Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**antic**  
*anˈtik*  
*n.* (usually plural) A playful or funny act.  
The **antics** of the clown made the crowd roar with laughter.

**attire**  
*aˈtir*  
*n.* Clothes, especially fine and expensive clothes.  
One often needs special **attire** to be in a wedding party.  
v. To dress up or be dressed up.  
The designer **attired** the models in shirts and trousers for the fashion show.

**captivate**  
*kapˈtivət*  
v. To please greatly; to win over by special charm.  
The cast's superb acting **captivated** the audience.

**deft**  
*deft*  
*adj.* Quick and sure; skillful at handling.  
A **deft** juggler can keep five or more objects in the air at one time.

**diligent**  
*dilˈa jənt*  
*adj.* Working with great care and effort.  
**Diligent** students usually attain high marks.

**eclipse**  
*ˈeklis*p*  
*n.* The total or partial hiding of one heavenly body by another.  
An **eclipse** of the sun occurs when the moon passes directly in front of it.  
v. To do or be better than; to outshine.  
Her latest novel **eclipses** all of her previous work.

**evolve**  
*ˈevəlv*  
v. To develop and change gradually over time.  
Some scientists think that modern birds may have **evolved** from dinosaurs.  
**evolution**  
*n.* (evəˈləvən) The changes that take place as something evolves.  
The **evolution** of aircraft from the Wright brothers' flimsy plane to the modern jet airplane occurred over an incredibly short time.

**innate**  
*ˈinət*  
*adj.* Having from birth; occurring naturally rather than being learned.  
Mozart's **innate** musical ability showed itself at a very early age.

**inscribe**  
*ˈinskrəb*  
v. To write, print, or etch into as a permanent record.  
Most of the gravestones were simply **inscribed** with the person's name, date of birth, and date of death.  
**Inscription**  
*n.* (inˈskrip ən) The act of inscribing or what is inscribed.  
Coins of the United States bear the **inscription** "E Pluribus Unum."
| **posture** | n. The way one holds one's body; a pose or position. You can improve your **posture** by throwing your shoulders back.  
| **v.** To assume a particular position, especially a pretended one. They **postured** as my supporters while secretly campaigning against me. | posture | pās′ char |
| **shroud** | n. 1. Something that covers or hides from view. A **shroud** of mystery surrounds the couple's disappearance.  
2. Cloth used to wrap a dead body before burial. It used to be the custom to make a **shroud** from a long linen sheet dipped in melted wax.  
| v. To block from sight. Dense fog on the river **shrouded** the tug boats. | shroud | shroud |
| **stifle** | v. 1. To cut off the air from; to smother. Thick smoke **stifled** those who remained in the burning building.  
2. To hold back; to check. The spectators tried to **stifle** their yawns during the lengthy ceremony. | stifle | sti′ fal |
| **tentative** | adj. Not fully worked out or final; hesitating or uncertain. The deadline is **tentative** and may be extended. | tentative | ten′ ta tiv |
| **tranquil** | adj. Calm; peaceful. The sea was **tranquil** with no hint of the approaching storm.  
| **tranquility** | n. (tran kwil′ a tē) The state of being tranquil. Many authors prefer writing during the **tranquility** of early morning before anyone else is up. | tranquil | tran′ kwil |
| **versatile** | adj. Able to do many different things or to be used in many different ways. She is a **versatile** musician who can play eight instruments.  
| **versatility** | n. (ver sa til′ a tē) The state or condition of being versatile. The tomato's **versatility** and distinct flavor make it a favorite of many cooks. | versatile | ver′ sa tal |
Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 5. Write each sentence on the line provided.

1. (a) To evolve is to               (c) pretend to a position one doesn’t really hold.
     (b) To posture is to               (d) remain in one position without moving.

2. (a) make fun of that person.     (c) dress that person.
     (b) To attire someone is to       (d) To captivate someone is to

3. (a) A deft move is one that     (c) is repeated over and over.
     (b) is made in an uncertain way.  (d) A tentative move is one that

4. (a) gradual change over time.    (c) the ability to do many things well.
     (b) Tranquility is               (d) Evolution is

5. (a) A diligent person is one who (c) A versatile person is one who
     (b) engages in foolish or playful acts. (d) makes an effort to exercise great care.

6. (a) To stifle someone is to      (c) fill that person with joy.
     (b) To eclipse someone is to      (d) cut off that person’s supply of air.

7. (a) Versatility is               (c) the state of being at peace.
     (b) Tranquility is               (d) an unwillingness to change one’s mind.

8. (a) Something that is inscribed is (c) written into a permanent record.
     (b) carried out in secret.        (d) Something that is innate is
9. (a) a covering for a dead body. 
(b) An eclipse is 
(c) a silly or playful act. 
(d) A shroud is

10. (a) To be deft 
(b) is to be greatly pleased. 
(c) To be captivated 
(d) is to be held against one's will.

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**5B Just the Right Word**

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the bold phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 5.

1. The children's **playful acts** made their parents roar with laughter.

2. Your **ability to do so many things well** was what impressed the voters the most.

3. What is the correct **clothing that should be worn** for an awards banquet?

4. She **completely won over** the audience with her fine performance.

5. I admire the **very skillful** way you handled what could have been an embarrassing situation.

6. When is the next **time that the earth will pass directly between the sun's position and that** of the moon?

7. My aunt's exceptional vigor was **present from the time of her birth**; even as an infant she was active and strong.

8. Your backache is probably caused by your poor **way of holding your body**.

9. The bride **struggled to hold back** a giggle when the nervous bridegroom dropped the ring during the ceremony.

10. A thick fog **hid from sight everything that was in** the harbor.
Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following can be versatile?
   (a) a tool  
   (b) a date in history  
   (c) a performer  
   (d) a thank-you note

2. Which of the following is an article of attire?
   (a) a vest  
   (b) a walking stick  
   (c) a hat  
   (d) a pair of gloves

3. Which of the following might be an antic?
   (a) tickling someone  
   (b) robbing someone  
   (c) making funny faces  
   (d) turning cartwheels

4. Which of the following could be tentative?
   (a) a movement  
   (b) a suggestion  
   (c) a proposal  
   (d) a triumph

5. Which of the following have evolved?
   (a) plants  
   (b) human beings  
   (c) animals  
   (d) automobiles

6. On which of the following might you find an inscription?
   (a) a pedestal  
   (b) the front of a building  
   (c) the inside cover of a book  
   (d) an exhibit in a museum

7. Which of the following would you expect to be tranquil?
   (a) a hectic chase  
   (b) a sanctuary  
   (c) a rural scene  
   (d) a rose garden

8. Which of the following is a posture?
   (a) sitting slumped over  
   (b) dressing up  
   (c) standing up with arms crossed  
   (d) standing with bent knees
Each group of four words contains either two synonyms or two antonyms. Circle that pair. Then circle the S if they are synonyms or the A if they are antonyms.

1. outshine  eclipse  vacate  posture  S  A
2. skillful  deft  humid  innate  S  A
3. tranquil  hidden  peaceful  versatile  S  A
4. exchange  purify  pollute  propel  S  A
5. swivel  charge  inflate  turn  S  A
6. hectic  distinct  rural  calm  S  A
7. squalid  diligent  versatile  magnificent  S  A
8. superb  splendid  distinct  enormous  S  A
9. danger  buffet  terrain  jeopardy  S  A
10. propel  detain  pollute  persecute  S  A
Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

**A Born Artist**

To exhibit one's work at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., would be a high point in any artist's career; to receive such an honor at the age of fourteen is truly remarkable. Yet that was the age of the Chinese painter Wang Yani when her paintings were given their first American showing there in 1989. Hundreds of thousands of visitors came and were captivated by her pictures of animals, birds, and landscapes. And in the Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery, audiences were able to watch as Yani, barefoot and attired casually in shirt and denim shorts, walked on stage. With deft strokes of the brush, she produced works of art right before their eyes. She did so with total concentration, seemingly unaware of the onlookers.

If fourteen seems a young age to receive so much attention, consider this: Yani's first exhibition, in her native China, was held when she was four! She has been working diligently at her art since the age of two; that was when Wang Shi Chiang first became aware of his daughter's interest in painting. Himself a well-known artist, he encouraged Yani by providing her with large sheets of paper, ink, and brushes. These are the traditional materials of Chinese painting. He never gave her a lesson and also discouraged her teachers at school from doing so. He believed such instruction would only stifle her imagination and prevent her from expressing her feelings freely. His faith in his daughter's innate talent was fully justified by her early success. In fact, Wang Yani's fame soon eclipsed her father's fame.

Yani's first subjects were monkeys. She became fascinated with their antics after a visit to the local zoo. She has painted hundreds of pictures of them. One of her favorites is thirty feet long and took her just four hours to complete. It shows 112 monkeys in various postures, each with a different expression.

As she grew older, she became more versatile and began painting other creatures such as birds, horses, and lions. Later, her style evolved. She broadened her range of subjects to include trees, flowers, and, especially, landscapes. Her interest in landscapes is not surprising since Yani lives in a region of great natural beauty in southern China, with gently rolling hills, clear streams, and ancient temples. Not far away are the famous cone-shaped
Guilin mountains. The mountains are often shrouded in mist, and a favorite subject of the young painter. Yani paints what she feels about what she sees rather than simply what she sees. In her paintings of the mountains, she tries to capture the feeling of tranquility that she experienced while visiting the scene.

She often begins by spilling ink onto the paper, a method known as po-mo. She follows this with a few tentative strokes. Then she proceeds rapidly until the painting is completed, often in less than half an hour. Yani often includes an inscription in Chinese characters as part of a painting. A typical one reads, “Autumn is a withering season for the trees, but the animals are happy.”

By the time she was sixteen, Yani had painted more than ten thousand pictures. Today, as an adult, she is still painting. Her work continues to grow and change. She finds new ideas in nature and in the changing world around her. She also finds them through singing and dancing. These are skills that she feels have helped with her painting. In a good painting, according to a Chinese saying, “the brush sings and the ink dances.”

> Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson’s word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. Why do you think Yani was able to produce more than ten thousand paintings by the time she was sixteen?

2. Why do you think Yani’s first brush strokes are sometimes made in a tentative manner?

3. What feeling does Yani capture in her paintings of the Guilin mountains?

4. What subject captivated Yani when she was very young?
5. What ability is required in order to enjoy the **inscription** on a painting by Yani?

6. What is the meaning of **stifle** as it is used in the passage?

7. How can you explain Yani's ability to paint when she was so young and had never received any lessons?

8. What is the meaning of **posture** as it is used in the passage?

9. Has Yani always worn traditional Chinese **attire** when appearing in public?

10. How does Yani demonstrate her **versatility** in painting?

11. What is the meaning of **eclipse** as it is used in the passage?

12. Why would you expect a painting done by Yani when she was six years old to be different from one done when she was sixteen?

13. How does Yani's style of working enable her to finish a painting in such a short time?
14. What kind of monkeys' **antics** do you think Yani found amusing?

15. What is the meaning of **shroud** as it is used in the passage?

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**FUN & FASCINATING FACTS**

- The Latin word *natus* means "born" and forms the root of several English words. **Innate** qualities are those that seem to have been with a person since birth. **Prenatal care** is that given to a mother before the birth of her child. To be a **native** of a particular place means that one was born in that place.

- Old English was the language spoken in England between 500 and 1200. A number of its words have survived, often with changed spellings and slightly altered meanings to become part of modern English. **Shroud** is such a word; it comes from *scrud*, an Old English word for a loose article of clothing that covered most of the body. The dead would usually be buried wearing the scrod they had worn in life, and in time the word, changed to *shroud*, came to mean "a covering for a dead body." As a verb it came to mean "to hide from sight" or "to cover."
Lesson 5  Review Exercise

1. From a very early age Yani watched her father at work. This helped to bring out her own _____________ talent.

2. Wang Shi Chiang was delighted when Yani followed in his footsteps. She soon showed she was as _____________ with the brushes as he was.

3. Yani's father believed in his daughter and wanted her to succeed. He was not resentful when her fame _____________ his own.

4. Wang Shi Chiang kept his daughter out of art school. He believed that formal training would _____________ her natural ability.

5. A visit to a local zoo gave Yani her first subject. The young girl was _____________ by what she saw there.

6. Her favorite animals were the monkeys. Their _____________ appealed to the little girl's sense of fun.

7. Yani paints a great variety of subjects. Her _____________ extends to landscape, still life, and animal studies.

8. China's Guilin mountains are a favorite subject of Yani's. They are often _____________ in mist, giving them an air of mystery.
9. These mountain landscapes have a calming effect on those who see them. There is an air of ________________ about them that appeals to people.

10. Visitors to the Sackler Gallery were impressed by Yani's easy manner. Her ________________ was relaxed and she seemed quite unaware of her onlookers.

11. Yani chose not to dress in traditional Chinese style. She prefers western ________________ and is most comfortable wearing shirts and denim shorts.

12. She is a very hard-working artist. To produce ten thousand paintings in fourteen years shows great ________________.

13. Yani lets the spilled ink on the paper suggest a subject to her. The painting ________________ as she works on it.

14. She first studies the shape made by the ink on the paper. After a few ________________ brush strokes, she proceeds rapidly until the painting is complete.

15. Chinese characters form part of a Yani painting. On many of them, she ________________ a message that connects to the subject matter of the painting.