

Caesar's English
Discussion Poster

AMOR
TUSSISQUE
NON CELANTUR

Love,
and a cough,
are not concealed.

- Ovid

160-240 A.D.

CAESAR'S ENGLISH II
VOCABULARY FROM LATIN
LESSON VI

- English
1. **ostentatious**: showy
 2. **inexorable**: inevitable
 3. **indolent**: lazy
 4. **doleful**: mournful
 5. **alacrity**: eagerness

Spanish
ostentoso
inexorable
indolente
doliente
alacridad

ostentatious oss-ten-TAY-shuss

The English adjective **ostentatious** comes from the Latin verb *ostentare*, which meant to display in a showy or gaudy manner. The noun form of the word is **ostentation**. In *White Fang*, which he wrote in 1906, Jack London described how a "part-grown puppy...came toward him slowly, with ostentatious and belligerent importance." In Twain's *Tom Sawyer*, there is a "pewter medal which he had worn with ostentation for months." Herman Melville wrote in *Moby Dick* that "they would ostentatiously sharpen their knives," and in *Billy Budd* he described "the official's self-possessed and somewhat ostentatious manner in making his specifications." Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that "she suddenly took it upon her, with some considerable ostentation, to change all the furniture and appurtenances." With admiration, Jane Austen described "an act of unostentatious kindness" in *Emma*, and in *Pride and Prejudice* she wrote that "he welcomed them a second time with ostentatious formality to his humble abode." What do you think Upton Sinclair meant in *The Jungle* when he wrote of "the wastes of social ostentation"?

inexorable in-EX-ora-bul

The English adjective **inexorable**, from the Latin *inexorabilis*, means inevitable, something that can not be escaped. In James Hilton's *Lost Horizon*, the monastery has "no rigidities, no inexorable rules." In *Ethan Frome*, Edith Wharton wrote that "The inexorable facts closed in on him like prison-warders handcuffing a convict." Joseph Conrad wrote, in his 1902 *Heart of Darkness*, that "Kurtz's life was running swiftly, too, ebbing, ebbing out of his heart into the sea of inexorable time." Thomas Hardy described "the inexorable laws of nature" in *Jude the Obscure*. In *The House of Seven Gables*, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote of "the inexorable pertinacity of a child intent upon some object important to itself." And William Shakespeare used **inexorable** in his 1596 classic, *Romeo and Juliet*, to describe something "More fierce and more inexorable far than empty tigers or the roaring sea." Which do you think would be more inexorable: empty tigers, or the roaring sea?

indolent IN-do-lent

The English adjective **indolent**—**indolence** is the noun form—comes from the Latin *dolere* (to feel pain); you are indolent when you are lazy, when you do things that cause you no (in) pain (dol). Being called **indolent** is not good. In Esther Forbes's *Johnny Tremain*, "Dove was garrulous, indolent, complaining, and boastful." In *Lost Horizon* (1933) James Hilton wrote that "It was, if the worst view be taken, a form of indolence, an unwillingness to interrupt his mere spectator's interest in what was happening." In her 1993 novel *The Giver*, Lois Lowry wrote that the requirements could "be revealed as simply foolishness and indolence." In *Black Beauty*, Anna Sewell wrote that "I had a loose box, and might have been very comfortable if he had not been too indolent to clean it out." And a character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is "Indolent and childish, unsystematic and improvident." And Benjamin Franklin wrote, in his 1788 *Autobiography*, of "insolvent debtors, many of indolent and idle habits."

doleful DOLE-ful

A relative of **indolent** is the English adjective **doleful**, which has the same stem, *dol*, meaning pain. Something is doleful if it is full of pain, mournful. Kenneth Grahame wrote in *The Wind in the Willows* that "The Rat paid no heed to his doleful self-reproaches." In Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*, the soldiers' "faces grew doleful from the interpreting of omens." Thomas Hardy wrote in *The Return of the Native* that "love was but a doleful joy." How can that be? Isn't doleful joy a contradiction? In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens described a "doleful cell in the Bastille." Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote in *The Scarlet Letter* that "one solemn old tree groaned dolefully to another." In *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Washington Irving wrote of "tales of strange sights and doleful lamentations." Here is a challenge: in his novel *Kim* Rudyard Kipling wrote that "he rested his cheek dolefully on his hand." What do you think this would look like?

alacrity ah-LACK-rib-tee

The English noun **alacrity** comes from the Latin *alacritas* and means an eagerness, a cheerful readiness to something. In Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*, "Hendon dispatched his ablutions with alacrity." Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote in *The House of the Seven Gables* that "considering his own interest in the matter, he might have bestirred himself with a little more alacrity." In *Vanity Fair* Thackeray wrote, with great irony, "Amelia had risen very early in the morning, and packed her little trunks with the greatest alacrity, while Osborne lay in bed deploring that she had not a maid to help her." In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* "Miss Bingley moved with alacrity to the piano-forte." Benjamin Franklin wrote in his *Autobiography* that he "proceeded in my electrical experiments with great alacrity." Here is an unusual example: in H.G. Wells's *The Invisible Man*, a character "moved with a sort of reluctant alacrity." What would that look like?

Review Words from *Caesar's English I*

1. **exquisite:** beautifully made
2. **clamor:** outcry
3. **sublime:** lofty
4. **tremulous:** quivering
5. **allude:** indirectly refer to

The Grammar of Vocabulary: *ostentatiously*, an adverb.

Vocabulary and grammar are not two different things. Here is a sentence using the adverb *ostentatiously*, which means in a showy, gaudy way.

	Wealthy	Romans	lived	ostentatiously	in	great	villas.
Parts of Speech:	adj.	n.	v.	adv.	prep.	adj.	n.
Parts of Sentence:	subject		predicate				
Phrases:	prepositional phrase						
Clauses:	one independent clause, a simple declarative sentence						

Here the adverb *ostentatiously* modifies the action verb *lived*. Even though there is an action verb, there is no direct object because no noun or pronoun receives the verb's action. The sentence has a nice prepositional phrase that modifies the verb. We can see the difference between adjectives modifying nouns, and an adverb modifying a verb. The adjective form of *ostentatiously* is *ostentatious*, and the noun form is *ostentation*. Many words can change form slightly to be used in different ways.

Caesar's Classic Words Challenge

This is not a test; it really is a game, because more than one word choice may work perfectly well. See if you can use your sensitivity and intuition to guess which word the author used. You may need a dictionary! You will be very surprised when you see what some of the answers are. Notice how the spelling of the vocabulary changes slightly when the word is used as a different part of speech.

1. From Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*

He was too _____ to move.

- a. ostentatious
- b. inexorable
- c. doleful
- d. indolent

2. From Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*

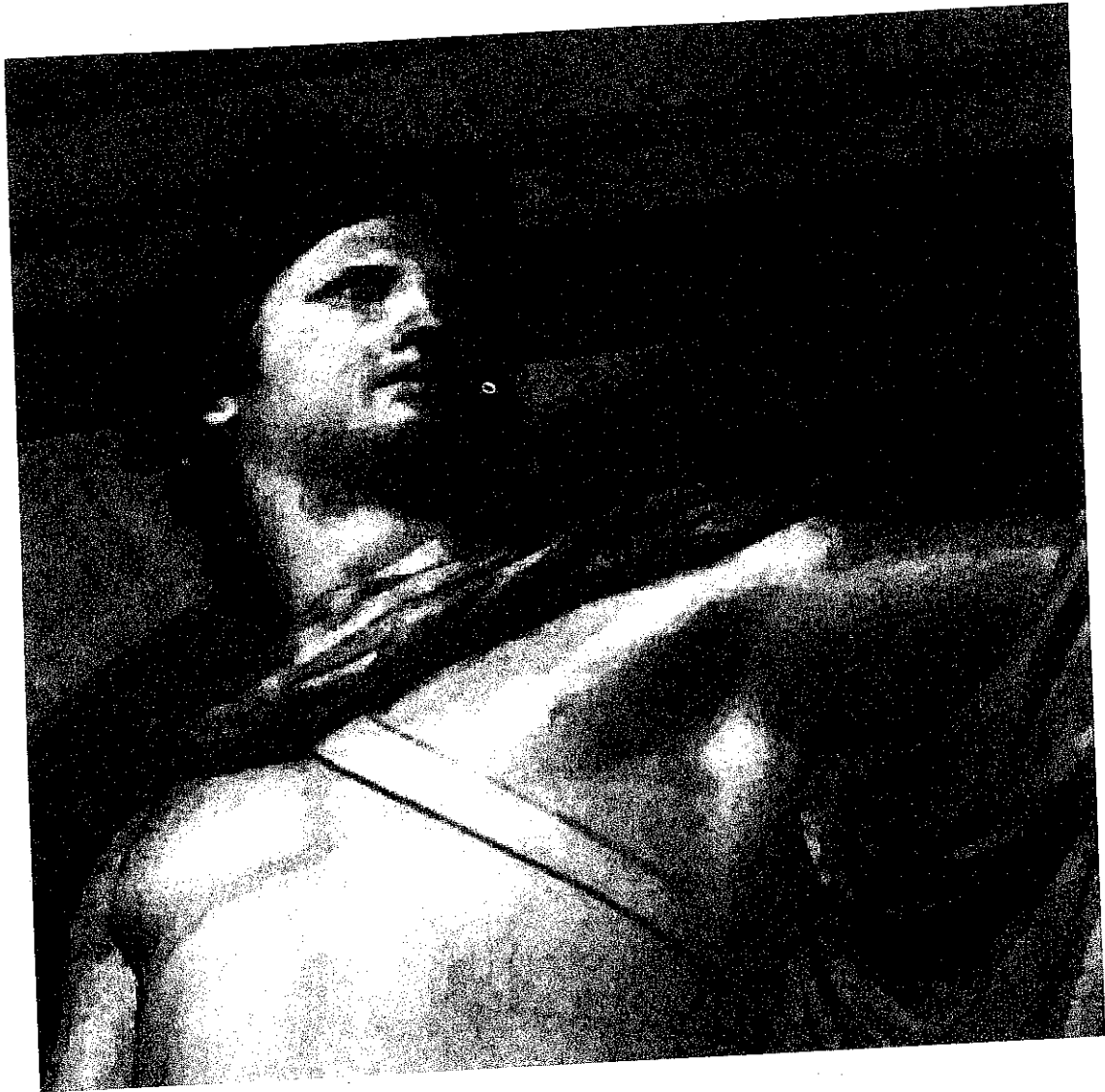
He was tormented _____ by morbid fantasies.

- a. dolefully
- b. inexorably
- c. ostentatiously
- d. indolently

3. From Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*

He was weak, _____ weak.

- a. dolefully
- b. ostentatiously
- c. indolently
- d. inexorably



Caesar's Usage

One of the secrets of advanced vocabulary is knowing how to alter words in order to use them as different parts of speech. Pick one example from each column below, and write a good sentence using it.

<u>noun</u>	<u>adjective</u>	<u>verb</u>	<u>adverb</u>
ostentation	ostentatious	-	ostentatiously
-	inexorable	-	inexorably
sublimity	sublime	-	sublimely
-	tremulous	-	tremulously
indolence	indolent	-	indolently
allusion	-	allude	-
-	doleful	-	dolefully

Caesar's Sesquipedalian Story

Work on the aqueduct had stopped. The odious sun burned down on the somber workers, prostrate on the grass, and the typical vivacious alacrity of their countenances was replaced by a doleful determination to do no more. It wasn't that they were indolent; rather, they were apprehensive—they had incurred a surfeit of tragedy, as today another worker had fallen from the third tier of the aqueduct, suffered acute injuries and odious dislocations, and infected the crew with an implacable insistence that more scaffolding be raised. Without more scaffolding, the accidents would continue inexorably.

There was no clamor. The stoneworkers made no audible complaint, no derisive retort or ostentatious show of discontent; there was no manifest insurrection, but a surreal serenity pervaded the atmosphere, giving an almost grotesque character to the scene. The supposed benevolent altruism of the engineers was contradicted by the profoundly condescending attitude they took with the workers, and despite the engineers' profuse expressions of concern, there was a prodigious problem, unless plans for new scaffolding were announced.

Review for Cumulative Quiz

com	together	intra	within
cent	one hundred	ad	to
fer	carry	vita	life
vid	look	pater	father
matri	mother	pop	people
loco	place	sur	over
alter	other	contra	against
stell	star	placate	to appease
derision	ridicule	vivacious	full of life
procure	to acquire	retort	a quick, witty reply
audible	able to be heard	benevolent	charitable
somber	gloomy	prostrate	lying flat
profuse	abundant	ostentatious	showy
inexorable	inevitable	indolent	lazy
doleful	mournful	alacrity	eagerness

Caesar's English
Word Poster

ostentatious

showy

The sheriff came through,
ostentatiously leading
Potter by the arm.

- Mark Twain

Tom Sawyer

ostentatious
ostentoso
OSTENTARE