A. At first, I was excited about learning German. I had this urge to visit sights in Berlin, hear a concert in Hamburg, and see churches in Heidelberg. And I was determined to be able to converse with common folks – *salesclerks and workers – about down-to-earth things. But now that the *mid-term is here, all my worthy goals seem so absurd. I get so nervous my stomach is churning. I don’t know if I can tell whether a word is a verb or an adverb!

B. Obviously tests are a real hurdle for you. Still, I’m certain you’ll earn a well-deserved A+. And then you’ll see that you’ve gotten stirred up for nothing.

A. You’re right. I know I’m overly concerned about things. But I can’t seem to curb my nerves. And that has an adverse effect: The more I worry, the worse I do. So keep on encouraging me! It serves a useful purpose!

Wayne B. Dickerson

*compound noun