

SYNONYMS: (n.) stay, respite; (v.) delay  
ANTONYM: (v.) proceed

20. **revile**  
(ri vil')

(v.) to attack with words, call bad names

The enraged King Lear \_\_\_\_\_ the daughters who have cast him out into a fierce storm.

SYNONYMS: inveigh against, malign, vilify  
ANTONYMS: praise, acclaim, revere, idolize

### Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the selection on pages 50–51 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- The voters may seem unaware of the underlying issues, but in the long run they cannot be (**disentangled, hoodwinked**) by self-serving politicians.
- The general feared that the latest attacks on the city would push the situation over the (**precipice, access**), leading directly to a full-blown war.
- Despite the threats made against his life, the (**arduous, intrepid**) district attorney was able to obtain a conviction of the corrupt official.
- His broad education gave him a(n) (**auspicious, fated**) view of cultures different from his own.
- When her eyes suddenly blazed with such fury, I felt that the heat of her glance would all but (**disentangle, incinerate**) me.
- A great playwright's characters always seem to come alive; those of a third-rate hack stubbornly remain (**pliant, inanimate**).
- His speech and manners were so (**auspicious, pompous**) and stiff that he cut a somewhat ridiculous figure at our informal little get-together.
- How can you accuse me of (**absconding, reviling**) with all your brilliant ideas when you have never had an original thought in your life?
- Though the dangers and uncertainties of a westward passage to the Orient cowed many a brave sailor, they did not (**rectify, daunt**) Columbus.
- Only by admitting your fault and trying to make up for it can you obtain a(n) (**reprieve, access**) from the pangs of conscience.
- We should begin studying foreign languages at an early age because it is during those years that our minds are most (**pompous, pliant**) and receptive.
- The team of accountants spent hours trying to locate and then to (**rectify, prototype**) the error I had so carelessly made.
- Spring, with its ever-renewing promise of life, is for me the most (**arduous, auspicious**) of seasons.
- For most retired athletes, the comeback trail is an (**arduous, inanimate**) one, and few ever get to the end of it.
- Anyone who takes the writings of other people and presents them as his or her own is guilty of literary (**larceny, anarchy**).



Frequent elections allow voters to change their leaders.

16. Although the hero and the heroine were parted by circumstance, I knew that they were (**intrepid, fated**) to meet again before the last commercial.
17. There is a vast difference between democracy, under which everyone has duties and privileges, and (**larceny, anarchy**), under which no one has.
18. Like farmers separating the wheat from the chaff, the members of a jury must (**disentangle, daunt**) the truth from the evidence presented to them.
19. Far from being useless, mathematics will give you (**relieve, access**) to many fields of scientific study.
20. Instead of recognizing that he caused his own troubles, he continues to (**revile, hoodwink**) all the people who were "unfair" to him.
21. Although she looks young and inexperienced, it is not easy to (**hoodwink, rectify**) her, since she is a private detective by profession.
22. At the design firm, the most well-received (**relieves, prototypes**) for the new line of evening gowns were the ones made from a new silk blend.
23. To (**access, disentangle**) the large safe we will need the five-digit combination to the lock.
24. I was not completely surprised when my aunt decided to (**daunt, relieve**) her decision to let me borrow her car next weekend.
25. My uncle can be so (**pompous, intrepid**) when he lectures me about politics.

## Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. an **inert** stone \_\_\_\_\_
2. **ostentatious** style of dress \_\_\_\_\_
3. editorials that **denounced** the mayor's actions \_\_\_\_\_
4. gained **entrée** to an exclusive club \_\_\_\_\_
5. scheduled to stand trial for **burglary** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **courageous** in the face of danger \_\_\_\_\_
7. **duped** into buying a flawed diamond \_\_\_\_\_
8. granted a thirty-day **deferral** \_\_\_\_\_
9. tried to **remedy** their mistaken impression of me \_\_\_\_\_
10. a house built on a **promontory** \_\_\_\_\_

## Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. their **unaffected** way of expressing themselves \_\_\_\_\_
2. **undeceived** by the joke \_\_\_\_\_
3. the author's surprisingly **vigorous** prose \_\_\_\_\_
4. an **accidental** meeting \_\_\_\_\_
5. a series of **ominous** events \_\_\_\_\_

## Completing the Sentence

From the words in this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. This master key will give you \_\_\_\_\_ to any of the rooms in the building.
2. No matter how much protective legislation we pass, there will probably always be gullible consumers for swindlers to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. One of the most controversial figures of his time, the former president was revered by some and \_\_\_\_\_ by others.
4. This handmade chair is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ for the machine-built ones we will produce by the thousands.
5. With no government around to restore order, the small country remained in a state of \_\_\_\_\_ for weeks after the revolution.
6. Since everything had gone so smoothly, we felt that the campaign to elect Ellen captain was off to a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ beginning.
7. Though somewhat massively built, the gymnast's body was as supple and \_\_\_\_\_ as a ballet dancer's.
8. The treasurer who had \_\_\_\_\_ with the company's funds was quickly captured by alert federal agents.
9. The film had gotten so badly entwined in the malfunctioning old movie projector that I had a hard time \_\_\_\_\_ it.
10. As soon as I discovered that the project was being mismanaged, I tried my best to \_\_\_\_\_ the situation.

- 11. Though many people firmly believe that life-forms exist somewhere in outer space, everything that our astronauts have so far encountered has been decidedly \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. The youths who had "borrowed" the car for joyriding were caught by the police and charged with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. Since I'm only an average linguist, mastering the irregular verbs in French was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ tasks I have ever undertaken.
- 14. Without the slightest hesitation, \_\_\_\_\_ firefighters will enter a blazing building to rescue anyone who may be trapped.
- 15. The guardrail was reinforced to prevent cars from skidding over the edge of the \_\_\_\_\_ and falling into the abyss below.
- 16. Her extraordinary faith in her own abilities enabled her to overcome many obstacles that would have \_\_\_\_\_ someone less confident.
- 17. Since I did not feel well prepared, the three-day postponement of final exams was a most welcome \_\_\_\_\_.
- 18. The steak I'd accidentally left in the broiler too long wasn't just overdone; it was positively \_\_\_\_\_.
- 19. The overly ornate style of many eighteenth-century writers seems rather forced and \_\_\_\_\_ to us today.
- 20. Ancient astrologers developed the idea that what is \_\_\_\_\_ to happen to a person is determined by the stars.

**Writing: Words in Action**

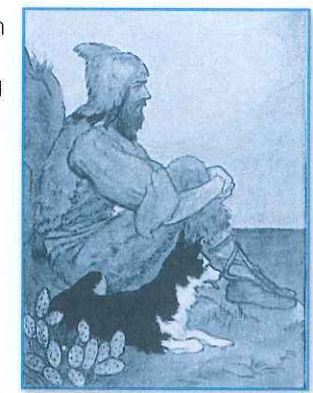
1. Look back at "Elephant Culture and Conservation" (pages 50–51). Which kind of elephant seems more likely to survive in today's world—the Asian or the African elephant? Write a short expository essay in which you compare and contrast the two species in order to arrive at a conclusion about their possible futures. Use at least two details from the passage and three unit words to support your conclusions.
2. Protecting endangered species can be a difficult undertaking. In a brief essay, explain some of the challenges people and organizations face in their efforts to save endangered animals. Support your views with specific examples from your observations, studies, reading (refer to pages 50–51), or your own experience. Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this unit.

**Vocabulary in Context**

**Literary Text**

The following excerpts are from Daniel Defoe's novels *The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* and *A Journal of the Plague Year*. Some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. ... and then I entered into a long discourse with him about the devil...and the many stratagems he made use of to delude mankind to their ruin; how he had a secret **access** to our passions and to our affections...so as to cause us even to be our own tempters, and run upon our destruction by our own choice. (*Robinson Crusoe*)  
 If you have **access** you have  
 a. envy of                      c. hatred of  
 b. love for                      d. admittance to
2. ... [H]e approached the mountains another way; and though it is true the hills and **precipices** looked dreadful...we insensibly passed the height of the mountains without being much encumbered with the snow.... (*Robinson Crusoe*)  
 A **precipice** is a  
 a. very steep cliff              c. large canopy  
 b. pile of rocks                  d. group of trees
3. They who know what it is to have a **reprieve** brought to them upon the ladder, or to be rescued from thieves just going to murder them, or who have been in such extremities, may guess what my present surprise of joy was.... (*Robinson Crusoe*)  
 If you have a **reprieve**, you have been given  
 a. a meal                          c. praise  
 b. relief                            d. a reward
4. ... [T]he corpse was always left till the officers had notice to come and take them away, or till night, when the bearers attending the dead-cart would take them up and carry them away. Nor did those **undaunted** creatures...fail to search their pockets, and sometimes strip off their clothes if they were well dressed, as sometimes they were, and carry off what they could get. (*A Journal of the Plague Year*)  
 If you are **undaunted** you are NOT  
 a. eager                            c. frightened  
 b. courageous                  d. bold
5. ... [S]ome that stayed [were] not only boasting too much of themselves, but **reviling** those that fled, branding them with cowardice, deserting their flocks, and acting the part of the hireling, and the like. (*A Journal of the Plague Year*)  
 To **revile** is to  
 a. attack with words          c. admire greatly  
 b. beat with sticks              d. take pleasure in



Robinson Crusoe sitting with his dog, from an old book illustration.

**Interactive Quiz**

Snap the code, or go to [vocabularyworkshop.com](http://vocabularyworkshop.com)