


**MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN**
**Lesson 9****CONTEXT: Amazing Nature****Weird Weather: El Niño**

Even in one place, no two years have exactly the same weather. Snow may pile high one year and not fall at all the next. One summer may be hotter than most others. One important factor in global weather variation is El Niño, a warm water current that occurs every few years in the Pacific Ocean. This warm current causes dramatic changes in weather around the world.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about El Niño and other mysterious weather phenomena. Below are ten Vocabulary Words that will be used.

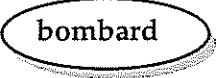
bombard      lunar      pharmacy      receipt      static  
 bureau      particle      pierce      resign      surgery

**EXERCISE 1****Wordbusting**

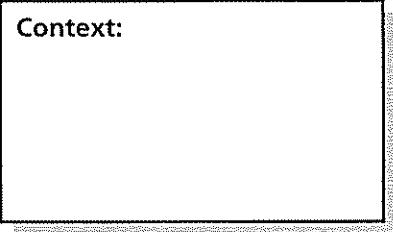
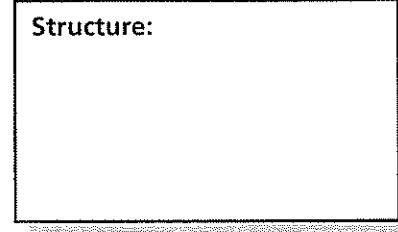
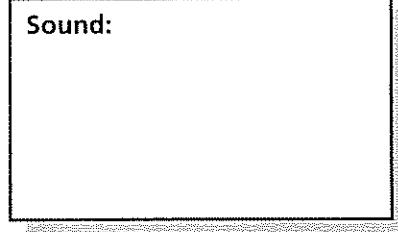
**Directions.** Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.




While we are being **bombarded** with weather reports on the radio and television, we often do not understand the causes of weather patterns.


2.

**bureau**

The National Weather Service is a government department that predicts and studies the weather. Scientists at the weather **bureau** do not yet understand what causes El Niño. For this reason, they cannot always predict when the next El Niño will occur.

3.

**lunar**

Lunar attraction, or the gravitational pull of the moon, causes ocean tides. The moon does not have much effect on ocean currents such as El Niño, however.

4.

**particle**

A water **particle** that is caught up in an ocean tide will be carried either towards or away from the shore as the moon pulls the tide. However, if that same small molecule of water is caught in a current, it will be carried along in the current's flow instead.

5.

**pierce**

When El Niño **pierces** the normally cool waters of South America's Pacific coast, disasterous changes occur. The effect of the warm current passing into cold waters damages ocean life there.

6.

**pharmacy**

Plants and animals in the sea are affected by El Niño. Some of these organisms are of value to students of **pharmacy**. Pharmacists use some sea organisms to prepare drugs and medicines.

7.

**receipt**

The jet stream has a major effect on world climates. For this reason, scientists are always eager for **receipt** of information about El Niño. Getting such news at the right time can help them predict weather trends.

8.

**resign**

El Niño affects rainfall around the world. In 1991, the current caused severe flooding in parts of Texas. As the rains continued, many Texans had to **resign** themselves to, or accept, the fact that their homes were gone forever.

9.

**static**

The 1998 flooding in Somalia occurred because El Niño caused severe rains that lasted for some time. When a weather system is **static**, the weather in an area remains unchanged for a long time.

10.

**surgery**

The floods caused many injuries. As a result, doctors spent more time than usual in **surgery**, performing operations.

**EXERCISE 2****Context Clues** 

**Directions.** Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

**COLUMN A**

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*v.* to pass into or through; to stab; to sharply affect the senses or feelings

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*n.* an operation; the operating room

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*n.* a chest of drawers; an agency, usually one that gives and collects information; a government department

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*n.* a receiving; proof of receiving

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*v.* to leave or offer to leave one's job or office; to accept something passively

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*n.* a very small piece; a slight trace

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*v.* to attack verbally; to attack with bombs or to fire at with projectiles

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*n.* electrical discharges in the atmosphere that produce radio or television interference; *adj.* not moving; still

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*n.* the profession of preparing and dispensing medicines; a drugstore

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. word: \_\_\_\_\_:  
*adj.* of or on the moon; like the moon

**COLUMN B**

(A) My Uncle Ramón is a fisherman who lives in Arica, Chile. He suffers from arthritis. The pain is severe, but it cannot be helped by **surgery**.

(B) A friend of his owns a **pharmacy**, and Uncle Ramón went to her drugstore to get medicine for his pain.

(C) When he arrived, no one was there. Hearing static coming from a radio, he followed the crackling sound to the back room. The clerk there told Uncle Ramón that news of El Niño had just arrived.

(D) Uncle Ramón bought some arthritis medicine, and the clerk handed Uncle Ramón a sales slip. Walking outside, Uncle Ramón stuffed the receipt for his medicine in his pocket.

(E) He felt the first raindrops **pierce** through his shirt. "I should have known," he thought, feeling the cold water on his skin. "My hands always hurt before a storm."

(F) "Now we must **resign** ourselves to a poor fishing season. We must accept that El Niño will warm the ocean and kill many fish."

(G) Uncle Ramón knew that he would be **bombarded** with questions when he got home. Aunt Nina would scold him for going out in a storm and ask him for news from town.

(H) Arriving home, he placed his medicine in one of the drawers of his **bureau**, or dresser.

(I) Through a window, he stared grimly at the gloomy, **lunar** paleness of the day outside. The gray landscape was veiled with rain.

(J) Rain was washing away nearly every particle of his hope for good fishing.

**EXERCISE 3*****Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings*** 

**Directions.** For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

**21.** to study **pharmacy**  
 (A) business finance  
 (B) medicines  
 (C) the rulers of ancient Egypt  
 (D) crop growing

**22.** an old **bureau**  
 (A) long tunnel  
 (B) chest of drawers  
 (C) den  
 (D) company of friends

**23.** emergency **surgery**  
 (A) vehicle for transporting injured people  
 (B) plan of action  
 (C) attack  
 (D) operation

**24.** the **lunar** timetable  
 (A) of the ocean  
 (B) of the sun  
 (C) of the moon  
 (D) impossible

**25.** to pierce their **defenses**  
 (A) cut through  
 (B) repair  
 (C) prepare  
 (D) calm down

**Directions.** For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

**26.** the **particles** of glass  
 (A) large, whole pieces  
 (B) thin layers  
 (C) tiny bits  
 (D) cups and pitchers

**27.** to **resign** his position  
 (A) accept  
 (B) change  
 (C) formally place a signature  
 (D) improve

**28.** to **bombard** the fort  
 (A) attack  
 (B) build  
 (C) float  
 (D) defend

**29.** a **static** situation  
 (A) active  
 (B) hopeless  
 (C) a measure of performance  
 (D) statewide

**30.** due on **receipt**  
 (A) availability  
 (B) sending  
 (C) request  
 (D) a specific day