“The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry

Build Vocabulary

Spelling Strategy - In words that end in one consonant after two vowels, do not double the final consonant before adding an ending. For example, the Word Bank word discreet contains two vowels followed by a consonant. Therefore, the word discreet does not change its form when the endings -ly and -ness are added to form the words discreetly and discreetness.

Using the Prefix de-
Meanings of the prefix de- include “down,” “away from,” and “undo.” In the word depreciate, the prefix de- means “down”; the word depreciate means “to go down in value.”

A. DIRECTIONS: Each of the words in the left column contains the prefix de-. Match each word in the left column with its definition in the right column.

____ 1. demote a. looked down on
____ 2. despised b. taken down from a position of power
____ 3. deposed c. to undo promotion

Using the Word Bank
instigates depreciate cascade chaste meretricious ravages discreet

B. DIRECTIONS: Replace each italicized word or group of words with a word from the Word Bank. Rewrite the sentence in the space provided.

1. Della’s waterfall of brown hair shimmered in the firelight.

2. Hardly cheap or flashy, the combs were pure tortoise shell, rimmed with jewels.

3. For Della the upcoming Christmas holiday stirs up the desire to give Jim a special gift.

4. To hide the worn leather strap, Jim took a tactful glance at his watch.

5. Della chose the platinum fob chain because of its simple and not ornate design.

6. So that Jim would not be startled by the devastating damages of her haircut, Della curled her short hair.
7. The beauty of Della’s hair was so great that it could *reduce in value* even the Queen’s jewels.