from Journal of the First Voyage to America by Christopher Columbus

Build Vocabulary

Spelling Strategy  To form the plural of a word that ends in a consonant plus y, change the y to i and add es: ambiguity, ambiguities.

Using the Root -flict-

A. Directions: The word root -flict- means “to strike.” On the line, write the letter of the word that best completes each statement.

1. A cruel person is likely to inflict _____.
   a. harm       b. joy       c. sympathy       d. quality

2. A conflict between nations most likely involves _____.
   a. alliances   b. disputes   c. roadways   d. passports

3. A person afflicted with measles probably is _____.
   a. happy       b. healthy       c. ill       d. recovering

Using the Word Bank

| indication       | exquisite       | affliction       | abundance       |

B. Directions: On the line provided, write the word from the Word Bank that best completes the meaning of each sentence. Use each word only once.

1. The voyage was miserable, with the crew facing grave ___________________________.
2. For many weeks there was no ___________________________ of land.
3. The sailors would never forget the ___________________________ beauty of the new land.
4. Columbus hoped to find gold or spices in ___________________________.

C. Directions: On the line, write the letter of the pair of words that expresses a relationship most similar to the relationship of the pair of words in capital letters.

1. INDICATION : SIGN ::
   a. normality : strangeness
   b. cloud : weather
   c. murmur : whisper
   d. walk : run

2. ABUNDANCE : EXCESS ::
   a. busy : occupied
   b. crowded : overcrowded
   c. doubtful : certain
   d. discovered : explored

3. AFFLICTION : HARDSHIP ::
   a. poverty : wealth
   b. ignorance : bliss
   c. contentment : happiness
   d. calories : diet

4. PRETTY : EXQUISITE ::
   a. bad : horrible
   b. knowledgeable : uneducated
   c. delicate : broken
   d. calm : peaceful
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**Grammar and Style: Action Verbs and Linking Verbs**

*Action verbs* express physical or mental action. *Linking verbs* express a state of being and are followed either by a noun or pronoun that renames the subject or by an adjective that describes it.

**Action Verb:** I went ashore.

**Linking Verb:** Everything *looked* green.

While writers must make use of both action and linking verbs, action verbs generally make writing more lively.

**A. Practice:** Underline the verb in each sentence. Then, on the line before the sentence, write AV if the verb is an action verb or LV if it is a linking verb.

1. **AV** Groves of lofty trees were abundant.
2. **LV** At one of the lakes, I saw a snake.
3. **AV** We followed it for some distance.
4. **LV** The water did not look deep.
5. **AV** We dispatched it with our lances.

**B. Writing Application:** Read each sentence, and determine if it contains an action verb or a linking verb. Then, on the lines provided, write a related sentence with the type of verb that does *not* appear in the first sentence. An example has been completed for you.

*Example:* The melody of the birds *was* exquisite. [*Was* is a linking verb.]

*Related:* The birds *chirped* an exquisite melody. [*Chirped* is an action verb.]

1. Columbus’s journal is a marvelous document.
2. His descriptions capture the lush splendor of the Caribbean islands.
3. His long time at sea seems particularly tense.
4. Columbus made several subsequent journeys to the “new” world.
5. Of course, to the native inhabitants their world was not new at all!
from *Journal of the First Voyage to America* by Christopher Columbus

**Reading Strategy: Author’s Purpose**

Recognizing an author’s purpose for writing can help you understand why certain words, details, and events are included in a piece of writing. Columbus kept a journal for the purpose of persuading Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand to give him more financial backing for his explorations. As a result, his language puts his explorations in the best possible light. For example, he talks about the beauty of the island:

> This island even exceeds the others in beauty and fertility. Groves of lofty and flourishing trees are abundant, as also large lakes, surrounded and overhung by the foliage, in a most enchanting manner. . . . The melody of the birds was so exquisite that one was never willing to part from the spot, and the flocks of parrots obscured the heavens.

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, use the following chart to record Columbus’s favorable descriptions and events. Then, explain his purpose for describing them in that way.

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<th>Descriptions</th>
<th>Columbus’s Purpose</th>
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**Literary Analysis: Journals**

A journal is an individual’s day-by-day account of events. Although a journal provides valuable details that can be supplied only by a participant or an eyewitness, it is not necessarily an accurate record of facts. The writer’s impressions may color the telling of events. Furthermore, a journal written for publication—such as the journal of Columbus, which was written for his investors, the king and queen of Spain—is less likely to be objective. Nevertheless, journals can provide insights into the writer’s personality and character.

**Directions:** Read each of the following excerpts from Journal of the First Voyage to America. Write what each excerpt reveals about Christopher Columbus.

1. “I went ashore, and found no habitation save a single house, and that without an occupant; we had no doubt that the people had fled in terror at our approach, as the house was completely furnished. I suffered nothing to be touched, and went with my captains and some of the crew to view the country.”

2. “This island even exceeds the others in beauty and fertility. Groves of lofty and flourishing trees are abundant, as also large lakes, surrounded and overhung by the foliage, in a most enchanting manner. . . . The melody of birds was so exquisite that one was never willing to part from the spot, and the flocks of parrots obscured the heavens.”

3. “I discovered also the aloe tree, and am determined to take on board the ship tomorrow, ten quintals of it, as I am told it is valuable.”

4. “Presently we saw several of the natives advancing towards our party, and one of them came up to us, to whom we gave some hawk’s bells and glass beads, with which he was delighted. We asked him in return, for water, and after I had gone on board the ship, the natives came down to the shore with their calabashes full, and showed great pleasure in presenting us with it. I ordered more glass beads to be given them, and they promised to return the next day.”

5. “. . . I shall depart immediately, if the weather serve, and sail round the island, till I succeed in meeting with the king, in order to see if I can acquire any of the gold, which I hear he possesses.”