

LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR READINGS

Section 3

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“CANADA’S GENOCIDE”

Michael Downey

Prereading Vocabulary

seizures	the taking control of by force
apprehensions	the legal act of seizing criminals
incarcerated	put in prison
repatriation	returning of persons to the country in which they were born

Idioms and Expressions

Manitoba native	Could mean someone born in Manitoba <i>or</i> a Manitoban of Aboriginal or First Nations descent. In this case Downey is referring to someone who is both born in Manitoba and of First Nations descent. It is typically considered correct to capitalize Native when meaning an Aboriginal person but not when using it to mean “born in a specified place.”
wards of the state	a child legally determined by the government to be in the custody of a public child welfare agency

References

British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Manitoba	provinces within Canada
First Nations	those Aboriginal peoples distinguished by themselves and the Canadian government from the Inuit and Métis; in many but not all instances, their bands hold treaties with the Canadian government, as well as other legal agreements with a provincial

authority. Since 1876, all aspects of life for First Nations peoples have been defined and regulated by The Indian Act., which identifies “status” (or treaty) and non-status (non-treaty) registered standing. Status Indians have treaty rights (associated with living on or remaining connected with an assigned reserve), but various provisions over the years have removed status rights from many First Nations individuals (some people affected had their status restored upon amendments to the Act after protests of unfairness). Critics of Canadian relationships with First Nations describe this history as one of colonial exploitation, abuse, apartheid, and attempted genocide, a history which some say continues largely unhealed and unaddressed to this day,

Language Pointers

1. Journalistic Style

One trademark of journalistic style is that the author provides answers to who? what? when? where? and why? within the first and/or second paragraphs of the story.

Para. 1:

Who – Carla Williams, a 4-year-old Manitoba Native

What – was taken away from her parents forever and adopted by an abusive Dutch family

When – 1968

Where – Manitoba, Canada

Para. 2:

Why – routine Governmental policy

2. Nonrestrictive Phrases and Clauses

A nonrestrictive phrase or clause is a type of adjective clause that gives nonessential information about the preceding noun. The information is called nonessential not because it is irrelevant to the content of the text, but because it is not grammatically essential. If the nonrestrictive clause were removed, the sentence would still make grammatical sense. Commas are used to offset nonrestrictive clauses. See *Acting on Words* pages 564-65. Also see page 524 for definitions of phrases and clauses. More on this matter is provided in “Preparing to Solve the 15 Common Errors” at this website, Handbook.

Para. 2: Williams, now a saleswoman in Winnipeg, has had considerable success in turning her life around.

Para. 2: Finally, after her descent into alcohol, drugs and prostitution, the Dutch government received an official request from Canada to have her returned.

Para. 3: Now, after almost a year of hearings, a report will be delivered this week to the funding body, a joint committee of aboriginal groups and a unique partnership of four Ontario government ministries.

2. Restrictive Phrases and Clauses

A restrictive or clause clause provides information needed to identify the noun it refers to. It provides essential information about the subject of the sentence. Commas should not be used to offset restrictive phrases or clauses.

Para. 2: Children from native communities in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario as well as Manitoba were routinely shipped to non-native foster homes or adoptive families far from their homes.

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“THE LURE OF THE BODY IMAGE”

Susan McClelland

Prereading Vocabulary

buffed	slang that describes a body that has good muscle definition
toned	having good muscle tone, hard-bodied
anabolic steroids	illegal drugs that promote tissue growth and cause bodies to quickly gain muscle-mass
regimen	a routine of exercise
incidence	the number of times something happens
eating disorder	a compulsive eating problem that causes sufferers to overeat or undernourish themselves
erratic	occurring occasionally and unpredictably, not regular

References

Pictou, N.S.	a small, coastal town in the maritime province of Nova Scotia, Canada
the YMCA	local gym built by the Young Men’s Christian Association, a world-wide foundation emphasizing spiritual and social development alongside physical wellness
Calvin Klein	prominent American designer known for provocative perfume and underwear advertisements

Antonio Sabato Jr.	hunky American model and actor
Oscar Wilde trials	famous trials in which England charged Victorian author and celebrity Oscar Wilde with “gross indecency” for openly homosexual and effeminate behaviour; he was convicted and sentenced to two years hard labour. The trials resulted in public attitudes towards homosexuality becoming harsher and instilled the general notion that effeminacy signals homosexuality.

Language Pointers

1. *Anecdotal and Scientific Evidence*

Reporters often combine anecdotal evidence (based on an individual case) with scientific evidence (based on documented, empirical study). Anecdotal evidence creates human interest in a story. Scientific evidence tells readers that the author has researched the subject rigorously.

Para. 1: *Anecdotal*: Ralph Heighton of Pictou, N.S....decided to lose some weight.(H)e says bashfully that he thinks he has never looked as good....

Para. 4: *Scientific*: According to a 1995 report published by the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, men spend more than twice as much as women in all categories related to fitness....

Para. 6: *Scientific*: A 1992 study conducted for the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport concluded that four per cent of males aged 11 to 18—as many as 83,000 young Canadians—used anabolic steroids in 1992 and 1993.

Para. 7: *Anecdotal*: When he started using steroids 16 years ago, Mike says, he was part of an elite group of men who took them for competitive reasons. “Today it is for the body image,” he says.

2. *Direct Quotations from Experts*

Reporters often seek out experts on a subject and provide directly quoted speech from them. What separates anecdotal evidence from expert testimonial is the credentials of the person quoted.

Para. 2: “This is an early warning,” said New York City author Michelangelo Signorile, whose book *Life Outside* chronicles the history of body image among homosexual men.

Para. 3: Both Signorile and Brian Pronger, a philosopher in the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Toronto, say that... women’s suffrage and, later, the modern feminist movement caused men to covet a larger appearance as a means of defending men’s status. “As women take up more space in traditionally masculine places,” says Pronger, “some men feel compelled to take up more in order to maintain their position.”

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

“LIFE IN THE STOPWATCH LANE”

Amy Willard Cross

piddling	minor, insignificant (slang)
bread	money (wages)
à deux	together (French, literally “for two”)
Vocabulary piddling	minor, insignificant (slang)
bread	money (wages)
à deux	together (French, literally “for two”)
Idioms and Expressions pumping iron	lifting weights, exercising
earn ...daily bread	earn a living, wages
break (bread)	eat together
rosary counting	saying a prayer for each bead on a rosary
through rose-coloured glasses	seeing a situation in an unrealistically favourable perspective
no-man’s land	the area between two opposing sides in a war
punch the clock	go to work on time; the clock is the time clock used in some employment situations

Language Pointers

1. Emphasis

The word “so” is stretched out as “soooooo” to indicate the stress it would receive in speech in this situation.

2. Compounding

There are a number of compound adjectives and compound nouns in this reading. Some of these compound words are fairly standard while others show a creative use of the language. Note that compound adjectives are always hyphenated; compound nouns, however, may be hyphenated, one continuous word, or two separate words.

Compound adjectives

leather-bound	noun + adjective (past participle)	para. 4
remote-controlled	adjective + adjective (past participle)	para. 4
time-efficient	noun + adjective	para. 4/8
to-the-minute	a combination adjective phrase: preposition + article + noun	para. 5

guilt-free	noun + adjective	para. 7
professional-sounding	adjective + adjective (present participle)	para. 9
60-hour	adjective + noun	para. 10
tree-tapping	noun + adjective (present participle)	para. 10

Compound nouns

dish-washing	noun + adjective (present participle)	para. 2
car-pooling	noun + adjective (present participle)	para. 2
overachievers	adjective + noun	para. 4
coffee-makers	noun + noun	para. 4
ski-lift	verb + noun	para.
9 grown-ups	verb + particle	para. 11

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“SUBTRACTION BY ADDITION”

Carey Goldberg

Prereading Vocabulary

materialism	used negatively to describe the belief that money and possessions are more important than religion, morals, art, community, etc.
nuanced	exhibits complex gradations in meaning
compound	add on to

Idioms and Expressions

couples therapist	a psychologist who works with married people or other couples to improve their relationships
nailing down	understand precisely or establish conclusively
emotional well-being	trendy term for mental health, the ability to be happy, to form positive emotional bonds, and to manage stress, anxiety and sadness
living paycheque to	spending all of your income before your next pay date, never

paycheque	having enough money for savings and investments
a raise	an increase in hourly pay or salary
allowances	a regular allotment of spending money given to children by their parents
shout it from the mountaintops	to proclaim widely and loudly, to tell whoever will listen

Language Pointers

Lists

There are many mechanically correct ways to handle lists within prose. Carey Goldberg deploys dashes to set off lists within a sentence, commas to separate simple items in a list, semi-colons to separate more grammatically complex items in a list, and conjunctions (e.g. and, also) to extend a list into multiple sentences.

Para. 2: They are so exhausted from the pursuit of “nice things”—a big house, private school for the kids, fancy cars—that they are time-starved and depleted.

Para. 5: In recent years, researchers have reported an ever-growing list of downsides to getting and spending—damage to relationships and self-esteem; a heightened risk of depression and anxiety; less time for what the research indicates truly makes people happy, like family, friendship and engaging work. And maybe even headaches.

Para. 7: For people who are living paycheque to paycheque, more money unquestionably brings greater well-being. And for the comfortable, a raise or a new purchase can certainly feel good—for a little while, anyway. Also, economic research indicates that a hunger for money can motivate people to perform better and even more creatively.

Para. 16: Some research has also found that when people focus on money, status and things, they are more likely to treat other people as objects, to have shorter, shallower friendships, and to feel competitive rather than cooperative with others, Kasser said.

Para. 17: Her study of metropolitan Boston school children...found that the more consumerist children became, the likelier they were to suffer from low self esteem, depression and anxiety. They also became more prone to headaches and stomachaches.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel**“COLLEGE GIRL TO CALL GIRL”**

Sarah Schmidt

Idioms and Expressions

turn tricks	to service clients as a prostitute
desperate for a fix	the state of a drug addict who urgently wishes to acquire a dose of drugs
on the other hand	considering the opposite side or argument
with impunity	to do something illegal or bad without remorse or fear of punishment
to a degree	somewhat but not completely

Language Pointers***1. Present participles***

Present participles are always formed by adding “i-n-g” to a verb. They work in a variety of ways in sentences depending on their relationship to the main verb, and are sometimes described as having the properties of both adjectives and verbs. A participle (past participles end in –ed) can modify a noun or pronoun. Present participles are used with the auxiliary verb “be” to form the progressive tenses (e.g. She is running) expressing ongoing present action. In some cases, the present participle serves as a noun, in which case, it is referred to as a **gerund** (e.g. Swimming is an excellent way to stay healthy).

Para. 1: Stacy is **dealing** with all the typical end-of term pressures of university.... And by day, she is indeed a typical, perhaps model student, **working** at her co-op job placement and **visiting** the library at York University in Toronto to prepare for a career in **advertising**.

Para. 5: For a **growing** number of middle-class youths **graduating** this spring, prostitution isn’t seen as a shameful trap, but as a means of **making** it through the lean student years on the way to a respectable career.

Para. 8: ...Canadian cities have cashed in by **charging** annual **licensing** fees....

2. Modals

Modals are a part of a verb phrase. They supply more information about the main verb in some way, such as indicating possibility, advisability, or preference.

Para. 5: And you **can** see why they **would** fall for Anna’s quick wit, wholesome face, welcoming eyes and a warm smile.

Para. 31: “It **would** kill my mom. It **would** kill them both.” They’re still wrestling with his bisexuality, he says, though he feels like his father **should** understand.

Para. 34: Anna says she **would** pretend not to recognize them. “People don’t deal with the issue well.” But she also wishes people **would** “get over their hang-ups,” she says.

For more on verb phrases, forms, and functions, see “Preparing to Solve the 15 Common Errors” at this website as well as pages 519-522, 524, 527-529, and 532-540 of *Acting on Words 2* edition.

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“A LIBERAL EDUCATION IS KEY TO A CIVIL SOCIETY”

James Downey

Prereading Vocabulary

humanists	believers in the idea that human problems are best solved by science and rational thought; believers in the concept that all persons are essentially equal
disfranchisement	the state of having one’s rights stripped or lost, especially the right to vote; powerlessness
collegium	from Ancient Rome, an advisory board or committee modeled on civic governing bodies
waxed	to have increased over time
waned	to have decreased over time
corporatism	the influence and power of corporations

unionism the power of groups advocating worker's collective rights

Idioms and Expressions

a liberal education a broad education that seeks to empower individuals with diverse skills and focuses on ethics and civic engagement

a civil society a society that is composed of empowered individuals and effective, voluntary groups of citizens who promote the smooth functioning and collective well-being of that society

grace notes musical notes that ornament and embellish a piece of music but are not a necessary part of the melody

Language Pointers

1. Silent “h” in “historical”

Para. 2: “Putnam made an historical analysis of a number of Italian communities....”

In English, the letter “h” is occasionally silent. There are no easy rules to understand when or why. It is correct to pronounce the “h” in “history” but not always in “historical.”

Before an adjective or noun that begins with a consonant, the indefinite article “a” is used, as in, “*a* civil society” or “*a* liberal education.” When deployed before a vowel (other than a hard “u”) or a silent “h,” the indefinite article “an” is correct, as in “*an* investment” or “*an* historical analysis.”

2. Root word: “Civil”

A root word carries an essential meaning that is modified in the formation of various other words that evolve from the original meaning of that root. The root word “civil” is based on the Latin “civis” which means “relating to citizens and/or civilization.”

Para. 1: ...civil society... (a society comprised of active citizens)

Para. 1: And without civility... (the quality of being civilized, of behaving in an orderly, polite way)

Para. 4: ...civic engagement... (pertaining to the state of being an involved citizen)

Para. 4: ...an active, citizen role... (an effective part in the betterment and/or smooth-functioning of society)

Para. 6: ...engagement as citizens... (involvement by members of society in the functioning of that society)

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

“THE RIGHT STUFF”

David Suzuki

Vocabulary

- innies students belonging to the popular group at school (made-up word)
- outies students who do not belong to the popular group at school (made-up word)
- lusted wanted very much
- hoods gangsters

Idioms and Expressions

- they’ll kill you destroy your peace of mind
- dead silent completely quiet
- to step in to intervene

Language Pointers *Adverbial clauses of time* are subordinate clauses that indicate when the action of the main clause occurs. There are some good examples of these clauses in this reading

<i>Adverbial clause of time</i>	<i>Main clause</i>	<i>Para.</i>
In the early 1970s,	I visited a small northern town to judge a science fair.	3
Back then,	it was a tough town with a transient population of men working in the oil fields ...	3
The night I arrived,	I dropped into the bar of the motel ...	3
When I affirmed it,	he shocked me by adding, “They’ll kill you.”	3
The next day when I walked into that auditorium,	it was with great trepidation.	4
In a time of easy access to the most explicit films, videos, magazines and books,	who can believe it’s a matter of keeping youngsters ignorant by denying them some accurate facts?	6

In all of these instances the adverbial clause places before the main clause and is separated from the main clause by a comma. However, it is also possible to place the adverbial clause after the main clause, e.g. I visited a small northern town to judge a science fair in the early 1970s. In this case, no comma is used to separate the clauses.

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

<H1>“Canadians: What Do They Want?”

Margaret Atwood</H1>

<H2>Prereading Vocabulary</H2>

<GLOSSET><GLOS><KT>**alluded**</KT> referred to indirectly</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**annihilation**</KT> complete destruction</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**asterisk**</KT> * this symbol; a mark for special attention or notice</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**branch plant**</KT> a subsidiary or more minor part of a company or business</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**bristle**</KT> become irritated or upset</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**chauvinism**</KT> in this context, glorification of one’s country</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**divine right**</KT> authority considered to be God-given</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**imperious**</KT> domineering, arrogant</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**inegalitarian**</KT> not believing in social and economic equality</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**jackboots**</KT> a heavy, often military, knee-high boot (often associated with the Nazis)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**john**</KT> a toilet (slang)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**picky**</KT> choosy</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**quibbles**</KT> minor arguments</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**ratio**</KT> proportion or rate</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**sardonic**</KT> scornful or derisive</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**scrape it together**</KT> barely manage to accumulate enough money</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**self-righteous**</KT> feeling of one's own right, correctness, superiority</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**snippy**</KT> impertinent</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**spoils**</KT> rewards</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**stamp**</KT> characteristic</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**subjugate**</KT> conquer or subdue</GLOS></GLOSSET>

<H2>References</H2>

<ML1><ITEM><LBL>**draft dodgers**</LBL> people who left the United States to avoid military service, particularly at the time of the Vietnam War</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Gaul**</LBL> an ancient name for an area that approximates modern France. It became part of the Roman Empire by conquest.</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Genghis Khan**</LBL> thirteenth-century conqueror of central Asia</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Lifebuoy**</LBL> a brand of soap with deodorant qualities</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Michigan**</LBL> a state of the United States that borders on Canada</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Reagan**</LBL> Ronald Reagan, president of the United States (1981–1989)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Rome, Romans**</LBL> Ancient Rome and its citizens</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Syracuse**</LBL> a city in New York State</ITEM></ML1>

<H2>Language Pointers</H2>

<PARA>There are several examples of the use of the third person, singular generic pronoun “one” in this reading. In this usage, the pronoun “one” refers to people in general. This pronoun is not often used nowadays except in formal writing. If it is the subject of a sentence, then its associated verb must be conjugated in the same way that other third-person singular pronouns are. The following examples are from the reading:</PARA>

<EXM>It began by suggesting that **one start** with the feet.*

This is the conversation **one has** with Americans . . .

Pessimists among us would say that **one has** to translate the experience . . .

One could always refer Americans to history, . . . **

Objectively, **one cannot** become too self-righteous . . . **

<PARA>Another generic usage is that of a plural noun without a determiner. Note the difference in meaning between “Americans” (American people in general) and “the Americans” (American people specifically), and similarly between “Canadians” and “the Canadians.” Other plural nouns used in a generic manner are “men,” “women,” “pessimists,” “members,” “Canadian workers,” “cocktail parties,” “international affairs,” “empires.”</PARA></APP> </CHAP>

<NOTE><PARA>* In this example, there is a noun clause using the subjunctive; therefore the base form of the verb is used.</PARA>

<PARA>** In these examples, there is a modal term before the main verb; therefore the base form of the verb is used.</PARA></NOTE></EXM>

LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel**“POLITICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE”**

George Orwell

Prereading Vocabulary

archaism	old-fashioned and no longer in use
slovenliness	messiness, sloppiness, having the qualities of a slob
evoking	conjuring up, bringing up in the mind’s eye
anvil	a heavy iron block-like implement upon which hot metal is shaped by striking a hammer against it
pretentious	trying to sound important, intelligent or high-class in order to impress
deracinated	pulled out by the roots, uprooted from one’s native soil
lacquey	now spelled “lackey”; someone who always does what they are told by an authority, a servant
swindles	scams in which money (usually) is tricked away from someone
concreteness	having the qualities of concrete, being definite and sure, palpable
gumming	gluing
euphonious	to sound pleasant
stenographer	someone whose job is to write down what you say and then to type up a formal copy of it
egregious	a severe problem, a very noticeable error or offense
orthodoxy	conformity to what most people think is good or right
manifestos	written statements by political parties or agents declaring their beliefs and intentions
euphemism	a polite and indirect way to say something, used to reduce impact, shock, or awful truth

Fascism authoritarian political rule removing liberties and making use of force to ensure that citizens are completely controlled by the state and that political opposition is crushed

Idioms and Expressions

toe the line to conform rigorously to a rule or standard, as in to keep one's toes exactly behind the starting line

ride roughshod over to act without caring how you affect others, without respect to rules and conventions, as in to ride a horse that is not properly shod

play into the hands of to give someone an advantage

no axe to grind to not have an issue which you need to sort out by heated argument, from an 1815 essay by U.S. newspaper editor Charles Miner, in which a man flatters a boy and gets him to do the chore of axe-grinding for him, then leaves without thanking or paying him

on the order of the day the formal business to be conducted by a parliament or other official body on a particular day

swan song a final farewell, pronouncement or public appearance, based on the legendary beauty of the song a swan is said to sing just before it dies

hotbed refers to a glassed in bed of soil used to start seeds and protect sprouts, meaning conditions are conducive to vigorous growth and development

humbug posturing, fraud, deception

party line the official policy of a political group; the expression is derived from a type of early telephone line that had to be shared by more than one person

jackboot type of large, strong cavalry boot of the 17th and 18th centuries and later worn by Nazi soldiers, figurative of military oppression since the mid-1700s

References

hansom cabs	a horse-drawn carriage designed and patented in 1834 by Joseph Hansom, once heralded as a great innovation and common on the streets of London
Achilles' heel	a fatal weakness despite great overall strength, derived from Greek mythology. When the hero Achilles was an infant, his mother dipped him into the protective waters of the river Styx while holding him by one ankle. Wherever the waters touched him he became invulnerable, leaving only one weak spot where his mother's fingers had covered his heel. He later died in battle when an arrow pierced his vulnerable heel.
Marxist	referring to the writings of Carl Marx and the body of economic and political thought based on his social theories, works usually pertaining to class struggle, oppression, and revolution
White Guard	a monarchist or anti-revolutionary, the foes of the Red Army or Bolsheviks in civil war-era Russia
White Papers	an informal name for a parliamentary paper declaring government policy on a particular issue

Language Pointers

One of Orwell's rules is: "*Never use the passive where you can use the active.*" The stated rule is an example of a sentence using active verb construction. Active verb constructions include an identifiable subject that does the action of the verb. In Orwell's rule, "*You*" is the identifiable subject who acts to "*use the passive*" or to "*use the active.*"

"Use of the passive is to be avoided when the passive is able to be used instead" is an example of passive verb construction. The lack of an identifiable subject as well as the "be" verb usage in the constructions "to be avoided" and "is able to be used" are tell-tale signs of the passive.

A common error in student writing is overuse of the passive voice because students believe it sounds more formal and academic.

The passive voice is often criticized for being flaccid, ambiguous, and wordy. The active voice is praised for authority, clarity, and brevity. For more on this, see *Acting on Words* pages 563-64.

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

“THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS ARE ‘IN’ AND PROUD OF IT”

Howard Richler

Prereading Vocabulary

mercantile	concerned with money and trade
stymied	thwarted, prevented from doing what one wants to do
eschew	to deliberately avoid
connotation	a meaning in addition to the basic definition of a word
shibboleth	words which, by their correct or incorrect pronunciation or use, indicate membership in a certain group
amelioration	improvement, the action of making better

Idioms and Expressions

the status quo	a Latin term meaning the current state of affairs, the way things are
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References

The Seven Deadly Sins	Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Envy and Pride. An early Christian concept for classifying human vices, the Seven Deadly Sins were a popular theme in Medieval and Renaissance art and literature such as Dante’s <i>Divine Comedy</i> .
feudalism	Middle Ages system in which people received land and protection from a Feudal Lord who they worked and fought for

Language Pointers

Terms and Definitions

Richler uses italics to offset terms and quotation marks to offset their definitions:

Para. 4: For example, when you *paid* a creditor, you weren’t paying him, rather you were “pacifying” him. *Purchase* originally meant “to take by force.”

Para. 6: Originally *fortune* referred only to chance; it didn't develop its sense of "great wealth" until the end of the sixteenth century.

There are no decisive rules about what type of punctuation marks (bold, italics, quotation marks, dashes) must be used to offset terms and/or definitions but, when needed, deploy an obvious system that is consistent throughout a piece of prose.

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

"NON-FICTION ISN'T FACT"

Nina Varsava

Prereading Vocabulary

minutiae very small and precise details

synonymous to mean the same as

temporality relating to or limited by time

Idioms and Expressions

screwed up (slang) ruined or made a mistake on

References

James Frey's *A Million Little Pieces* the partially fabricated memoir of a 23-year old Frey undergoing 12-step rehabilitation for alcohol and drug addiction, originally marketed as pure memoir by Doubleday Books (2003), a division of Random House. The book became a number one best-seller in the U.S., and soon after the subject of much controversy, when Oprah selected it for her Book Club,

Random House major U.S. publishing house based in New York City

Oprah short for Oprah Winfrey or "The Oprah Winfrey Show," the highest-rated talk-show in television history, which now focuses on spirituality, self-improvement and literature. Winfrey is an extremely prominent and wealthy American, as well as an influential book critic

The Smoking Gun a website that posts damning legal evidence, mug shots and arrest records of celebrities and controversial criminals

Language Pointers

Casual Writing Style

Casual writing has a conversational feel – it sounds the way people talk. Nina Varsava’s student newspaper article has all the hallmarks of casual writing.

1. Use of colloquialisms and slang

Para. 1: “*Suppose* I tried to write a memoir—to build a coherent and convincing narrative out of a fragmented memory—but *I screwed up* a detail and someone proved its falsity.

Para. 2: “The current controversy...*got me thinking* more about the absurdity of the unwavering fiction/non-fiction divide.”

Para. 5: “When you’re reading a memoir, a newspaper article, a history book, *or whatever...*”

2. Informal punctuation

Dashes, exclamation marks and parentheses are used sparingly in formal writing.

Para. 4: “...then maybe you should consider not believing it!”

Para. 5: “When you’re reading a memoir, a newspaper article, a history book, or whatever, you have the right—and I think responsibility—to say, “Wait a minute...” when something seems questionable, even if the writer or publisher has greater “authority” on the issue than you.”

3. Use of first and second person

Use of the first and second person implies conversation between writer and reader. Formal writing usually tries to sound more detached and objective and avoids the personal pronouns “I” and “you.”

Para. 4: “have some faith in yourself, Oprah; if something is stamped as fact but is entirely unbelievable, then maybe you should consider not believing it!”

Para. 5: “When you’re reading a memoir...you have the right...”

Para. 9: “However, I don’t think....Instead, I think we should accept....I can’t actually think of any...”

4. Informal sources:

Oprah: a daytime, talk-show television program.

The Smoking Gun: a tabloid-style internet website.

5. Contractions:

Para. 6: “*I’ve* been shocked...”

Para. 8: “*It’s* ridiculous to demand....”

Para. 9: “However, I *don’t* think....”

These and other features of tone (level of language) are illustrated in the Characteristics of Writing Tones chart on the inside back cover of *Acting on Words*, 2 edition.

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LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

<H1>“The Rhetorical Stance”

Wayne C. Booth</H1>

<H2>Prereading Vocabulary</H2>

<GLOSSET><GLOS><KT>**Aristotelian**</KT> related to the teachings of Aristotle, the Greek philosopher (384–322 B.C.)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**bent**</KT> inclination, interest, and ability</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**bull**</KT> nonsense (slang)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**fencing**</KT> sword play</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**freshman**</KT> first year college or university</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**jai alai**</KT> a fast-moving ball game originating in Spain</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**ontological**</KT> related to metaphysical arguments about the state of being</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**Platonic**</KT> related to the teachings of Plato, the Greek philosopher (427?–347? B.C.)</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**polemic**</KT> argument, controversy</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**rhetorical**</KT> concerned with writing technique or strategy for presenting a perspective</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**soils**</KT> makes dirty, besmirches</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**teleological**</KT> explanation of phenomena based on their possible purposes, not their causes</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**unpretentious**</KT> without outward show or ostentation</GLOS></GLOSSET>

<H2>Idioms and Expressions</H2>

<GLOSSET><GLOS><KT>**Blank**</KT> a generic expression for an unnamed person</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**cornered (someone)**</KT> get (someone) in a position from which escape is impossible</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**late-bloomer**</KT> someone who reaches a particular level of understanding or ability at a later age than his or her peers</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**off-the-cuff**</KT> spontaneous, unrehearsed</GLOS>

<GLOS><KT>**sursum corda**</KT> a cry of encouragement or exhortation (literally, “lift up your hearts”); the opening words of the Catholic mass (Latin)</GLOS></GLOSSET>

<H2>References</H2>

<ML1><ITEM><LBL>**Sheridan Baker**</LBL> author and former professor of English at the University of Michigan</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Edmund Burke**</LBL> British writer and statesman (1729–1797)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Chaucer**</LBL> Geoffrey Chaucer (1340?–1400), poet and author of *The Canterbury Tales*</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**P.A. Christensen**</LBL> a former professor of English at Brigham Young University</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Churchill**</LBL> Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965), British author, statesman, and prime minister; led Great Britain in its “finest hour” to resist Nazi Germany</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Ronald Crane**</LBL> former professor of English at the University of Chicago</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Emma**</LBL> a novel by Jane Austen (1816)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Walker Gibson**</LBL> a former professor at the University of Massachusetts, author of writing and rhetoric texts</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**The Golden Bowl**</LBL> a novel by Henry James (1904)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Jealousy**</LBL> a novel by Alain Robbe-Grillet (*La jalousie*) (1957)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Madame Bovary**</LBL> a novel by Gustave Flaubert (1857)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Milton**</LBL> John Milton (1608–1674), English poet and essayist, best known for the epic poem *Paradise Lost*</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**More**</LBL> Sir Thomas More (1478?–1535), author of *Utopia*</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Reader's Digest**</LBL> a popular magazine with wide, general appeal</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Teacher in America**</LBL> a book—biographical—by Jacques Barzun (1945)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Thurber**</LBL> James Thurber (1894–1961), American humorous writer and artist</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**Utopia**</LBL> a novel about a perfect place and society (1516)</ITEM>

<ITEM><LBL>**“peace in our time”**</LBL> words spoken by Neville Chamberlain, in 1939, when he was prime minister of Britain, on returning from his Munich meeting with Adolf Hitler; Chamberlain tried to accomodate or appease Hitler</ITEM></ML1>

<H2>Language Pointers</H2>

<PARA>The use of affixes (prefixes and suffixes) is very noticeable, partly because of the level of language, very formal and intellectual, used in the essay, and also because of the manipulation of two nouns to produce adjectives.</PARA>

<PARA>”Platonic” is derived from Plato, the Greek philosopher, plus an adjective suffix. Similarly, “Aristotelian” is derived from Aristotle, another Greek philosopher, plus a different adjective suffix. The adjective suffixes mean “in the manner of.” Note that “Platonic” has a different meaning from “platonic” (purely spiritual, not sensual) used to describe a relationship.</PARA>

<PARA>There are also examples of the way words change in function according to the suffixes used:</PARA>

Noun (thing)	Noun (person)	Adjective
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rhetoric	rhetorician	rhetorical
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pedantry	pedant	pedantic
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polemic polemicist polemical

<PARA>Note that the *-ic* ending can indicate either a noun or an adjective.</PARA>

<PARA>A prefix, however, changes the meaning of a word, not its function. Note the negative prefixes in the following words: **un**pretentious, **dis**organized, **in**capable, **in**dispensable.</PARA>

<PARA>A study of word stems and affixes helps to explain the following words, but the suffix provides information about function:</PARA>

<EXM>**automatically** (auto—arising from some process or action within the object)
[adverb]

pronouncement (throw forth) [noun]

pretentious, **pre**conception (before) [nouns]

confrontation (together) [noun]

ontological (being, existence) [adjective]

teleological (final, complete, perfect) [adjective]

bibliographies (pertaining to books) [noun]

controversial (against) [adjective]

obtrusive, **ob**jective (towards) [nouns]</EXM>