

## UNIT 3

Read the following selection, taking note of the **boldface** words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 3. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

### Third Parties in American Politics

<Encyclopedia Entry>

The two-party system has been in effect since the **primordial** days of American politics and the Founding Fathers. At that time, the two opposing parties were known as the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists. Democrats and Republicans dominate United States politics now, but smaller third parties have addressed **substantive** issues, challenged the two-party orthodoxy, and **evinced** signs of success at local, state, and national levels.

#### Background and Perspective

A modern-day third-party candidate has yet to wrest the presidency from the Republicans or Democrats. However, many third-party positions have been adopted by the major parties, whose **propinquity** has been **decried** by voters who want clearer divisions.

Sometimes, after Democrats or Republicans have embraced the ideas of a third party, that third party has faded away. Other times—although not since the nineteenth century—a third party has become so powerful that it supplants one of the major parties. This happened in 1856 when the Republican Party, a third party at the time, replaced the Whig Party.



A campaign ribbon for the Know-Nothing party from 1856

Some third parties have clear-cut platforms and strong nominees, while others have been criticized for **murky** views or **feckless** leadership or for having more **utopian** than real-world positions. Still others are essentially single-issue parties—like the Prohibition Party—known for its opposition to the sale or consumption of alcohol.

**Significant Third Parties in U.S. History**  
**The Know-Nothing Party** This party rose with **unwonted** rapidity in the mid-1800s. Among other things, its leaders spread **nefarious** misinformation to increase

opposition to Catholic immigration from countries such as Ireland and Germany. The name came about because members, when asked about the party's activities, **dissembled** and said they "knew nothing." The party shortly died out, but modern candidates **exhume** parts of its platform from time to time, for example, calling for restrictions on liquor sales.

**Teddy Roosevelt and the Bull Moose Party** In 1912, former President Theodore Roosevelt tried to win back the presidency by challenging incumbent



Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party captured the imagination of the voting public in 1912.

William Howard Taft for the Republican nomination. Roosevelt lost, but a rolling stone gathers no moss, and he formed the Progressive Party, soon nicknamed the Bull Moose Party. This development split the Republican vote, and the Democrat, Woodrow Wilson, was elected President. Although Roosevelt, known for his colorful **verbiage** in speeches and **piquant** ideas, lost, much of his platform later became public policy.

#### Recent Third-Party Candidates

Some contenders, like H. Ross Perot in 1992 and 1996 and Ralph Nader in two of his bids—in 2000 and 2004—won enough votes to give **credence** to the idea of a third party in the United States. Some have viewed third-party candidates as "spoilers": They cannot win, but they'll siphon off enough votes to impact the election.

**H. Ross Perot** This billionaire businessman and folksy populist threw his hat into the presidential ring in 1992 as a Reform Party candidate. He received almost 20 million votes,

more than any other third-party candidate since Theodore Roosevelt in 1912.

**Ralph Nader** A trailblazing consumer advocate and four-time presidential candidate, Nader ran for president in 2000 on the Green Party ticket. Some Democrats feared he would draw votes from their candidate, Al Gore. Nader won just under three percent of the vote.

#### Legacy

The United States has the longest-surviving two-party system of any country. However, roughly one-third of voters today are not affiliated with either of the two major parties, and that number is growing. Many people are registering as Independents, which may signal an opportunity for the next third party.



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## 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.  **cavort**   
(kə vórt')  
(v.) to romp or prance around exuberantly; to make merry  
The actors in the musical \_\_\_\_\_ on stage.  
SYNONYM: gambol
2.  **credence**   
(kréd' əns)  
(n.) belief, mental acceptance  
The government and the public failed to give \_\_\_\_\_ to the reports of an impending water shortage.  
SYNONYMS: credit, trust, confidence  
ANTONYMS: disbelief, skepticism, incredulity
3.  **decry**   
(di krī')  
(v.) to condemn, express strong disapproval; to officially depreciate  
Every arm of government and every educational institution should \_\_\_\_\_ bigotry in all its forms.  
SYNONYMS: denounce, censure, devalue  
ANTONYMS: tout, commend, extol, laud, praise
4.  **dissemble**   
(di sem' bəl)  
(v.) to disguise or conceal, deliberately give a false impression  
The young man was unable to \_\_\_\_\_ his feelings and admitted to having committed the crime.  
SYNONYMS: dissimulate, mask, feign
5.  **distraught**   
(dis trót')  
(adj.) very much agitated or upset as a result of emotion or mental conflict  
The workforce became \_\_\_\_\_ in the wake of the 1929 stock market crash.  
SYNONYM: distracted  
ANTONYMS: calm, collected
6.  **eulogy**   
(yū' lə jē)  
(n.) a formal statement of commendation; high praise  
The best friend and longtime law partner of the deceased delivered the \_\_\_\_\_ at the funeral.  
SYNONYMS: panegyric, encomium, tribute  
ANTONYMS: philippic, invective
7.  **evince**   
(i vins')  
(v.) to display clearly, to make evident, to provoke  
The crowd did not \_\_\_\_\_ any signs of panic but moved in an orderly fashion to the nearest exits.  
SYNONYMS: exhibit, manifest, occasion

8.  **exhume**   
(eks hyüm')  
(v.) to remove from a grave; to bring to light  
Suspecting foul play, the coroner issued an order to \_\_\_\_\_ the body immediately.  
SYNONYMS: disinter, unearth, uncover  
ANTONYMS: bury, inter
9.  **feckless**   
(fek' ləs)  
(adj.) lacking in spirit and strength; ineffective, weak; irresponsible, unreliable  
Although a \_\_\_\_\_ youth, he eventually matured into a hard-working and responsible citizen.  
SYNONYMS: feeble, incompetent, ineffectual  
ANTONYMS: competent, capable, effective
10.  **murky**   
(mər' kē)  
(adj.) dark and gloomy, obscure; lacking in clarity and precision  
Many visitors have claimed to see a mysterious creature in the \_\_\_\_\_ waters of Loch Ness in Scotland.  
SYNONYMS: dim, cloudy  
ANTONYMS: clear, transparent, lucid, limpid
11.  **nefarious**   
(nə fār' ē əs)  
(adj.) wicked, depraved, devoid of moral standards  
Brutus and Cassius hatched a \_\_\_\_\_ plot to assassinate Julius Caesar on the steps of the Roman Senate.  
SYNONYMS: iniquitous, reprehensible  
ANTONYMS: virtuous, honorable, praiseworthy, meritorious
12.  **piquant**   
(pē' kənt)  
(adj.) stimulating to the taste or mind; spicy, pungent; appealingly provocative  
The chef was an expert in making those \_\_\_\_\_ dishes that are characteristic of South Indian cooking.  
SYNONYMS: zestful, tangy  
ANTONYMS: bland, insipid, tasteless, mild
13.  **primordial**   
(prī mór' də əl)  
(adj.) developed or created at the very beginning; going back to the most ancient times or earliest stage; fundamental, basic  
The \_\_\_\_\_ stages of most civilizations are founded on common needs met by common goals.  
SYNONYMS: original, primal
14.  **propinquity**   
(prō piŋ' kwə tē)  
(n.) nearness in place or time; kinship  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of the two cities has created a greater metropolitan area that in effect is one city.  
SYNONYM: similarity  
ANTONYMS: remoteness, distance



15. **substantive**  
(səb' stən tiv)

(*adj.*) real, having a solid basis; considerable in number or amount; meaningful and on topic

The candidate dismissed the silly questions but took the time to answer the most \_\_\_\_\_ ones.

SYNONYMS: firm, substantial, meaty  
ANTONYMS: imaginary, unreal, meaningless

16. **unwonted**  
(un wŏn' tid)

(*adj.*) not usual or expected; not in character

The listless student answered with \_\_\_\_\_ spirit when the subject of military tactics was raised.

SYNONYMS: unusual, uncommon, unexpected, atypical  
ANTONYMS: usual, customary, typical

17. **utopian**  
(yü tŏ' pē ən)

(*adj.*) founded upon or involving a visionary view of an ideal world; impractical

A number of American religious groups like the Shakers have built separate communities based on \_\_\_\_\_ schemes.

SYNONYM: idealistic  
ANTONYMS: realistic, pragmatic

18. **verbiage**  
(vər' bē ij)

(*n.*) language that is too wordy or inflated in proportion to the sense or content, wordiness; a manner of expression

The contract was full of meaningless \_\_\_\_\_ that seemed designed to confuse the lay person.

SYNONYMS: prolixity, diction, jargon

19. **verdant**  
(vər' dənt)

(*adj.*) green in tint or color; immature in experience or judgment

The tourists on safari traveled over the \_\_\_\_\_ grasslands of Kenya in search of native wildlife.

SYNONYMS: artless, naïve  
ANTONYMS: scorched, sear, barren

20. **viscous**  
(vis' kəs)

(*adj.*) having a gelatinous or gluey quality, lacking in easy movement or fluidity

The varnish left a \_\_\_\_\_ residue on the wood that was hard to remove.

SYNONYMS: sticky, thick  
ANTONYMS: watery, aqueous

## Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the selection on pages 32–33 to see how most of these words are used in context.

- The extraordinary musical talents of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (**evinced, dissembled**) themselves at an amazingly early age.
- From the deck of our luxury liner, we occasionally caught sight of schools of porpoises (**cavorting, evincing**) playfully in the waves.
- Far from being unpleasant, her slight foreign accent added an extra dash of spice to her already (**primordial, piquant**) personality.
- The new mayor is a curious mixture of the hardheaded pragmatist and the (**utopian, murky**) reformer.
- Not surprisingly, the address was a notably evenhanded affair in which the speaker cleverly mixed (**eulogy, verbiage**) with admonition.
- When life was easy he was all dash and confidence, but in times of trouble his essentially (**piquant, feckless**) character came to the fore.
- Unfortunately, the (**nefarious, verdant**) hopes and aspirations of my youth have been somewhat blighted by the icy blasts of reality.
- Trying to read your (**viscous, utopian**) prose is just like trying to swim upstream through custard.
- Because the playwright had hurried through her first draft, she had to make (**substantive, nefarious**) changes as she revised the dialogue.
- His (**viscous, unwonted**) interest in the state of my finances strengthened my suspicions that he was about to ask for a loan.
- The book has an interesting plot, but the author has practically smothered it in endless (**verbiage, eulogy**).
- Despite all the reports of "miraculous" cures, you would be well advised to withhold (**verbiage, credence**) until the drug has been fully tested.
- (**Exhumed, Distraught**) with grief, they sat motionless for hours, staring blankly into space.
- An accomplished hypocrite usually finds it very easy to (**dissemble, decry**) his or her true feelings as circumstances dictate.
- The behavior of armies in wartime often evinces the (**murky, primordial**) blood lust that civilized people have not yet fully overcome.



Mozart composed his first minuet at the age of five.



- 16. The United States is cooperating with the other nations of the world in an effort to check the (**feckless, nefarious**) trade in narcotics.
- 17. The (**credence, propinquity**) of our ideas on handling the problem made it very easy for my colleague and me to produce the report in record time.
- 18. The investigating committee (**decried, dissembled**) the use of substandard materials and slovenly workmanship in the housing project.
- 19. From the bridge, the rescue team could just make out the blurred image of a car beneath the (**murky, unwonted**) waters of the river.
- 20. Though the work hadn't seen the light of day for over a century, a daring impresario (**cavorted, exhumed**) and staged it to great public acclaim.
- 21. In my opinion, the columnist's observations about contemporary media and popular culture are humorous and wonderfully (**piquant, viscous**).
- 22. Members of Congress were relieved to learn that the current peace negotiations involve (**murky, substantive**) discussion of key issues.
- 23. Given my birthday's (**eulogy, propinquity**) to July 4<sup>th</sup>, my mother customarily decorates my wrapped gifts with red, white, and blue ribbons.
- 24. Plato's (**utopian, verdant**) description of the ideal society and its politics in *The Republic* exerted great influence on later philosophers like Aristotle.
- 25. The (**feckless, piquant**) efforts of our new quarterback caused the team to lose.

### 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. some **actual** doubt \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. **primeval** history \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. a **blossoming** garden \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. delivered an emotional **testimonial** \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. a slightly **gummy** coating of wax \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. **played** in the wading pool \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. feared for the **helpless** child \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. an unwelcome **proximity** \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. tried to calm the **frantic** parents \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. could not make out the **unclear** image \_\_\_\_\_

### 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. watered the **arid** lawn \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. spent the summer **being serious** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. feeling **composed** after the accident \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. make **minor** repairs \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. published her lengthy **diatribe** \_\_\_\_\_

### 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. An educated citizenry will not give \_\_\_\_\_ to wild charges of extremists seeking to undermine our political and economic system.
- 2. Although Aimée is usually quiet in class, her contribution to our political discussion yesterday was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. The NCAA has in recent years cracked down hard on such \_\_\_\_\_ practices as "shaving points."
- 4. I have always regarded the man as something of a daredevil, but on this occasion he approached the problem with \_\_\_\_\_ caution.
- 5. In the hands of our hopelessly \_\_\_\_\_ producer, what should have been a surefire hit turned into a resounding fiasco.
- 6. Even at an early age, my sister \_\_\_\_\_ a strong interest in studying medicine.
- 7. Such spices as red pepper make many of the sauces used in Cajun cooking delightfully \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. Since my apartment is in such close \_\_\_\_\_ to my office, I usually walk to work.
- 9. For as far as the eye could see, \_\_\_\_\_ fields of unripe corn swayed gently in the morning breeze.
- 10. How could we draw any clear ideas from a talk that was so disorganized, confused in language, and generally \_\_\_\_\_?



- Sadly, the \_\_\_\_\_ schemes of high-minded idealists usually founder on the rocks of practical realities.
- I believe there is an overall design to the universe that has been visible ever since the first thing crawled out of the \_\_\_\_\_ ooze.
- When new evidence turned up in the case, the court ordered the coroner to \_\_\_\_\_ the victim's body and reexamine it.
- Every Memorial Day, the mayor delivers a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ extolling the selfless devotion of those who have died in defense of this country.
- When news of the fire ran through town, \_\_\_\_\_ residents rushed to the scene of the blaze.
- Though diesel fuels are not as thick as motor oil, they are a good deal more \_\_\_\_\_ than regular gasoline.
- The new chairman \_\_\_\_\_ what she called the "deplorable tendency of so many Americans to try to get something for nothing."
- Though I prefer to be as open and aboveboard as possible, I have learned that it is sometimes wiser or more tactful to \_\_\_\_\_.
- He clothes his puny ideas in such highfalutin \_\_\_\_\_ that they resemble gnats in top hats and tails.
- When Bill was told that he had made the varsity wrestling team, he began to \_\_\_\_\_ around the gym like a young colt.

### Writing: Words in Action

- Look back at "Third Parties in American Politics" (pages 32–33), and think about the idea of a third party that focuses on a single issue. Suppose you are a third-party candidate running for president in the next election. What one issue would you want to focus on? Write a brief essay that explains your view of the issue and its importance to you and to the country in general. Use at least two details from the passage and three unit words to support your view.
- Being the U.S. President is, arguably, one of the most challenging and powerful jobs in the world. Think of the range of particular qualities and skills someone needs to be an effective President. If you had to narrow those characteristics down to two, what would they be? Write at least three paragraphs explaining your answer. Support your ideas with specific details from your own experience and observations, as well as information you have gained from your reading, studies, or media viewing. Use three or more words from this unit in your answer.

## Vocabulary in Context

### Literary Text

The following excerpts are from Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick*. 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.

- Of all the pre-adamite whales yet **exhumed**, by far the largest is the Alabama one mentioned in the last chapter, and that was less than seventy feet in length in the skeleton.

When something is **exhumed**, it is

- a. displayed in a museum    c. examined by scientists  
b. removed from a grave    d. documented by records

- But even stripped of these supernatural surmising, there was enough in the earthly make and incontestable character of the monster to strike the imagination with **unwonted** power.

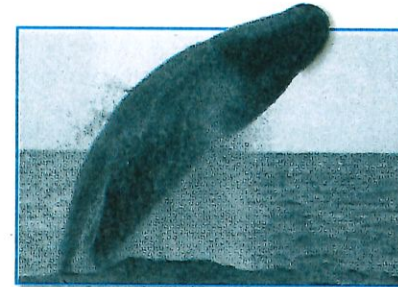
If something is **unwonted**, it is

- a. unusual    c. expected  
b. frightening    d. undesirable

- It needs scarcely to be told, with what feelings, on the eve of a Nantucket voyage, I regarded those marble tablets, and by the **murky** light of that darkened, doleful day read the fate of the whalemens who had gone before me.

Something that is **murky** is NOT

- a. dim    c. gloomy  
b. cloudy    d. clear



Large sections of *Moby-Dick* focus on the American whaling industry in the nineteenth century.

- Yet without power to kill, or change, or shun the fact; he likewise knew that to mankind he did now long **dissemble**; in some sort, did still. But that thing of his dissembling was only subject to his perceptibility, not to his will determinate.

To **dissemble** is to

- a. disappoint    c. conceal  
b. inspire    d. deride

- For as this appalling ocean surrounds the **verdant** land, so in the soul of man there lies one insular Tahiti, full of peace and joy, but encompassed by all the horrors of the half known life.

Something **verdant** is

- a. barren    c. inhabited  
b. green    d. enduring

Interactive Quiz



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## Vocabulary for Comprehension

Read the following selection in which some of the words you have studied in Units 1-3 appear in **boldface** type. Then answer the questions on page 43.

Although the Chicago fire caused enormous destruction, the city recovered quickly, as this passage shows.

- (Line) On the evening of October 8, 1871, at around 9 o'clock, the city of Chicago went up in flames. The exact **incendiary** agent remains
- (5) **unknown**, but historians have **substantiated** the Chicago Fire Department's discovery that the blaze began in or near the barn of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Leary, on the
- (10) southwest side of the city. Official **credence**, however, has not been extended to the popular belief that it all started when the O'Learys' cow knocked over a lighted lantern.
- (15) Whatever the initial spark, the city was a tinderbox. That summer had been unusually dry, and almost all the buildings, bridges, and even the sidewalks were made of wood.
- (20) Construction over the previous years had proceeded rapidly and with little attention to fire safety. The **feckless** city council ignored all pleas to improve the level of fire protection,
- (25) either by bolstering the fire department or by passing zoning laws. As a result of this inaction, the city of Chicago averaged about two fires a day.
- (30) Driven by a strong wind out of the southwest, the October 8 fire was already out of control by the time the exhausted Chicago firefighters (who had been working the day before on
- (35) another large fire) arrived. The wind carried the flames to the center of the city, where they consumed nearly every structure in their path. In a panic, the **distraught** population fled northward toward Lincoln Park and Lake Michigan. The fire raged for more than twenty-four hours until it rained on the morning of October 10.
- (40) In the days that followed,
- (45) **reconnaissance** missions were conducted over the rubble that remained of homes, businesses, and tunnels. Three hundred were dead, nearly 100,000 were homeless, and
- (50) property damage amounted to \$200 million. Yet, four years later, Chicago was almost completely rebuilt. And today, the Chicago Fire Academy stands on the site of the O'Leary
- (55) cowshed.

- The primary purpose of the passage is to
  - tell the story of the Chicago fire of 1871
  - compare the Chicago fire with the San Francisco earthquake of 1906
  - highlight the geography of Chicago
  - focus on the heroism of the firefighters
  - expose the incompetence of the city council
- The meaning of **incendiary** (line 4) is
  - criminal
  - causative
  - subversive
  - inflammatory
  - foreign
- Substantiated** (line 6) most nearly means
  - disputed
  - analyzed
  - ignored
  - verified
  - dismissed
- From the passage, it is clear that
  - the fire started when the O'Learys' cow knocked over a lighted lantern
  - no one really knows how or where the fire started
  - the fire started in or near the O'Learys' barn
  - the fire spread slowly but steadily
  - Mr. and Mrs. O'Leary were responsible for setting the fire
- Credence** (line 11) is best defined as
  - pardon
  - acceptance
  - condemnation
  - mourning
  - enthusiasm
- Which of the following best describes the organizational structure of paragraph 2 (lines 15-28)?
  - comparison and contrast
  - spatial order
  - cause and effect
  - chronological order
  - order of importance
- The meaning of **feckless** (line 22) is
  - corrupt
  - effective
  - popular
  - conservative
  - incompetent
- From the passage, you can reasonably infer that all of the following played a role in the spread of the fire EXCEPT
  - the fleeing population
  - the minimal attention to safety in construction
  - the exhaustion of the firefighters
  - a strong wind
  - the unusually dry summer
- Distraught** (line 39) is best defined as
  - disheveled
  - angry
  - frantic
  - bemused
  - frightened
- Reconnaissance** (line 45) is best defined as
  - detailed analysis
  - calm evacuation
  - scouting expedition
  - slow deliberation
  - court decision
- The effect of the last sentence in the passage (lines 52-55) might best be described as
  - fanciful
  - melancholy
  - ironic
  - tragic
  - farcical
- Which of the following best describes the author's attitude toward the subject of the passage?
  - disillusioned
  - factual
  - satiric
  - skeptical
  - enthusiastic



## Two-Word Completions

Select the pair of words that best complete the meaning of each of the following passages.

- Someone with a \_\_\_\_\_ nature is generally very good at \_\_\_\_\_, while more honest people give off unconscious cues that they are not telling the truth.
  - distraught . . . emulating
  - devious . . . dissembling
  - ubiquitous . . . strategizing
  - acquisitive . . . decrying
- Despite the somewhat strident \_\_\_\_\_ of some professional critics and the inane \_\_\_\_\_ of a few literary pedants, the work enjoyed a notable popular success.
  - encomiums . . . largesse
  - verbiage . . . eulogies
  - animadversions . . . carping
  - gambits . . . sacrilege
- For what must have been the first and only time in his life, the overly cautious general did not \_\_\_\_\_ or vacillate but committed his troops to battle with \_\_\_\_\_ celerity.
  - arrogate . . . overt
  - temporize . . . unwonted
  - carp . . . myopic
  - dissemble . . . feckless
- From the top of the mountain that summer afternoon, I looked out on a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ panorama of fields and pasturelands through which countless streams and rivulets \_\_\_\_\_ like so many serpents slithering lazily across a carpet.
  - substantive . . . exhumed
  - avid . . . congealed
  - verdant . . . undulated
  - primordial . . . cavorted
- Someone who is by nature as skeptical as I am usually refuses to give any \_\_\_\_\_ to the kinds of wild allegations thrown about in an election until they have been \_\_\_\_\_ by solid evidence.
  - credence . . . substantiated
  - celerity . . . decried
  - largesse . . . exhumed
  - propriety . . . eschewed
- Little did we realize, as we \_\_\_\_\_ blithely on the beach during those \_\_\_\_\_ and cloudless days of spring 1914, that the world was moving inexorably into the maelstrom of total war.
  - evinced . . . piquant
  - belabored . . . utopian
  - emulated . . . insatiable
  - cavorted . . . halcyon
- The senator hoped his colleagues would find his \_\_\_\_\_ argument about the deficit to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - histrionic . . . invidious
  - germane . . . murky
  - coherent . . . tenable
  - viscous . . . nefarious



In one of the letters about women's suffrage (see pages 12–13), the writer predicts that after Wyoming's decision to allow women to vote, other Western states and territories will "follow suit."

"Follow suit" is an idiom. An **idiom** is a group of words whose meaning is different from the literal meanings of each word considered individually. For example, "follow suit" means "do the same as has been done previously." Speakers and writers often use idioms to add interest and an air of informality to their style and tone. While it is sometimes possible to determine the meaning of an idiom from its context, you should memorize the meanings of common idioms. For others, you may need to consult a dictionary.

### Choosing the Right Idiom

Read each sentence. Use context clues to figure out the meaning of each idiom in **boldface print**. Then write the letter of the definition for the idiom in the sentence.

- To her older colleagues, the new personal trainer seemed **wet behind the ears** on her first day. \_\_\_\_\_
  - furious
  - in the future
- After tiring in the first half of the race, Bryan and Phil got a **second wind** in the last few laps. \_\_\_\_\_
  - likely to happen
  - a better situation
- I was **fit to be tied** when the airline lost my suitcases. \_\_\_\_\_
  - renewed energy
  - in disagreement
- Any library **worth its salt** has a variety of both print and digital encyclopedias. \_\_\_\_\_
  - understand
  - inexperienced and young
- Because the Smiths suspected that the rental contract was not **on the up and up**, they refused to sign it. \_\_\_\_\_
  - legal
  - deserving of respect
- One recently hired employee left the engineering department last week for **greener pastures**. \_\_\_\_\_
- Although we read the directions twice, we couldn't **make heads or tails of** them. \_\_\_\_\_
- The homeowners and the real estate agent tried to remain polite, but they were clearly **at odds**. \_\_\_\_\_
- The bride hoped that **down the line** the groom would begin helping her address the wedding invitations. \_\_\_\_\_
- Although I once doubted I would make the varsity team, now I believe it is **in the cards**. \_\_\_\_\_