

EXERCISE I—Words in Context

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

gauche castigate heresy banter anathema ignominy emaciated

A. After five years of starvation and torture, the _____ Kwame prayed for death. Hope was a foreign concept to him now; he no longer remembered what it was like to live in the sunlight. When he tried to remember, all he could visualize were the three years of humiliating _____ that preceded his incarceration. He couldn't even remember the faces of his wife and children anymore.

The whole thing began when Kwame's brother, a schoolteacher, wrote a letter to a nonprofit agency in the United States to appeal for educational funds. The letter was intercepted, and Sirajul's ethics agents brought the letter to Sirajul himself. The mad dictator declared that any letter that portrayed his reign in a bad light was total _____. Kwame's brother was executed, and then, to make a point, Sirajul _____ the entire family. While dictators like Sirajul were a[n] _____ to virtually anyone in the civilized world, few people had the means to stop them.

gauche motley emaciated libation banter docile heresy

B. The actors gathered in the banquet room after the closing night of the hit play. Sounds of lighthearted _____ filled the room, and some of the more _____ performers thought nothing of picking two or more cold _____ at a time from the trays of the servers. The players were still in costumes depicting various cultures and historic eras, and arriving guests paused at the door to take in the _____ sight. The company had just completed its twentieth and final show of a successful run, and the performers were happy to relax. The spirited staff, laughing and carousing, became _____ only when the director raised her hands to quiet the room. Anticipating her words of encouragement, none of the actors suspected that she was about to announce her retirement.

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