

# Spelling Power

## Lesson 4: Perplexing Words

### Word Bank

subtle	vague	diaphragm	ghastly	camouflage
chaos	dialogue	vengeance	debris	fatigue

### Key Concepts

1. Although the sound of a word can often help you to spell it correctly, the spellings of many English words are difficult to remember because the spellings reflect pronunciations from other languages. For example, in Middle English, the consonant *b* in *subtle* was sounded. Modern English drops the sound but keeps the spelling.
2. Some of the most difficult words to spell contain unpronounced vowels. These silent vowels may also reflect patterns of other languages. For example, *Vague* and other *-gue* words come from French.

### Spelling Practice

Choose the word from the Word Bank that fits each pronunciation. Write your choices on the lines.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ 1. \də brē\    | _____ 6. \vāg\          |
| _____ 2. \fə tēg\    | _____ 7. \dī' ə fram\   |
| _____ 3. \kā'os\     | _____ 8. \sut' əl\      |
| _____ 4. \ven' jəns\ | _____ 9. \kam' ə flāzh\ |
| _____ 5. \dī' ə lôg\ | _____ 10. \gast' lē\    |

### Spelling in Context

Write the word from the Word Bank that best completes each sentence below.

1. The Junior Theater is staging *Macbeth*, Shakespeare's play about ambition and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A voice coach is helping actors with the play's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "Speak from your \_\_\_\_\_, not just from your throat," she advises.
4. In some scenes, voices have to sound eerie and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The actors hope to create a \_\_\_\_\_ but disturbing sense of dread.

**LESSON 4 continued**

**Proofreading Practice**

Read the paragraph below. Find the five misspelled words and circle them. Then, on the numbered lines, write the correct spelling for each circled word.

Petra had the perfect camouflaue. Deep in a desert gorge, this two-thousand-year-old city was carved from sandstone walls in suttle shades of pink and tan. A stop in the "stone city" must have eased the fatigue of many a traveler, for Petra had running water piped through a system of channels and cisterns. The city has survived despite Mideastern political caos. Today, amid the debrie of millennia, Petra's ancient structures can still be seen.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Spelling Application**

Listed below are five more words that reflect the Key Concepts you have learned. Use the words to fill in the "terse verse" rhymed definitions that follow.

aerial                  excess                  grotesque                  mechanism                  wretched

- 1. bizarre ballet move: \_\_\_\_\_ arabesque
- 2. covering a TV antenna with earth: \_\_\_\_\_ burial
- 3. overly long street name: \_\_\_\_\_ address
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ father: unhappy pappy
- 5. invisible \_\_\_\_\_ : unseen machine