

UNIT 8

# PLANT WORLD

Academic Reading & Writing



# LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Be able to understand idiomatic expressions beyond their literal meanings based on context.
- Be able to understand figurative language beyond its literal meanings.
- Be able to write concisely and pertinently.
- Be able to write without redundancy.



# VOCABULARY REVIEW

"Could a Carnivorous Plant Ever Eat a Person?"



**Botanist**

**Decay**

**Digest**

**Expenditure**

**Feces**

**Flytrap**

# VOCABULARY REVIEW



**Nectar**

**Nutrient**

**Pitcher Plant**

**Pitfall**

# GRAMMAR

## Latinate Verbs



### Physical Health

Gardening is a great form of exercise. Digging, planting, weeding, and watering can improve your physical strength and endurance.

### Mental Health

Spending time in nature and caring for plants can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.

### Environmental Impact

Gardens provide habitats for wildlife and contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

# GRAMMAR

In formal writing, particularly in business communication, it is often preferable to use **Latinate verbs or single verbs** rather than phrasal verbs.

Latinate verbs, which are derived from Latin, tend to be **more precise, formal, and concise**, making them better suited for professional contexts.



# GRAMMAR

Reason	Phrasal Verb Example	Suggested Latinate Verb
Too formal	The plants must <b>get together</b> in the garden.	The plants must <b>congregate</b> in the garden.
Unnecessary prepositions	I cannot <b>face up to</b> the challenges in maintaining this plant.	I cannot <b>face</b> the challenges in maintaining this plant.
Ending a sentence with a preposition	It is a situation I will not <b>put up with</b> .	It is a situation I will not <b>tolerate</b> .

# READING

## Understanding Idiomatic Expressions

**Idiom** is a string of (more or less) fixed words having a meaning that is not deducible from the meanings of the individual words (Aarts et al, 2014: 204).





# WRITING

## Writing Concisely

Writing concisely is **an essential skill** that improves the clarity and impact of your communication. Whether you are writing academic essays, business letters, or emails, eliminating wordiness can make your message more direct and engaging (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2025).

A vibrant green background illustration of a farm scene. On the left, a woman in a white shirt and green overalls carries a wooden rake over her shoulder. In the center, a bright yellow sun with rays is positioned above the word 'WRITING'. To the right, a man in a red hat, white apron, and black boots is kneeling, holding a tomato. A wooden crate filled with tomatoes sits on the ground next to him. At the bottom, a wooden picket fence runs across the scene. Two brown paper bags, each featuring a white carrot illustration, are floating in the upper part of the image. A few orange leaves are scattered around the woman on the left.

# WRITING

Here are strategies for writing concisely (ibid.):

- Eliminate redundant pairs
- Delete unnecessary qualifiers
- Identify and reduce prepositional phrases
- Locate and delete unnecessary modifiers
- Replace a phrase with a word
- Identify negatives and change them to affirmatives

# VOCABULARY REVIEW

'What Would a World Without Trees Look Like?'



**Anchor**

**Crucial**

**Deforestation**

**Devastating**

**Dramatically**

**Grim**

# VOCABULARY REVIEW



**Rampant**

**Sharply**

**Stale**

**Unpredictably**

# GRAMMAR

## Extreme Adjectives

Extreme adjectives are **adjectives** that cannot be modified by words like "quite" or "very" because they already express an extreme degree of the quality they describe (British Council, n.d.).



# GRAMMAR

For instance, the word "awful" in the context of a world without trees conveys a sense of something being intensely bad or devastating. You would not say "very awful" because "awful" already implies an extreme level of negativity.



# GRAMMAR

**Modifiers**

**absolutely/really**

**Extreme Adjectives**

**amazing, ancient, awful, boiling, delicious,  
enormous, excellent, exhausted, fascinating,  
freezing, gorgeous, terrible, terrifying, tiny,  
etc.**

# READING

## Understanding Figurative Language

Figurative language refers to **words and expressions that convey meanings beyond their literal interpretations**. It includes various figures of speech, such as metaphors, similes, and hyperbole, which enhance writing by creating vivid imagery, evoking emotions, and providing deeper insights (Mezo, 1999: ii-iv).



# READING

## Figurative Comparison

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Personification

## Figurative Substitution

- Metonymy
- Synecdoche

## Figurative Exaggeration

- Hyperbole
- Litotes



# WRITING

## Avoiding Redundancy

Redundancy refers to **the unnecessary repetition of a linguistic element**, such as a word or structure, because it is already implied or predictable within the context (Aarts et al., 2014: 353).



# WRITING

Pukcharoen (2011: 31) divides redundancy into **two types**, redundant pairs and redundant categories, as follows:

**Redundant pairs**  
past memories,  
various differences

**Redundant categories**  
large in size,  
often times



# Q & A

