

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 17 | CONTEXT: People and Places

The Vikings: Adventuring to North America

History books used to teach that Columbus was the first European to reach North America. A recent discovery, however, indicates that the Vikings reached North America five hundred years before Columbus. Anne Stine, an archaeologist, discovered the remains of a Viking encampment in northern Newfoundland. Many scientists today believe that the Vikings did not stop only in Newfoundland but traveled as far south as Massachusetts or New York.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about the Vikings in North America. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|
| ambitious | exclaim | honorable | portrait | wardrobe |
| envy | heir | oath | reign | yacht |

EXERCISE 1 *Wordbusting*

- Directions.** Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.
- Figure out the word’s meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three **CSS** boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
 - Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
 - Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1. ambitious → The people who lived in Scandinavia from the ninth to the twelfth centuries were known as Vikings. **Ambitious** young Viking men, that is, those who wanted to get ahead, traveled to find fortune.

Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

envy

At that time, Scandinavia was not as rich as the rest of Europe, partly because the soil there was not as good for farming as that in France and England. For this reason, the Vikings may have **envied** their richer neighbors.

3.

exclaim

The Vikings raided the countries to the south. Although the people of England and France **exclaimed** loudly, no one answered their cries for help, and the raids continued.

4.

oath

The Vikings were feared and hated throughout Europe for their warlike behavior and their cursing. They are famous for their violent actions and loud **oaths**.

5.

wardrobe

An important part of a Viking's **wardrobe** was his suit of armor, made of thick animal hides. His clothing also included a long, heavy shirt, leather shoes, and a leather helmet.

6.

yacht

Viking ships were light and fast. Still, they were very different in design from today's **yachts**, which are used for pleasure cruises or racing. Viking ships carried horses, cows, pigs, and warriors on long, difficult journeys.

7.

heir

The Vikings colonized new territory. The Viking Naddod laid claim to Iceland. His great-grandnephew, Erik the Red, was the **heir** to this family tradition of colonization. He colonized Greenland.

8.

reign

Most Norse legends are about the deeds of a king and the events that happened during the period of his **reign**.

9.

honorable

Old Norse sagas, or legends, depict the warriors as **honorable** men. These stories indicate that Erik the Red and his son, Leif Eriksson, were respected by the Viking people.

10.

portrait

From the Norse legend *Erik's Saga*, we can piece together a **portrait** of Erik the Red. The picture that emerges is of a clever, brave, and confident man.

EXERCISE 2*Context Clues* 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____:

n. a person who inherits another's property or traits

_____ 12. word: _____:

n. dislike or uneasiness because of another person's possessions or advantages; *v.* to be jealous of

_____ 13. word: _____:

n. a drawing, painting, sculpture, photograph, or description of someone

_____ 14. word: _____:

n. one's collection of clothes; a closet, cupboard, or room for clothes

_____ 15. word: _____:

adj. greatly desirous of something; eager; demanding great effort or skill

_____ 16. word: _____:

v. to cry out; to speak suddenly in surprise or anger

_____ 17. word: _____:

n. a formal declaration of honesty or loyalty; a swear word; a curse

_____ 18. word: _____:

n. a small boat for pleasure or racing

_____ 19. word: _____:

n. a power or rule over; a period of rule; *v.* to rule or have power over

_____ 20. word: _____:

adj. worthy of being honored or respected; having a sense of right and wrong

COLUMN B

- (A) Long ago, the Vikings **reigned** over the huge northern island of Greenland. The Vikings also ruled Iceland.
- (B) The settlement of Greenland—a harsh place with long, cold, dark winters—was an **ambitious** project. It took much effort to carry out.
- (C) Eventually the settlement was abandoned because no new people came to the colony, and the settlers left no **heirs** to receive their holdings.
- (D) Because life was hard in Greenland, the Greenlanders might have **envied** people who lived in warmer places.
- (E) A piece of carved ivory that looks like a **portrait** of a Viking was discovered in an old Eskimo camp. This likeness is evidence that the Vikings had contact with the Eskimos.
- (F) Until recently, there was no proof that the Vikings had traveled south along the Canadian coast. Then, one woman promised to carry out her dream. She made an **oath** to discover the truth about the Vikings.
- (G) This woman was Anne Stine, an archaeologist. One summer she sailed a **yacht** down Canada's coast.
- (H) You can imagine how Stine must have **exclaimed** when she discovered the ruins of a Viking village in Newfoundland.
- (I) Stine made a careful study of the ruins. There were no signs of the clothing that made up the Vikings' **wardrobes**; the cloth had rotted.
- (J) In their own way, Viking warriors were **honorable** men. They had their own concept of right and wrong. Right was bravery, and wrong was giving up without a fight.

EXERCISE 3*Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings* 

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

- 21.** a solemn oath
(A) decision
(B) lecture
(C) comment
(D) declaration
- 22.** an empty wardrobe
(A) closet for clothes
(B) large glass bottle
(C) small ship
(D) suitcase
- 23.** the heir to a fortune
(A) child
(B) inheritor
(C) judge
(D) lawyer
- 24.** a life-size portrait
(A) young tree
(B) full-length mirror
(C) picture of someone
(D) suit of armor
- 25.** a private yacht
(A) car
(B) beach
(C) meadow
(D) boat

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

- 26.** the ambitious Viking
(A) halfhearted
(B) violent
(C) athletic
(D) eager
- 27.** a feeling of envy
(A) jealousy
(B) sympathy
(C) pride
(D) desire
- 28.** to exclaim with anger
(A) whisper
(B) scream
(C) threaten
(D) explain
- 29.** to reign justly
(A) organize
(B) dominate
(C) abuse
(D) serve
- 30.** an honorable leader
(A) worthy of respect
(B) honest
(C) not respectable
(D) conquering