

# WORD POWER

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING  
A STRONGER VOCABULARY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Instructions .....	2
Fac/Fect/Fic .....	4
Val/Vail .....	6
Vid/Vis .....	8
Pon/Pos .....	10
Form/Morph .....	12
Sequ/Sec .....	14
Review #1 .....	16
Cogn/Gno/Sci .....	18
Pet .....	20
Mit/Miss .....	22
Cur .....	24
Ven/Vent .....	26
Sens/Sent .....	28
Review #2 .....	30

Dic/Dict .....	32
Ject .....	34
Spec .....	36
Port .....	38
Scrib/Script .....	40
Lud/Lus .....	42
Review #3 .....	44
Loc/Log/Loq .....	46
Vers/Vert .....	48
Plic .....	50
Tract .....	52
Found/Fund/Fus .....	54
Voc .....	56
Ten/Tain/Tin .....	58
Review #4 .....	60
Answer Key .....	62

## FAC / FECT / FIC

Greg's **facility** with languages allowed him to learn German and Portuguese at the same time.

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The university was grateful for the contribution of an anonymous **benefactor** during its financial crisis.

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Although Max is still a beginner at racquetball, he is quite **proficient** at tennis.

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Pottery and iron utensils were some of the **artifacts** found at the archeological site.

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Clifford **manufactured** an excuse to avoid seeing Heidi.

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Professor Stubbs spoke in an **affected** tone, as if he were better than everyone else.

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An **efficient** worker can do twice as good a job as anyone else in half the time.

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"No words will **suffice** to tell you how much I love you!" declared Charles.

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A **facility** is a place where something is *done*. When you have a **facility** for something, it means you can *do* it easily and well. What do you have a **facility** for?

The prefix *bene-* means *well*. A **benefactor** is someone who *does* good. Related words include **benefit** and **beneficial**.

If you are **affected** by something, you are *influenced* by it. **Affected** has another meaning. Someone with an **affected** manner seems *fake* and *insincere*.

**Artifact** literally means *made by art*. An **artifact** is an object made by humans. Archeologists dig for **artifacts** of ancient cultures.

**FAC/FECT/FIC**  
make, do

The prefix *pro-* means *forward*. When you are **proficient** at something, you have made progress, moved *forward*, and are now *skilled* or *expert*.

*Manu-* means *hand*, so **manufacture** literally means *make by hand*. You know that a factory **manufactures** goods. **Manufacture** can also mean *make up*, as in an excuse.

To **suffice** is to *satisfy*, to be *enough*. If your supplies are **insufficient** for a camping trip, that means that you don't have *enough* to eat.

An **efficient** person manages to get things *done* well, with as little waste or effort as possible. When are you **efficient**?

Which person is a **benefactor**?

- a) Ada, who sold handmade quilts out of her house
- b) Augusta, who made a significant contribution to United Way
- c) Alberta, who cleaned the entire house in one afternoon

The best synonym for **facility** is:

- a) ease
- b) attitude
- c) product

If Al is convicted based on **manufactured** evidence, then

- a) the prosecutor was a good lawyer
- b) there was enough evidence to convict
- c) the evidence was made up

Mr. Babbitt's income was not \_\_\_\_\_ to feed an entire family.

- a) efficient
- b) proficient
- c) sufficient

Which of the following is an **artifact**?

- a) a petrified tree
- b) an arrowhead
- c) a dinosaur bone

If Jonathan is **proficient** in Japanese, you can assume that he:

- a) speaks Japanese well
- b) learned Japanese easily
- c) pretends to speak Japanese

Which person might be described as **affected**?

- a) Gerald, who is on the swim team, basketball team, and is a track star
- b) Fiona, who speaks with a British accent, even though she's from Kansas
- c) Maddy, who always finishes her homework twice as fast as everyone else

Which of the following is the best antonym for **efficient**?

- a) clumsy
- b) stupid
- c) difficult

Variations on the root **fac** include **fact**, **fect**, **fic**, **fea**, and **fy**.

How many other words can you think of that come from this root?

## WORD TO THE WISE

### AFFECT / EFFECT

**Affect** is a verb that means *to influence or change*.

- Drinking coffee can **affect** one's sleep patterns.
- Most residents were **affected** by the recent floods.

As a noun, **effect** means *result*. Used less frequently as a verb, to **effect** means *to cause*.

- What **effect** did living in low gravity have on the astronauts?
- Living in low gravity **effected** a loss in bone density.

#### Rotary Telephone circa 1970

A device used during the pre-telepathic era to extend the range of verbal communication.



Someday this will be exhibited as a 20<sup>th</sup> century \_\_\_\_\_.

Complete each sentence. Be sure that your sentence demonstrates knowledge of the word in bold.

Voters thought it was **unconscionable** for the Senator to \_\_\_\_\_

People think Fred is **impetuous** because he \_\_\_\_\_

Brad gave a **noncommittal** answer to Joan's question because \_\_\_\_\_

Maria was so **conscientious** that \_\_\_\_\_

Although the two critics usually **concurred**, \_\_\_\_\_

The dent in the car door led Martin to **surmise** \_\_\_\_\_

Match each word at left with the word closest in meaning at right.

\_\_\_\_\_ omniscient

\_\_\_\_\_ competent

\_\_\_\_\_ conventional

\_\_\_\_\_ perpetual

\_\_\_\_\_ incognito

\_\_\_\_\_ submissive

\_\_\_\_\_ concurrent

\_\_\_\_\_ intermittent

a) disguised

b) all-knowing

c) meek

d) skilled

e) ordinary

f) irregular

g) endless

h) simultaneous