

**VOCABULARY LESSON 4**

**Directions:** Complete the following exercises on your own. Use context clues from the following sentences to match the **bold** words with the proper definition. Write neatly, spell words correctly, and complete each section.

- Because I found the story so interesting, I **imbibed** every single word the author wrote; I just wanted to take everything that he had to say.
- As a teacher, I get tired of having to **reiterate** everything that I say over and over. I wish students would just listen the first time I say something!
- It was apparent from the crystal chandeliers, the expensive dinner, and all of the fancy decorations that the host family was fairly **affluent**.
- I think we can all agree that when we were children we accepted the **stipend** our parents gave us for chores, but as we got older, we expected a larger allowance.
- Mike was the only **novice** firefighter on call that night, therefore, he felt a little bit nervous about how he would perform compared to the experienced men.
- Melissa’s stories are always so exciting, that it is hard not to **embellish** my own so that they don’t seem to plain and boring.
- I enjoyed the **brevity** of the meeting, especially since I had anticipated being there the entire day!
- Sam is normally so **philistine** that I was quite shocked when she actually showed some interest in going to the art museum.
- Looking through my family’s old photo album made me very **nostalgic** for the days when my siblings and I woke up before the sun for Santa’s presents; now that we are all teenagers, we sleep as late as we can!
- When we hear someone talking about a “gold-digger,” we automatically think that it refers to a woman, but this **connotation** is not necessarily true; men can be after women’s money, too!

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
	noun	An inexperienced person; a beginner
	Noun/adj	A person who is insensitive to the arts or to ideas OR lacking in culture; boorish
	Noun	The suggested, or implied, meaning of a word, not its strict literal meaning; an idea or feeling associated with the word
	adjective	Having a longing for things past
	Noun	Fixed or regular pay; a salary or allowance
	Adjective	Wealthy, abundant, plentiful
	Verb	To restate; to repeat
	verb	To decorate or adorn; to improve a story by adding details, even false ones
	noun	Briefness of duration; shortness; the quality of being concise or to the point
	Verb	To drink; to drink in or absorb; to take in with the mind and keep ( as in ideas or principles )

Use each of the vocabulary words to complete the sentences below.

1. Today, admiring critics \_\_\_\_\_ the words of praise that critics in Thurber's own time applied to his work.
2. Though the New Yorker was regarded as a magazine for the upper class, Thurber's humor appealed to people from all walks of life—not just an \_\_\_\_\_, sophisticated audience.
3. Bewildered by the modern world, Thurber's characters often display \_\_\_\_\_ longing for a simpler way of life.
4. Thurber, who wrote very short prose pieces, believed that \_\_\_\_\_ was essential to an effective style.
5. Having worked as a reporter for the Columbus Dispatch, Thurber was no \_\_\_\_\_ when he began writing for the New Yorker.
6. Like any skilled writer, he would choose words carefully for their \_\_\_\_\_ as well as their literal meanings.
7. Thurber was never a snob about literature; he valued popular writing, such as comic strips and dime-store novels, which literary critics might dismiss as \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Thurber often told about real-life people and events, though he may have been guilty of \_\_\_\_\_, or adding on, for effect.
9. Many writers must struggle to earn a living, but Thurber lived comfortably on the \_\_\_\_\_ he received from the New Yorker and the royalties of his books.
10. Comedy lovers \_\_\_\_\_ his hilarious tales as they might drink down a delightful refreshment.
11. At age seven, Thurber had an accident that left him blind in one eye. \_\_\_\_\_ for the sports he could no longer play, he satisfied his need for adventure by dreaming up stories.
12. As an adult writer, Thurber often \_\_\_\_\_ the theme of a sensitive daydreamer at odds with the dull realities of everyday life. We see this theme again and again in his stories.
13. His rich imagination helped him \_\_\_\_\_ his experiences by adding details to create artful, humorous fiction.
14. In Thurber's famous story, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," the main character is an expert at fanciful thoughts but a \_\_\_\_\_ at practical tasks.
15. Driving past a hospital, Mitty imagines he is a brilliant doctor who saves the life of a millionaire. But just as he's about to operate on his \_\_\_\_\_ patient, a parking lot attendant yells at him for driving in the wrong lane.
16. The humor lies in the forced \_\_\_\_\_ of Mitty's fantasies, which always end abruptly just when reality intrudes.
17. Deprived of excitement in his own life, Mitty secretly \_\_\_\_\_ melodrama, like a sponge soaking up water.
18. He is bullied by his practical wife, whom he seems to regard as \_\_\_\_\_, that is, insensitive to his unrefined nature.
19. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" was published more than fifty years ago, but to this day the name Walter Mitty has the \_\_\_\_\_ of a hopeless dreamer.
20. Thurber's stories show an easy familiarity with the clichés of popular movies. Perhaps the young Thurber, like many children, spends the few coins that made up his weekly \_\_\_\_\_ on Saturday matinees.