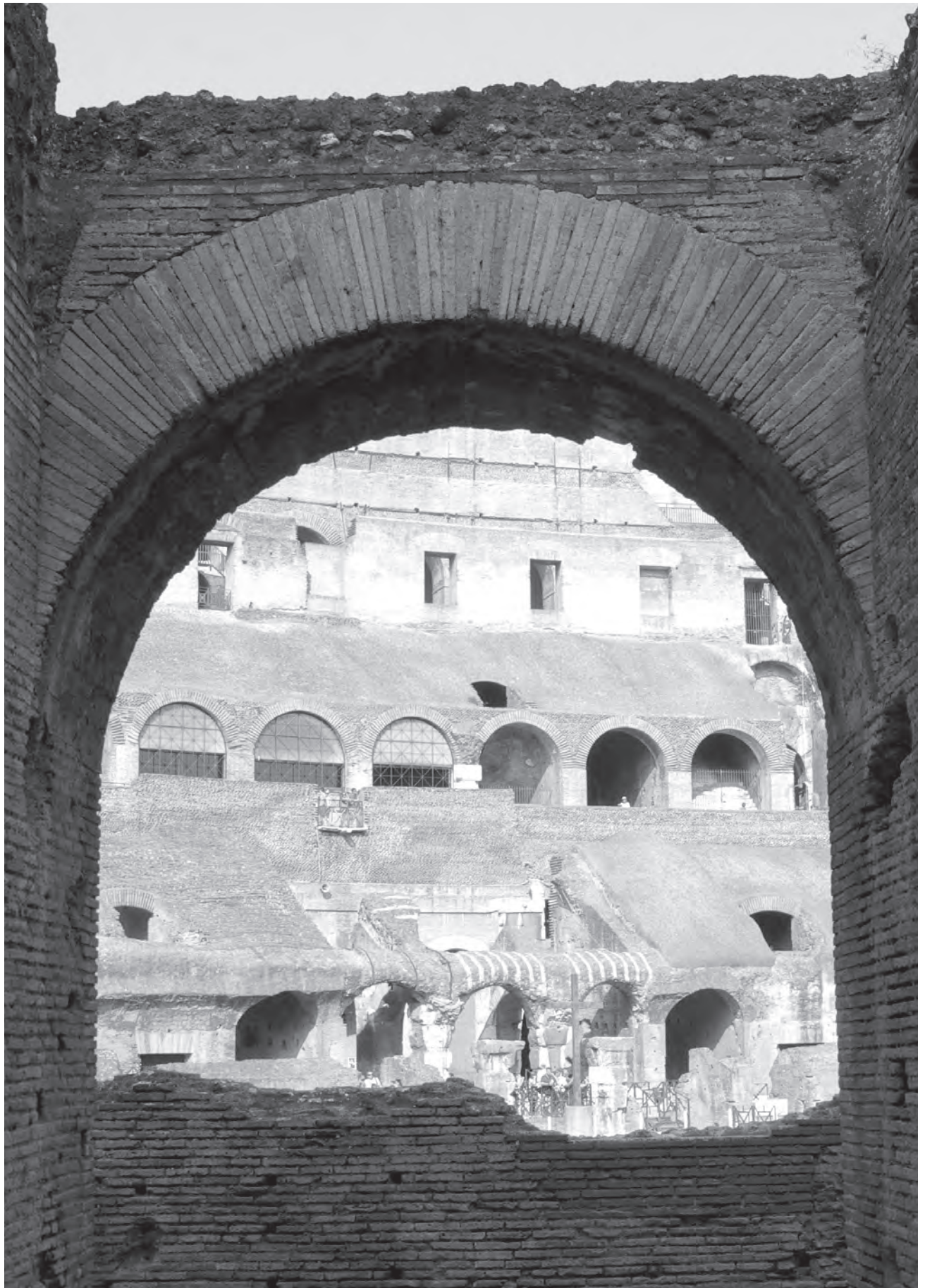


BENE QUI  
LATUIT,  
BENE VIXIT.

One who lives well,  
lives unnoticed.

- Ovid  
43 B.C.-18 A.D.



# LESSON X

## CLASSIC WORDS

### *English*

**tacit:** unspoken

**affable:** friendly

**sanguine:** cheerfully confident

**torpid:** sluggish

**mortify:** profoundly humiliate

### *Spanish*

*tacito*

*afable*

*sanguíneo*

*torpe*

*mortificar*

### TACIT (TAA-sit; rhymes with *facet*)

The English adjective *tacit* comes from the Latin *tacitus*, silent, and it refers to things that people think but do not say. In Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the children have a “tacit treaty with Miss Maudie.” John Knowles, in his 1959 novel *A Separate Peace*, referred to the “deep, tacit way in which feeling becomes stronger than thought.” In his 1949 novel *1984*, George Orwell wrote that “Under this lies a fact never mentioned aloud, but tacitly understood and acted upon.” Marjorie Kennan Rawlings wrote in *The Yearling* that “There was a tacit understanding among the three of them that Penny was to be spared.” In *Dracula*, Bram Stoker wrote that “The blush that rose to my own cheeks somehow set us both at ease, for it was a tacit answer to her own.” In *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville noted that “By some tacit consent, throughout the voyage little or no allusion was made to it, especially by the mates.” And in *Emma*, Jane Austen described how “I was—tacitly if not openly—encouraging you.”

### AFFABLE (AFF-ah-bul)

The English adjective *affable*, from the Latin *affabilis*, means friendly, but it refers to that special kind of friendliness in which someone is at ease, graceful and pleasant in talking to others. James Hilton used *affable* in *Lost Horizon*: “Conversation during the meal would have languished more than once but for the tact and affability of the Chinese.” In Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows*, Toad speaks “graciously and affably.” In his *Autobiography*, Benjamin Franklin wrote that “he conversed with me in the most affable, familiar, and friendly manner imaginable.” Jane Austen, in *Emma*, described “the most amiable, affable, delightful woman.” William Shakespeare used *affable* repeatedly in his 1594 play *The Taming of the Shrew*; he described “an affable and courteous gentleman,” Katherine’s “affability and bashful modesty,” and a conversation in which Katherine spoke with “gentle conference, soft and affable.”

## SANGUINE (SANG-gwin)

The adjective *sanguine*, from the Latin *sanguineus*, contains the stem for blood, *sangui*, and means cheerfully confident. The idea is of red-blooded, rosy-cheeked health. In 1984, George Orwell wrote that “His hair was very fair, his face naturally sanguine.” Kenneth Grahame, in *The Wind in the Willows*, reported that “Toad was very much the same sanguine, self-satisfied animal that he had been of old.” Emily Brontë, in *Wuthering Heights*, wrote that “Catherine ran wild with joy at the idea of welcoming her father back, and indulged most sanguine anticipations of the innumerable excellences of her ‘real’ cousin.” In Cooper’s *The Last of the Mohicans*, “the conviction forced itself on her mind that the too sanguine and generous Duncan had been cruelly deceived.” Mary Wollstonecraft wrote in her *Vindication of the Rights of Women* that “A virtuous man may have a choleric or a sanguine constitution.” Do you think *choleric* and *sanguine* are opposites?

## TORPID (TORR-pid)

Our English adjective *torpid* (the noun form is *torpor*) comes from the Latin *torpidus*, stiff or numb. To be torpid is to be sluggish, dormant. Once again, we find a great sentence in George Orwell’s 1984: “Even when he was awake he was completely torpid.” In *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau wrote that “the life that had lain torpid began to stretch itself.” In *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens wrote that “Louisa awoke from a torpor, and her eyes languidly opened on her old bed at home.” Herman Melville wrote in *Moby Dick* that “hapless Dough-Boy was by nature dull and torpid in his intellects”—a description none of us would want applied to ourselves. William Makepeace Thackeray, in *Vanity Fair*, wrote that the “bold and reckless young blood of ten years back was subjugated and was turned into a torpid, submissive, middle-aged, stout gentleman.” One of the most poetic uses of *torpid* is by Ralph Ellison, who in his *Invisible Man* described “A thoroughly mysterious coming and going, like the surging of torpid tides.” Do you think that Ellison was aware of the alliteration (repetition of the initial sound) in “torpid tides”?

## MORTIFY (MOR-tih-fie)

*Mortified*, from the Latin *mortificare*, means profoundly humiliated. Why? It is like the saying, “I could have died.” The stem *mort* means death, and *fy* means make. In *Ragtime*, E.L. Doctorow wrote that “He turned out his pockets, mortified to see all around him people who reeked of their poverty coming up with handfuls of change.” In *Anne of Green Gables*, Elizabeth Montgomery wrote, “I thought I would sink through the floor with mortification.” In *Kidnapped*, Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, “At this I suppose I coloured with mortification.” Jane Austen wrote in *Emma* that “I should be mortified, indeed, if I did not believe I had been of some use.” Gulliver, in Jonathan

Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, recalls: "I reflected what a mortification it must prove to me to appear as inconsiderable in this nation as one single Lilliputian would be among us." Have you read *Gulliver's Travels*?

### Review Words from *Caesar's English I*

**melancholy:** sadness

**visage:** the face

**venerate:** to respect

**abate:** to lessen

**repose:** resting

### The Grammar of Vocabulary: *affable*, an adjective

Here is a sentence using the adjective *affable*, which means friendly.

The general, an affable fool, believed the rumor.

<b>Parts of Speech:</b>	adj.	n.	adj.	adj.	n.	v.	adj.	n.
<b>Parts of Sentence:</b>	subj.		AVP				D.O.	
<b>Phrases:</b>	--appositive phrase--							
<b>Clauses:</b>	one independent clause; a simple declarative sentence							

Here we see the adjective *affable* used to modify the noun *fool*. The sentence gives us a nice example of an appositive phrase; an appositive is an interrupting definition, apposed (put beside) what it defines. We see the noun *rumor* used as a direct object to receive the action of the action verb *believed*.

## Caesar's Classic Words Challenge

If we want to get a feel for how words are used, we must see how great writers use words. In each case below, one of the choices was the word used by the author. For you, this is a word game. Your challenge is to guess which word the author used. This is not a test; it is a game because more than one word choice may work perfectly well. See if you can use your sensitivity and intuition to guess which word the author used. You may need a dictionary.

### 1. From Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Calpurnia nodded \_\_\_\_\_ consent.

- a. sanguine
- b. affable
- c. torpid
- d. tacit

### 2. From Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*

Doing good is...often the \_\_\_\_\_ mirage of so many good minds.

- a. sanguine
- b. affable
- c. mortified
- d. torpid

### 3. From Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim*

[They were] startled out of their \_\_\_\_\_ by his movement.

- a. visage
- b. torpor
- c. mortification
- d. affability

**affable**

*friendly*

Hide it  
in smiles  
and affability.

- William Shakespeare  
*Julius Caesar, II. i.*

**From William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar***

In this quotation from Shakespeare's famous play, Brutus is speaking to himself in soliloquy, fearing the guilt that killing Caesar will bring upon him:

BRUTUS, II. i.

O, conspiracy,  
Sham'st thou to show thy dang'rous brow by night,  
When evils are most free? O, then by day  
Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough  
To mask thy monstrous **visage**? Seek none, conspiracy;  
Hide it in smiles and **affability**:  
For if thou path, thy native **semblance** on,  
Not Erebus itself were dim enough  
To hide thee from prevention.

**From Julius Caesar's *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars***

On being informed of this by deserters and prisoners, Caesar sanguinely started to construct more elaborate siege works. He dug a trench twenty feet wide, which, having perpendicular sides, was as broad at the bottom as at the top. The other works were kept some six hundred and fifty yards behind this trench, to protect them against the inexorable surprise attacks; for as such a vast extent of ground had to be enclosed, and it was difficult to man the whole circuit, there would be a danger of the enemy's swooping down in force on the lines at night, or hurling javelins in the daytime when the men were tied down to their work. At this distance, therefore, Caesar dug two trenches of equal depth, each fifteen feet wide, and filled the inner one, where it crossed the low ground of the plain, with water diverted from the streams. Behind the trenches a palisaded rampart twelve feet high was erected, strengthened by a battlemented breastwork, with large forked branches projecting where it joined the rampart to hinder the enemy if they tried to climb over. Towers were placed at intervals of a hundred and thirty yards along the entire circuit of fortifications.



## Caesar's Usage

One of the secrets of advanced vocabulary is knowing how to alter words in order to use them as different parts of speech. Pick one example from each column below, and write a good sentence using it.

<u>noun</u>	<u>adjective</u>	<u>verb</u>	<u>adverb</u>
-	tacit	-	tacitly
affability	affable	-	affably
magnanimity	magnanimous	-	magnanimously
sanguinity	sanguine	-	sanguinely
torpor	torpid	-	torpidly
amiability	amiable	-	amiably
mortification	mortified	mortify	-
veneration	venerable	venerate	-

## Caesar's Sesquipedalian Story

By tacit agreement, the Roman soldiers increased their precautions as they made camp. There was something melancholy in this green hillside, something profound, vaguely threatening, and as though the odious redness of the sunset was only a lurid warning of what was inexorable. Even the waning sun seemed prostrate, mortified, prodigiously apologetic. The soldiers looked at one another with doleful countenances and said nothing about the surreal serenity that was descending on the camp. The scattered campfires and smell of food did nothing to abate the mood, and sanguine and affable conversation descended into torpid murmuring. And now something was moving in the trees; they seemed dislocated and grotesque, and a perplexing complex of metallic sounds became audible. The sounds descended obliquely onto the camp, and the pensive visages of the soldiers changed into manifest incredulity as the singular sound rose into a belligerent clamor and importuned their attention. "The Gauls," said one, "here they come!" The implacable Gauls—they were breaking through the somber tree line even now with ostentatious belligerence, shattering the placid repose of the hillside as with howling alacrity they raced down upon the legion.



BABY'S FEEDING BOTTLE, FIRST CENTURY A.D.

### Review for Cumulative Quiz

<b>com</b>	together	<b>loco</b>	place
<b>intra</b>	within	<b>sur</b>	over
<b>cent</b>	one hundred	<b>alter</b>	other
<b>ad</b>	to	<b>contra</b>	against
<b>fer</b>	carry	<b>stell</b>	star
<b>vita</b>	life	<b>amat</b>	love
<b>vid</b>	look	<b>luna</b>	moon
<b>pater</b>	father	<b>greg</b>	group
<b>matri</b>	mother	<b>clam</b>	cry out
<b>pop</b>	people	<b>tang</b>	touch
<b>mar</b>	sea	<b>junct</b>	join
<b>luc</b>	light	<b>medi</b>	middle
<b>tempor</b>	time		
<b>placate</b>	to appease	<b>prostrate</b>	lying flat
<b>derision</b>	ridicule	<b>profuse</b>	abundant
<b>vivacious</b>	full of life	<b>ostentatious</b>	showy
<b>procure</b>	to acquire	<b>inexorable</b>	inevitable
<b>retort</b>	a quick, clever reply	<b>indolent</b>	lazy
<b>audible</b>	able to be heard	<b>doleful</b>	mournful
<b>benevolent</b>	charitable	<b>alacrity</b>	eagerness
<b>somber</b>	gloomy	<b>oblique</b>	indirect or slanting
<b>pensive</b>	thoughtful	<b>magnanimous</b>	generous
<b>importune</b>	to pester	<b>peremptory</b>	dictatorial
<b>tacit</b>	unspoken	<b>affable</b>	friendly
<b>sanguine</b>	cheerfully confident	<b>torpid</b>	sluggish
<b>mortify</b>	profoundly humiliate		

# affable

*friendly*

He was received  
with an affable kiss  
and shake of the hand.

- Charlotte Brontë  
*Jane Eyre*

affable  
*afable*  
AFFABILIS