

EXERCISE I—Words in Context

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

penitent	hurtle	agnostic	scourge
circumspect	retribution	zephyr	exodus

- A. Sergeant Neil Newman, one of six mine removal experts in Southeast Asia, makes sure that he is _____ about every aspect of his job. “One little missed detail can result in tragedy becoming _____ for your hastiness. One minute you’re on your knees, probing the earth and enjoying a cool _____ after hours of 95-degree weather, and the next minute, a blast _____ you—or a part of you—through the air because you overlooked a hair-thin tripwire. By that time, it’s too late to be _____ about your error—you’re lucky if you’re still alive to think about it.”

The uncharted minefields that Neil faces have been a[n] _____ on war-torn nations for decades, and experts estimate that it will take people like Neil hundreds of years to find and neutralize the millions of underground threats.

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

raillery	vindicate	terse	taciturn
hurtle	uncanny	exodus	renegade

- B. The _____ Haley silently stared at her console despite the elated atmosphere of the command center. While everyone celebrated the latest victory of the rebel forces, Haley received a message that would soon turn the celebration into panic. Two _____ had revealed the secret location of the command center, and as soon as she gave the word, the entire facility would have to prepare for a[n] _____ to a new location before the Nationalist forces arrived. The Nationalists had a[n] _____ ability to turn the rebels against each other; this would be the third time in three months that the rebels were forced to relocate their base of operations. Haley took a breath, swiveled around in her chair, and prepared to deliver a[n] _____ briefing that would squelch the group’s cheerful air. To make matters worse, one of the traitors turned out to be Haley’s cousin, a lieutenant whom Haley recently helped _____ from espionage charges.

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

terse	raillery	caustic	agnostic	scourge
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- C. Paige and Mia have been friends for more than twenty years, despite the fact that Paige is devoutly religious and Mia is a[n] _____. They often have heated discussions about religion, but their conversation inevitably turns into good-humored _____. Over the years, they learned to avoid making _____ comments during arguments, no matter how angry they might get.