

Dictation Exercises for SWR

Sec	Word	Quote	Author	Title of Work
E	ring	My hat is in the ring.	Roosevelt, T.	
I-1	white	The sea was galloping grey and white;	Milne, A. A.	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>
I-2	take	Take it and read it; take it and read it.	Augustine	<i>Confessions</i>
J-5	airplanes (air)	Airplanes excited Janey.	Estes, E.	<i>The Moffats</i>
J-5	glad	Pet and Patty began to trot briskly, as if they were glad, too.	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>Little House on the Prairie</i>
J-5	said	"Well, I'm back," he said.	Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>The Return of the King</i>
K-1	between	We are all between the paws of the true Aslan.	Lewis, C. S.	<i>The Last Battle</i>
K-1	two	Ma gave Pa and the Indian their dinners on two tin plates, and they ate silently	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>Little House on the Prairie</i>
K-1	without	They rode their little ponies without saddle or bridle.	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>Little House on the Prairie</i>
K-1	without	Then the Indian rose up and went away without a sound.	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>Little House on the Prairie</i>
K-3	clear	The days were clear and bright.	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>Little House in the Big Woods</i>
K-4	light window	Beyond every window the white world stretched far away in frosty glitter, and the sky was a curve of light.	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>By the Shores of Silver Lake</i>
K-5	earth	But it was a wave, a wave of earth, and it rippled under me along the cliff.	O'Dell, Scott	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>
K-5	night	In winter I get up at night.	Stevenson, R. L.	"Bed in Summer"
K-6	afternoon	Between the woods the afternoon / Is fallen in a golden swoon.	Milne, A. A.	"The Mirror" from <i>When We Were Very Young</i>
K-7	grow	All grace grows as love to the Word of God grows.	Henry, Matthew	<i>A Life of Mr. Philip Henry</i>
K-7	they	To be safe, they sat Boone on his horse.		<i>The Indian in the Cupboard</i>
L-1	clothes (clothe)	I was trying to get the dolls' clothes on the owl.	Mowat, Farley	<i>Owls in the Family</i>
L-1	clothing	Fairest and best adorned is she / Whose clothing is humility	Montgomery, James	
L-1	road	He came out on the last long slope of the road.	Speare, Elizabeth G.	<i>The Bronze Bow</i>
L-1	stream	Then he got down on his knees and plunged his whole head into the stream.	Speare, Elizabeth G.	<i>The Bronze Bow</i>
L-1	walk	Almanzo gently tried to pull them back to a walk.	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>These Happy Golden Years</i>
L-4	kitchen	On the kitchen table was a large square lump of yellow butter.	Baldwin, James	"Antonio Canova" from <i>Fifty Famous Stories</i>

L-4	know	Of course the king did not know him.	Baldwin, James	"King John and the Abbott," from <i>50 Famous Stories</i>
L-6	morning	Then all the wood began to sing / Its morning anthem to the spring.	Milne, A. A.	"The Invaders," from <i>When We Were Very Young</i>
L-6	silver	I am silver and exact.	Plath, Sylvia	"The Mirror"
L-6	tall	You cannot make a tall man fit into short trousers.	Olson, Marianne	<i>Over the Waves</i>
L-6	world	All the world's a stage.	Shakespeare	<i>As You Like It</i>
M-1	goes	Fate goes ever as fate must.	Heaney, trans	<i>Beowulf</i>
M-1	heaven	The poet only asks to get his head into the heavens.	Chesterton, G.K.	<i>Orthodoxy</i>
M-1	snow	Outside a drizzling rain was falling; the snow dribbled down the hill in muddy tricklets; and trees and roofs and windows dripped.	Ollivant, Alfred	<i>Bob, Son of Battle</i>
M-2	might	She gives me cream with all her might / To eat with apple tart.	Stevenson, R. L.	"The Cow"
M-2	thousand	Was this the face that launched a thousand ships / And burnt the topless towers of Ilion?	Marlowe	<i>Dr. Faustus</i>
M-3	speak	Laura wanted to ask how to stop safely, but she could not speak.	Wilder, L. Ingalls	<i>By the Shores of Silver Lake</i>
M-3	teaching (teach)	In these alone the teaching of godliness is proclaimed. No one may add to them, and nothing may be taken away from them.	Athanasius	<i>Thirty-Ninth Festal Letter of 367</i>
M-4	thunder	His stride was enormous, but no longer did his feet strike thunder from the earth.	Nye, Robert	<i>Beowulf: A New Telling</i>
M-4	thunder	He watches from his mountain walls / And like a thunderbolt he falls.	Tennyson	"The Eagle"
M-5	sow	They sow the wind, / And reap the whirlwind.	Hosea	<i>The Old Testament</i>
M-5	true	True God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.	Council of Nicea	<i>Nicean Creed</i>
M-5	true	Wishes, on their way to coming true, will not be rushed.	Lobel, A.	"The Poor Old Dog"
M-6	heart	Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.	Augustine	<i>Confessions</i>
N-3	empty	"Leave it empty," said Patrick. "In case."		<i>The Indian in the Cupboard</i>
N-3	matter	The living room; what a good job of labeling that was now. No matter when he came in, the walls were always talking to Mildred.	Bradbury, Ray	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
N-3	sky	The sky was black with rain.	Dejong, M.	<i>The House of Sixty Fathers</i>
N-5	broken (broke)	[They have] hewed out cisterns for themselves, / broken cisterns that can hold no water.	Jeremiah 2:13b	<i>The Old Testament</i>

N-6	faith (faithful)	When I go up the Amazon, / I stop at night and fire a gun / To call my faithful band.	Milne, A. A.	"Nursery Chairs," from <i>When We Were Very Young</i>
N-7	blood	There is something in the autumn that is native to my blood.	Carman, Bliss	"A Vagabond Song"
O-1	captain	Versatile Odysseus took the helm as captain.	Homer	<i>The Iliad</i>
O-1	chief	Tirian could not see the faces on the other side of the fire very well, but he guessed this Griffle the Chief Dwarf.	Lewis, C. S.	<i>The Last Battle</i>
O-1	sailor	Home is the sailor, home from sea, / And the hunter home from the hill.	Stevenson, R. L.	"Requiem"
O-2	through	Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move.	Croly, George	"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"
O-2	through	Her world seems harsh because she has made it so through blindness and ingratitude.	O'Connor, Flannery	"Greenleaf"
O-4	appear	As Meg appeared, Scrabble whisked into his hole.	Alcott, L. M.	<i>Little Women</i>
O-4	disappeared (appear)	The edges of the lake disappeared under the hills. They could see the outlines of the hills, great black masses, pressing up into the starry sky.	Ransome, Arthur	<i>Swallows and Amazons</i>
O-4	judge	"My dear Mr. Oysterpuff, how can a judge give a wise sentence in a clerk's wig?"	Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
O-4	quiet	The sun looks down from quiet skies / To where a quiet water lies, / And trees stoop down to trees.	Milne, A. A.	"The Mirror" from <i>When We Were Very Young</i>
O-5	distant -- distance	It is the high and mighty who have the longest distance to fall.	Lobel, A.	"King Lion and the Beetle"
O-5	remain (remains)	In reading great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself.	Lewis, C. S.	<i>Experiment in Criticism</i>
O-6	creature	Here were we wretched creatures of men making for each other's throats, and outraging the good earth which God had made so fair a habitation.	Buchan, John	<i>Prester John</i>
O-6	penny	"I will give you a penny for that cat," he said.	Baldwin, James	"Whittington and his Cat," from <i>Fifty Famous Stories...</i>
O-6	Redeemer (redeem)	O, for a thousand tongues to sing / My great Redeemer's praise.	Wesley, C.	"O For a Thousand Tongues"
P-1	known	The hands of the king are the hands of a healer, and so shall the rightful king be known.	Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>The Return of the King</i>
P-1	match settle	Now I mean to be a match for Grendel / Settle the outcome in single combat.	Heaney, trans	<i>Beowulf</i>
P-3	traveler (travel)	The traveler hastens toward the town, / And the tide rises, the tide falls.	Longfellow, Henry W.	"The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"
P-4	sail	With the sail and the oars the ship could be made to go very fast through the water.	Poland & Haaren	<i>Famous Men of the Middle Ages</i>

P-4	which	...she had not yet learned to know how rich she was in the blessings which alone can make life happy.	Alcott, L. M.	<i>Little Women</i>
P-4	which	A huge fire blazed and crackled and roared in the great open fireplace, before which were stretched two fierce, shaggy, wolfish-looking hounds.	Pyle, Howard	<i>Otto of the Silver Hand</i>
P-5	cloth	The snow came down last night like moths Burned on the moon; it fell till dawn, Covered the town with simple cloths.	Wilbur, Richard	<i>First Snow in Alsace</i>
P-5	destroyer (destroy)	Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere; Destroyer and preserver; hear, oh, hear!	Shelley, Percy	By "Ode to the West Wind"
P-6	answer	"In some cases," he said, "we learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself."	Alexander	<i>The Book of Three</i>
P-6	answer, correct	"May the wind under your wings bear you where the sun sails and the moon walks," answered Gandalf, who knew the correct reply.	Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>The Hobbit</i>
P-6	approve -- approval	There she was, that cat, sitting in the pear tree, looking at them all with intense disapproval.	Estes, E.	<i>The Moffats</i>
P-6	whisper	Her heart did whisper that he had done it for her.	Austen, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
P-7	awful	And the most awful thing about it is that it's all my fault -- all my fault, though I'm not to blame.	Tolstoy, Leo	<i>Anna Karenina</i>
P-7	beautiful	The windowpane was thickly frosted with beautiful ferns and leaves.	Estes, E.	<i>The Moffats</i>
P-7	though	Though they call to the Most High, / None at all exalt Him.	Hosea	<i>The Old Testament</i>
P-7	though	If ye break faith with us who die, / We shall not sleep, though poppies grow (in Flanders fields).	McCrae, John	"In Flanders Fields"
Q-1	field	He had not known that airplanes needed fields, almost as if they were cows or grazing goats.	Dejong, M.	<i>The House of Sixty Fathers</i>
Q-1	field	In Flanders fields the poppies blow	McCrae, John	"In Flanders Fields"
Q-1	position	I sat down on a hilltop and took stock of my position.	Buchan, John	<i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i>
Q-1	represent	While Jesus is representing me in heaven / May I reflect him on earth.	Bennett, Arthur, Ed.	<i>The Valley of Vision</i>
Q-2	branch whose	Then the sunbeam kissed the lowly flower, and he kissed the blooming apple branch, upon whose leaves appeared a rosy blush.	Anderson, Hans	"The Conceited Apple Branch"
Q-2	gentleman	In the way this strange gentleman was going on, he would leave the world without having done any good to himself or anybody else.	Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
Q-2	self (ourselves)	And if we obey God, we must disobey ourselves; and it is in this disobeying ourselves, wherein the hardness of obeying God consists.	Mellville, Herman	<i>Moby Dick</i>

Q-3 breath	O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being,	Shelley, Percy By "Ode to the West Wind"
Q-3 dew	Bet I know something else you don't. There's dew on the grass in the morning.	Bradbury, Ray <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
Q-3 exercise (exercising)	"What?" said Piglet, with a jump. And then, to show that he hadn't been frightened, he jumped up and down once or twice in an exercising sort of way.	Milne, A. A. <i>Winnie the Pooh</i>
Q-3 exercise (exercised)	Those lads not upon household duty were marched every morning excepting Fridays and Sundays, and were there exercised under the direction of Sir James Lee and two assistants.	Pyle, Howard <i>Men of Iron</i>
Q-4 attempt	But if you attempt to kill me, I will slay this young prince.	Homer/Green <i>The Tale of Troy</i>
Q-4 either	Don't whale it too much a' Lord's Days, men; but don't miss a fair chance either, that's rejecting Heaven's good gifts.	Mellville, Herman <i>Moby Dick</i>
Q-4 remember	I scarcely could remember that I had not hated him.	Homer/Green <i>The Tale of Troy</i>
Q-5 courage	But courage, child: we are all between the paws of the true Aslan.	Lewis, C. S. <i>The Last Battle</i> <i>The Life and Works of</i>
Q-5 famous	Better faithful than famous.	Roosevelt, T. <i>Theodore Roosevelt</i>
R-1 honor	Thou dost bring honor to me, for I tell thee truly thou dost ride like a knight seasoned in twenty tourneys.	Pyle, Howard <i>Men of Iron</i>
R-1 sweet	There's something in the air / That's new and sweet and rare.	Perry, N. "The Coming of Spring"
R-1 sweet	And it was a noble day; one of those of late September, when the air seems sweeter and fresher than at other times...	Pyle, Howard <i>Men of Iron</i>
R-1 sweet	Mine own dear boy, I do tell thee truly this is as sweet to me as though thou wert mine own son.	Pyle, Howard <i>Men of Iron</i>
R-1 (sweeter)	Sweeter than honey from his tongue the voice flowed on and on.	Homer <i>The Iliad</i>
R-1 sword	If your sword is too short, take one step forward.	Japanese proverb MacDonald, George <i>The Story of the World</i>
R-2 echo	Jesus is the one rock where evil finds no echo.	George <i>Sir Gibbie</i>
R-2 enemy	"Here I will perish in the flames," he cried, "rather than surrender to my enemies."	Attila the Hun from FMoMA
R-2 eternity (eternities)	For the soul awakes, a trembling stranger, between two dim eternities, --the eternal past, the eternal future.	Stowe, Harriet Beecher <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
R-2 prisoner	For a week after the commission of the impious and profane offence of asking for more, Oliver remained a close prisoner in the dark and solitary room to which he had been consigned by the wisdom and mercy of the board.	Dickens, Charles <i>Oliver Twist</i>

R-2	valley	High are the hills, the valleys dark and deep.	Sayers, trans.	<i>The Song of Roland</i>
R-3	bright	The air was so heavy that it was hard to breathe and the sun so hot that the sea was like a sun itself, too bright to look at.	O'Dell, Scott	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>
R-3	bright (brighten)	Thus the saving word started to brighten the whole world like rays of the sun.	Eusebius	<i>Eusebius: The Church History</i>
R-3	increased (increases)	"Of course we won't, but it's awful to tell lies," and Demi looked as if he found the awfulness much increased when the punishment fell not upon the sinner, but his best Uncle Fritz.	Alcott, L. M.	<i>Little Men</i>
R-3	lose	I would rather lose a dozen cherry trees than that you should tell one falsehood.	Baldwin, James	"George Washington.." from <i>Fifty Famous Stories</i>
R-4	purpose	...My purpose holds / To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths / Of all the western stars, until I die. / It may be that the gulfs will wash us down; / It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles.	Tennyson	<i>Ulysses</i>
R-4	purpose	I had been saved for a purpose, and unless I fulfilled that purpose, I would again be lost.	Buchan, John	<i>Prester John</i>
R-4	reveals (revealed)	...as the invisible God reveals Himself to us He hides himself from us, lest He consume us.	Caneday, A. B.	<i>Beyond the Bounds</i>
R-5	create	But how much better is it to lose the whole world, than to lose God, the Creator of the world, who can create innumerable worlds again, and is better than infinite worlds?	Luther, Martin	<i>The Bondage of the Will</i>
R-6	against	Do not go gentle into that good night. / Rage, rage against the dying of the light.	Thomas, Dylan	line separation
R-6	toward	From time to time the blue eyes slanted toward the door.	Speare, Elizabeth G.	<i>The Bronze Bow</i>
S-2	ability	Brothers will read and sing, not according to rank, but according to their ability to benefit their hearers.	St. Benedict	<i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i>
S-2	believe	For, I tell thee, the worst of our enemies and the worst of men believe themselves always to have right and justice upon their side, even when they most wish evil to others.	Pyle, Howard	<i>Men of Iron</i>
S-3	crawl	The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls.	Tennyson	"The Eagle"
S-3	wounded	He was wounded for our transgressions.	Isaiah 53:5	<i>The Old Testament</i>
S-4	yourself	...quit yourselves like men.	Bunyan, John	<i>The Pilgrims' Progress</i>
S-5	companion	But Achilles wept, and slipping away from his companions, far apart, sat down on the beach of the heaving gray sea and scanned the endless ocean.	Homer	<i>The Iliad</i>
S-6	peace	Never give a hollow greeting of peace or turn away when someone needs your love.	St. Benedict	<i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i>
S-6	quarrel	Take up our quarrel with the foe: / To you from failing hands we throw the torch.	McCrae, John	"In Flanders Fields"

S-6	quarrel	It was for others thou didst fight, my son, and for others it is pardonable to do battle. Had it been thine own quarrel, it might haply have been more hard to have answered thee.	Pyle, Howard	<i>Men of Iron</i>
T-3	drought	When in April the sweet shower fall / And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all	Chaucer	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>
T-3	drought	When in April the sweet shower fall / And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all	Chaucer	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>
T-4	whistle	The arrow whistled through the air. It struck the apple fairly in the center and carried it away. The people who saw it shouted with joy.	Baldwin, James	"The Story of William Tell" from <i>Fifty Famous Stories Retold</i>
T-4	whistle	A fisherman came up from the waterside, and as he neared me he too began to whistle.	Buchan, John	<i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i>
T-5	medicine	"God and drink your own medicine, Shift!" said Tirian, and hurled the Ape through into the darkness.	Lewis, C. S.	<i>The Last Battle</i>
T-5	slippers (slipped)	Even though she never could dance at dancing school the way she could in her dreams, the slippers alone made it worthwhile.	Estes, E.	<i>The Moffats</i>
T-5	victim	A Priest and Victim, both in one, / The Truth himself, is here.	de Santeuil, J. B.	"O Zion, Open Wide Thy Gates"
U-1	circumstance	I believe with a passionate, unshakable conviction that in all circumstances and at all times life is a blessed gift.	Muggeridge, Malcolm	
U-2	merely (mere)	All the world's a stage, / And all the men and women merely players; / They have their exits and their entrances.	Shakespeare	<i>As You Like It</i>
U-2	necessary	He went to work intently, frowning as he tried to recall the exact angle necessary to make the mill-wheel turn smoothly.		<i>The Yearling</i>
V-2	evidence	After the knowledge of, and obedience to, the will of God, the next aim must be to know something of his attributes of wisdom, power, and goodness as evidenced by His handiwork.	Joule, James	<i>Exploring Creation With General Science</i>
V-2	image	Man is the creature formed by the creator to bear His image.	Caneday, A. B.	<i>Beyond the Bounds</i>
V-2	innocence	As God judges me, I have but the one design, and that is to see justice...and the innocent go clear.	Stevenson, R. L.	<i>David Balfour</i>
W-1	disease	Be sure of this, O young ambition, all mortal greatness is but disease.	Mellville, Herman	<i>Moby Dick</i>
W-2	extremely (extreme)	It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day.	Thayer, Ernest Lawrence	"Casey at the Bat"
W-2	resource	One is completely stunned by the incredible resourcefulness of the Creator.	Carrolus Linnaeu:	<i>Exploring Creation With General Science</i>

W-3	conscience	Men whose consciences would not permit them to take a neighbor's life, as an individual act, think it is entirely proper to take life by wholesale, either through those whom they command or at the command of others -- and that, too, without regard to the cause of the war.	Bryan, William Jennings	"A Single Standard of Morality," <i>The Commoner</i> , XVI
W-3	transmitted (transmitter)	The first successful television transmission before a public audience was performed by John L. Baird in 1926 as electrically transmitted moving pictures were flashed onto a picture screen.	Bachman, Frank	<i>The Story of Inventions</i>
W-3	triangle	For the first course there was a shoulder of mutton, cut into an equilateral triangle.	Swift, Jonathan	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
X-1	possession (possessed)	It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.	Austen, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
X-2	especially	Phileas Fogg gazed at the tempestuous sea, which seemed to be struggling especially to delay him, with his habitual tranquility.	Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
X-2	suspicious eccentric	The effect of these replies upon the already suspicious and excited detective may be imagined. The hasty departure from London soon after the robbery; the large sum carried by Mr. Fogg; his eagerness to reach distant countries; the pretext of an eccentric and foolhardy bet -- all confirmed Fix in his theory.	Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
Y-1	enthusiastic (enthusiasm)	The pilot probably does not know to this day why his responses won him this enthusiastic greeting.	Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
Y-2	endeavor	Now I shall do my endeavor to unhorse thee as I would an acknowledged peer in arms.	Pyle, Howard	<i>Men of Iron</i>
Y-2	endeavor endeavoring	I do not spend time enough endeavouring to affect myself with the glories of Christianity.	Edwards, Jonathan	<i>Diary entry for Jan 21, 1723</i>
Y-2	failure	A first failure may prepare the way for later success.	Lobel, A.	"The Young Rooster"
Y-2	sufficient	And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."	St. Paul	<i>The New Testament</i>
Z-1	discern	During these excursions, which were not extended far from the brick-field, the hunters could discern the recent passage of animals of a large size, armed with powerful claws, but they could not recognize the species.	Verne, Jules	<i>The Mysterious Island</i>
Z-1	guarantee	Light came from the east, bright guarantee of God, and the waves went quiet.	Heaney, trans	<i>Beowulf</i>
Z-1	humor (humorous)	Salt is like good humor, and nearly every thing is better for a pinch of it, Posy. (Uncle Fritz)	Alcott, L. M.	<i>Little Men</i>
Z-2	proficient (proficiency)	If I had ever learnt, I should have been a great proficient.	Austen, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>