

UNIT 1

Arts

Word Form Chart

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
acoustics		acoustic	acoustically
continuum	continue	contemporary	continuously
depiction	depict	continuous	
donation	donate	donated	
donor			
endorsement	endorse	endorsable	
exhibit	exhibit	exhibited	
exhibition			
exhibitor			
function	function	functional	functionally
		functioning	
fund	fund		
funding			
inevitability		inevitable	inevitably
installation	install		
lyrics		lyrical	lyrically
		lyric	
media			
medium			
obsession	obsess	obsessive	obsessively
origin	originate	original	originally
perception	perceive	perceptive	perceptively
		pristine	
semblance		seminal	
tribulation			
upheaval			
venue			
		vicarious	vicariously

Definitions and Examples

1. (a) **acoustics**, n. pl. {often used with *the*} [the qualities of a space that enable it to transmit sound]

When they built the new performing arts center, the builders made sure that the acoustics were as close to perfect as possible.

- (b) **acoustic**, adj. [related to a musical instrument whose sound is not changed electronically]

Many folk singers use acoustic instead of electric guitars when they perform.

2. **contemporary**, adj. [current; new; modern]

The museum houses a wide collection of contemporary art, including very new pieces from this year.

Contemporary writers are often compared to writers in the past, for example, *his writing style is similar to that of Ernest Hemingway*.

3. **continuum**, n. [a range that continues without stopping]

Although we name the colors of the rainbow separately as *red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet*, the rainbow is actually a continuum of colors.

For some individuals, “good” and “bad” are two distinct categories, but for others, “good” and “bad” are on opposite ends of a continuum.

4. **continuously**, adv. [without stopping or interruption]

The orchestra played classical music continuously for three hours at the start of the festival.

The college students played computer video games for twelve continuous hours.

5. **depict**, v. [to show or represent something in a drawing, painting, sculpture, or verbal description]

The main character in the story is depicted as a fun-loving and foolish person.

Ken’s depiction of nature in his paintings is too abstract for me, but his use of color is interesting.

6. **donation**, n. [a contribution of money or goods to help a person or organization; a charitable gift]

When blood supplies in a city are low, the Red Cross tries to increase blood donations by calling past donors and asking for their help.

Many public art galleries and museums need donations of artwork and money in order to keep going.

7. **endorse**, v.t. [to support a person or an idea publicly]

During the campaign for the presidency, both candidates endorsed education programs that focused on help for young artists.

A product endorsement by a famous person can help increase sales of that product significantly.

8. **exhibition**, n. [a public show, especially one in which art or information is presented]

The exhibition at the art museum explores how aluminum has been a part of our lives for 150 years.

The coffee shop agreed to exhibit her photographs on their walls for one month.

9. **functional**, adj. [working; operating correctly; having a working purpose]

Beautifully designed clothing and items for use in the home are sometimes called "functional art."

The portable phone was not functioning because of the power outage.

10. **fund**, v.t. [to provide money for something]

Her parents funded her college education, and she returned the favor by helping them financially when they retired.

Funding for my favorite radio station comes from listeners, not the government or advertisers.

11. **inevitable**, adj. [cannot be avoided, certain]

There is a saying that only two things are inevitable: death and taxes.

The display of realistic photographs of terrible war scenes inevitably created a strong public reaction.

12. installation, n. [something put in a particular place for a particular function]

In the art world, an installation refers to an art display intended for public viewing.

We had to wait eight weeks to see the new exhibits in the museum because they first had to be installed.

13. (a) lyrical, adj. [expressing emotion and personal feeling, especially in an art form; having the quality of a song]

Michael writes lyrical poetry about natural scenery and romantic love.

(b) lyrics, n. pl. [the words of a song]

I usually like the lyrics of folk songs because they express the feelings of ordinary people.

14. media, n. pl. {often used with *the*} [the various sources of information for the public, usually including radio, television, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet]

Movie stars often complain that the media constantly try to find out about their private lives.

When a business or government official wants to make an important announcement, a press conference is held so that media representatives can get the information.

15. medium, n. [a way of communicating; a type of material used for expressing feelings or ideas]

Bronze was the sculptor's preferred medium for his statues.

The common medium for reporting research results is a journal in which articles are reviewed by the researcher's peers.

16. obsession, n. [the condition of being extremely focused on or concerned about something, to an extent beyond what is usual or normal]

Sebastian's obsession about perfecting his first musical composition annoyed his family and friends because it was all he would talk about.

Kate was obsessed with her rock collection in her younger years, which may have been an indication that she would later become a geologist.

17. **originate**, v. i. [to start from a particular place or situation; to begin from a specific source]

Many holiday traditions in the United States originated in other countries; for example, the jack-o'-lantern is from Ireland, and the Christmas tree is from Germany.

He has lived in Brazil for twenty years, but he is originally from China.

18. **perceptive**, adj. [very skillful at noticing and observing]

Artists are generally considered to be perceptive people who can understand what others are feeling or thinking even if they have not said a word.

When we are tired, our perceptions are not as sharp as when we are well rested, so we are less likely to hear and see everything around us.

19. **pristine**, adj. [pure; undamaged]

When I saw the used car, I was surprised that it was in such pristine condition.

It took a lot of work to clean out the polluted river, but its water is now pristine.

20. **semblance**, n. [an outward appearance; a slight similarity to something]

Although we do not have much time before the guests arrive, we should try to give the apartment some semblance of order.

There is a semblance of peace in the country at this time, but the suppressed hostilities could easily turn into a civil war.

21. **seminal**, adj. [important for the future]

Vincent van Gogh's originality had a seminal influence on later painters.

All the students in the art history class are required to read the professor's seminal work on the subject.

22. **tribulation**, n. [suffering; trouble]

After many trials and tribulations, she finally earned her degree in art history.

For many artists, times of tribulation often come before periods of greater creativity.

23. **upheaval**, n. [a significant change, often violent]

The verdict of the jury caused such an upheaval in the community that the police had to be called in to keep the peace.

Being forced to take time off can cause emotional upheaval in individuals who are obsessed with working constantly.

24. venue, n. [the place of an event]

The best venue for a summer concert is the amphitheater near the river.

Due to the popularity of the pianist, the venue of her performance had to be changed to a larger hall.

25. vicariously, adv. [experiencing something through someone else when one cannot participate]

Although Janet's parents lived far away, they experienced her college life vicariously because she kept them informed of all her activities.

Since my friend's retirement from professional basketball, his participation in it has been vicarious: he attends basketball games as a spectator and watches them on TV.

Exercises

A. Match each word with its definition or synonym.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| ___ 1. fund | a. event place |
| ___ 2. pristine | b. appearance |
| ___ 3. originate | c. range |
| ___ 4. contemporary | d. provide money |
| ___ 5. venue | e. modern |
| ___ 6. donation | f. nonelectronic |
| ___ 7. functional | g. begin |
| ___ 8. semblance | h. working |
| ___ 9. medium | i. show |
| ___ 10. exhibit | j. undamaged |
| ___ 11. acoustic | k. material used for art |
| ___ 12. continuum | l. expressing emotion |
| ___ 13. lyrical | m. contribution or gift |

B. Answer each question with a word from the word form chart. Use the correct form of the word in your answer.

1. If you were going to perform in a theater, what would you investigate to make sure that the audience would hear you well? _____
2. How would you describe a lake whose water is crystal clear? _____
3. How would you describe an event that you cannot stop or control? _____
4. If you give money to a charity, what do you call the gift? _____
5. What do you call a place where a performance is held? _____
6. If you wanted to publicize a big event, whom would you notify? _____
7. How would you describe a friend who knows you are sad even when you try to hide it? _____
8. How would you describe a piece of artwork that influences artists in the future?

9. What are you doing if you show or describe something in a work of art?

10. How do you refer to the words of a song? _____

C. Write *T* if the sentence is true and *F* if it is false.

- ___ 1. If someone displays only a semblance of intelligence, it is a sign that the individual is actually a genius.
- ___ 2. Contemporary music includes music written between 1800 and 1899.
- ___ 3. Installing a new front door on a house will require removing the old front door first.
- ___ 4. Funding their children's college education can be a serious concern for parents.
- ___ 5. If obsessed with a piece of music, a pianist may practice the piece of music day and night until he can play it perfectly.

- ___ 6. A continuum represents two clear choices.
- ___ 7. While traveling, one can send postcards and letters home to a friend to let her experience the trip vicariously.
- ___ 8. Serious illness and a death in the family are examples of tribulations one may experience in a lifetime.
- ___ 9. Inviting private guests to view a new piece of art in one's home is an example of an exhibition.
- ___ 10. A lyrical work of art is one that does not reflect personal feelings.

D. For each item, circle the word that is least related in meaning to the others.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. pure | vicarious | pristine | clean |
| 2. semblance | likeness | truth | appearance |
| 3. previously | recently | formerly | originally |
| 4. upheaval | calm | stability | rest |
| 5. pay for | fund | finance | sell |
| 6. support | endorse | approve | disapprove |
| 7. pleasure | trial | ordeal | tribulation |
| 8. receive | take in | donate | accept |
| 9. contemporary | current | modern | antique |
| 10. trivial | seminal | influential | significant |

E. Complete each analogy with a word from the word form chart.

1. exhibition : gallery :: concert : _____
2. supposed : assumed :: appearance : _____
3. _____ : ending :: birth : death
4. donor : donation :: _____ : exhibition
5. heart : beating :: machine : _____
6. _____ : folk music :: electric : rock music

7. support : friend :: _____ : candidate

8. _____ : uninterested :: kind : cruel

F. Each of the following parts of a sentence includes a word from the word form chart. Complete each sentence in any logical way.

1. In order to help her deal with the tribulations in her life, she . . .

2. One way to keep nature pristine is to . . .

3. If a business owner wants to fund an expansion of the business but does not have money, she or he could . . .

4. The media have a responsibility to . . .

5. A tradition that originated in my community is . . .

6. One thing that I believe is inevitable is . . .

7. A continuous problem in the world today is . . .

8. A realistic depiction of a situation is . . .

9. An exciting adventure that I have experienced vicariously through a book or movie is . . .

Collocations

1. **acoustic**—acoustic music; acoustic guitar; acoustic instrument; acoustic player
2. **contemporary**—contemporary style; contemporary design; contemporary look; contemporary art/music/dance
3. **continuum**—the space-time continuum; form a continuum; along a continuum; continuum from X to Y
4. **continuously**—continuous employment; continuous use; continuous process; almost continuously
5. **depiction**—clear depiction; graphic depiction; accurate depiction
6. **donation**—make a donation; generous donation; small donation; charitable donation; anonymous donor; generous donor
7. **endorse**—expect to endorse; refuse to endorse; give one's endorsement; withdraw one's endorsement; product endorsement; endorse a candidate
8. **exhibition**—art exhibition; have an exhibition; hold an exhibition; attend an exhibition; international exhibition; be on exhibit; exhibition hall
9. **functional**—fully functional; function properly; main function
10. **fund**—establish a fund; set up a fund; federally funded; approve funding; withdraw funding; emergency fund; trust fund
11. **inevitable**—inevitable comparisons; inevitable consequence; inevitable result; quite inevitable
12. **installation**—installation process; new installation; easy to install; permanently installed
13. (a) **lyrical**—lyrical style; lyrical music; lyrical poetry; lyrical images; lyrical portrayal
(b) **lyrics**—write lyrics; compose lyrics
14. **media**—the media; mass media; news media; media coverage; media attention
15. **medium**—artistic medium; medium of instruction; medium of communication; medium of exchange
16. **obsess**—obsess over; obsess about; obsessed with; become obsessed with; obsessed with money; strong obsession; obsessive behavior

17. **originate**—originate from; originate an idea; have an origin in; of humble origin; of unknown origin
18. **perceptive**—depth perception; clear perception; very perceptive of someone
19. **pristine**—in pristine condition; pristine beaches; pristine area; pristine forest
20. **semblance**—some semblance of order; semblance of normality; any semblance of
21. **seminal**—seminal work; seminal essay; seminal study
22. **tribulation**—trials and tribulations; endure a tribulation; bear a tribulation; many tribulations
23. **upheaval**—major upheaval; violent upheaval; political upheaval; social upheaval; emotional upheaval
24. **venue**—change of venue; venue for; concert venue; event venue
25. **vicariously**—live vicariously through; vicariously experience; vicarious thrill

Exercises

G. Circle the word or phrase that frequently collocates with the word in boldface. The first one is an example.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. venue | change of | replace | exchange |
| 2. seminal | ticket | group | work |
| 3. exhibit | be on | give | do over |
| 4. donor | helpful | generous | instant |
| 5. installation | theory | process | event |
| 6. fund | settle a | exhibit a | establish a |
| 7. continuum | by a | along a | around a |
| 8. vicariously | dream | live | be |
| 9. origin | close | dear | unknown |
| 10. function | properly | ideally | closely |
| 11. endorsement | purpose | product | problem |
| 12. perception | height | width | depth |
| 13. lyrical | poetry | textbook | editor |

H. Complete the following sentences by using one of the collocations from the list below. Write the collocation in the blank. The first one is an example.

trials and tribulations

some semblance of order

in pristine condition

inevitable result

acoustic instruments

compose the lyrics

accurate depiction

major upheaval

contemporary look

along a continuum

approve funding

obsessed with money

1. Putting all the files into a cabinet gave the untidy office
some semblance of order.
2. Moving from one country to another can be considered an example of a
_____ in one's life.
3. Most self-help books are intended to help people cope with the
_____ in their lives.
4. Although the old desk had been in my grandmother's attic for years, it was
_____.
5. She was so _____ that she spent all her time
working and therefore lost contact with her friends.
6. If the dean does not _____ additional
_____ for next term, we will not be able to buy
new reference materials.
7. The group sang beautifully, accompanying themselves on various
_____.
8. I asked the person who cuts my hair to give me a more
_____ because I was going to a special event.
9. An _____ of all the ice on the road was that
some cars would skid out of control, and indeed an accident soon occurred.

10. I was expecting the painting to be unrealistic, but it was a(n) _____ of the scene and characters.
11. Sue does not think about most moral issues as if they are absolutely right or wrong; rather, her opinions fall somewhere _____.
12. I've developed the melody of the song, but I still have to _____.

Discussion or Writing

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What was the most memorable art exhibition that you have ever seen? Where was it? Why was it memorable?
2. What is a seminal contribution to art that someone has made in the last 100 years?
3. Do you think good and bad art are clearly separate or two ends of a continuum? Explain your answer.
4. Do you think people should donate money to organizations that help the arts even though there are poor or homeless people in the community? Why or why not?
5. Do you know someone who experienced a great tribulation that he or she could not overcome? What was it? What was the consequence?