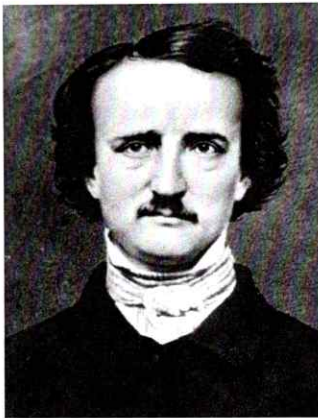




From Edgar Allan Poe's *The Pit and the Pendulum*:

By long suffering my nerves had been unstrung.

Parts of Speech	prep.	adj.	n.	adj.	n.	v.	v.	v.
Parts of Sentence						subj.	-----AVP-----	
Phrases	-----prep. phrase-----							
Clauses	-----one independent clause-----							
	a simple declarative sentence							

Poe's sentence is interesting for its gerund *suffering* as an object of preposition and for its good third person plural past perfect tense passive voice verb *had been unstrung*. Even though the verb is passive, the sentence still has power, with the eerie and vivid verb *unstrung* ringing in the silence of the end.

Notice that there is no comma after a single short introductory prepositional phrase. We only use commas after long introductory phrases or after multiple phrases, unless a comma is necessary to prevent a misunderstanding.

Like Oscar Wilde, Poe puts his strongest word at the end of the sentence. If he had said "My nerves had been unstrung by long suffering," the power word *unstrung* would have been buried in the sentence.





Verbs with *The Word Within the Word* • List #4

In these sentences, the words in **bold** contain important Latin or Greek stems. Other words are in *italics*. For each word in *italics*, write *noun* if the word is a noun, *adjective* if the word is an adjective, and AVP or LVP or BVP if it is a verb. AVP stands for action verb predicate, LVP stands for linking verb predicate, and BVP stands for being verb predicate.

1. The crystal dissolved into an *amorphous* mass. AVP
2. The silk *vestments* were hanging on pegs. _____
3. Pip finally *knew* the name of his generous **benefactor**. _____
4. The **ponderous** burden *was* nearly impossible to lift. _____
5. His *corpulent* body was a result of his love of sweets. _____
6. The evil creature *lay* **dormant** for centuries. _____
7. There *was* a birthday party for the venerable **patriarch**. _____
8. The recently *invented* laser toothbrush is a **novel** idea. _____
9. Her *punctilious* attention to small details was impressive. _____
10. Silver *looked* **dejected** when the expedition left without him. _____
11. The *devastation* intensified our need for creation. _____
12. *Self-motivated* people have an internal **locus** of control. _____
13. The many-cultured United States *is* a **heterodox** nation. _____
14. The **amphibians** emerging from the water *had* impermeable skin. _____
15. Alexander's *magnanimous* victory speech was inspiring. _____
16. The *euphony* of Mozart's concerto carried us away. _____
17. Human beings *have* **endoskeletons**, not exoskeletons. _____
18. The tremulous dog on the twenty-third floor has *acrophobia*. _____
19. The **orthodontist** *straightened* Count Dracula's fangs. _____
20. The massive **megalith** *towered* over the ancient ruins. _____

heterodox