

THE WORD CONUNDRUM

JOKE BOOKLET

Volume 1

Building a versatile vocabulary through amusement.

by

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Dedication

To

Robin Huhn

who would vociferate one word after another to me
from her bubble filled bathtub.

Clean or not she is the love of my life.

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Introduction

I was functionally illiterate until I reached the tenth grade. At that time I was fifteen years old. Until that period I could read a few words, spell even fewer words and could not write at all. In fact, to this day, at the age of 57, I am only able to print, illegibly, the remnant of a trick I used to hide my inability to spell. In spite of my academic deficiencies which shadow me to this day, I acquired a fascination for words and their meanings . By the time I finished my second master's degree I accumulated somewhat of a Buckley-esque vocabulary. However, forging a comprehensive vocabulary took a great deal of time and work and a lot of tears. Often it was not fun.

Now, a college psychology professor and author of several books, I decided to create and encourage a fun, entertaining way of introducing new and interesting words into your vocabulary. To accomplish this I have authored *The Word Conundrum Joke Booklet*. In the *The Word Conundrum Joke Booklet* you will find words and ideas that will make you smile and facilitate the process of learning a new vocabulary.

The Word Conundrum Joke Booklet gives you the opportunity to become a wordsmith. Take the time to read each entry. Analyze what I have written. Some words may be of little challenge. Good for you. Others may stump you. Turn to the definition of each word that you can not delineate and commit the word to memory, all in the context of having a little fun.

Gary Solomon, MPH, M.S.W., Ph.D.

How to use this Book

The most important process in working through the conundrums on each page is to have fun. If you have fun while learning the various new words and concepts you will tend to commit the word meanings to long term memory. Additionally, you will begin to apply the words in your every day conversation. Here's how to use: *The Word Conundrum Joke Booklet*.

Each page contains a series of short sentences. In some cases there is only one sentence. The sentence(s) may contain some words that are unfamiliar to you. However, there are always clues on each page to help you unravel the conundrums. Spend a few moments on each page working out the various meanings. If you are unable to solve the conundrum, simply turn the page.

On the back of each page you are reading is a page called: Understanding the Puzzle. Read through the explanation. As you are reading the word meanings, flip the page back and forth and review what you have previously read. Once you have an understanding of the meaning of each word go back to original page and reread the conundrum while applying what you have learned from the, Understanding the puzzle page. Use your new understanding to completely comprehend each conundrum. By the time you are done you too will be on your way to being a wordsmith. Remember: Have fun.

Word Conundrums

1.

A necromancer walks into a candle store.

She looks up at a kaleidoscopic display of

candles and announces to the sales person:

“I want one of those.” Looking up, the sales clerk asks her:

“Witch one do you want?”

With a smirk she replies, “I’ll have the one from Glubbubdrib.”

1.

Understanding the Puzzle



Necromancer is a witch, sorcerer, magician.

Kaleidoscopic is psychedelic, colorful, multicolored.

Witch makes reference to necromancer.

Witch should semantically be spelled, which.

Glubbudrib comes from Jonathan Swift's, Gullivar's Travels,

and is the home of the necromancers.

It may be of interest to note that, necromancer is usually applied to being a male.

2.

It's final examination day and the professor poses the following:

Prestidigitator and legerdemainist; compare and/or contrast.

One student gives the following answer:

This is a trick question.

The professor awards the student full credit for the answer.

2.

Understanding the Puzzle



Prestidigitator is a magician, illusionist or trickster.

Legerdemainist is a magician, illusionist or trickster.

Trick question—referrers to both prestidigitator and legerdemainist
having the same definition.

3.

Shopping in the men's department, Jordan, a solicitor, said:

"I need some new underwear. What do you think of these briefs?"

His friend replied, "They're a little laconic don't you think?"

3.

Understanding the Puzzle



In this case, *briefs* has two meanings:

Brief is a short, snug style of underwear;

brief relates to being a legal document, as in a legal brief.

A *solicitor* is a lawyer, one who writes and uses legal briefs.

Laconic also has two meanings:

brief and to the point as in a short legal brief;

short as in short underwear.

4.

The meek, mild mannered masochist turns to the sadist

who is dawning a sardonic grin and says,

“Beat me”.

Mrs Sardonicous looks him straight in the eyes and says,

“No!”.

4.

Understanding the Puzzle



A *masochist* enjoys receiving pain.

They often take a role of being meek and mild.

Dawning means appearing, emerging, looming.

A *sadist* enjoys inflicting pain on those who are masochistic.

A ...*sardonic grin* is a smile that is sarcastic, mocking, cynical.

Mr Sardonicous plays on the word, sardonic, implying that he is all sardonic.

When Mr Sardonicous says, *No!* to the masochist's request to *beat me*, the act of saying, *No* is a sadistic act.

5.

The news reported the following event:

Regarding the bifurcation of the Siamese twins, the surgeons decided to perform the operation in stages, splitting the procedure into two.

5.

Understanding the Puzzle



Bifurcation divides entities into two.

Siamese and twins is redundant; they repeat each other. They also reflect on

bifurcation and divide, again a repeat.

In this case, ...*splitting the procedure in two* refers to each other and is also refers

to bifurcate, divide, Siamese, twins.

All the key words in the statement are therefore refer to each other.

6.

At first she thought it was an illusion; a mere aberration.

Then she thought it was a hallucination; some kind of an apparition.

But as it turned out it was actually the verisimilitude.

6.

Understanding the Puzzle



An *illusion* is an aberration, abnormality, freak distortion.

A *hallucination* is an apparition, chimera, delusion, ghost.

Verisimilitude is in fact authentic, real, plausible.

In this case verisimilitude neutralizes illusion and hallucination
making both a reality.

7.

At the definition contest, Jerilyn was unable to define, “conflagration”.

So, Jerilyn came in second place. She said: “As far as I’m concerned the contest was a catastrophe.”

7.

Understanding the Puzzle



Jerilyn, in fact, defined *conflagration* when she said,

...the contest was a catastrophe.

Conflagration means catastrophe, holocaust, destruction.

8.

During the interview, the English professor was queried:

“What do you think is the mother of all oxymorons?”

“I’ll have to brainstorm that one,” he snickered.

8.

Understanding the Puzzle



Queried is to question, examine, probe.

An *oxymoron* is the conjoining of contradictory terms, i.e.,

big shrimp; little big man.

Brainstorm is often applied to mean a sudden, brilliant idea. However, it also

means a crazy idea or notion; absurd in nature.

Therefore, although *brainstorm* is one word, it is supremely conjoined and

contrary; the word is a paradox in meanings.

9.

The customer said, “I’ll have the barbeque chicken, baked beans, french fries,

onion rings

and, oh, a scoop of slough,” the customer announced.

“That’s a bite of a quagmire you’ve ordered,” replied the waitress.

9.

Understanding the Puzzle



This one is a real twisting of semantics and is a little twisted.

Slough is often mispronounced, slaw. Slaw is a food; a type of salad. Therefore,

slough is semantically incorrect in the context of the food order.

Slough is the dead part which separates from living tissue, such as

skin shed from a snake.

The reader would expect the waitress to use the word

bit not *bite* in the context of her sentence.

Bite means scrape or part off.

Scrape means skin, shave, peel and modifies the meaning of slough.

Quagmire means bog, quicksand, mire. It also means slough.

Therefore, slough, quagmire and bite make sense in context.

10.

He said, "It's entropic, not syntropic".

She said, "It's syntropic, not entropic".

A voice from the audience vociferated, "Why does it matter?"

One way or the other, it's all actualism."

10.

Understanding the Puzzle



Entropic may mean the movement towards the end such as a town that becomes a ghost town; the town is eventually dead.

Syntropic may mean the movement from the beginning such as a ghost town that becomes inhabited by wildlife that heretofore was not in the town; the town begins to come alive.

Voice refers *vociferate* meaning shout, scream, yell.

Actualism is a doctrine that reality is animate or in motion.

Therefore, our vociferating audience member expresses frustration over the rhetoric being expressed about entropic verses syntropic.

11.

“Well, you seem like a very nice couple. Let me introduce myself.

My name is Palindrome from Akasaka. Who are you?”

“I’m Bob. This is my wife, Anna. We’re from Arrawarra.

We’re here to visit my mom and dad.”

11.

Understanding the Puzzle



A *palindrome* is a word or phrase that reads the same backwards and forwards.

Therefore, Akasaka, Bob, Anna, Arrawarra, mom and dad are all palindromes.

Akasaka is a district in Chuo, Tokyo.

Arrawarra is a town in coastal New South Wales, Australia.

12.

During the awards dinner, Lord Marx, a philanthropist, avid numismatist and philatelist, stated,

“Giving is my life, to coin a phrase. I am honored to receive a stamp of approval for my efforts.”

12.

Understanding the Puzzle



A philanthropist is one who makes donations for the good of mankind.

A numismatist is a coin collector.

A philatelist is a stamp collector.

...to coin a phrase makes reference to a numismatist.

... stamp of approval for my efforts makes reference to a philatelist and
acknowledges the efforts of a philanthropist.

13.

Two boxers enter into a boxing match. The second boxer is a pugilist who happens to be a prestidigitator and a pragmatist.

The first boxer is knocked out cold.

He is interviewed after he wakes up and reports the following:

“The punch felt like it came from nowhere. I must admit,
it was very well thought out.”

13.

Understanding the Puzzle



A *pugilist* is a boxer; a fist fighter.

A *prestidigitator* is a magician, legerdemainist, trickster.

A *pragmatist* is a person who takes a practical approach to problems; one who is logical; one who is a thinker.

The punch felt like it came from nowhere makes reference to the prestidigitator.

...very well thought out makes reference to the pragmatist.

14.

As the paradigm streamed up the runway, one of the onlookers noted,

“She’s quite the roll model isn’t she?”

14.

Understanding the Puzzle



A paradigm is a model, example, ideal.

...streamed up the runway makes reference to a model walking a runway.

She's refers to paradigm, which is semantically incorrect;

she should refer to model.

Roll refers to streamed.

Roll is semantically incorrect and should be spelled, role.

Model refers to paradigm and she

15.

After speaking to the Altruist Consortium Alliance about
himself for three hours and forty-five minutes,
the narcissist pronounced, “Enough about me. Let’s hear from all of you.
What do you think of me?”

15.

Understanding the Puzzle



An *altruist* is a good Samaritan, one who gives to others.

Consortium is a league, trust, cartel.

Alliance refers to *consortium* meaning league, organization, group.

A *narcissist* is someone who is only interested in himself or herself;

an egoist; a braggart.

What do you think of me?, makes reference to the self centered narcissist.

Note: pronounced and announced may mean the same.

16.

While on the campaign trail, the sel-proclaimed

egosyntonic politician evangelized:

“I’m not a gambler; never have been; never will be. I’ll make bet on that.”

16.

Understanding the Puzzle



Egosyntonic is acting and behaving in a manner consistent with ones philosophical beliefs.

Evangelize is to lecture, preach, moralize.

Evangelized makes reference to egosyntonic.

I'm not a gambler; never have been; never will be; I'll make bet on that, is a paradox of the meaning of egosyntonic. In reality, he is being egodystonic: behaving in a manner inconsistent with ones philosophical beliefs.

17.

“So you think he’s a big shot”, he snorted at her.

“Well, let me tell you something. I’m six times the man he is.”

Attempting to affirm his swagger, she said,

“Now that makes you precisely ‘brobdingnagian’ doesn’t it?”

17.

Understanding the Puzzle



Brobdingnagian is huge, colossal, gigantic; of extraordinary height.

...*big shoot*, makes reference to brobdingnagian.

I'm six times the man he is., makes reference to brobdignagian.

As defined in the original text by Jonathan Swift in Gullivar's Travels, one who is brobdingnagian is six times the normal height of other people.

18.

One rock says to another rock,

“You’re looking quite anthropomorphic today.”

18.

Understanding the Puzzle



An *anthropomorphic* quality gives human characteristics to animals and inanimate objects.

There is no question that rocks are not human.

19.

The oral masturbation of the interlocutor's intercourse was introspective.

19.

Understanding the Puzzle



The oral masturbation, makes reference to conversation rather than sexual gratification.

An *interlocutor* takes part in a conversation; s/he is the oral masturbator.

Intercourse makes a sexual reference to oral masturbator, but in this case references conversation.

Introspective is thoughtful and meditative. It makes reference to the state of mind of the interlocutor.

20.

All who were present were mirthful. When they heard that
cachinnate was an anti-onomatopoeia,
everyone began to laugh.

Understanding the Puzzle



Mirthful is jubilant, happy, hilarious, much laughter.

Cachinnate is to laugh loudly and in an unrestrained way; it refers to mirthful.

An *onomatopoeia* is a word that sounds like what it is; bam, bang, boom, etc.

An anti-*onomatopoeia* sounds just the opposite of what it is like, *cachinnate*.

...everyone began to laugh reflects *cachinnate* and mirthful,

which is also an anti-*onomatopoeia*.

(Note: There is no current definition for anti-*onomatopoeia*. However, there may

be a reference after the publication of this book.)

21.

“Say, I’ll tell you what. Back in the 60’s a lot of them were
wearing those aphorisms.”

“I know. I seen’um. And dat’s the truth.”

21.

Understanding the Puzzle



An *aphorism* is a truth, motto, slogan.

In the '60's many T-shirts had sayings and slogans of the day.

The tradition is maintained to this day.

22.

They all sailed on the ample ship, Copious . A bountiful vessel, it was the most extravagant, lavish and luxuriant frigate in the whole fleet. When the boat sailed from the dock it was full, overflowing with excited passengers.

22.

Understanding the Puzzle



Copious is the key word characterized in this puzzle.

Ample, bountiful, extravagant, luxuriant, full all mean Copious.

Additionally, ship, vessel and frigate are all the same.

23.

It was well known by the entire medical staff that Dr. Little always preferred that nurse Glumdalclitch attend to his patients.

23.

Understanding the Puzzle



Glumdalclitch is, *little nurse*.

Glumdalclitch comes from Gullivar's Travels.

24.

Once they recovered it from its sequestered berth, the investigators found the occult epistle to be cryptic.

24.

Understanding the Puzzle



Sequestered means hidden, secluded, occult.

Cryptic means secret, puzzling, mysterious.

Cryptic, *occult* and *sequestered* are redundant to each other.

Berth means position, moorage, space.

Epistle is a message, letter, note.

25.

Terpsichore is, how shall we say, a little light on his feet.

25.

Understanding the Puzzle



Terpsichore is the taking of rhythmical steps or movements in time with the music. One may be a terpsichorean.

Terpsichore was the Greek muse of dancing.

Therefore, terpsichore is modified by the phrase, ... *a little light on his feet*.

One who is ...*a little light on his feet* may be stereotyped as Gay.

Therefore, ...*how shall we say*

may make reference to, Terpsichore's sexual orientation.

It would be surprising and unusual for someone to be named Terpsichore.

26.

Once upon a time there was a wealthy epicurean who was also an equestrian. She gave a lavish dinner party with a center piece in the shape of an Appaloosa made entirely of blue cheese. The rest of the aesthetes attending the party commented that the centerpiece was surely a horse of a different color.

26.

Understanding the Puzzle



An *epicurean* is one who enjoys fine eating; a gourmet.

An *equestrian* is one who engages in horsemanship

...*lavish dinner party* makes reference to an epicurean's taste in dinner events.

An *Appaloosa* is a breed of horse.

Appaloosa makes reference to equestrian.

Aesthetes references an epicurean and connoisseur.

...*horse of a different color* makes reference to Appaloosa

and the color of blue cheese.

27.

“I’m telling you for the last time, the corpus delicti is not a body of evidence. I mean, it is the body of evidence, but it is not a body-of-evidence. Now as far as I’m concerned this subject is dead.”

27.

Understanding the Puzzle



Corpus delicti is the total body of evidence in a legal case which may include as part of the evidence, an actual body.

...*subject is dead* makes reference to a body submitted as part of the corpus delicti.

28.

“Hear me loud and clear, if I’ve told you once I’ve told you a thousand times:

earregardless is not a word. You’re just not listening. It isn’t apropos”.

28.

Understanding the Puzzle



Hear me loud and clear... makes reference to the ear in *earregardless*.

Many people think that irregardless--here it is misspelled earregardless--is a word.

In fact, irregardless is always a misspelled word because it is not a word.

Therefore, saying that irregardless is misspelled is a contradiction in terms.

Therefore, irregardless is not apropos, meaning,

it is not appropriate, fitting, applicable.

The correct word is always *regardless*.

29.

“Obtuse! Bovine! You think I’m being phlegmatic?

Alright, I’ll come at this from a different angle.”

29.

Understanding the Puzzle



Something that is *obtuse* is at an angle; one may come to a *point* by taking an obtuse perspective; one may be obtuse in their conversation.

Bovine is obtuse, angle, dull.

To be *phlegmatic* is in fact to be obtuse, bovine, dull.

Therefore, ...*a different angle* makes reference to obtuse, bovine, phlegmatic.

30.

Her name was Diluvian. She was Sir Bryan's great aunt. Most people respectfully called her Antediluvian, the matriarch of the family.

30.

Understanding the Puzzle



Great aunt makes reference to *antediluvian*, a patriarch, matriarch, elder.

Antediluvian refers to the time before the biblical flood. Therefore, Antediluvian

is anything occurring a long time ago

31.

“Class, I don’t want to get into a debate over this test question.

The query was straightforward: Define malapropism.

You either get full credit or no credit. Being partialistic is not an option.”

31.

Understanding the Puzzle



Malapropism is an unintentional misuse of a word that sounds like a similar word; sounds like it should be a word.

...not an option makes reference to Partialistic which is not a word.

Partialistic comes from the word, partial. Partialistic is a malapropism.

32.

“I agree. He is mercurial, capricious to say the least. But Leonard, there is no use getting temperamental over him. It’s not like you to be so volatile.”

32.

Understanding the Puzzle



Mercurial and *capricious* both make reference to temperamental and volatile.

Mercurial and *capricious* additionally mean unpredictable, unstable, erratic.

33.

“So I’m an agnostic. Big deal. So I’m an atheist. What of it?

Enough of this conversation.

Now, for God’s sake, pass the mustard.”

33.

Understanding the Puzzle



Agnostic is godless, irreligious, atheist.

The Agnostic says I'll believe there is a God when you prove there is a God

Atheist is a unbeliever, heretic, agnostic.

The atheist says there is no good.

...*for God's sake* is a contradiction to agnostic and atheistic beliefs.

34.

“There is no question”, the news release recapitulated,

His comportment was nefarious.

However, another newscaster questioned the report. She echoed that, in fact,

“His behavior was simply abominable.”

34.

Understanding the Puzzle



Recapitulated is narrated, summarized, restated.

Comportment means behavior, conduct, demeanor.

Nefarious is wicked, abhorrent, infamous.

Echoed refers to recapitulated.

Abominable is deplorable, reprehensible, atrocious.

Both nefarious and abominable have the same definition.

35.

The entire tribe knew it was taboo to even glance in the direction of
their Queen, Anathema.

For if they dare to masquerade a gaze at Anathema,
a curse would befall them, a result of their counter sacrosanct gesticulation.

35.

Understanding the Puzzle



The Queen's name, *Anathema*, means taboo, curse, abomination.

To *masquerade* is to disguise, pose, fake.

Gaze modifies ... *look in her direction*.

...*curse would befall* makes reference to Queen Anathema.

Counter is rebuttal, retaliate, oppose.

Sacrosanct is divine, holy, sacred.

Therefore, *sacrosanct* makes reference to Anathema.

Gesticulation is action, motion, gesture.

.... *counter sacrosanct gesticulation* suggests an action that is not a holy gesture.

36.

“Listen, I don’t want to be overly theatrical about this, but...

I said I am a thespian, not a lesbian. Now, let’s get back to having a gay old
time.”

36.

Understanding the Puzzle



A *thespian* is one who is an actor, performer, artist.

...*overly theatrical* references one who is a thespian.

Lesbian and thespian can be a bit confusing as one listens to the words.

...*gay old time* makes reference to a lesbian. It also refers to someone who is

happy or jubilant.

Lesbians are female homosexuals. An individual who is gay is often noted as a

male homosexual.

37.

“I said, frankincense. Bring me some frankincense! But, Dr. Frankenstein, that doesn’t mean that I’m not pleased that my assistant brought you to me. Now, if you don’t mind I’m going to get on with the entombing.”

37.

Understanding the Puzzle



Frankincense is a resin burned as incense, often in religious rites.

Dr. Frankenstein is the doctor who created the Monster in Mary Shelly's book,
Frankenstein.

Frankincense makes reference to the Monster created from body parts that were
embalmed; frankincense may be used for embalming.

Entombing is to entomb, to bury, which may require frankincense.

(Note: Many people make the mistake of thinking that the doctor created a
monster named Frankenstein. This is incorrect. The Doctor who created the
Monster was named, Dr. Frankenstein. The monster's name was, Monster.)

38.

Evita told her friend, Argentina, that she, Evita, was reincarnated.

Argentina's tears began to flow.

She said, "Don't cry for me, Argentina. I never felt more alive."

38.

Understanding the Puzzle



Evita makes reference to Eva Paron, icon of Argentina.

Reincarnate means to bring back to life; to live once again.

Argentina's tears began to flow actually makes reference to the world view

that all of Argentina cried over the death of Eva Paron.

I never felt more alive makes reference to reincarnation.

39.

The reporter stated the following: “In good health, the defendant arrived at the courthouse on his own zealous Accord.”

A later news release stated:

“He was ebullient on top of a Honda that he owned.”

39.

Understanding the Puzzle



Zealous is exuberant, enthusiastic, lively.

Accord means agreement, concordance, consent.

Ebullient is zealous, vital, effervescent.

Honda makes a model of car called, The Accord.

40.

“I tell you”, she touted. “This legislative proposal is odoriferous”.

“That’s what you say,” he proclaimed.

“As far as I’m concerned the whole thing stinks.”

40.

Understanding the Puzzle



Touted is to proclaim, extol, announce.

Odoriferous means giving off an odor.

Odoriferous also means morally offensive

which makes reference to the legislation.

... *the whole thing stinks* makes reference to odoriferous.

41.

“If I’ve said it once, I’ve said it a thousand times. I’ve told you over and over and over again. Why do I have to repeat myself time and time again?

This is the last time I’m going tell you.

You are pedantic.”

41.

Understanding the Puzzle



Pedantic means preachy, dogmatic, hypercritical.

Accusing someone of being pedantic having made this previous statement of course makes the accusers pedantic.

42.

He was prepared for the ablution of his soul.

But the priest said before he laid his hands on him
that he would have to take a bath.

42.

Understanding the Puzzle



Ablution means bath, cleansing, washing.

...*take a bath* makes reference to bathing the body, not the soul.

43.

Standing under the shower she was
inundated with a plethora of imperturbable
water.

43.

Understanding the Puzzle



Shower makes reference to washing oneself.

Shower also makes reference to being inundated, deluged, bombarded.

Inundate means flood, drench, wash.

Therefore, there is a dual meaning of shower and inundated.

Plethora means inundate, shower, deluge.

Imperturbable means cool, calm, docile.

Water makes reference to inundated, shower and plethora.

44.

The trucker was truculent

and

Bela Lugosi was bellicose

and

The Pug was pugnacious

and

Petula was petulant

but...

as far as everyone was concerned

the whole bunch of them were combative.

44.

Understanding the Puzzle



Truculent, bellicose, pugnacious, petulant all mean
combative, threatening, hostile.

45.

The old lion commanded the largest pride on the veldt

until he let his hubris get the better of him.

45.

Understanding the Puzzle



Commanded means controlled, ruled, claimed.

Pride in this case has two meanings: a group of lions is a pride.

Pride also means vanity, pomposity, narcissism.

The *veldt* is an elevated open grassland in southern Africa.

Hubris means arrogance, conceit, egotism.

Therefore, ... *hubris get the better of him* makes reference to

the loin's pride in himself and his pride of lions.

46.

The matriarch of Julius Caesar's family enters the Colosseum.

Approaching, the usher beseeches,

“In what precinct would you like to sit?”

Responding to his query she responds,

“The cesarean section of course.”

46.

Understanding the Puzzle



A matriarch is a parent, the female head of the family.

The Colosseum is in Roman. It's original name was, The Flavian Amphitheater.

Beseech means appeal, request, implore.

Precinct means area, section, zone.

Query is question, inquiry, interrogation.

A cesarean is a kind of birth were the baby is surgically
removed from the womb.

This medical process is referred to as a cesarean section.

Therefore, the matriarch selects the cesarean section.

Section modifies two words: cesarean and precinct.

(Note: There is a belief that the procedure, cesarean section, comes from the birth
of Julius Caesar; the origin of the word, cesarean comes from Caesar. Many
believe it is a myth.)

47.

“I can tell you equivocally, without exaggeration. He is a liar.

And that’s the truth.”

47.

Understanding the Puzzle



To say something *equivocally* is to be uncertain, vague, paradoxical.

The balance of the statement is a contraction in terms:

...without exaggeration is in fact an exaggeration.

He is a liar is a paradox to exaggeration.

...that's the truth is at best an uncertain statement.

48.

“He’s quite metaphysical, or at least that’s what they say. Although I must admit,
reference to him as been somewhat,
how shall I say... philosophically vague.”

48.

Understanding the Puzzle



Metaphysical is speculative, vague, theoretical; beyond perception.

... *philosophically vague* refers to metaphysical.

49.

While on his way home, Rob was despoiled. Upon entering his home his wife asked, "What held you up?"

49.

Understanding the Puzzle



Despoil means to loot, plunder, pillage.

Rob is the name of a male. Rob also means to despoil.

What held you up? makes reference to rob and despoil.

50.

When the faculty meeting ended, a confabulation began. One of the professors caterwauled, “Ladies. Gentleman. Must there be so much perfunctory conversation after such stimulating intercourse?”

50.

Understanding the Puzzle



Confabulation is communication, conversation, discussion.

Caterwaul is shout, bellow, bray.

Perfunctory is superficial, casual, halfhearted.

...*such stimulating intercourse* makes reference to the level of confabulation. It

has no connection to sexual activity.

51.

A linguistics' professor turned to her significant other and said,

“I could sure use a sabbatical.”

Happily, her partner reciprocated,

“Why don't we take a holiday?”

51.

Understanding the Puzzle



Linguistics means language, lingual, verbal; the study of human speech.

Sabbatical means furlough, respite, holiday.

Reciprocate is respond, counter, retort.

Why don't we take a holiday?, refers to sabbatical.

52.

His duplicitous circumlocutions were fraught with
deceit, trickery, mendacity and deception,
to enumerate a few.

52.

Understanding the Puzzle



Duplicitous means deceitful, trickery, mendacious deceptive.

Circumlocutions means ramble, divergent, verbose.

Fraught means full, laden, overflowing.

To *enumerate* means name, list, recite.

53.

In the middle of an argument, one says to the other,

“You are nothing more than an obsequious sycophant.”

Responding, the other snaps,

“Oh yeah, well you’re an ass kissing yes man.”

53.

Understanding the Puzzle



Obsequious means fawning, flattering, ingratiating.

Sycophant is refers to obsequious, but tends to have a stronger meaning such as

bootlicker and leech.

...*an ass kissing yes man* is refers to obsequious and sycophant.

54.

None of the competitors were doctors except one and she was a podiatrist, which gave her a foot up on the competition.

54.

Understanding the Puzzle



A *podiatrist* is a medical specialist whose practice focuses on the foot.

...*foot up on the competition* plays on a podiatrist's profession.

55.

M-stands for morphology.

O-stands for odious.

M-stands for mnemonic.

Now if Mom can't help you remember, then
try something more mean and less structured.

55.

Understanding the Puzzle



Morphology means structure, grammar, syntax.

Odious means repugnant, mean, hateful.

Mnemonic relates to the practice of aiding the memory.

Mom is a mnemonic device; M-O-M.

Mom may also be someone who is less mean and more structured as she relates to the definitions of morphology and odious.

56.

The school newspaper editorial read:

We are deeply concerned about nepotism in our college administration relative to any bias that may come from this kind of patronage.

56.

Understanding the Puzzle



An *editorial* is an article giving opinions or perspectives.

Nepotism is bias, favoritism, one-sidedness.

...*relative to any* has a double meaning: by comparison, relating to, parallel; it

also refers to family meaning nepotism, bias, patronage.

Bias is redundant to patronage and nepotism suggesting a leaning or a slant
towards someone or something.

Patronage is refers to nepotism, relative, bias.

The entire statement is about favoritism; it functions as a definition for all the
presenting terms.

57.

“Okay class. Let’s cut the racket.

Can anyone tell me a word that has four U’s in it?”

“Professor”, one student bellowed. “Could you repeat the question?”

The class is too tumultuous.”

57.

Understanding the Puzzle



Bellow means loud, wail, clamor; to shout or yell.

Bellowed refers to racket.

Tumultuous relates to racket and bellowed

means noisy, raucous, riotous.

Tumultuous answers the question, ...*tell me a word that has four U's in it.*

58.

Well fancy that, this guy says he's got a
propensity for proclivity and predilection.

58.

Understanding the Puzzle



Propensity means inclination, talent for, flair.

Proclivity and *predilection* are redundant to propensity, meaning bent, bias, affinity.

The sentence is a series of redundancies.

59.

“What can I get for you today?”, asked the waiter.”

“I’ll have a salad and the prime rib with a side of cornucopia.

In fact, I’m so hungry, bring me all you’ve got.”

59.

Understanding the Puzzle



...*side of cornucopia* suggests it is food because of the 'corn' in cornucopia.

Cornucopia means plenitude, bounty, abundance.

...*bring me all you've got* reflects on the meaning of cornucopia.

60.

The whole article was a scandal. Everyone was casting aspersions. As a result, the gossip was rampant; defamations led to ignominious assertions.

It was an outrage!

60.

Understanding the Puzzle



A scandal is an outrage, ignominy, disgrace.

Aspersions are scandalous, outrageous, slanderous.

Rampant means dominant, prevailing, epidemic.

Defamations are slanders, libels, slurs.

Ignominious is scandalous, degrading, shameful.

Assertions are statements, claims, remarks.

It was an outrage! is refers to
scandal, aspersions, defamations, and ignominious.

61.

Standing in the courtyard, the crowd of well wishers awaited the
announcement of the birth of the new queen.

“She is born,” the king yelled from the balcony.

“She has been christened, ‘Paean’.”

Excited to learn the news, the congregation chanted, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

61.

Understanding the Puzzle



Paeon means chant, hallelujah, anthem.

Chanted refers to paeon, hallelujah.

Hallelujah modifies paeon and chant; it also means ode, gloria, psalm.

62.

“Excuse me. Sir? Oh, sir? Yes. Thank you.

Can you point the way to the road to perdition.”

“Sure”, he replied. “Just go past the bottomless pit and take a right. But I’ve got to warn you, that place over there looks like Hell.”

62.

Understanding the Puzzle



Perdition is hades, hell, the abyss.

...*past the bottomless pit* is perdition.

...*looks like Hell* is, in fact, perdition.

63.

Sarah ponders, “I just don’t know what to say. I think the infraction is venial.”

“Insignificant I would think. She’s a minor, you know”, notes Randall.

63.

Understanding the Puzzle



Ponder means contemplate, think, cogitate.

Infraction is an encroachment, infringement, transgression.

Venial means trivial, trifling, minor.

Insignificant means irrelevant, meaningless, pointless.

Venial and insignificant mean the same thing.

She's a minor... means someone who is under age and

modifies venial and insignificant.

Minor is a play on the words, 'insignificant' and 'venial'.

64.

“I have to admit. I have a vice. It’s profligacy.

One day I will abandon it.”

64.

Understanding the Puzzle



In this case all terms have the same meaning *vice, profligacy, abandon*.

Additionally, they mean depravity, wickedness, corruption.

Note: An action conducted with abandon may be done

enthusiastically and exuberance.

65.

“You two are fortunate that I caught this faux pas. You both used the word serendipity in your commencement address.

That has to be more than a coincidence.”

65.

Understanding the Puzzle



To be fortunate is serendipitous.

Faux pas a socially awkward or tactless act; a blooper; a blunder.

Serendipity means luck, fortunate, coincidence.

Coincidence refers to serendipity and fortunate.

66.

“I don’t know what I’m going to do. After that last relationship

I feel emasculated”, lamented Doctor Michael.

“You can’t fix what’s been done”, lectured Doctor Simpson.

“Now, let’s sterilize and prepare for surgery.”

66.

Understanding the Puzzle



Emasculate means castrate, neuter, spay.

Lament is to moan, groan, grieve.

You can't fix what's been done makes reference to emasculate, but also means to

change back or correct. It also means, to doctor,

which reflects on our two doctors.

...sterilize and prepare for surgery means both fix and emasculate.

67.

“Mrs Beget. Do you think there are any negative effects to being referred to as chattel?”

67.

Understanding the Puzzle



Beget is effect, cause, make.

Beget makes reference to ... *any negative effects*.

Effect makes reference to chattel.

Chattel means possession, property, belongings.

68.

I think that concupiscence is one the sexiest words I've ever heard.

68.

Understanding the Puzzle



Concupiscence makes reference to ...*sexiest words*.

Concupiscence means lust, eroticism, sensuality.

69.

“Listen to what I’m saying. Fred goes from one hyperbole to the next.”

“Hey. I know Fred. Don’t you think you’re exaggerating a bit?”

69.

Understanding the Puzzle



One who speaks in *hyperbole* is in fact ...*exaggerating a bit*.

Hyperbole means embellishment, overstatement, exaggeration.

70.

“It’s the ideology.” “No, it’s the dogma.”

“I say ideology.” “And I say dogma”

“Ideology.” “Dogma.”

“Oh, believe whatever you want.”

70.

Understanding the Puzzle



One's *ideology* is his or her beliefs, philosophy, convictions.

Dogma means the same: creed, doctrine, teachings.

One's ideology is in fact one's dogma which makes reference to:

...believe whatever you want.

71.

“Hear the music in the background?,” one duck says to another.

“Let’s get down.”

71.

Understanding the Puzzle



Down is the soft inner feathers of ducks. The feathers are typically used in pillows and mattresses.

Let's get down is a colloquialism for:

let's dance; let's fight; let's get the job done.

A colloquialism is an expression or idiom.

72.

An artist complained, “The alloy is too difficult for me to transfigure.”

Her husband replied: “Just do your mettle, dear.”

72.

Understanding the Puzzle



Alloy is a mixture containing
two or more metallic elements, blends, compounds.

To *transfigure* is to change, mutate, transform.

To do one's *mettle* is to do ones best, have valor, have strength.

Now, if we spell *mettle*, metal, we have a reference to an alloy as in

'to do your metal'.

73.

The Mortis was the newest ship to be commissioned for the queen's fleet. The

Mortis was to be a solid, long and lean ship, the most taut in the sea.

Master rigor Jamison was contracted to rig the ship of sail. The entire town knew

Jamison would rigor Mortis.

73.

Understanding the Puzzle



Taut means ridged, stiff, firm. *Taut* refers to ...*solid*.

...*Master rigor* semantically should be, *Master rigger*, meaning

one who equips, gears, furnishes.

Contracted means employed, hired, undertaken.

Rigor mortis—using the name of the ship and the incorrect spelling of *rigger*,

means muscular stiffening that begins 2 to 4 hours after death,

lasting for about 4 days.

Rigor mortis also makes reference to *solid*, *long*, *lean*.

Finally, *contracted* makes reference to *undertaken* as what an undertaker would

do with a dead body that may be in a state of *rigor mortis*.

74.

It was Friday the 13th.

The super market was having a huge sale for Baker's Dozen Day.

Everyone took advantage of the price saving
except old Miss Triskaidekaphobia who said she felt a little skittish over taking a
profit from the savings.

74.

Understanding the Puzzle



A baker's dozen consists of thirteen items of baked goods.

Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number thirteen.

To be *skittish* is to be jumpy, nervous, fearful.

75.

Sally had a favorite little mouse. Well, there were four actually. Her minion mouse was named, Little Pusillanimous. All the mice were slightly yellow, but Pusillanimous was yellower than the rest.

75.

Understanding the Puzzle



Minion is a pet, inferior, toady.

Pusillanimous means lacking in courage, fearful, very little.

Little is a play on the Latin root of ‘pusil,’ which means,

little and references pusillanimous.

Yellow is a color, but also means pusillanimous, cowardly, chicken.

Chickens are sometimes yellow.

Pusillanimous, yellow and little all reinforce the idea of mousiness.

76.

The pull was widespread.

The solemnity and austerity barely materialize in the wake of the calamity.

None of them felt the mellifluous gravity of their omnipresent situation.

76.

Understanding the Puzzle



The pull was widespread makes reference to gravity.

Solemnity and *austerity* are redundant

meaning gravity, sobriety, reserve.

Materialize means show, take shape, appear.

Wake means path, watch, rise.

A wake may take place over a corpse before a burial.

A *calamity* is a disaster, catastrophe, tragedy as might be expected in a wake.

A calamity may have caused a death and result in a wake.

One may go to a wake in light of a calamity.

Mellifluous means full, rich, flowing.

Omnipresent means ever present, pervasive, widespread.

In both senses of the word a wake can be omnipresent.

77.

They were nothing but a bunch of intemperate country bumpkins yelling,

“Yahoo, yahoo,” as they savaged one bar after another.

77.

Understanding the Puzzle



Intemperate means drunken, intoxicated, excessive.

Yahoo plays on its dual meaning *country bumpkins* as well as a sound one makes

when expressing joy, jubilation, glee.

...*country bumpkins* are yahoos, hillbillies, oafs.

Note: Yahoo is a word from Gullivar's travels.

78.

My fear of Hell is that it would be nothing but repetition, ceaselessness, chattering, clockwork regularity, clone, conduplication, constancy, constant flow, continualness, continuance, continuation, continuity, copy, copying, counterfeiting, counterpart, ditto, double, doubling, dupe, duplicate, duplication, echo, echoing, emulation, endurance, evenness, extension, facsimile, fakery, following, forgery, gemination, hit-off, imitation, impersonation, imposture, impression, incessancy, ingemination, iteration, lengthening, maintenance, methodicalness, mimesis, mirroring, model, noninterruption, onomatopoeia, oscillation, palingenesis, parody, perpetuation, perpetuity, perseverance, persistence, plagiarism, plagiary, progress, progression, prolongation, protraction, pulsation, punctuality, pursuance, quadruplicate, quick fire, rapid fire, rapid recurrence, rapid succession, rapidity, re-creation, re-formation, rebirth, rebuilding, recapitulation, recital, reconstitution, reconstruction...

78.

Understanding the Puzzle



...redesign, redoing, redundancies, redundancy, reduplication, reedition,
reestablishment, refashioning, regeneration, regensis, regularity, rehearsal,
reinstitution, reissue, reiteration, remaking, renaissance, renovation,
reorganization, repeat, repeating, replica, replication, representation, reprinting,
reprise, reproduction, rerun, reshaping, restatement, restoration, restructuring,
retelling, revision, run, simulation, smoothness, staccato, staying power,
steadiness, straight course, stuttering, sustained action, sustainment, sustenance,
systematicalness, takeoff, tattoo, tautologies, tautology, triplicate, twinning,
uniformity, unintermission, uninterrupted course, uninterruption,
unremittingness, vibration, way.

79.

Erudite; the air freshener for the new intellectual.

79.

Understanding the Puzzle



Erudite means intellectual, genius, scholarly.

80.

No, I said prolific, not prophylactic.

You see with prophylactic you want to avoid being

fruitful, productive, fertile

or any of the other abundant possibilities.

80.

Understanding the Puzzle



Prolific means fruitful, productive, fertile.

Those are, ... *abundant possibilities* makes reference to prolific.

Being *prophylactic* is a form of avoidance suggesting
preventative, remedy, safeguard.

81.

His fodder and modder fueled Marshal's desire to be a hunter.

In fact, he even began manufacturing his own ammunition.

The whole family spent days in the pasture feeding

Marshal's hunting hobby.

81.

Understanding the Puzzle



Modder is not a word. The word is a malapropism:
modder sounds like it should be the opposite of fodder.

Fodder means fuel(fueled), hunt(hunter and hunting).

Fodder also means ammunition, pasture, feed.

82.

I can acknowledge she is Lillipulant. But, that doesn't mean she's small minded or short on intelligence. Give her a little credit, okay?

82.

Understanding the Puzzle



Lilliputian is small, short, little.

83.

Robert drove the latest auto release out of Detroit:

The Eclectic, for the selective and discriminating driver who enjoys complex,
divers and sundry options.

83.

Understanding the Puzzle



All the key words refer to each other.

Eclectic means selective, discriminating, complex, diverse, sundry.

84.

Since she discovered the new galaxy,

Rosalind reserved the right to call it “Solemnity”.

It would be years before researchers truly understood the gravity of her
discovery.

84.

Understanding the Puzzle



Galaxy means sky, cosmos, creation.

Solemnity means dignity, austerity, gravity.

...*gravity of the discovery* means and refers to solemnity.

...*reserved the right* means and refers to solemnity.

85.

“I tell you the guy is a real phony. He fakes being sick with this ridiculous, noisy, fake cough. He’s obstreperous and causes a racket wherever he goes.

He’s pure pandemonium.”

“Well what’s his name?”, one member demanded.

“His name is Rowdy”.

85.

Understanding the Puzzle



...*a real phony* is one who is a fake, fraud, cheater.

Obstreperous means unruly, noisy, disruptive.

Obstreperous is modified by ...*racket wherever he goes*.

Pandemonium means noise, uproar, chaos.

One who is *rowdy* is obstreperous, raucous, loud.

86.

After the police inspected the sight of the robbery they learned that the only thing that was missing was an ancient abacus.

Given the value of the rest of the contents of the property, things just didn't add up. The police divided off into two groups in hopes that they could multiply their investigative efforts by subtracting out the least likely motive.

86.

Understanding the Puzzle



An *abacus* is a calculator that performs arithmetic functions

by manually sliding counters on rods.

...things just didn't add up ... divided off...

...multiply their investigative efforts... ...subtracting out.

all make reference to the abacus.

87.

“Hey, Beth. What are you dressing up as for Halloween?”

“Mephistopheles,” she replied.

“Why are you dressing up as Mephistopheles?”

Laughing, Beth said, “The devil made me do it.”

87.

Understanding the Puzzle



Mephistopheles is the devil, Satan, Lucifer.

88.

At one time, Doctor Eyecon was the idol of the ophthalmologists' community.

When the rumor spread that he made a drunken spectacle of himself when he walked through a glass window, he completely ruined his image.

88.

Understanding the Puzzle



Eyecon is the misspelling of *icon* meaning idol, fetish, god.

An *ophthalmologist* is an eye doctor.

Eye doctor plays on spectacle, glass, window.

...*ruined his image* makes reference to icon.

89.

“And you. Johnny. What do you want to be when you grow up?”

“I wanna be a cardiologist. Ya know.

One of them doctors that works on the heart of the car.”

89.

Understanding the Puzzle



A *cardiologist* is a doctor--medical specialist--who performs surgery on the heart.

Using the phrase ...*heart of the car* allows the word, heart to mean,

the center of something as in, the heart of the matter.

Car in cardiologist refers to Johnny's belief in the idea that a

cardiologist works on cars.

90.

While driving by a gas station, a flatulist and malapropos addict noticed a sign that read: Come join us at a meeting of Miasmas Anonymous.

90.

Understanding the Puzzle



Flatulist is a malapropism for flatulence

Flatulence is the passing of intestinal gas.

Miasma is gas, fume, vapor.

Anonymous means unknown, unsigned, unnamed.

Miasmas Anonymous makes reference to gas and addict.

91.

“No, I am not afraid of anything.”

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobic.

“Now I’m afraid.”

91.

Understanding the Puzzle



Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobic is a phobia.

It is the fear of big words.

92.

“I tell you, we have to undertake an interpretive position.

Without doing so there would be no hermeneutics. Now, is there any need for an
expository statement?”

92.

Understanding the Puzzle



Interpretive, hermeneutics and expository

are all redundant.

They mean declarative, explanatory, explicative.

Hermeneutics is a science.

The science of hermeneutics is the science of interpretation.

93.

It was reported that the last word Samantha uttered was “apocryphal”.

Although it made for a good story,
to date, the remark is unverified and is currently unauthenticated.

93.

Understanding the Puzzle



Apocryphal is disputed, doubtful, fictitious.

...remark is unverified and... ...unauthenticated is redundant to apocryphal.

94.

The affidavit was the memorialization of the meeting. In the end, the decision was as follows: The plaque would be situated on the monument below the obelisk as a commemorative remembrance and testimonial of the mausoleum that once stood. All who were present thought it to be an exceptionally appropriate tribute.

94.

Understanding the Puzzle



Affidavit, memorialization, plaque, monument, obelisk, commemorative, remembrance, testimonial, mausoleum, tribute all make reference to each other;

the words are interchangeable in their meaning.

95.

Born in the Irish town of Chagrin,

Thomas O'Reilly never told a soul where he was born. He spent his entire life embarrassed and ashamed of his hometown. He often told me he would be mortified if anyone found out.

95.

Understanding the Puzzle



Chagrin means embarrassed, ashamed, mortified.

96.

When Senor Aficionado entered the bullring his fans jumped to their feet and cheered. All who followed his career were partisans, devotees of his skill and adroitness.

96.

Understanding the Puzzle



An aficionado is a devotee, lover, enthusiast.

Partisans are fans, followers, disciples.

Devotees refers to aficionados and partisans.

Adroitness refers to skill meaning proficiency, agility, dexterity.

97.

She was crowned “Miss Nomer”.

Protesters thought it was the wrong name for such an irrelevant title.

97.

Understanding the Puzzle



A *misnomer* is a wrong, inapplicable and irrelevant name or title.

98.

During the introduction of the hit rock groups,

Discombobulate and Flummox,

confusion broke out when the main electric cord was unplugged. The bands

became frustrated; the crowds were agitated and disoriented.

Connecting the cord, the roadway was electrified, dazed from the event.

98.

Understanding the Puzzle



Discombobulate is to be confusing or perplexing.

Flummox is to be a mystery or bewildering.

Confusion refers to discombobulate and flummox.

Agitate means inflame, incite, aggravate.

Disoriented refers to discombobulate and flummox.

A *roady* is a person who sets up and brakes down equipment,
such as band instruments.

...*dazed from the event* refers to discombobulate and flummox.

99.

The ocean was in tumult; all the serfers were excited. There were two teams:

The Plebeians and The Proletariats.

The announcer reported that it was the Contest of the Commoners. Custom dictated that the public be invited. Those in the box seats thought the whole

affair to be gauche and vulgar.

99.

Understanding the Puzzle



Tumult means bedlam, chaos, agitation.

Serfers is semantically incorrect. The word should be surfers;

those who surf on the sea.

Serf(ers) makes reference to plebeians and proletariats.

Plebeians and *Proletariats* mean laborers, peasants, workers.

...*Contest of the Commoners* makes reference to the Plebeians and Proletariats.

Gauche and *vulgar* are redundant meaning graceless, unsophisticated, ordinary.

Gauche and vulgar refers to Plebeians and Proletariats.

100.

“Who is that over there?

She really has a certain something about her, don't you think?”

“Oh, her. She is Madam Je'ne Sais Quoi. I must admit; she is quite appealing.”

100.

Understanding the Puzzle



Je 'ne Sais Quoi is a French phrase used in English communication.

Je 'ne Sais Quoi means 'that certain something' as suggested in the statement:

I must admit; she is quite appealing.

Dictionary(Proposed)

Aberration : \Ab`er*ra"tion\, n. [L. aberratio: cf. F. aberration. See Aberrate.] 1. The act of wandering; deviation, especially from truth or moral rectitude, from the natural state, or from a type.

Altruist : \Al"tru*ist\, n. One imbued with altruism; Regard for others, both natural and moral; devotion to the interests of others; brotherly kindness.

Anthropomorphic : \An`thro*po*mor"phic\, a. Of or pertaining to anthropomorphism. [Gr. ? of human form; ? man + ? form.] 1. The representation of the Deity, or of a polytheistic deity, under a human form, or with human attributes and affections. The ascription of human characteristics to things not human.

Aphorism : \Aph"o*rism\, n. [F. aphorisme, fr. Gr. ? definition, a short, pithy sentence, fr. ? to mark off by boundaries, to define; ? from + ? to separate, part. See Horizon.] A comprehensive maxim or principle expressed in a few words; a sharply defined sentence relating to abstract truth rather than to practical matters.

Apparition : \Ap`pa*ri"tion\, n. [F. apparition, L. apparitio, fr. apparere. See Appear.] 1. The act of becoming visible; appearance; visibility.

Bifurcation : \Bi`fur*ca"tion\, n. [Cf. F. bifurcation.] A forking, or division into two branches.

Cachinnate : laugh loudly and in an unrestrained way.

Conflagration : \Con`fla*gra"tion\, n. [L. conflagratio: cf. F. conflagration.] A fire extending to many objects, or over a large space; a general burning.

Egosyntonic : (Insert)

Entropic : ((Insert)

Evangelize \E*van"gel*ize\, v. t. [imp. & p. p. Evangelized; p. pr. & vb. n. Evangelizing]. [F. ['e]vang[e]lisre, LL. evangelizare, fr. Gr. ?.] To instruct in the gospel; to preach the gospel to; to convert to Christianity; as, to evangelize the world.