

Unit 13 Reading

Life on the High Seas

<Log>

This is an imaginary log of a sailor aboard the HM Bark *Endeavour* during Captain James Cook's epic 1768–1771 first voyage of discovery in the Pacific Ocean. Captain Cook visited Tahiti and charted New Zealand and the east coast of Australia. Botanists and artists on the *Endeavour* made important records of the people, flora, and fauna of each land.

5 September 1768

Nine days at sea and we are getting our sea legs. Tonight, we dined on salted beef and slabs of cheese, but I fear this is the last of our cheese ration. Ah, for an endless supply instead of what lies ahead: dried meats and—horrors!—cabbage preserved in vinegar. Still, Captain Cook has told us we must eat plenty of this dish to prevent scurvy and to set an example for the crew.

12 December 1768

Thomas, our ship's cat, is **sedate** after a busy day of ratting. His **exuberance** for his job is an inspiration. He is always cheerful and willing and never seasick. If only that could be said of his shipmates!

21 July 1769

Endless days with no sight of land: We are **infinitesimal** specs on a vast sea. The men are restless due to the relentless and **implacable** boredom. Casks of beer and rum were damaged in last night's storm, and I fear the crew will **imbibe** the contents before long.

10 November 1769

The crew is kept busy with sail and rope repair. I heard Sam Jones grumbling that the breakfast biscuits are full of weevils and not fit to be consumed. I told him the weevils added flavor, but my **innocuous** attempt at humor fell flat.

9 January 1770

Mr. Evans, the quartermaster, is not himself. He harbors **antipathy** to all who question his navigational skills. Perhaps he has eaten bad meat?

6 April 1770

The captain has shown time and again what an **asset** he is to our king and country. Some are fearful of his **stentorian** commands that border on **duress**, but I say he must be forceful to keep order. We want no mutiny here!

12 June 1770

Disaster! We are **beset** with troubles. Our ship ran aground on a massive reef and sustained great damage to the hull. Midshipman Munkhouse may have saved us: His idea to plug the holes has worked well as a temporary fix, and we are proceeding north in search of a harbor in which to make more thorough repairs.

3 July 1770

Weeks on land and all signs of **decorum** and discipline in the crew have vanished. Some good news: We enjoyed tasty fish and greens for dinner—a welcome change from ship's rations. The men sang songs late into the night. As they say, better poor on land than rich at sea.

16 July 1770

Captain Cook has given us an **ultimatum**: We must complete all necessary repairs and set sail again by early August.

29 July 1770

Dined this evening with the captain; Mr. Green, the astronomer; and Mr. Banks, the botanist. Mr. Banks is excited about the many new plants he has encountered. He showed me great **compassion** when I spoke of missing my wife and children.

3 August 1770

We depart. Huzzah! Pilot whales accompanied us as we left the harbor, perhaps a good omen.

We pray for good weather, calm seas, and the continued **prowess** of our brave and skilled captain to guide us to the end of our journey.

Unit 13 Examples

1. Sensible people normally view any form of bigotry with the most profound **antipathy**.
2. The protection against being tried for the same crime twice is not **applicable** in some cases.
3. By law, an annual report must include a detailed breakdown of a company's **assets** and liabilities.
4. Every federal administration must grapple with the economic woes that **beset** the nation.
5. The crown worn by England's monarchs is a gorgeous object **beset** with fabulous precious stones.
6. Without the **compassion** and generosity of donors and volunteers, many charitable organizations would have to shut their doors.
7. Legislative assemblies preserve **decorum** by operating under the rules of parliamentary procedure.
8. Political prisoners are sometimes subjected to a mild form of **duress** called house arrest.
9. Unable to control their **exuberant** spirits, the fans of the popular singer cheered their idol loudly.
10. A **facsimile** of the U.S. Constitution is displayed in many social studies classrooms.
11. An inquisitive person can **imbibe** knowledge from many sources.
12. The peoples of the Arctic have shown that nature need not be an **implacable** foe.
13. To a fussy housekeeper, even an **infinitesimal** amount of dust on a tabletop is unacceptable.
14. Conversation at a dinner party may sometimes be confined to pleasant and **innocuous** generalities.
15. Health experts **militate** strongly against a diet that is high in calories, fat, and salt.
16. When the **patent** on a drug expires, any manufacturer may produce it.
17. By the time of his death in 1931, Thomas Alva Edison had **patented** more inventions than any other American of his time.

18. During cross-examination a skilled lawyer may catch a key hostile witness in a **patent** falsehood.
19. The Greek hero Achilles won fame for his **prowess** in the Trojan War.
20. At concerts of classical music, audiences generally behave in a **sedate** and attentive manner.
21. A doctor may decide to **sedate** a patient who has suffered a severe emotional shock or physical injury.
22. Some public speakers favor a **stentorian** delivery and emphatic gestures to drive home their message to their listeners.
23. A financial institution may **stipulate** that all its employees be fingerprinted.
24. As a strike deadline draws near, both labor and management can be expected to issue **ultimatums**.

Unit 13 Choosing the Right Word

1. One of the many **assets** of the Globe Theater is its costumes—elaborate outfits that are made from luxuriant fabrics.
2. Some of the lessons that we learned during the Great Depression are **applicable** to our economic problems today.
3. My study of astronomy gave me a sense of the importance of **infinitesimal** human beings and our tiny planet in a boundless universe.
4. His **prowess** as a speaker quickly made him a leading figure in the Senate.
5. It does little good to feel **compassion** for those less fortunate than ourselves if we are not willing to make sacrifices to help them.
6. They were so **exuberant** in their praise that I soon began to suspect either their judgment or their sincerity.
7. As he watched his house go up in flames, he felt that he was the victim of an **implacable** fate.
8. Without actually understanding much of what the speaker was saying, the audience seemed to **imbibe** her optimism and vigor.
9. The politician's poor showing in the polls and the failure of her fund-raising efforts **militated** against her entering the presidential race.
10. What good does it do to include all those **stipulations** in the agreement if there are no provisions for enforcing them?
11. The authorities suspected that the hostage's statement was made not voluntarily but under **duress**.
12. Mistaking the **stentorian** backfire of the truck for a sudden burst of gunfire, we ducked behind a parked car for safety.
13. You are in deep trouble if you combine a strong taste for high living with an equally strong **antipathy** for hard work.
14. At my niece's birthday party, I was concerned about the enormous amounts of punch, soda, and other sugary drinks the children were **imbibing**.

15. Unable to roar and intimidate those around him, the Cowardly Lion hoped the Great Wizard could help him exhibit his **prowess** as king of the beasts.
16. To show their **exuberance** during the play-offs, many football fans paint their faces and wear wild costumes.
17. "Here's the **ultimatum**," said Father. "Pass all your courses, or forget about attending the senior prom."
18. Someone's most valuable **asset** may be the ability to analyze complex problems quickly and competently.
19. Although he was **beset** by creditors, a tough employer, and medical problems, he never seemed to lose his zest for living.
20. In this synthetic world of ours, I sometimes wonder if my life is genuine or just a **facsimile** of the real thing.
21. Her sense of **decorum** is so strict that she often makes other people feel stiff and uncomfortable.
22. A person's modest and **sedate** appearance may mask an iron determination and a sharp temper.
23. The mistake in identification was so **patent** that the suspect was released with the apologies of the arresting officer.
24. The tough leadership we need in this new century will not come from uncertain and **innocuous** personalities.
25. Did you **stipulate** that you wanted the recliner, not the rocking chair?

Unit 13 Synonyms

1. Providing the **pertinent** papers for admission: **applicable**
2. a **reproduction** of a famous painting: **facsimile**
3. the **obvious** stupidity of the remark: **patent**
4. **defy** the adoption of the policy: **militate**
5. **assimilate** the wisdom of a lifetime: **imbibe**
6. **spell out** the duties to be performed: **stipulate**
7. forced to sell all their **possessions**: **assets**
8. rejected the dictator's **threat**: **ultimatum**
9. spoke in a **booming** voice: **stentorian**
10. extorted evidence under **pressure**: **duress**

Unit 13 Antonyms

1. provide an **original** birth certificate: **facsimile**
2. her **veiled** threats against the company: **patent**
3. **failed to enumerate** the conditions of the loan: **stipulate**
4. **support** the bond for a new school: **mitigate**
5. an event **unrelated to** the present situation: **applicable**

Unit 13 Completing the Sentence

1. How can you expect them to concern themselves with your problems when they are so **beset** with troubles of their own?
2. Centuries-old ethnic **antipathies** have more than once led to bloody conflict in the Balkans.
3. Although the artist's latest work was acclaimed by the critics, it seemed to me to be no more than a(n) **facsimile** of a cardboard cereal box.
4. How quickly their **exuberant** holiday mood became quiet and sober when they had to return to work on Monday morning!
5. During the long summer afternoons, we used to sit on the shaded veranda, **imbibing** iced drinks and talking about life.
6. Her chief **assets**, both in business and in social life, are her keen intelligence and pleasant manner.
7. Her refusal to discuss even the possibility of a compromise convinced me that I was faced with a(n) **implacable** opponent.
8. If only he could match his **prowess** on the playing field with a high level of excellence in the classroom!
9. I am well on the road to becoming a millionaire because I have just been awarded the **patent** for an automatic homework machine.
10. The reference material you have given me is interesting, but most of it is not **applicable** to my term paper.
11. The "monster" that frightened you so much during the hike last week was just a(n) **innocuous** water snake.
12. The player's chronic shoulder injury **militated** against his plan to extend his baseball career for another season.
13. We could hear the quarterback's **stentorian** signals even above the roar of the crowd.
14. Dr. Albert Schweitzer had not only great scientific ability but also a deep sense of **compassion** for suffering humanity.

15. I enjoy his jokes, but he ought to bear in mind that there are certain standards of **decorum** to be observed at the graduation ceremony.
16. If the contract is framed by a good lawyer, it will **stipulate** exactly when, where, and how payment is to be made.
17. The landlord's **ultimatum** was simple and direct: Pay the rent increase or get out.
18. I was amazed to see how a few years had transformed an unruly and mischievous child into a well-bred, **sedate** young adult.
19. American law prohibits police from arresting and holding suspects in any type of **duress** without formally charging them.
20. He has his shortcomings, but compared with his great services to his community and nation, they seem all but **infinitesimal**.

Unit 13 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. "Silas now found himself and his cottage suddenly **beset** by mothers who wanted him to charm away the whooping-cough, or bring back the milk, and by men who wanted stuff against the rheumatics or the knots in the hands; and, to secure themselves against a refusal, the applicants brought silver in their palms."

— *Silas Marner*

If a person is beset by something, he is

- ① shocked ② ignored ③ robbed ④ **besieged**

2. "'Dear, dear! Master Marner,' said Dolly, with gentle distress and **compassion**. 'Had you never no father nor mother as taught you to say your prayers, and as there's good words and good things to keep us from harm?'"

— *Silas Marner*

Someone who shows compassion is NOT

- ① kind ② sympathetic ③ **aloof** ④ amenable

3. "...[T]he square-shouldered, clumsy, high-featured Priscilla wore a dress the **facsimile** of her pretty sister's...."

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If a dress is a facsimile it is a(n)

- ① original ② **reproduction** ③ prototype ④ travesty

4. “The old Squire was an **implacable** man: he made resolutions in violent anger, and he was not to be moved from them after his anger had subsided—as fiery volcanic matters cool and harden into rock.”

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A person who is implacable is

- ① negligent ② harmless ③ **obstinate** ④ indecisive

5. “He paused a little to consider how he should pray about Euclid—whether he should ask to see what it meant, or whether there was any other mental state which would be more **applicable** to the case.”

— *The Mill on the Floss*

Something that is applicable is

- ① **pertinent** ② unrelated ③ trivial ④ tedious

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Unit 13 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

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— *Silas Marner*

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If a dress is a facsimile it is a(n)

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