

Chapter 8. Words of Beginning and Ending

How comfortable would you be as a passenger with a *tyro* at the wheel? What is a *swan song*? Could you properly be considered an expert in a subject once you have mastered its *rudiments*? *Tyro*, *swan song*, and *rudiments* are among the useful and interesting words of beginning and ending you will meet in this chapter.

A. Preview

Use each of the following no more than once in completing the sentences below.

antepenultimate	genesis	maiden	swan song
coup de grace	inchoate	penultimate	terminal
debut	infinite	preamble	tyro
demise	initiative	premiere	ultimate
finale	lapse	rudiment	ultimatum

1. The pianist has never performed publicly, but she will be making her _____ at Carnegie Hall April 12.
2. Bit by bit she has reduced her addiction; her _____ goal is to stop smoking.
3. If you lack aptitude for getting things started, you are poor in _____.
4. The director sent Celina this _____: "If you miss another rehearsal, you will be dropped from the cast."
5. How did the fight start? What was the _____ of the quarrel?
6. December 30 is the _____ day of the year.

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7. The house is still in a(n) _____ state; only the frame has been erected.
8. The patient was afraid he had a(n) _____ illness, but his physician assured him he would recover.
9. Renew the policy before it expires. Do not allow it to _____.
10. The first of your last three chances is your _____ chance.
11. How can you expect to get to the finals if you have not even learned the _____s of the game?
12. New York City has witnessed the birth and _____ of many newspapers.
13. Tonight's speech by the mayor will be her _____; the new administration takes over tomorrow.
14. The _____ is sold out, but a few tickets are available for the second performance.
15. After the _____, all the entertainers reappeared on stage for several curtain calls.
16. The vessel is nearing completion and will soon make its _____ voyage.
17. A(n) _____ stating underlying principles precedes the body of our Constitution.
18. Our patience is likely to end: it is not _____.
19. The challenger had the champion on the ropes again and again but could not administer the _____.
20. These critical times require an expert at the helm, not a(n) _____.