Classic Roots and Affixes (lumin, -ous)

The Master Word luminous is based on the Latin word lumen (or luminis), which means "light," and the adjective-forming suffix -ous. Use this information, your knowledge of other word parts, and a dictionary if necessary to complete the exercises below.

Matching
Write the letter of the part of speech and definition after the correct word on the left.

1. illumination ________ a. (adj.) brightened
2. illuminating ________ b. (n.) a heavenly body that gives off light; a famous person who inspires others
3. luminosity ________ c. (v.) to brighten
4. illuminate ________ d. (n.) brightness
5. illumined ________ e. (adj.) quality of giving off or shedding light
6. luminary ________ f. (n.) the brightness of a heavenly body; an object's light

Writing Definitions
The following words based on lumin have scientific meanings. Write a definition for each one, using a dictionary if necessary. Then indicate the word parts, if any, that give you a clue to the word's meaning.

1. superluminal

2. thermoluminescence

3. luminiferous

4. lumen
Idioms and Sayings

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is not immediately apparent from the denotation of the words that make it up. The selection from Things Fall Apart (Lesson 6) begins with an idiom: “Okonkwo ruled his household with a heavy hand.” Okonkow did not really have heavier hands than anyone else. The idiom just means that he was quick to punish or to keep a tight grip on things.

English has many idioms that involve hands, possibly because they are so fundamental to so many undertakings. All the following idioms are related to hands. If you don’t know the meaning of an idiom or saying, you will have to use context clues. You can also refer to specialized idiom dictionaries or search the Internet for definitions.

Matching

Write the letter of the definition on the right that matches the idiom in bold type on the left.

1. The old woman appeared very sweet, but she had an iron fist inside that velvet glove.
   a. completely convinced
   b. apologetic
   c. an inner toughness concealed by outward softness
   d. go to someone who would abuse it
   e. on bare necessities

2. The messengers made sure the code didn’t fall into the wrong hands.

3. The salesclerk had the customer in the palm of her hands.

4. Zack came by, cap in hand, and was ready to admit his mistake.

5. The family lived hand to mouth when both parents lost their jobs.

Using Idioms

See if you can guess the meaning of the idioms below, which also relate to hands. Use each in a sentence. Check your work by looking up the meaning in a phrase and idiom dictionary or on the Internet.

1. work hand in glove

2. bite the hand that feeds

3. sit on (your) hands