

## 2-Putting Together/Taking Apart

Words about combining or separating: The word "dichotomy" (dye KOT oh mee) comes to us from the I Greek and means "the division into two contradictory parts." It belongs here because most of the words in this chapter make up a dichotomy between grouping things together or dividing them into distinct parts or dispersing them in many different directions.

1. **amalgamation** (ah MAL gam AY shun) This noun, which may have come to us from the Arabic, means "to mix or combine into a unified whole." The verb form is "to amalgamate."
  - The new poetry anthology in Ms. Van Meer's ninth grade English class contains an **amalgamation** of poets from Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.
  - Tired of the disorganized array of papers on his desk, Mr. Candis asked his secretary to **amalgamate** them and put them in a file labeled "Desk Papers."
  
2. **admixture** (ad MIX churl) This noun means the same as "mixture" and - comes from the Latin meaning "mix with." There is no verb form except "mix."
  - Charlotte confronted the prospect of graduating from college and moving to New York with an **admixture** of anxiety, sadness, and excitement.
  - The recipe for Leonore's chocolate cake involves adding sugar, eggs, and sour cream to an **admixture** of flour, baking powder, and cocoa.
  
3. **eclectic** (ek LEK tikl) From the Greek word for "select," this adjective means "made up from a variety of sources: The noun form is "eclecticism."
  - Global Crossings, the new shop on the corner of Maple and Elm Streets, sells an **eclectic** mix of Far Eastern home furnishings, Latin American folk art, and Native American jewelry.
  - . A musician known for his **eclecticism**, Smiling Lemon Hawkins has included jazz, pop, and folk tunes on his new CD.
  
4. **catholic** (CATH lik) With a lower case "c," this adjective has nothing to do with religion. It means "comprehensive" or "of broad scope" and comes from the Old French word for "universal."
  - "We are hoping Carolyn Blink's new novel will have a **catholic** appeal since it is about finding love and doing meaningful work," said the publisher. "Everybody is interested in that."
  - The topics for the school's weekly chapel talks are meant to be **catholic** in scope, covering any issues that are of interest to the student body, whether they are intellectual, spiritual, or emotional.

- 5. motley** (MOT lee) Like eclectic, this adjective means "composed of a variety of sources:' A good synonym is "heterogeneous:' It comes from the Middle English word for "variegated cloth;' which explains its other meaning- "having many colors:'
- Seated at the bar in the newly gentrified neighborhood was a **motley** assortment of students, day laborers, and trendy urbanites in search of a hip, new hangout.
  - Harlequins are famous for dressing in **motley** to amuse their audiences; their patchwork clothing is usually accompanied by oddly shaped hats and boots with bells on them.
- 6. corroborate** (cor ROB or ate) This verb means "to bring in new evidence to strengthen or support an idea or argument. The noun form is "corroboration:'
- Naomi's accusation of theft was given further credence after Leopold, who had witnessed the crime as well, **corroborated** her story.
  - Urban legends are seldom accepted as truth because there is rarely a third party to **corroborate** these tales.
- 7. asunder** (ah SUN der) We move to the "taking apart" portion of this chapter with this adverb, which literally means "apart" or "into separate pieces:' It is only used to describe *how* something is done.
- Charlene was dismayed to find that her brother Nickolai had destroyed her Cabbage Patch doll, tearing **asunder** its arms and legs and scattering them in the yard.
  - Part of the traditional wedding ceremony that comes from *The Book of Common Prayer* includes the words: "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put **asunder.**"
- 8. diaspora** (dye ASS por ah) This noun comes to us from the Greek word for "dispersion:' With a capital "D;' it refers to "the dispersion of the Jews from the sixth century B.C., when they were exiled to Babylonia, to the present time:' It may also be used, however, to refer to any "dispersion of a people from their original homeland" or any "dispersion of a language or culture:'
- The violence and persecution of the Jews during World War II continued **Diaspora** that led many Jews to settle not only in the United States Latin America as well.
  - There was a great **diaspora** of Europeans to New York's lower east! the turn of the twentieth century; Italian, Polish, and Irish immigrants arrived in droves to seek opportunities for a better life.

**9. cleave** (KLEEV) Interestingly, this verb has two opposite meanings. On one hand, it means "to split" or "to cut" or "penetrate." The noun for "cleft;" and the past tense is "clove." On the other hand, it means "to stick to" or "to be faithful to." In this case, the past tense is "cleaved"

- Iago put a **cleft** in Othello's relationship with Desdemona by convincing the jealous Moor that she was engaging in an extramarital affair.
- As the hurricane grew more forceful, blowing over trees and knocking ( power lines, the children in the tall apartment building **cleaved** to mother and cried out in terror.

**10. disseminate** (dis EM in ate) The verb comes from the Latin for "to sow. It means "to scatter widely" or "to disperse" as in "sowing seed:"

- In her work *My Fight for Birth Control*, Margaret Sanger describes her struggle to provide birth control information, which was illegal to **disseminate** in early part of the twentieth century.
- In order to discourage cigarette smoking, the American Cancer Soc **disseminates** information on lung cancer and heart disease on their web and through printed pamphlets distributed in doctors' offices throughout country.