

“An Ancient Gesture” by Edna St. Vincent Millay
“Siren Song” by Margaret Atwood
“Prologue” and “Epilogue” from *The Odyssey* by Derek Walcott
“Ithaca” by Constantine Cavafy

Build Vocabulary

Spelling Strategy When writing words ending in one consonant preceded by two vowels, do not double the final consonant before adding a suffix starting with a vowel. For example, *-ed* added to the word *defraud* forms the Word Bank word *defrauded*. Similarly, *-ing* added to the word *rain* forms the word *raining*, and *-able* added to the word *bear* forms the word *bearable*.

Using the Suffix *-esque*

The suffix *-esque* means “like” or “having the quality of.” The speaker in “Siren Song” says that she does not enjoy “squatting on this island/looking picturesque and mythical.” Knowing the meanings of the word *picture* and the suffix *-esque*, you can figure out that *picturesque* means “like a picture,” or “pleasing to the eye.”

A. DIRECTIONS: Write the definitions of the following words, using a dictionary or, if possible, your knowledge of the root words and the suffix *-esque*. Then use each word in a sentence.

1. grotesque

definition:

sentence:

2. statuesque

definition:

sentence:

3. Romanesque

definition:

sentence:

B. DIRECTIONS: Match each word in the left column with its definition in the right column. Write the letter of the definition on the line next to the word it defines.

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|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. beached | a. like a picture; pleasantly strange |
| ___ 2. picturesque | b. hard, dark wood |
| ___ 3. tempests | c. cheated |
| ___ 4. amber | d. washed up and lying on a beach |
| ___ 5. ebony | e. violent storms with strong winds |
| ___ 6. defrauded | f. yellowish resin used in jewelry |