

## EXERCISE I—Words in Context

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

quell      linguistics      vindictive      rabble  
prowess      purloin      pugnacious

- A. “Your \_\_\_\_\_ on the field does not excuse your \_\_\_\_\_ behavior at school. This is the second time that you’ve been in trouble for fighting,” said the principal. She hated this situation; she knew what to do, but in the way the school perceived her, it would be a lose-lose decision. Punishing Isaac before the district championship game would surely draw a[n] \_\_\_\_\_ of angry students and parents to her office. Being lenient with Isaac would fuel the already \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes of second-offenders throughout the school. The turbulent aftermath of either decision would be difficult to \_\_\_\_\_.

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

plebeian      pique      raconteur      quell      linguistics      precocious

- B. Everyone had high hopes for the \_\_\_\_\_ youngster. At the age of six, Mariah seemed to have such a command of \_\_\_\_\_ that a simple conversation with her could \_\_\_\_\_ even the brightest of her classmates; consequently, they felt more as though they were speaking to an adult than a kindergartner. She also loved to exercise her fine speaking abilities. Never at a loss for words, the young \_\_\_\_\_ would come home from school every night and vividly describe the events of her day to her parents.

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

plebeian      quixotic      linguistics      pusillanimous  
predatory      rabid      purloin

- C. Owing in part to his \_\_\_\_\_ interest in the heroic tales of Arthur’s knights and high adventures set in the Middle Ages, Delmar had a rather \_\_\_\_\_ perspective of the world. He never simply “went to work” or “picked up a burger at the drive-through”; instead, Delmar lived in a fantasy world in which each day he had to uphold his chivalric duty while challenging a myriad of perilous obstacles. The pigeons on the roof of his apartment were not pigeons—they were great \_\_\_\_\_, winged beasts, perpetually waiting to swoop down and \_\_\_\_\_ Delmar’s poppyseed bagel as he walked to his chariot—a rusty Ford Granada that had recently passed the two-hundred-thousand-mile mark. After a short ride to the Hall of Lords (the metro station), Delmar would spend the day protecting the ignorant \_\_\_\_\_ from microscopic legions of evil warriors, mainly by spraying all surfaces with disinfectant before wiping them down with a rag. Evil dirt warriors were not Delmar’s greatest problem; sometimes he had to confront the mystical rat-beasts that lived in the basement storage area. Indeed, the basement was no place for \_\_\_\_\_ folk—only knights as brave as Sir Delmar.