Answers Unit 12

1. Here are the (abridged) entries for *swine* in the *OED* and *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*:

   OED:
   1. a. An animal of the genus Sus or family Suidæ, comprising bristle-bearing non-ruminant hoofed mammals, of which the full-grown male is called a boar, the full-grown female a sow; esp. the common species Sus scrofa, domesticated from early times by Gentile nations for its flesh, and regarded as a type of greediness and uncleanness. (Now only literary, dialectal, or as a generic term in zoology, etc., being superseded in common use by pig or hog: see these words.)
   2. fig. Applied opprobriously to a sensual, degraded, or coarse person; also (in mod. use) as a mere term of contempt or abuse.

   Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary:
   1. (informal) an unpleasant person;
   2. (old use or technical) pigs.

   And here are some concordance lines from the British National Corpus (BNC):

   FRC 2620 She began to respect her Uncle Philip's commercial acumen; although he was a swine, he was a clever swine.
   H8Y 1953 `Ungrateful little swine,'; said Hilary.
   H94 623 `You swine!'; gasped Meredith.
   HGT 286 What an absolute swine!
   HNK 2304 `This little swine put his hand up my skirt and groped me.'
   AC2 631 He was an ungallant swine for deliberately not coming to her aid, but in truth he really wanted to see which of the likely lads, would dash forward.
   B38 1720 Course Television Coverage of the Arts is mainly a matter of pearls before swine and horses before carts.
   B71 53 […] the AIDS virus may be a modified strain of the virus that causes African swine fever (vol i. p 923).
   BPK 1563 The locals say they believe he was a swine thief, but it all seemed a bit serious to represent merely the chase and capture of a robber who stole pigs belonging to the monks of Jervaulx Abbey.
   CMG 485 In the summer of that year there was an outbreak of swine fever among the workhouse pigs.
   EWB 382 He owned a savage wolfhound called Wolfhead and a herd of swine who roamed the forest and fields below Penhill.
   FPK 1219 Then he would go in there, turn everything out of the cupboards, eat his fill, and leave the place looking like a herd of swine had trampled through it.

2. The OED entry for *cattle* shows that the relevant sense here is "property," which indeed fits the passage perfectly, and also sheds light on a complicated history of borrowing that has resulted in the two modern

terms *cattle* and *chattels*. They go back to the same source, but have now become clearly distinct in their meanings (after a process, which – on the evidence assembled by the OED – took centuries).

3. Synonyms: *abandon – leave*; *society – company*; *female – woman*; *perish – die*

   Touchstone uses very formal words and then explains them by means of simpler synonyms, which – with one exception – are of Germanic etymology. The humour results from the fact that Touchstone is laying on the prestigious style so thick that his speech becomes satire. Shakespeare aims his satire at a widespread fashion at the time, the excessive borrowing of Latin words from written sources to show off one's knowledge (or "erudition").

   The OED gives the following etymologies for the words:
   abandon: Old French
   leave: Old English
   society: Old French
   company: Old French
   female: Old French/Latin
   woman: Old English
   perish: Anglo-Norman/Old French
   die: Germanic

   Words of Old French/Latinate origin are usually considered to be on a higher stylistic level than Germanic ones. Whether the two French borrowings *society* and *company* were distinct in status at Shakespeare's time remains to be investigated on the basis of more texts. Today, the contrast between these two is semantic rather than stylistic.

4. *quick*:
   Semantic change: from "animate, alive" to "moving, or able to move, with speed; swift; doing something swiftly or in a short time": specialisation of meaning

   extravagant:
   Semantic change: from "wandering out of bounds; straying, roaming, vagrant" to "exceeding the bounds of reason or propriety; excessive, irregular, fantastically absurd; now with stronger sense: Astonishingly or flagrantly excessive or extreme": development of concrete sense into more abstract sense, with new, usually negative connotation

   nice: Semantic change: from "difficult, tricky" to "agreeable, pleasant, satisfactory; attractive": amelioration; note that the very first attested sense of this adjective is "ignorant" (from Latin *nescius*)

   want: Semantic change: from "be without, to lack" to "desire, to wish for": development of new sense through conventionalisation of habitual conversational implicature of the type: "I lack something – therefore it

follows that I desire it." The example thus shows how yesterday's pragmatics has become today's lexical semantics.

5. The Corpus of Historical American English (COHA) offers you a direct real-time view of 200 years in the development of English in North America. It also helps to look for contrasts between the BNC and COCA, as such a synchronic comparison makes possible indirect conclusions about historical developments.

   The expected trends are (a) a regularisation of irregular verb forms and (b) the obsolescence of the form *have you any money …?*, which does not fit easily into the core grammar of present-day English as it lacks *do*-support in questions. However, these developments unfold at different speeds in different varieties of English. There are also contrasts on points of detail. While the old-fashioned question of the type *have you any money?* is disappearing from both British and American English, the two varieties differ with regard to the replacement they prefer: *have you got any money?* in British English but *do you have any money?* in American English – a contrast that emerges particularly if you focus on the spoken portions of the corpora.

6. Get the data. As new material is added to the corpus every month, the answers to the question will keep changing.

7. Make up your own mind about this question, for example by holding this advertisement against a contemporary consumer advert for soap or detergents! As a starting point, have a look at the frequent use of the passive voice in the text, which would be extremely unlikely in more recent advertisements. When you're done with grammar and the vocabulary, consider text-linguistic and discourse-analytical aspects such as the relation between text and images, or the way the reader/customer is addressed.

8. First six examples:
   initial /t/ > initial /ts/
   medial /t/ > /s/

   Other examples:
   Like the /st/ and /str/ clusters, /sp/ and /spr/ clusters prevent the plosives shifting to /ts/ and /pf/, respectively.