

Read the following passage, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 10. As you complete the exercises in this Unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

## Farewell, Blue Yodeler

### <Obituary>



June 1, 1933  
Asheville Evening Post  
by Floyd O. Merryll

With the passing last week of Jimmie Rodgers, the country lost a great performer. But it's a testament to the kind of man he was that many of his fans will take the loss personally, as if that Blue Yodeler, as we like to call him and will remember him, was a friend of ours. Thankfully, we've got his records to keep with us as **mementos**.

James Charles Rodgers was born in Meridian, Mississippi, in 1897. His mama died when he was just a kid, and Jimmie was raised by relatives in Mississippi and

Alabama. When he was a little older, he returned to Meridian to live with his father, Aaron, who was a maintenance foreman on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

Jimmie had no **rigorous** musical training, but he learned to sing and play guitar. Still a boy, Jimmie proved to be a **nonconformist**. He secretly organized a traveling show. When Aaron Rodgers found out, he had the good sense to **foil** his son's plans—he tracked Jimmie down, and dragged him home. But the stunt was more than the **bumbling** behavior of an unruly kid. Jimmie showed the same **initiative** again, **formulating** a second plan to get out on the road and sing. He charged a pricey canvas tent in his father's name and hit the road to make music. His father might have understood Jimmie's love of music, but he probably didn't want the boy to **delude** himself about a musician's life. He set out again to **pry** his son from the road. Soon Aaron got Jimmie a job as a waterboy with the railroad. Within a few years, Jimmie was a brakeman on the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad. Now Jimmie was a steady working man. But he never lost his love of music.

Jimmie came down with the deadly respiratory disease called tuberculosis in 1924, when he was 27 years old. As a **consequence** of that **abominable** disease, he had to quit his railroad job. Ever **resourceful**, Jimmie organized a traveling show and played across the Southeast. He worked as a brakeman again and later as a switchman but couldn't keep those jobs because of his tuberculosis. But his travels gave him a

look at the whole **panorama** of Southern music. In 1927, Jimmie went to Asheville, North Carolina, where the city's first radio station had just hit the airwaves, and he played on the radio and earned himself a weekly slot. The exposure served him well in **subsequent** months. He recorded songs for a record company. One of them, "Blue Yodel," sold like hotcakes and made Jimmie Rodgers a star.

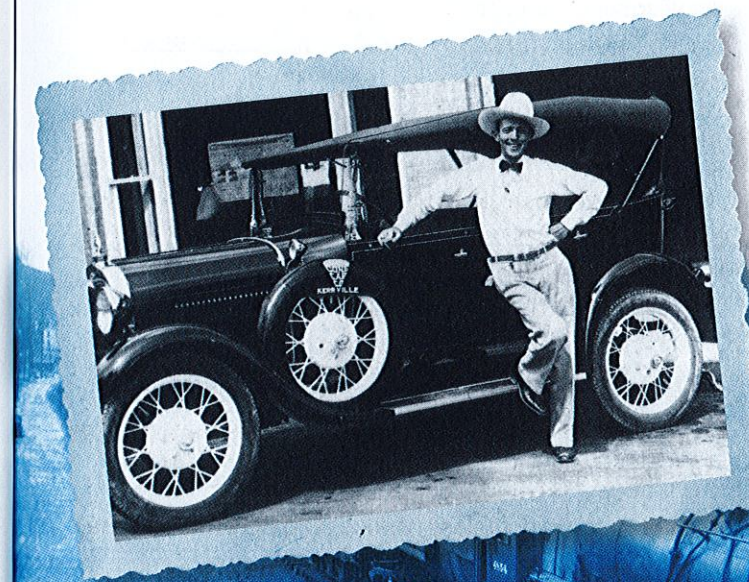
Propelled by fame, the Blue Yodeler traveled the country for the next few years. It was hard times for the nation. But while so many people were on the **dole** and looking for work, Jimmie was living his dream. He was making music, touring, and starring in a movie short called "The Singing Brakeman." Eventually, his illness caught up with him. During a recording session in New York City last week, he couldn't get through all of his songs. He took the day off to recover, but Jimmie was

in a race against time. So before he'd sung his last song, Jimmie Rodgers was gone. But in a few years as a recording artist and a few more as a performer who rambled around the country, he made such a mark for **posterity** that we'll never forget him. Jimmie leaves behind his wife, Carrie, and daughter, Carrie Anita, and a legion of fans and recordings.

Farewell, Blue Yodeler.

Audio

For iWords® and audio passages, snap the code, or go to [vocabularyworkshop.com](http://vocabularyworkshop.com).



Left: Promotional photo for The Singing Brakeman

Inset: Jimmie posing with his sweet Model T Ford, in 1930





## Definitions

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

1. **abominable**  
(ə bām' ə nə bəl) (adj.) arousing hatred; disgusting, detestable  
Unfortunately, there are many \_\_\_\_\_ ideas circulating on the Internet.  
SYNONYMS: hateful, despicable, loathsome  
ANTONYMS: praiseworthy, delightful, charming
2. **bumbling**  
(bām' bliŋ) (adj.) blundering and awkward; (n.) clumsiness  
The \_\_\_\_\_ burglars were so inept that they actually left some of their own money at the home they were planning to rob!  
The old cartoon character Mr. Magoo was well known for his \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (adj.) clumsy, stumbling  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) forceful, effective, skillful, adroit
3. **consequence**  
(kän' sə kwens) (n.) a result, effect; importance  
Does he truly comprehend the \_\_\_\_\_ of his actions?  
SYNONYMS: outcome, significance  
ANTONYMS: cause, source
4. **delude**  
(di lüd') (v.) to fool, deceive; to mislead utterly  
Don't \_\_\_\_\_ yourself into thinking that you will become a famous concert pianist just because you played one song at the school's talent show.  
SYNONYMS: trick, hoodwink
5. **dole**  
(dōl) (v.) to give out in small amounts; (n.) money, food, or other necessities given as charity; a small portion  
Let's \_\_\_\_\_ out scraps of food to the hungry dogs.  
The people at the homeless shelter lined up to receive their weekly \_\_\_\_\_.  
SYNONYMS: (v.) ration, allot, distribute; (n.) handout
6. **engulf**  
(en gəlf') (v.) to swallow up, overwhelm, consume  
The truck was \_\_\_\_\_ in flames after its fuel tank exploded.  
SYNONYMS: encompass, immerse

7. **foil**  
(foil) (v.) to defeat; to keep from gaining some end; (n.) a thin sheet of metal; a light fencing sword; a person or thing serving as a contrast to another  
The police will \_\_\_\_\_ the criminals' plot.  
Glum characters make a good \_\_\_\_\_ for the upbeat star of that new comedy.  
SYNONYMS: (v.) frustrate, thwart, counter; (n.) rapier  
ANTONYMS: (v.) aid, abet, assist, advance, promote
8. **formulate**  
(fôr' myə lāt) (v.) to express definitely or systematically; to devise, invent; to state as a formula  
The town board will \_\_\_\_\_ a tax policy.  
SYNONYMS: define, articulate, frame, specify
9. **initiative**  
(i nish' ə tiv) (n.) the taking of the first step or move; the ability to act without being directed or urged from the outside  
Dad is proud of my \_\_\_\_\_ with chores.  
SYNONYMS: leadership, enterprise  
ANTONYMS: laziness, sloth, shiftlessness
10. **memento**  
(mə men' tō) (n.) something that serves as a reminder  
This cap is a \_\_\_\_\_ of our recent trip.  
SYNONYMS: remembrance, souvenir, token
11. **nonconformist**  
(nän kən fôr' mist) (n.) a person who refuses to follow established ideas or ways of doing things; (adj.) of or relating to the unconventional  
Jake, a \_\_\_\_\_, is not swayed by opinion.  
Her \_\_\_\_\_ poetry appears in several small literary magazines.  
SYNONYMS: (n.) maverick, individualist, bohemian  
ANTONYMS: (n., adj.) traditionalist, conventionalist; (adj.) traditional, conventional, conservative
12. **null and void**  
(nəl and void) (adj.) without legal force or effect; no longer binding  
This contract becomes \_\_\_\_\_ at noon.  
SYNONYMS: canceled, repealed, abolished  
ANTONYMS: in effect, binding
13. **panorama**  
(pan ə ram' ə) (n.) a wide, unobstructed view of an area; a complete survey of a subject; a continuously passing or changing scene; a range or spectrum  
Displays of old picture postcards present an entertaining \_\_\_\_\_ of twentieth-century life.  
SYNONYM: overview



**14. posterity**  
(pə ster' ət ē)

(*n.*) all of a person's offspring, descendants; all future generations

Let's keep the photo album for \_\_\_\_\_.

ANTONYMS: ancestry, ancestors, forebears, the past

**15. pry**  
(pri)

(*v.*) to pull loose by force; to look at closely or inquisitively; to be nosy about something

We can use this tool to \_\_\_\_\_ the lid off a can of paint.

SYNONYMS: snoop, meddle

**16. refurbish**  
(ri fər' bish)

(*v.*) to brighten, freshen, or polish; to restore or improve

Every five years, the hotel \_\_\_\_\_ the décor of its elegant lobby.

SYNONYMS: remodel, renew

ANTONYMS: dilapidate, run down

**17. resourceful**  
(ri sɔrs' fəl)

(*adj.*) able to deal promptly and effectively with all sorts of problems; clever in finding ways and means of getting along

A \_\_\_\_\_ guide will know how to handle any questions or surprises that come up on the tour.

SYNONYMS: inventive, ingenious, skillful

ANTONYMS: uninventive, incompetent, dull-witted

**18. rigorous**  
(rig' ə r əs)

(*adj.*) severe, harsh, strict; thoroughly logical

"Boot camp" is the nickname for the place where new soldiers receive \_\_\_\_\_ basic training.

SYNONYMS: tough, trying, challenging, rousing

ANTONYMS: easy, lax, indulgent, tiresome

**19. subsequent**  
(səb' sə kwent)

(*adj.*) coming after; following in time, place, or order

The country enjoyed peace and prosperity in the years \_\_\_\_\_ to the war.

SYNONYMS: later, following, ensuing

ANTONYMS: previous, prior, preceding

**20. unerring**  
(ən er' in)

(*adj.*) making no mistakes, faultless, completely accurate

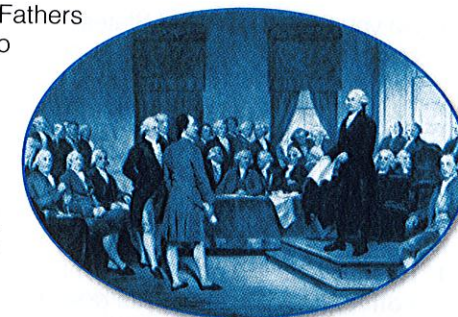
Even a pilot with \_\_\_\_\_ judgment can be surprised by sudden changes in the weather.

SYNONYMS: sure, certain, unfailing

ANTONYMS: faulty, fallible, unreliable

## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the passage on pages 126–127 to see how most of these words are used in context.



Among the fifty-five framers of the U.S. Constitution were George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

1. In devising the Constitution, the Founding Fathers sought to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our **(posterity, foils)**."
2. Our foreign policy embraces a vast **(consequence, panorama)** of aims and objectives, problems and concerns.
3. Here I am on my first vacation in years, and I have to put up with this **(abominable, bumbling)** weather day after day!
4. All these things in the attic may seem like a lot of junk to you, but to me they are priceless **(mementos, nonconformists)** of childhood.
5. Sasha was pleasantly surprised with all the perks, such as free tickets, that the producers **(doled, foiled)** out to the actors.
6. She hopes to win the election by convincing voters that the city's troubles result from the **(unerring, bumbling)** policies of the present mayor.
7. With his serious face and his dignified way of speaking, he is an excellent **(foil, memento)** for the clownish comedian.
8. It is too late to attempt to **(formulate, refurbish)** the old city charter; we must have a completely new plan for our city government.
9. Since you have failed to carry out your promises, I must tell you that the agreement between us is now **(resourceful, null and void)**.
10. By coaxing and questioning hour after hour, Tom finally managed to **(pry, delude)** the big secret from his sister.
11. When we reached the top of the volcano, the **(panoramic, resourceful)** view was well worth the five-hour hike.
12. The war that began with Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 spread until it had **(refurbished, engulfed)** almost the entire world.
13. Brad is the kind of **(rigorous, resourceful)** quarterback who can always come up with something new when it is a matter of victory or defeat.
14. My father, an electrical engineer, is an expert at computing **(rigorous, abominable)** math problems.
15. We worked several hours shoveling dirt and removing roots, hoping to **(engulf, pry)** the tree stump loose from the ground.



- 16. Why is it that such hardworking, self-reliant people now have to depend on a (**posterity, dole**) of food and other necessities from charitable agencies?
- 17. We all know that it is a long time since the speeding laws in our community have been (**rigorously, subsequently**) enforced.
- 18. Do you think the United States should take the (**initiative, dole**) in trying to bring about a compromise peace in the region?
- 19. The lawyer made the point that her client had been at the scene of the crime before the murder but not (**null and void, subsequent**) to it.
- 20. If you think that you can get away with selling overpriced products to the people of this town, you are (**deluding, refurbishing**) yourself.
- 21. He may look like an ordinary man, but he is in fact a figure of real (**panorama, consequence**) in the state government.
- 22. One of the signs of a truly democratic nation is that it gives protection and freedom to (**initiatives, nonconformists**) who espouse unpopular views.
- 23. "We must (**formulate, engulf**) a plan to deal with this new situation and carry it out as quickly as possible," the president said.
- 24. Perhaps he doesn't seem to be very bright, but he has an (**abominable, unerring**) instinct for anything that might make money for him.
- 25. Many comics get laughs for their (**unerring, stumbling**) antics on the stage.



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. a contract that is considered **invalid** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. to discuss it at our **next** meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. **creative** use of recycled materials \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. must pass a **demanding** exam \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. **prepare** an answer for the defense \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. a dramatic **vista** of red rock formations \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. devised a **perfect** plan \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. a precious **keepsake** of Sally's childhood \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. if we decide to **spruce up** the kitchen \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. huge waves that **envelop** the tiny beach \_\_\_\_\_



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. declared **valid** by the courts \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. to **demolish** the old building \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. due to my **flawed** sense of direction \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. **lovely** behavior for a twelve-year-old \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. waves that **retreat from** the dunes \_\_\_\_\_



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

- 1. A truly \_\_\_\_\_ administrator always seems to be able to find an effective way of dealing with any problem that may come up.
- 2. Like so many other young people, he has been \_\_\_\_\_ into the false belief that there is an easy way to success.
- 3. Professional baseball players get themselves into shape for the upcoming season by undergoing a \_\_\_\_\_ training period each spring.
- 4. The first meeting will be in the school auditorium, but all \_\_\_\_\_ meetings will be held in the homes of our members.
- 5. You may think that the crude way he has behaved is slightly amusing, but I think it is \_\_\_\_\_ and inexcusable.
- 6. Huge clouds of smoke and ash from the active volcano \_\_\_\_\_ the sleepy little villages that nestled on its flanks.
- 7. From the observation deck of the skyscraper one may enjoy a sweeping \_\_\_\_\_ of the city.
- 8. What a disappointment to hear that dull and \_\_\_\_\_ speech when we were expecting a clear, forceful, and interesting statement!
- 9. Many an artist whose work has been overlooked in his or her own lifetime has had to trust to \_\_\_\_\_ for appreciation.
- 10. All that you will need to \_\_\_\_\_ that dilapidated old house is lots of time, lots of skill, lots of enthusiasm, and lots of money.



11. As a tennis player, Sue doesn't have much speed or power, but she hits the ball with \_\_\_\_\_ accuracy.
12. Since I was able to prove in court that the salesperson had lied to me, the contract I had signed was declared \_\_\_\_\_.
13. These old photographs may not look like much, but I treasure them as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of the last summer my entire family spent together.
14. During World War II, food became so scarce in Great Britain that the government \_\_\_\_\_ it out to consumers in very small amounts.
15. Anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ into someone else's business runs the risk of opening a can of worms.
16. The alert employee \_\_\_\_\_ an attempted robbery by setting off the alarm promptly.
17. At the time it occurred, that mistake didn't seem to be too important, but it had \_\_\_\_\_ that still hurt me today.
18. We must \_\_\_\_\_ a detailed response that leaves no doubt about our position on this important issue.
19. Rather than sit back and wait for the enemy to attack him, the general took the \_\_\_\_\_ and delivered the first blow.
20. The term "\_\_\_\_\_ " was first applied in the 1660s to English Protestants who dissented from the Church of England.

### Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at "Farewell, Blue Yodeler" (pages 126–127). Suppose that you are a musician who traveled with Jimmie when he was a boy. You want to persuade his father, Aaron Rodgers, that Jimmie should continue to travel with the show and hone his skills as a musician. Write a letter to Aaron Rodgers supporting your position. Use at least two details from the passage and three Unit words.
2. "Music has charms to soothe a savage breast."—William Congreve  
It is a common sentiment that music soothes the soul. Do you agree with this statement? Should music always "soothe" the soul, or does it have other purposes? What roles does music play in contemporary life? In a brief essay, support your opinion with specific examples from your observations, studies, the reading (refer to pages 126–127), or personal 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 *The Works of Edgar Allan Poe, Volume I by Edgar Allan Poe*. 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. . . . upon the **subsequent** disposal of the trinkets and jewels . . . it was found that we had greatly undervalued the treasure. ("The Gold-Bug")  
A discovery made **subsequent** to an action occurs  
a. after                      c. suddenly  
b. previously              d. gradually
2. . . . and I fell down in the bottom of the car, trembling with unmitigated terror. Indeed, I now perceived that I had entirely overdone the business, and that the main **consequences** of the shock were yet to be experienced. ("The Unparalleled Adventure of One Hans Pfaall")  
**Consequences** are a  
a. fears                      c. results  
b. reminders              d. memories
3. . . . I should have been unable to accomplish even as much as I had now accomplished, and the wonderful adventures of Hans Pfaall would have been utterly lost to **posterity**, I had therefore every reason to be grateful . . . ("The Unparalleled Adventure of One Hans Pfaall")  
**Posterity** refers to things in the  
a. future                      c. basement  
b. news                      d. present

4. . . . [L]ooking dizzily around, [I] was . . . struck with the idea of our being among breakers; so terrific, beyond the wildest imagination, was the whirlpool of mountainous and foaming ocean within which we were **engulfed**. ("Ms. Found in a Bottle")

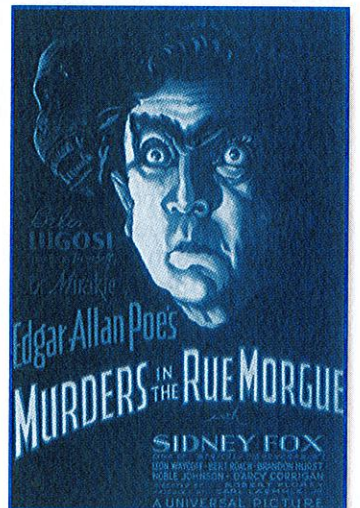
Someone **engulfed** by the ocean is

- a. fishing in it              c. floating on it  
b. thrilled by it              d. immersed in it

5. . . . [T]here still remained in his possession a small remnant of his patrimony; and, upon the income arising from this, he managed, by means of a **rigorous** economy, to procure the necessities of life. ("The Murders in the Rue Morgue")

A **rigorous** economy is definitely NOT

- a. energizing              c. stimulating  
b. lenient                  d. invigorating



Bela Lugosi played the role of the mad scientist in the 1932 film *Murders in the Rue Morgue*, based on Poe's short story.

Interactive  
Quiz



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