

## UNIT NINE

### SOL

Latin SOLUS “alone”

**SOLIPSISM** (so' lip siz əm) *n.* The theory that the self is the only reality

L. solus + ipse, “self” = *the self alone*

What some theater critics called the actress’ “refreshing sense of her own presence” others called “overwhelming *solipsism*.”

**DESOLATE** (des' ə lət) *adj.* Deserted and lonely

L. de, “from,” + solus = *alone from*

When Lupe saw the *desolate* midnight street, she felt a shiver of sadness.

syn: bare

ant: crowded, lively

**SOLILOQUY** (sə lil' ə kwē) *n.* a literary or dramatic speech spoken by a solitary character

L. solus + loqui, “to speak,” = *to speak alone*

The *soliloquy* captures the turmoil of the young prince’s mind as he contemplates life and death.

syn: monologue

ant: dialogue; conversation

### MONO

Greek MONOS “one”

**MONOTONOUS** (mə not' ə nəs) *adj.* unvarying; lacking in variety

G. monos + tonos, “tone” = *one tone*

Ruben said that he found meetings *monotonous* and rarely cared about what was said during them.

syn: boring

ant: varying

**MONOSYLLABIC** (mə nō si la' bik) *adj.* having only one syllable

G. monos + syllabe, “syllable” = *having one syllable*

Jake was considered an antisocial guy because he avoided eye contact and made only *monosyllabic* statements, if any.

ant: polysyllabic

**MONOTONE** (mə' nə tōn) *n.* Sameness of sound, style, manner, or color

G. monos, “one,” + tonos, “tone, sound”

The conductor’s dreary *monotone* went on announcing stops as the crowd milled around on the platform.

**VULG**

Latin VULGUS “crowd”

**DIVULGE** (də vulgʻ) *v.* To make publicL. dis, “among,” + vulgus = *to spread among the crowd*Government officials are refusing to *divulge* the reasons for the cabinet member’s resignation.**VULGAR** (vulʻ gər) *adj.* Of the common peopleThroughout the medieval period, *vulgar* Latin was the most widely known language on the planet.**POLY, POLL**

Greek POLUS “many”

**POLYMATH** (poʻ lē math) *n.* A person with knowledge of many subjectsG. polus + manthanein, “to learn” = *learned in many things*Leonardo da Vinci was a *polymath* with extensive knowledge of literature, art, and science.**HOI POLLOI** (hoy pə loyʻ) *n.* The common people; the massesThe chef sniffed snobbishly, “My dishes were not intended for the *hoi polloi*.”**POLYGLOT** (poʻ lē glot) *n.* A person with a knowledge of several languagesG. polus + glotta, “tongue” = *many tongues*The new chair of the foreign language department was a *polygot* who spoke French, wrote books in Spanish, watched Italian films, and taught class in Greek.

POLLY the POLYGLOT parrot squawks in three languages.

iii The fourth-century scholar St. Jerome is credited for translating the Old and New Testaments into Latin. Because his translation was intended to make the Bible accessible to the general masses of people instead of just to the clergy, it is called the Vulgate.

iii Like the in English and la in French or Spanish, hoi is an article meaning “the.” Hoi polloi comes straight from the Greek and means “the many.”

**EXERCISES - UNIT NINE**

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the *italicized* vocabulary word.

1. The soldiers were warned not to *divulge* the battle plans because...
2. The old elementary-school playground had been *desolate* since...
3. Because Katie both sang and spoke in a *monotone*, she was encouraged to...
4. Fritz declared that the song was appropriate for the *hoi polloi* rather than...
5. Because Lloyd's conversational style was *monosyllabic*, he earned a reputation as...
6. Many in the audience felt that the Presidential debate turned into a *soliloquy* when...
7. Because they considered Neil a *polymath*, his friends often...
8. The theatre critic called bullfighting "the ideal *vulgar* pastime" because...
9. When Edgar explained that he was a *polyglot* as a result of his upbringing, we knew he had...
10. We could tell that Danielle had fully embraced the idea of *solipsism* when she...
11. Calvin's daily exercise routine started to become *monotonous* when...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

polymath      desolate      solipsism      monosyllabic      soliloquy

1. Nell's \_\_\_\_\_ made the people she encountered wonder if she noticed them at all.
2. Ruby's \_\_\_\_\_ replies to my questions let me know she did not feel like talking.
3. Despite a moving \_\_\_\_\_ about the sinfulness of violence, the hero of the novel makes up his mind to kill his brother.
4. Dorothy studied nonstop in the hopes of being like the \_\_\_\_\_ she most admired.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

polymath      monotone      desolate      monotonous

5. The speech teacher reminded his students to vary their phrasing rather than speaking in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. All the New Year's Eve partiers went home to sleep, and the streets seemed empty and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Finding the endless repetition of the same popular music rather \_\_\_\_\_, the pianist decided to try some experimentation.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

divulge      polymath      polyglot      vulgar      hoi polloi

8. The poet disdained anyone who stooped to write in the \_\_\_\_\_ tongue.
9. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ by training, Inspector Morrison was able to converse in any of six different languages.
10. Chef Mingus swore that he would never \_\_\_\_\_ the secret to his award-winning turkey pie.
11. Jacob pointed out to the arrogant banker that members of the so-called \_\_\_\_\_ made up a majority of the bank's loan customers.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ repetition of low shrubs and concrete buildings, unbroken by any hint of life or activity, told us immediately that this was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ place.
  - A. vulgar; monosyllabic
  - B. monotonous; desolate
  - C. monosyllabic; vulgar
  - D. desolate; vulgar
2. The actress said haughtily that she would \_\_\_\_\_ the secret of her great beauty to such \_\_\_\_\_ as the journalists only if she were paid huge sums of money.
  - A. hoi polloi; polyglots
  - B. divulge; polymaths
  - C. monotone; solipsism
  - D. divulge; hoi polloi
3. Because he delivered the entire \_\_\_\_\_ in a mumbled \_\_\_\_\_, the actor earned the criticism of both the audience and the other cast members.
  - A. soliloquy; monotone
  - B. polymath; solipsism
  - C. soliloquy; solipsism
  - D. monotone; polyglot

4. Ancient scholars did not consider someone a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ just because he or she could speak fluently in one of the \_\_\_\_\_ tongues.
- polymath; monotonous
  - vulgar; polyglot
  - polyglot; vulgar
  - monotone; desolate
5. Alice, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ with an appetite for all kinds of learning and conversation, never limited herself to \_\_\_\_\_ statements.
- polymath; monosyllabic
  - monotone; vulgar
  - polyglot; desolate
  - solipsism; vulgar

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the *italicized* word from its context.

- Because Kenneth will not *divulge* the recipe for his fried chicken, we can assume he...
- If Arthur finds the decorating scheme *monotonous*, he may suggest that...
- To back up her claim that she is a *polymath*, Rebecca may do things like...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

The Nevada desert was transformed in the 1950's by the emergence of Las Vegas as the gambling and entertainment mecca of America. The arid and \_\_\_\_\_ (SOL) expanse blossomed into one of the most entertaining tourist destinations the world has ever known. On any given day or night, you can find the \_\_\_\_\_ (POLL) rubbing elbows with the wealthiest high rollers. The lights never go out. If you want to forget time, this is the place for you because there are no clocks to be seen inside the casinos—one must not \_\_\_\_\_ (VULG) the time to the gambler who has won \$10,000 and is on his third carafe of coffee. The \_\_\_\_\_ (MONO) beeps or mechanical swoosh of the levers on the slot machines rhythmically chant their hopeful pitch to the gambler, interrupted only by the clatter of quarters cascading into the tray.

Everything is provided! You can get a buffet dinner for \$6.98—roast beef and all the trimmings if that is your heart's desire. You can catch a wonderful show at a very rea-

sonable price. Top-name entertainers star in Las Vegas regularly, and some, past their prime but lucky, are permanent fixtures at the more famous casinos. Everything is larger than life and designed to make your experience the same. You can see pirates capture a frigate or hear huge white tigers purr. You can see Cher in all her wiggery. From the sublime to the ridiculous, all is there for your pleasure and entertainment. It is wonderful and wondrous! Isn't that what entertainment should be?

If you have never gone to Las Vegas, you need to put it on your list. Who knows? You may be the one to beat the astronomical odds and win a million dollars. Even if you don't, you are guaranteed to be entertained, to see splendor and tasteful beauty beyond your wildest dreams, and to witness productions to take your breath away. Come to the city that grew out of the arid desert into one of the entertainment capitals of the world!

1. Why are there no clocks in the Las Vegas casinos?
  - A. Clocks are real; the Vegas experience is surreal.
  - B. Clocks are a distraction, and gamblers mustn't be reminded about time.
  - C. Clocks would take the fun out of winning.
  - D. Clocks reinforce the passing of time and pleasure.
  
2. According to the passage, if you don't gamble, what can you do in Las Vegas?
  - A. Not much. It is built around gambling.
  - B. Appreciate the other fine entertainment in the city.
  - C. Some things that are terrible.
  - D. If you don't gamble, you won't be in Las Vegas.
  
3. The tone of this essay is
  - A. informative.
  - B. sarcastic.
  - C. straightforward.
  - D. persuasive.

Exercise VI. Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the *italicized* words. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary. Note that *mania* means "enthusiasm" and *onymous* means "named."

Sean does not recall exactly when he went from being an ordinary employee with above-average dedication to his job to a workaholic who spends every spare moment of his time at the office. Chances are, though, that this *monomania* developed as the result of a terribly unhappy love affair that ended a year ago. In an attempt to fill the void, Sean started Sean's Computer Solutions, a.k.a. Computer Carnival (legally abbreviated as SeanComp Inc). Spending all of his time at this *polyonymous* business helps Sean focus on something other than the pain in his life.