

Name: _____ Date: _____

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to the words
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read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"The Story Behind 'Voilà!'"

1. **affluent (A-floo-uhnt)** *adjective*; *Affluent* means "wealthy." An affluent person has plenty of money. An affluent neighborhood might be full of big houses and nice cars.
2. **convey (kuhn-VAY)** *verb*; To *convey* something is to communicate it or make it known. You might convey a message from your mom to your sister. A painting's dark colors might convey a feeling of sadness.
3. **fissure (FISH-er)** *noun*; A *fissure* is a long, narrow opening or crack in something. An earthquake might cause a fissure in the ground.
4. **informal (in-FAWR-muhl)** *adjective*; The word *formal* means "following an established form, custom, or rule." At a formal dinner, people get dressed up, sit at a tablecloth-covered table, and follow all the rules of "proper" behavior. A formal meeting is one that is planned ahead of time and at which things must be done in a particular way.

The prefix *in-* means "not," so the word *informal* means "not formal." Something that is informal is relaxed, casual, or unofficial. You might have an informal meeting with your student council buddies over lunch—a laid-back gathering that happens without being planned or organized. On a Friday night your family might have an informal dinner of eating pizza on the couch while you watch a movie.
5. **purgatory (PER-guh-tawr-ee)** *noun*; According to the Roman Catholic religion, *purgatory* is a place of suffering where the souls of the dead are sent to be punished and cleansed of their sins before going to heaven.

People also use *purgatory* figuratively to refer to any place or state of suffering or misery, as in, "The final three miles of the marathon were purgatory."

Directions: On the back of this page, list any other words from the interview whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"The Story Behind 'Voilà!'"

Directions: Complete each unfinished sentence in a way that makes the meaning of the boldface word clear.

1. The writer hoped her story would **convey** _____

2. I noticed a **fissure** in the frozen pond. The ice _____

3. As I was revising my essay, I realized the language was too **informal**. It sounded _____

4. Being in my mom's minivan this afternoon was like **purgatory**. The _____

5. The Gleesons were an **affluent** family, so they _____

Directions: Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

6. fissure

- Ⓐ closure
- Ⓑ gap

7. convey

- Ⓐ receive
- Ⓑ express

8. affluent

- Ⓐ rich
- Ⓑ absent

Directions: Write a sentence that includes a word or words from the list of vocabulary words on page 1 of this activity (including any words you added).

9. _____
